

Chapter 18 “The Need of the Hour” The Holy Spirit – Graham

1850’s in America

marked decline in religion in the U.S.
emphasis on materialism and conflict over slavery
Sept 1857 – businessman Jeremiah Lanphier invited other businessmen for
noonday prayer meeting once a week for the renewing work of the Holy Spirit
Very few in the beginning to 10,000 daily in New York City
Awakening swept the country – one million came to Christ

The Need for Spiritual Renewal

Christians today are strangely silent and powerless against secularism
Yet called to be “**the salt of the earth**” (Matt 5:13)
“**the light of the world**” (Matt 5:14)
“**the children of God** above reproach in the midst of a crooked and
perverse generation, among whom you appear as
lights in the world (Phil 2:15)
Great need for a spiritual awakening – to experience the touch of the Holy Spirit
True “revival” and “renewal” to Christians
Great analogy for revival – Ezekiel 37 – restoration of Israel as a nation
Bones needed the Spirit of God
Great need for **Spirit**-filled, **Spirit**-led, **Spirit**-empowered Christians

The Time is Now

The Word of God bears its warning – “It is later than you think”
(Roman 13:11,12) “It is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now
salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is
at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.”
(John 9:4) “Night is coming, when no man can work” – need to be effective now
(2 Peter 3:11-14) “Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort
of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the
coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning
and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promises we are
looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore,
beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless
and blameless”

The Effects of an Awakening – 8 characteristics

- 1) *There will be a new vision of the majesty of God.*
God of tenderness, mercy and compassion
as well as God of justice, holiness, and wrath (John 3:16-18)
God is motivated by sin – atonement is needed
- 2) *There will be a new vision of the sinfulness of sin.*
Isa 6:3 Luke 5:8 Job 42 James 1:14,15
We need to see sin as it really is – look at the cross

3) *There will be an emphasis on the necessity of repentance, faith, and the new birth.*

If anyone is in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature, for the old things have passed away and everything has become new.

4) *There will be joy of salvation.*

Ps 85:6 John 15:11 Acts 8:8 Luke 15:7

5) *There will be a new realization of our responsibility for world evangelization*

John 1:36,37 John 1:40-45 Acts 1:8 Acts 8:4.

6) *There will be a deep social concern.*

Matt 22:37-39 Amos 8:6

Our faith is both vertical and horizontal

Moral, ethical, and social teachings of Jesus – Sermon on the Mount

7) *There will be increased evidence of both the gifts and the fruit of the Spirit.*

Renewal is brought by the Holy Spirit – His gifts and His fruit

8) *There will be renewed dependence upon the Holy Spirit.*

The Holy Spirit is the one who:

reproves	convicts	strives	instructs	invites
quicken	regenerates	renews	strengthens	uses

The Holy Spirit must not be:

grieved	resisted	tempted	quenched	insulted
blasphemed				

(Zech 4:6) “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts”

Steps to Awakening

1) Admit our spiritual poverty

Laodicean Christians – rich materially, poor spiritually (Rev 3:17)

2) Confession and repentance

I John 1:9 Isaiah 55:6,7

Some of the great awakenings began in prayer

1806 – prayer meeting under a haystack in a rainstorm led to the first large-scale American missionary efforts

1830 - one man praying led to 30,000 people converted (Charles Finney)

1872 – humble bed-ridden girl praying led to Moody campaign in London

3) A renewed commitment on our part to seek and do the will of God

The real test is our willingness to obey (Heb 12:1,2)

James A. Stewart “A church that needs to be re4vived is a church that is living below the norm of the NT pattern...It is a tragic fact that the vast majority of Christians today are living a sub-normal Christian life...the Church will never become normal until she sees revival.”

Pentecost – day of power of the Holy Spirit

- day the Christian Church was born

As we approach “the latter days” we need to be ready for the Spirit to fill and use us