

OH THAT YOU WOULD REND THE HEAVENS!

What Will It Take For Spiritual Awakening?

PURPOSE OF THE VIDEO

- A. To understand what it will take for spiritual awakening to happen, and some of the things to expect in the coming days,
 - 1. Wouldn't you like to see God change churches?
 - 2. Wouldn't you like to see God change the country in which we live?

SESSION 1 – WE MUST WAKE UP

INTRODUCTION

- A. What would you say is the number one thing on the heart of God?
 - 1. There has been a focus on awakening for over 25 years.
 - 2. There is a fresh stirring across the nation today toward awakening - LA, KY, TN, OneCry.

- B. Reflection on what this means:
 - 1. Is there power in prayer? Does prayer change things?
 - 2. Has the nation become better or worse?
 - 3. If there is power in prayer, then where's the power? If prayer changes things, then where's the change?
 - 4. If we have been praying for something for 25 years and it has grown worse, then somebody needs to ask the question, "Why?"

- C. The first thing we must realize – The reason is we do not know that we have a problem in our relationship with God; therefore we have not recognized that we are under the judgment of God and repented.

PROOF OF THE FACT THAT WE ARE UNDER THE JUDGMENT OF GOD

- A. What is the judgment of God?
 - 1. Judgment is the one to one correspondence of repaying someone according to what his deeds deserve. The punishment fits the crime – Rev 18:6, Exodus 21:24.
 - 2. Examples:
 - a. David and Uriah - 2 Sam. 12:9-12.
 - b. Ahab and Naboth - 1 Kgs. 21:19.
 - c. Babylon and God's people – Rev 18:7.
 - 3. Are all bad things the judgment of God? No, the Bible lists at least 5 different reasons for suffering. But if you are sinning and what happens to you is in line with your sin, then that most likely is the judgment of God.

- B. What are the signs when God is judging a people?
 - 1. The removal of wisdom – Job 12:13-25, Romans 1:18-32. This is true for God's people or the lost. Other examples include Ex. 7:3; Jos. 11:20; 1 Sam. 2:25; 2 Sam. 17:14; 2 Chr. 18:21-22; 2 Th. 2:10-11.
 - 2. Loss of spiritual power among God's people – Matthew 16:18-19. Examples include:
 - a. Inability of the church to make life-changing impact among the majority of those who claim to be adherents – The Barna statistics.

- b. Loss of making dynamic converts, many being unconverted, or having signed up on a church roll but unable to be found.
 - c. Prayer movement with no change – When we don't listen to God, He eventually will not listen to us Ps. 66:18.
 - d. Being turned over to sin.
 - e. Spiritual ineptness of the church to influence society, though society is receptive to spiritual things.
 - f. Loss of favor or honor with our society – (favor always comes from God – Gen. 39:21; Dan. 1:9).
 - g. Defeat by our enemies in every moral arena that we have fought the last few decades (fornication, homosexuality, abortion, etc) – Lev. 26:17; Jdg. 2:14.
3. Various other signs:
- a. Societal breakdown of the family – Rom. 1:30.
 - b. Societal and relational conflict – Is. 3:5; Zec. 8:10; Rom. 1:28-30.
 - c. Bad leadership – Job 34:29-30; Pr. 28:2.
 - d. Being turned over to statutes that are not good – Eze. 20:24-25.
 - e. Loss of finances – Hag. 1:6-11.
 - f. The number of failures, setbacks, and reverses begin to increase over time – Hag. 1:5-11.
 - g. Natural disasters – 2 Chr. 7:13; Am. 3:6, 4:7, 9-11.
 - h. Our success is unfulfilling – Mic. 6:14.

CONCLUSION

- A. You and I are a people are under the judgment of God.
- B. If we do not awaken:
 - 1. We will be destroyed.
 - 2. Our children will live out the consequences.
- C. Will you not arise? Whatever else is on your agenda, you must make this a priority.

SESSION 2 – REASONS WE HAVE NOT AWAKENED

INTRODUCTION

- A. Why are our churches and our land asleep?
 - 1. How can the signs be so prevalent and we not know it?
 - 2. How can we live in the midst of this and not respond?

THE BASIC REASON WE HAVE NOT AWAKENED

- A. It all boils down to the fact that we have lost the fear of God.
 - 1. Recognizing the judgment of God is necessary to realize there's a problem in our relationship with God – 2 Chronicles 7:13-14
 - 2. Call to prayer in 1863 – What would have happened to George Bush on 9/12 if he had done what the Senate did in 1863?
- B. How did we lose the fear of God?
 - 1. We have ignored the fear of God because we mistakenly assumed that it hinders a love relationship with God instead of understanding that it is a prerequisite to the love of God.

