

AWAKENING

PASTOR CHAD GILLIGAN | JULY 4, 2021

I. Two Myths About American History

Myth #1. History is boring.

- A. History comes alive when you embrace the story.
- B. History is ultimately HIS Story.

Myth #2. Today is the worst it has ever been.

A. The Second Great Awakening

The Second Great Awakening was the “most influential revival of Christianity in the history of the United States.” Mark Noll

B. Awakening or Revival:

An extraordinary work of God in which Christians repent of their sins as they become intensely aware of His presence in their midst, and they manifest a positive response to God in renewed obedience to the known will of God, resulting in both a deepening of their individual and corporate experience with God, and an increased concern to win others to Christ. (Elmer Towns and Douglas Porter)

- C. An awakening occurs when what seems to be dead is made alive again.

II. Four Great Awakening Truths We Need to Experience Today.

1. *We Need an Awakening of Hope.*

- When things are at their worst, God can bring an awakening.

2. *We Need an Awakening of Prayer.*

A. Cane Ridge Revival

- The prayers of today set the stage for the miracles of tomorrow.

3. We Need an Awakening of Belief.

A. Timothy Dwight

- We are called to be a voice of belief in a culture of disbelief.
- The faith of the last generation does not guarantee the faith of the next.

Judges 2:10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what He had done for Israel.

- Genuine religion transforms the whole person, Dwight believed. True Christians show kindness, walk humbly, deal honestly, and give generously. (Colin Hansen and John Woodbridge)

4. We Need a Personal Awakening.

A. Charles Finney

- I am praying for the “What Happened to Them?” Revival.
- One life can make a difference.

Luke 7:11-12 Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and His disciples and a large crowd went along with Him. As He approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her.

Luke 11:13 When the Lord saw her, His heart went out to her and He said, “Don't cry.”

Luke 11:14-15 Then He went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

Luke 11:16-17 They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help His people.” This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

B. Timothy Dwight

- Sometimes, I feel like one of the disciples.
- Sometimes, I feel like one of the crowd.
- Sometimes, I feel like the mother.
- Sometimes, I feel spiritually dead like the boy.

Psalms 85:6 Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?