

A PASTOR'S HEART FOR HIS PEOPLE...

Ephesians 1:15-23

“For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for **all** God’s people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I **keep asking** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you **the Spirit of wisdom and revelation (uncovering)**, so that you may **know him** better.

I pray that the **eyes of your heart** may be **enlightened** in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his **incomparably great power for us** who believe. That power is the **same** as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the **heavenly realms**

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **has** blessed us in the **heavenly realms** with **every spiritual blessing** in Christ.”

Ephesians 1:3

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **made us alive** with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And **God raised us up** with Christ and seated us with him in the **heavenly realms** in Christ Jesus....”

Ephesians 2:4-6

... and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, **the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.**”

Ephesians 1:15-23

“She (the church) is his body, full of him who fills all things totally.”

Markus Barth

“As God’s living statues, we are created to be God’s real presence in the world, filling the earth with the glory and presence of God.”

Pete Hughes, All Things New

“In him the whole building is joined together and **rises** to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become **a dwelling in which God lives** by his Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:21-22

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with **power through his Spirit in your inner being**, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do **immeasurably more** than all we ask or imagine, according to **his power that is at work within us**, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

Ephesians 3:14-21

“And we **all**, who with **unveiled** faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being **transformed** into his image with **ever-increasing glory**, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 3:18

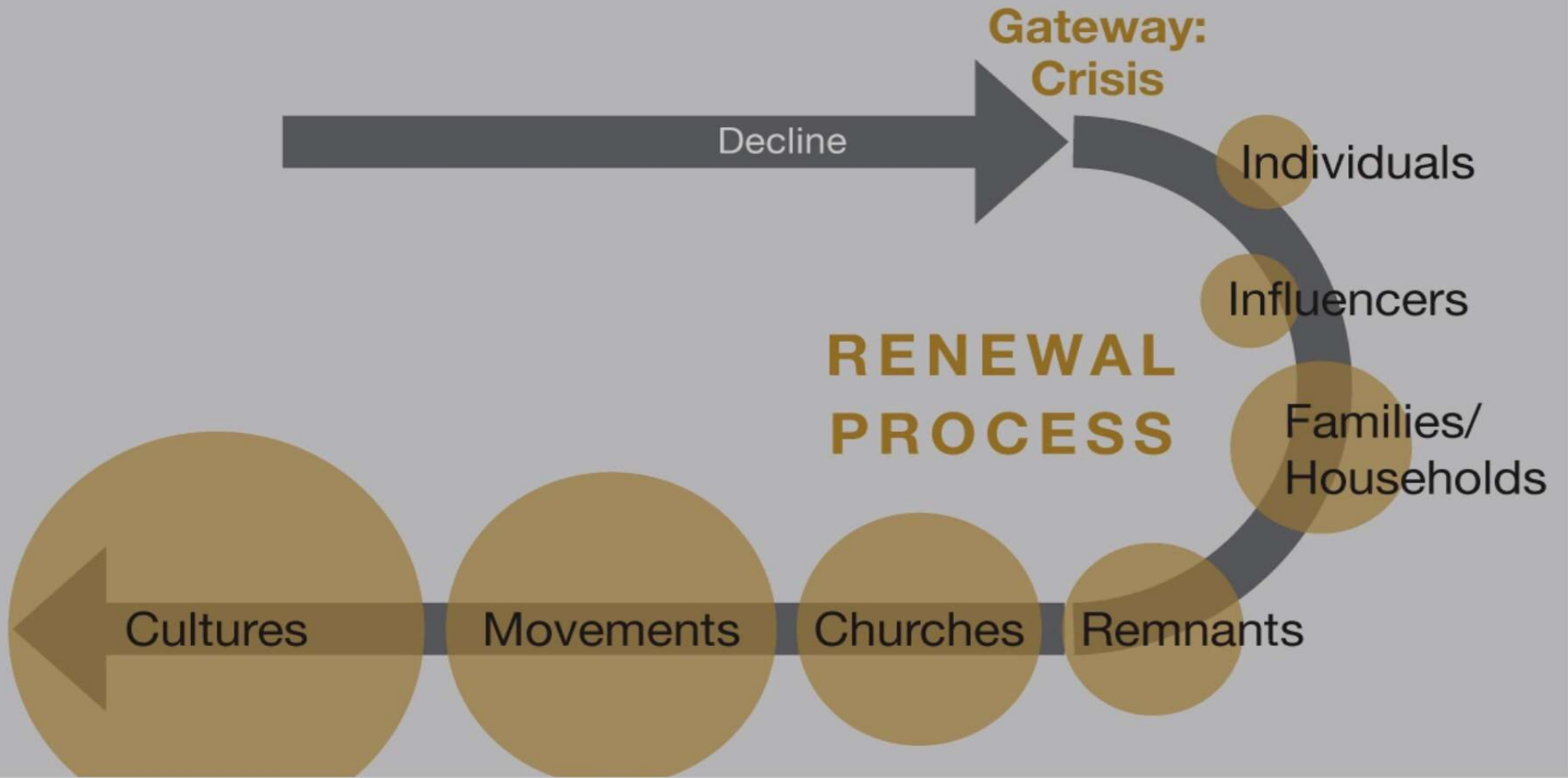
“His divine power has given us **everything** we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him (**knowing Him**) who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them **you** may **participate** (**koinonia – fellowship**) in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

