

EXPONENTIAL

Spiritual Awakenings

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Session 10: The Global Awakening of 1904-1908

The Welsh Revival

Before the Revival

- Wales had been called the “Land of Religious Revivals” as well as the “Land of Song” for a long time.
- In the last decade of the 19th century, churches in Wales were experiencing spiritual declines. Church membership was declining, the power of pulpits was diminishing and a worldly spirit was prevailing among the congregations of all denominations.
- People in Wales were longing for revival.

Beginning of the Revival

- Joseph Jenkins was deeply concerned about the spiritual condition of the young people in his church. Jenkins held a prayer meeting for young people in which he asked for testimonies of spiritual experiences. He asked, “What does Jesus mean to you?” Florrie Evans, who had been converted two weeks before said, “I love Jesus Christ, with all my heart.” Her testimony impressed the rest of the group.
- In September 1904, Seth Joshua, an evangelist, went to New Quay and many were renewed and saved in his meeting. He also spoke in Newcastle Emlyn Preparatory School where Evan Roberts heard him. On Thursday morning, Joshua closed the meeting saying, “Lord, bend us.” Moved with this prayer Evan Roberts prayed. “Lord, bend me!” and had a deep sense of God’s grace and the need to preach. At that time Roberts told his friend, Sidney Evans, that God would give them 100,000 souls in Wales.

Expansion of the Revival

- Evan Roberts returned to his small village. On October 31, 1904, he spoke after the usual Monday night meeting to 17 people. At this meeting Roberts first made use of the “four points” which would be stressed in the Welsh Revival:
 1. Put away any unconfessed sin
 2. Put away any doubtful habit
 3. Obey the Spirit promptly
 4. Confess Christ publicly
- Roberts spoke every night to ever increasing crowds. By the weekend the church was packed, and invitations came for him to speak in other churches and chapels.
- Later that month the revival fires spread throughout Wales. In the second week of December 1904, the local press reported that the revival was spreading rapidly throughout North Wales.
- After just two years, exhausted from his work, Roberts retired in April 1906.

Characteristics of the Revival:

- Leadership of the Holy Spirit
- Spontaneity and emotional demonstrations
- Prayer
- Confession of sin and testimony of faith
- Singing

Impacts of the Revival:

- Evangelistic growth
- Improved Church life
- Improved social life

Spread of the Revival Worldwide

- The revival spread to nearly every country and continent until the outbreak of World War I.
- America
 - Various prayer meetings preceded the awakening
 - Huge conferences of ministers gathered in the cities to discuss what to do when Awakening arrived.
 - Rise of Pentecostalism
 - Besides the Pentecostal Movement, there were urban evangelists who played an important role in the Awakening in America such as R. A. Torrey (1856-1928), J. Wilbur Chapman (1859-1918), Billy Sunday (1862-1935), and Gypsy Smith (1860-1947).

The following is taken from: <https://lovinglifeathome.com/2017/09/23/a-prayer-for-revival/>



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Rekindled love for God:
Set my soul afire, Lord, & renew the love I had for you in the beginning. May the fondness I feel for everything else in life pale in comparison to my burning desire to know & love You more. (Revelation 2:4-5, 3:15-17; Matthew 10:37; Mark 12:30)

Enthusiasm for Worship:
May my life be a sacrifice of praise to You, O God. May I enter Your gates with thanksgiving & come before Your presence with singing. Teach me to worship You in Spirit & in truth—not just at church on Sundays, but all week long. (Heb. 13:15; Psalm 34:1-3, 100:1-4; John 4:24)

Vigilance in Prayer:
Teach me to pray without ceasing, boldly approaching the throne of grace in the power of the Holy Spirit. Help me not to be anxious, but to cast my cares at the foot of the cross, trusting Christ to intercede on my behalf. (1 Thess. 5:17; Eph. 6:18; 1 Peter 5:7; Romans 8:26, 34)

In-depth Bible Study:
Create in me an insatiable hunger for Your Word, O God. Teach me to love it as I love life itself. Help me to hide its truths in my heart & meditate upon it day and night. Make me a doer of the Word rather than a forgetful hearer. (Matthew 5:6; Psalm 119:97-98; James 1:23)

Victory over Sin:
Help me to lay aside every encumbrance & the sin that so easily entangles me. Keep me mindful of the fact that Jesus has purchased my freedom from sin—I'm no longer enslaved. Teach me to consider myself dead to sin but alive to You. (Hebrews 12:1; Romans 6:1-7)

Affection for Others:
Jesus said people will know we are Christians by our love. Make that true in my life, O God! Teach me to value others above myself & to consider their needs as more important than my own. Make me a channel of blessing; love others through me. (John 13:34-35; Phil. 2:2-4)

Life of Faith:
Don't allow me to compartmentalize my faith, but let it influence & inform every aspect of my life. Teach me to walk by faith, not by sight. May everything I am & all that I do bring glory & honor to You, Lord, & point others to Jesus. (James 2:17-20; 2 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Cor. 10:31)