



Spiritual Awakenings

in the Bible and Church History

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, Building D

Class 7, February 14

God shaped the world using Spiritual Awakenings. A study of awakenings (1) restores our faith, (2) gives us hope in the future, and (3) teaches us to seek God. We are desperately in need of a spiritual awakening today!

The Revival Under Nehemiah

Ezra had done a great job, but the work was incomplete until Nehemiah came from Babylon. Nehemiah was “cupbearer” to the King, a position of palace administration and protection. Here are the steps by which God used him to bring about a renewed spiritual awakening in Jerusalem:

1. H_____ E _____ . (Nehemiah 1:1-3)
2. M_____ and S _____ . (Nehemiah 1:4)
3. H_____ P _____ . (Nehemiah 1:5-10)
4. P_____ S _____ . (Nehemiah 2:1-9)
5. H_____ in the face of opposition.
6. C_____ .
7. C_____ and R_____ .

The Prayer of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1:5-11)

1. P_____ .
2. C_____ .
3. R_____ .

Spiritual Awakening Lessons from Nehemiah

1. Spiritual awakenings require h_____ and p_____ confession of sins and d_____ with spiritual mediocrity.
2. Spiritual awakenings require s_____ by leaders.

3. Spiritual awakenings cause opposition, ridicule, and challenges.
4. Spiritual awakenings result in c_____ including a renewed love for the poor and a raising of ethical and moral standards.

A Major Result of the Layman’s Prayer Revival, 1857-59

“The revival of early 1857 tossed Moody out of his complacent view of religion as primarily an aid to fortune.”

Moody biographer John Pollock, recorded in Firefall, page 265.

The *Layman’s Prayer Revival* was short-lived (due to the Civil War) but its impact was felt for years. Nowhere was that result more obvious than in the conversion and resulting ministry of D. L. Moody in 1857.

Dwight Lyman Moody grew up poor. As a teen, he became a successful shoe salesman and taught inner-city boys in Sunday School in Chicago, filling four pews each week. He went regularly to prayer meetings, writing to his mom, “I go every night to meeting—Oh, how I do enjoy it. It seems as if God himself were here.” His *Mission Sunday School* grew to 600. He was never ordained as a preacher but became a great evangelist:

1. C_____, 1876. A three-month campaign had a cumulative attendance of 900,000 with 6,000 converts. Newspapers printed his sermons verbatim the day following.
2. C_____ : He preached major campaigns in New York, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, and Boston.
3. M_____ : He teamed with Ira Sankey, Philip Bliss and others in a revival of church music.
4. O_____ revival, especially in England and Wales.

Results of Prayer Revival and Moody’s Impact

1. Churches of all denominations grew rapidly. The percentage of church members to the population jumped by 50% in ten years.
2. After the civil war, thousands were called into ministry including missionaries, pastors, and both preaching and music evangelists.
3. Major social ministries and outreach to the poor were begun, including the Salvation Army and many others.
4. “New” techniques were emphasized, including an emphasis on prayer meetings, children-and-youth ministry, evangelistic literature, and music evangelism.