2 Peter 1:3-4

How do these truths / realities impact you?

What is Jesus inviting you into?

What would it look like for us to more fully live into these realities?



In His Presence to be a presence.

What if our 50's – 60's – 70's and 80's were lived as the most Holy Spirit empowered days of our lives?

What if the next great renewal of God in Gresham came from the “elders” of the body of Christ?

Mark Sayers, Reappearing Church

“Are we punch drunk by the problems of our age, or do we see the opportunities before us? Do we sense the possibilities of **embodied and enfleshed** Christian community in a time of disembodied isolation?”

“In a time of anxiety and mental exhaustion, are we seeing the **rich traditions of prayer, contemplation, and meditation upon God** as antidotes to our exhausted brains? In a time of social fracturing and cultural polarization, do we understand the powerful place that exists at the communion table?”

“When His presence comes with power to revive us, be it a personal renewal or a large-scale awakening, change occurs at **deep levels**. Sometimes this occurs in powerful ways, His presence causing people to cry out in conviction (and repentance) during services or display unusual effects of the Spirit’s visitation.”

“Other renewals are quieter, less obvious, but profoundly change those they touch at the core of their being, the presence moving them to greater levels of Christlikeness.”

“Being in His presence becomes
the most important thing.”

“God’s presence draws close to empower His mission in the world and to **reconnect** us with our original purpose of spreading His glory to the ends of the earth. When renewal comes, we are empowered in that mission. The years of struggling in our own strength to complete His mission are replaced by a **quickenning** as He becomes our primary power source.”

As Stuart Piggin writes, the drawing near of the Holy Spirit in renewal is “to give those gifts which promote the gospel by glorifying Jesus and his kingdom and which empower Christians for the work of evangelism and mission.”

“With His Spirit rather than the flesh now empowering our ministry, **a holy weight** (glory) now pervades our preaching, our evangelism, our teaching, our serving the poor. Breakthroughs become a regular business. What before was a struggle to break up the dirt to plant kingdom seeds now becomes the harvesting of fruit.”

“The fruit of the harvest is the **transformation of individual lives, communities, cultures, and nations**. A beachhead is taken in enemy territory. The strongholds of the enemy are broken, kingdom fruit becomes normal as individual lives, communities, and cultures begin to **display** the will of God. The work of God advances forward with power.”

