



Class 10, March 6

A study of awakenings shows how God shaped the world. It will (1) restore our faith, (2) gives us hope in the future, and (3) teaches us to seek God.

Further Revivals in the New Testament

Before Pentecost, Rome simply heard rumors of the Palestinian revival. Within thirty years after Pentecost, Christianity saturated the Roman Empire. This phenomenal success was the result of the Holy Spirit working through believers who were serving in the midst of awakening.

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Jesus told His disciples (1) the Holy Spirit would come and (2) they would be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. Acts tells that story as the gospel spread throughout the Roman world.

Jerusalem: Last week's study showed the coming of the Holy Spirit and a mighty revival in Jerusalem. (Acts 1-7)

Judea: Persecution of the church started a migration of believers, but they preached—rather than hid in fear—wherever they went. (Acts 8)

Samaria: During the preaching of Philip, the gospel crossed racial lines. Samaria experienced their own "Samaritan Pentecost." (Acts 8)

Caesarea: The preaching of Peter to Cornelius led to the expansion of the gospel among Gentiles, especially to Antioch. (Acts 10-11)

Paul and Others: They purposely carried the gospel to Gentiles in Asia and Europe. Revivals occurred in places like Ephesus. It was some time before the Jerusalem church accepted Gentiles. (Acts 12-28)

Lessons From Acts

1. **D_____:** *Jesus came for all.* It seemed that the revival would end due to some who wanted believers to become Jews. Combining the gospel with a culture or nation limits God's work.

2. **P_____:** *Spiritual Awakenings* are almost always preceded by and then include intense prayer.
3. **R_____:** *Boldness in Preaching* and a *Missionary Spirit* and *Personal Holiness* accompany all real works of God.
4. **R_____:** Every generation needs a new Spiritual Awakenings. 40 years after the mass awakening in Ephesus, Jesus told Ephesus, "You have forsaken the love you had at first." (Revelation 2:4, NIV)

The Mid-Century Resurgence (1949-1960)

"My generation has never seen a mighty outpouring of the Spirit. We can only read about past great awakenings."

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We have not experienced anything compared to previous awakenings in the last 100 years, but there have been two periods of renewal. The Mid-Century Resurgence occurred in the 1950's, and the Jesus Movement (next week) in the 1970's. Here are details of the mid-century resurgence:

1. **S_____ C_____:** Post WW2 America was financially rich but spiritually barren. The family's decline began as divorce increased dramatically. Alcoholism was rampant. Theological liberalism impacted schools and seminaries.
2. **P_____:** A movement of prayer (example: 30,000 at the state capital in Des Moines, Iowa) set the stage for God's work.
3. **Y_____:** Powerful revivals hit schools and seminaries under the leadership of J. Edwin Orr and Billy Graham. Bethel College in Minneapolis, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Baylor University experienced powerful student revivals.
4. **P_____ M_____:** Significant organizations started or were empowered in this era: Campus Crusade for Christ, the Navigators, and Youth for Christ are prominent examples.
5. **C_____ and C_____:** 1955 set an all-time high with 49% of Americans attending church on any given Sunday. "Under God" was added to the pledge of allegiance in 1954. A prayer room was opened in the capital. Religious books outsold all others in 1953. The SBC experienced phenomenal growth.
6. **B_____ G_____ C_____:** Evangelistic campaigns don't always bring revival, but God worked deeply in these crusades, especially in Los Angeles in 1949.