



Spiritual Awakenings

in the Bible and Church History

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, Building D

Class 2, January 10

God has shaped the world and church using Spiritual Awakenings. This class will look at that history. A study of those awakenings (1) restores our faith, (2) gives us hope for the future, and (3) teaches us our role in God’s work. We are desperately in need of a spiritual awakening in our country!

The Cycle (Review)

There is a common cycle before a spiritual awakening:

Great Faith & Obedience – Life as God wants it.

Apathy – “Life is good” so faith in God, worship, and prayer decline.

Rebellion & Sin – God’s commands are ignored and disobeyed.

Judgment & Disaster – Sin brings consequences and God brings judgment.

Repentance & Cries for Help – God’s people repent and call out for help.

Spiritual Awakening – Large numbers turn to God and live their faith.

The Revival Under Moses’ Leadership

“Before revival ignites a nation, it first ignites a leader.”

Malcom McDow in Firefall, page 24

1. **God p**_____ : Moses’ parents taught of God. Egyptians gave skills in math, writing, philosophy, military strategy, law, engineering, etc.
2. **Moses s**_____ : Moses killed in anger. He fled to the wilderness, where God prepared him to learn survival skills for the desert.
3. **Moses m**_____. He knew of God; but He met God personally at the burning bush. Here, Moses received God’s call.
4. **God p**_____. The plagues convinced (temporarily) the Egyptians to agree to Moses’ call. It also encouraged the Hebrews.
5. **God g**_____. The people agreed but sinned against God.
6. **Moses p**_____. They were significant and powerful.

The Prayers of Moses (and their context)

¹¹But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. “LORD,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people.

¹³Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.’” ¹⁴Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened. (Exodus 32:11-14, NIV)

³¹So Moses went back to the Lord and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. ³²But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.” (Exodus 32:31-32, NIV)

These are the “revival prayers” we need to pray because of their b _____ and c _____. “Then the Lord relented.”

A Great Revival in the “Colonies” The First Great Awakening, 1726-1770

“It swept the colonies like a tidal wave. Multitudes professed to changed lives. Churches were established and strengthened. Mission enterprises were birthed. Theological convictions were renewed and given fresh vigor. Institutions were founded ranging from orphanages to colleges.”

Malcolm McDow in Firefall, page 203

The colonies grew rapidly to 1.6 million by 1760. There was both ethnic diversity (English, Swiss, German, Dutch, African, Native American) and denominational diversity (Anglicans, Congregationalists, Baptists, Quakers, Lutherans, Dutch Reformed, Roman Catholics.) Church attendance (especially in the North) was widespread and in some cases mandatory, but two conditions prevailed:

- D _____ Orthodoxy: Departure from historic Christian belief.
- D _____ Orthodoxy; Correct belief without Christian behavior.

Theodore Frelinghuysen: *“While horse-racing, gambling, dissipation, and rudeness of various kinds were common, the church was attended at convenience, and religion consisted of the mere formal pursuit of the routine of duty.”*