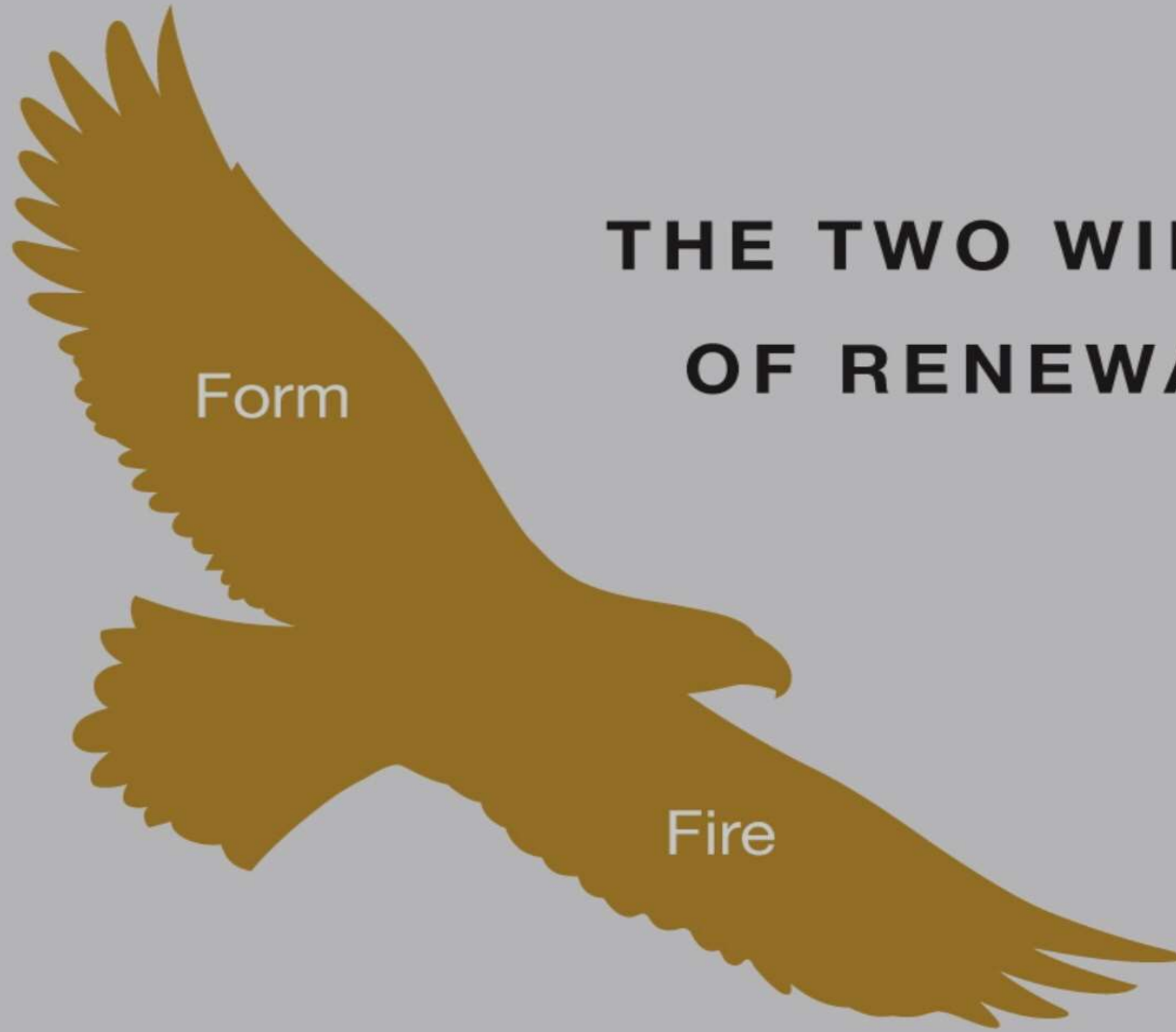
“We need His **fire** to come, His empowering presence, to do what human strength cannot. We need His fire to come to **cleanse** us and purify us, **accelerate** our ministry and mission.

We need His fire to **smash** strongholds, and to take spiritual ground for the kingdom. Yet we also need His form to **shape us**. We need holy **patterns** to remake us in Christlikeness.”

THE TWO WINGS OF RENEWAL

Form

Fire



“The twenty-first century has placed the church in the West in a hyperconnected world increasingly experiencing the reality of its flight from God. If we can be a church of fire and form, influential for the kingdom rather than influenced by the world, then we will find ourselves presented with a phenomenal opportunity. One that should not be met with dismay but anticipation and excitement. The real question is: **Are you (we) ready?**”

“But what was sown on good, rich soil represents the one who **hears and fully embraces the message of the kingdom.** Their lives bear good fruit—some yield a harvest of thirty, sixty, even one hundred times as much as was sown.”

Matthew 13.23

How will you respond? How's your dirt?

Freaks you out...

Received it with joy, but you have no idea how to put into your life... ~~DEPTH~~

Worried you might do it wrong or that the Spirit might ask you to get out of your comfort zone.