2. We have so emphasized the love and grace of God apart from the context of His holiness that we have a stillborn theology of how grace and love are the basis of our accountability.
 - a. The accountability of grace – Hebrews 10:26-31.
 - b. The accountability of love – Exodus 20:5.
 - c. This is why Peter says judgment begins with the house of God – 1 Peter 4:17.
3. We have a false sense of security – Jeremiah 7:4-15, Luke 3:7-9, Isaiah 47:7-8, Zep 2:15, Rev 18:7.

CONCLUSION

- A. Our churches have not experienced revival because we lost the fear of God and thereby the ability to recognize we need to repent.
- B. Let us return to a biblical view of God and fear Him again.

SESSION 3 – THE SINS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED

INTRODUCTION

- A. If we must turn from our wicked ways before we can be healed, then what are the ways?

SINS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED

- A. We have left our first love – we are held accountable for the relationship – Rev 2:1-7.
 1. Desiring God - Is 26:9, Luke 2:46, the story of Marcie.
 2. Prayerlessness – Prayer seeks God.
- B. We have not been on mission with Him – We are held accountable for the assignment.
 1. In 5 separate, non-repeated stories, Jesus or John the Baptist warned or declared that failure to bear fruit would result in destruction – Matthew 3:7-10, 7:19, 21:19, 21:33-44, Luke 13:6-9, John 15:5-8.
 2. Our materialism has caused us to spend His money on ourselves.
 3. We are accountable for the use or misuse of resources – this is whoever has to him more is given and whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away – Luke 19:20-26.
- C. We have made false converts – We have practiced the assignment of calling people to salvation poorly:
 1. Statistics in the SBC.
 2. We have called people to a decision as the basis of salvation instead of repentance – fire insurance or Lordship?
 3. We have called people to a location instead of a relationship – John 17:3.
- D. We have not hallowed His name – We are held accountable to represent His name – Ezekiel 36:20-23.
 1. Not exercising church discipline.
 2. We have treated God lightly.
 3. We have taught our children that you serve God when it is convenient.

CONCLUSION

- A. When God extends an invitation to revival, these sins must be addressed. I choose these rooted, systemic sins because they have been on my heart. They are not the only ones.
- B. These changes will position us to be gloriously renewed and used of God.

SESSION 4 – FOUR EXPECTATIONS IN THE COMING DAYS

INTRODUCTION

- A. When it is the darkest and God's people cry out, He moves.
- B. The blackness of the night does not dim the brightness of the light that dawns.
- C. There is hope.

FOUR EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE COMING DAYS

- A. God will create a catalytic moment of opportunity for national repentance.
 - 1. Examples:
 - a. Elijah on Mt. Carmel – 1 Kings 18:36-37.
 - b. Hezekiah – 2 Chronicles 29:3.
 - c. Ezra – Ezra 7:6-10.
 - d. Nehemiah – the whole story of him coming, building the wall in 52 days, and people gathering to hear the word of God.
 - e. Jesus – Luke 3:15-17.
 - 2. This is our invitation to repent and live. Failure to respond will ultimately result in us perishing.
- B. Forgiveness of sin has never meant the automatic cancellation of temporal judgment – David as an illustration from 2 Samuel 11–20.
 - 1. There will still be difficult days.
 - 2. If anyone thinks that revival will cancel our judgment, they are mistaken.
 - 3. The Civil War still came even after the revival of 1857-59.
- C. God's grace takes on the expression of allowing us to navigate the judgment of God.
 - 1. What grace is – the provision of God for everything you need in a relationship with Him at that moment. The grace of God helps us go through the judgment and come out the other side restored and whole.
 - 2. Why must we still go through judgment even if we experience revival. Because God must hallow His name
 - 3. However, God will still be at work.
 - a. In wrath God remembers mercy – Hab 3:2.
 - b. God places a revived people in the midst of a nation in judgment.
 - c. A great harvest will follow – Hosea 6:11.
- D. The outcome of successfully navigating the judgment of God will produce blessing.
 - 1. Example of Hezekiah – 2 Chronicles 32:22-23, 27.
 - 2. Example of Civil War.
 - 3. Example of Parkview.

CONCLUSION

- A. Much of what I have just talked about in this last session relates to what happens if revival comes. I mention it for understanding sake, so that we will know how to respond if revival happens. For our response sake in the here and now, we must focus on repentance.
- B. Ministries and resource that will provide practical help will be on this DVD.