
Do It Again

Part 5 - Bring in the Harvest

Quick re-cap of where we've been over the last month:

- + **Pastor Jo: Azusa St and Pentecost** – God restored to the church the gifts and working of the Holy Spirit, in healings and salvations. Also reminded us that the very first revival was at Pentecost where the Holy Spirit was given to God's covenant people, birthing the church.
- + **Pastor Nick: Moravian Revival** – A small community in Europe whose desire to worship and pray 24 hours a day, birthed over a century of prayer. God released supernatural unity and a mission's movement that impacted the world.
- + **Pastor Scott: Welsh Revival** – God transformed a nation and influenced the world. The challenge to us was, "Oh Lord, Bend me". Bend our will, lives and plans to God.

Revival!

Since Pentecost, God has sent seasons of revival to His church. Seasons where people are called back into a dependency on God, an openness to the Holy Spirit moving, and it's accompanied with salvations, signs, wonders, miracles and healings.

God's desire is to restore His church things that we have lost, forgotten or de-emphasised.

*"Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?"
Psalm 85:6 (NIV)*

"O Lord, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O Lord, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy." Habakkuk 3:2 (ESV)

"For this is what the high and exalted One says — he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite." Isaiah 57:15 (NIV)

"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law." – Deuteronomy 29:29 (ESV)

Our nation, our city, our community, our church needs revival!

Cultural Unrest and Rebellion

The Summer of Love, the hippy movement was in full swing. Anything different from previous generations was embraced, such as long hair, beards, communal living which involved drugs, sex and rock and roll, as well as the exploration of eastern religions (Hindu/Buddhism/new age) and the occult.

Worldwide, young people began rebelling against “the establishment”. Part of their rebellion was due to them wanting to set their own value systems.

Nearly all churches and preachers had rejected this generation and the hippies were considered outcasts, unwanted in their churches.

- + People were more interested in Krishna or whatever warm body was beside them each night.
- + A revelation of God’s holiness was nearly non-existent
- + There was a passionate embracing of sin
- + The community were turning away from God in droves and were chasing after their next high then being bent to Jesus.

Jesus People Movement

Grass-roots level - God began stirring the hearts of many Christians. These early stages, there was no singular church or individual that stood out as being the face of the movement.

A revival had begun to break out amongst the Hippies.

Coffee Houses: A space where the church could take the gospel out into the world. A place for genuine dialogue between all believers and non-believers alike.

Calvary Chapel

Church planted in 1965 in California with 25 people. Right smack bang in the middle of the Hippie-central.

The newly saved Christian hippies went out to the beaches, the highways and byways and preached the love of Jesus. Hippies, disenchanted with both the drug and free-love culture, found God .

In five years, Calvary Chapel went from a church that didn't want to get their carpet dirty and protect their controlled environment to having thousands of young hippies come to know Jesus. Conservative estimates put the number of young people across just the US who gave their life to Christ in the Jesus Movement at a quarter of a million.

The Harvest

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38 (ESV)

+ Transformation across the world

- Deep Awareness of the Love and Mercy of God
- Revelation of God's Holiness
- Conviction and Passionate repentance of Sin
- Dramatic increase in Salvations and community transformation

In the least likely of circumstances, God showed up!

Newly converted Christian Hippies, went out with some key simple messages:

- + One Way Jesus – One way to the Father
- + The Centrality of Jesus and the Work of the Cross
- + The importance of teaching on the Second Coming of Jesus
- + Great Commission

Some would say that our nation and world are in a state of chaos. It's tempting to focus our emotional responses on the pandemic, division and unrest.

This Jesus People movement grew in the midst of chaos. This can remind us that God is always working to bring redemption, spiritual revival and re-awakening out of chaos and flux, often through people you and I would least expect.

Jesus People Movement was a movement that qualified everyone.

So what for us church? What can we learn from all of this?

"The harvest is plentiful! Go to the harvest"

Are we so focused on our own comfortability that we can't see the need?

What if God is wanting to do something profound in our lives, in the church, in our nation today?

Darkness can not hold back the light

- + Even the smallest of sparks, the smallest of flames permeates the darkness.
- + When light comes to darkness, it's no longer dark!

We can't just study and talk about revival, we need to jump into revival.

Are we prepared to give ourselves to the Lord and His purposes in our generation?

Questions for Discussion:

1. What could you do in your workplace, university, home, neighbourhood, that could change the atmosphere. If you own a business, is there anything you can change to honour God in all that you do and bring life giving water to those who come in contact with you? Would and should you change something?
2. What if the generation to come after us (our children and grandchildren) marvelled at our response to God rather than seeing us as people who shrunk at the opportunity before us, upset at what was being taken away, rather than embracing what God has for us?
3. Will the generation to come speak of us as a people of great faith, or people who stubbornly clung so hard to their own opinions and attitudes that they were not open to any change that God might want to bring?
4. What then might God need to do in our lives to shape our heart?
5. How might the church (individually and collectively), step into the darkness and actually be the light of Christ?
6. What opportunities are there that exist right now for you to be a part of God's Kingdom work?