

# OH THAT YOU WOULD REND THE HEAVENS!

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## 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.