

21 Days of Consecration

✖ America's greatest need is spiritual revival. The United States has seen an awakening in every century of its existence—except this one.

In the 18th century, the First Great Awakening swept thousands of colonists into the kingdom of God, and the courage to break free from Great Britain germinated in the soil of awakened hearts.

The 19th century witnessed the Second Great Awakening, which shook the American frontier with dramatic results. Entire denominations doubled their memberships in just years.

In the 20th century, the Pentecostal-charismatic movement had a global impact. During the last 100 years, nations of the world have been touched, and more than 640 million people now claim to be Spirit-filled.

America's history has been informed consistently by significant spiritual renewal. However, we are now one-tenth of the way through the 21st century and, as far as we know, the U.S. has yet to experience a fresh awakening.

The ineffectiveness of the American church pushes us to ask some

hard questions of
God and ourselves:

Have we allowed ourselves to be preoccupied with political,
social and
peripheral issues more than with the nation's greatest need?
Have we spent
billions fighting political and social battles while losing
the spiritual
battle for the souls of a new generation? Have we chosen the
easier way of
carnal weaponry while neglecting God's more challenging way of
spiritual
intensity?

Have we
picketed more than prayed, fought more than fasted and lashed
out more than
loved? Have we been duped into hoping that righteousness would
be installed
from the top down rather than recognizing that true awakening
comes from the
bottom up?

Does the church
in America need to experience a fresh grace through
repentance? Do we need a
deep cleansing and renewal?

I believe that
the answer to these questions is a painful and convicting yes.

Today's church
is desperate for a deep and transformational revival that will
change the
spiritual landscape of our country again.

The question
is, what would an awakening in 21st century America look like?

What would
happen if God shook this nation during the next decade? How
would we know if
revival and awakening were occurring?

Answers to these questions were discussed several months ago
in
Northampton, Massachusetts, during a gathering of more than 75
Christian
leaders in the city once known as an epicenter of the First
Great Awakening.
These leaders identified 20 significant indicators of a
contemporary
awakening—10 in the church and 10 in the culture. You can read
their
conclusions online at .

The leaders, who represented a broad spectrum of evangelical
denominations
and ministries, also banded with several hundred ministries in
the Awakening
America Alliance to seek God for a new Christ-awakening in the
United States.

Now, as a way to pursue the spiritual renewal we need, we have
an
opportunity to unite at the start of this second decade of the
century to
humble ourselves through fasting and prayer.

The Awakening
America Alliance has designated January 1-21 as “21 Days for a
New Awakening”
to answer God’s call through the prophet Joel to “declare a
holy fast” (see
Joel 1:14).

Fasting from a

pure heart with proper motives will help lead us into the brokenness required to receive God's next move in our nation. Fasting brings spiritual benefits because it helps us humble ourselves, presses us toward personal cleansing, focuses our hearts and weans us off earthly distractions.

It allows for heightened sensitivity to God's voice and positions us to bring deliverance to the captives. Fasting and prayer facilitate a personal renewal of our connection and intimacy with Jesus. His presence and pleasure become our reward.

Ultimately, the renewal of the church and of the nation will depend on people who respond to His call. True spiritual awakening in this century will be a grass-roots movement in which intimacy with Jesus is restored one heart at a time, producing the fruitfulness and freshness we all desire.

Why not let the 21st century awakening start in your church. More importantly, why not let it start in your heart?

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