

Can HE Do IT Again?

The last two weeks, Pastor Rush and I have ministered concerning the Christian foundations of the nation.

The first week was about the Covenants the earliest settlers made with the Lord, both at Plymouth, Massachusetts with the Mayflower Compact and at Cape Henry, Virginia when they planted the cross and proclaimed the continent for the Kingdom of God.

- Both efforts were done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the propagation of the Gospel throughout the land and to the world.
- No – they were not perfect people, and they made their share of mistakes.
- But – their goal was to establish a society based on Biblical principles and creating a government that would honor Almighty God and Jesus Christ.
- Through much struggle with the environment, diseases, misunderstandings with the Native Americans they were able to maintain a stable form of society.

Last week, Pastor Rush enlightened us on the role of Pastors, Ministers, and Evangelists that led the way to secure freedom from tyrannical dictators in the form of English kings who sought to legislate religious values and culture among the new colonies.

- It was their fiery messages on righteousness, justice, and morality that inspired the colonists to stand up for their Christ-purchased freedoms that all men were created equal with “unalienable rights” [rights that are impossible to take away or give up] that are given by God, not government.
- It is said the American Revolution was not won on the battlefields, but in the revival meetings that called people to righteous living.
- One of the main takeaways from that message was: “**Silence Equals Consent**” that if we don’t speak up and speak the truth, we are complicit with the sins being committed around us.
- As God’s people, the church has a prophetic role to stand and proclaim righteousness in the midst of a crooked generation.

There were divine moments when Heaven invaded America and rewrote history:

1. Enfield, Connecticut – July 8, 1741

Jonathan Edwards preached a message known as: “Sinners in the hands of an Angry God.”

- Declared people must return to faith in Christ and righteous living or they will spend eternity away from God in hell.
- He declared the awful torments of eternity without God.
- Men & women shrieked, wept, groaned under conviction of Holy Spirit repenting of sin.
- It is said he held the manuscript close to his face and just read it without raising his voice.
- From this Holy Spirit move, similar happenings erupted across all thirteen colonies.

2. George Whitfield came on the scene:

- Up until this time the colonist didn't have much affiliation with other colonies.
- They were former British subjects who happened to live on the same continent.
- Whitfield was 25 years old when he came to America and did something unique to any preacher before him.
- He traveled preaching from Georgia to Massachusetts drawing crowds of thousands in open fields.
- He refused to recognize denominational boundaries and preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ was the way of salvation.
- Everywhere he went – the fire of Holy Spirit confirmed the message with souls saved, delivered and revival renewed in the hearts of Americans.
- The colonists from the different states were hearing the same gospel message, the same hymns, reading the same Bible.
- The colonists were becoming unified Americans.
- This is what fueled the revolution away from Britain's tyrannical monarchy.

The gospel preaching of Edwards and Whitfield brought an awareness of the holiness and awe of God and the mercy offered to mankind through the grace of God by Jesus Christ.

So, since the nation began with godly foundations and righteous roots, what happened when spiritual coldness set in just a few short years later, leaving the nation in need of revival and a return to its original fervor for the Lord?

Approximately 60 years after the Revolutionary War was won and the U.S. was established the fire the colonist fought for was waning.

- People began to turn away from a personal encounter with Christ and morals began to slip.
- As the frontier of America began to be explored there was a need for reviving among the American people.

3. Cane Ridge, Kentucky – Aug. 6-12, 1801

America faced a different crisis sixty years after Edenfield.

The Revolution had been won, the Constitution had been ratified, the new nation was expanding – but the spiritual fire they once had was cooling off.

- History records that post-war disillusionment set in and as the nation expanded – drunkenness, violence, moral chaos reigned.
- Thomas Paine’s “Age of Reason” mocked Christianity
- The Church was weak, divided and irrelevant.
- In just one generation – we can lose our faith-based nation.
- 1961- Ronald Reagan said: “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.”
- God intervened and prevented the western frontier from descending into lawless chaos and reform movements were birthed that worked towards abolishing slavery, championing women’s rights and reshaping the moral conscience of the nation.
- On Friday, Aug. 6, 1801 people started arriving at a Presbyterian meetinghouse in Cane Ridge, Kentucky.
- They came by foot, horseback, and wagons from as far as 300 miles away – traveling for days.
- On Sunday, Aug. 8 somewhere between 10,000 – 20,000 people had gathered.
- Due to the spiritual stagnation, people were hungry and desperate for spiritual life – they abandoned their farms and risked their lives to get there.
- Preaching was done by multiple services by Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian ministers who laid down all denominational labels and preached Jesus Christ.
- People wept, prayed, repented, fell out under the power of Holy Spirit, danced, and went into trances.
- The sound of people crying out was “Like the sound of Niagara Falls.”
- It was estimated between 500 and 1,000 had been converted.
- This was the beginning of the 2nd Great Awakening.
- The results of this move of Holy Spirit was that of reforming society – God doesn’t just convict of sin and save, but people’s lives were transformed, peoples’ rights were restored, slavery began to be addressed as sin against

fellow human beings, social justice issues were confronted – the need to take care of the poor was realized.

This wasn't a social gospel – [the false idea that you can reform society without personal salvation], this was the true Gospel producing social reform – first comes conversion then came transformation.

A Pattern Was Established

The two Great Awakenings established a pattern that has been repeated throughout American history:

- When the Church grows cold – God raises up voices.
- When compromise creeps in, Heaven sends conviction.
- When culture drifts from its foundations, the Spirit falls with fire.

The 1st Great Awakening forged American identity and laid the ideological foundation for independence.

The 2nd Great Awakening saved the frontier and birthed the reform movements that began to deal with the slavery issue, and reshaped 19th century America.

Both movements revealed the same truth:

**America's greatness has never been about military might or economic power
– it's been about the fire of God burning in the hearts of His people and
overflowing into every corner of the culture!**

Here's what we need to understand in 2026: that fire hasn't gone out – the same Spirit who fell in Enfield and Cane Ridge is still alive today.

God who awakened the colonies and reformed the frontier is still at work today.

But that fire needs tending, it needs Gods' people to blow on the coals of the existing fires and re-flame them.

- It needs voices willing to preach/declare the Word without compromise.
- It needs hearts willing to pursue God with desperation.
- It needs a generation willing to let the fire of God transform our personal lives and our entire culture.

The question is:

Will we be that generation – or will we let the fire die?

Why is it different today than back then?

- **We are not building from scratch**; we're **rebuilding** what has been torn down, the foundation is solid.
- **We Can't flee**: The Puritans fled England's corruption and built a new nation. We have nowhere to go, there is no, "New America" to sail to.
- **The Stakes are civilization** – If America falls to moral relativism and tyranny, where does freedom go in the world?
- **Both spiritual AND structural**. This isn't just revival meetings; this is reclaiming institutions – courts – schools – media – government.

The Church must engage on ALL Fronts:

1. **Spiritual** – revival and reform are no longer optional.
2. **Legal** – Winning religious liberty cases.
3. **Cultural** – There must be bold prophetic voices declaring righteousness.
4. **Grassroots** – Students and every day believers must stand and declare the Gospel.

Reformation looks like:

The Puritans could flee England – we can't flee America.

So, we must do what the church should have been doing all along:

**“Pushing back against the gates of hell”
through revival fire and courageous cultural engagement.**