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CHURCH

SERMON NOTES & TRANSCRIPT

Revival Is Coming

The Revival Cycle and the Two Marks of the Next Move of God

God has promised to pour out His Spirit, and revival is coming. Revival is not arrival but part of a cycle of formation, consecration and visitation, and the next move of God will be marked by strong preaching and ministers laying hands on people again.

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Joel 2:28-29

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01

Sermon Transcript

Amen. Well, turn with me in your Bibles to Joel chapter 2. Joel chapter 2. Joel is after Hosea, it's before Amos. And if that doesn't help you at all, just go to Matthew and just start hitching a lift, okay, until you get there, in Jesus' name. I wasn't raised in church. I can find anything in the Bible fast except minor prophets. They're the only ones I can't find, so they all just get in there together. And some of them have the same type of name. So there's no condemnation for you. The preacher struggles with it. You can struggle with it too, in Jesus' name. Amen. Joel chapter 2. I'm going to share with you this morning a little bit of an experience that I had several years ago.

I talked about this a little bit on Wednesday night. I'd encourage you to go back and watch that message online on our YouTube channel or listen to it on our podcast. There's some of what's in this message that I shared in greater detail, but I'm going to give you very different information than what I shared Wednesday night. But the Wednesday night message would be helpful. And the experience I'm going to talk to you about today is an experience I had where I got under what I can only call an open heaven, where I began to hear from the Lord in a very special and specific way several years ago. And to some of you this will sound like just another day. To some of you this will sound like, "Oh my God, how did that happen in his life?"

And I have great news for you, because in two weeks I'm starting a six-week series that's going to help you hear from the Lord in the exact same way. It's not special for pastors. It's not special for prophets. It's not special for apostles. You too can get under an open heaven at any moment and hear from the Lord. That's a good place to say amen.

Y'all, now listen, we're going to have to wake up a little bit. I know it rained a little bit, but I will come out there and walk on chairs if I have to. I will throw someone on the camera and I will go. That was a good amen. I know, that's what that really was. Your spirit was crying out to say amen. Hallelujah.

Joel chapter 2, starting in verse 28.

> **JOEL 2:28-29** ESV
>
> 28 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

It says, "And it shall come to pass afterwards that I'll pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit." Today I'm just calling my message Revival Is Coming. Somebody say, "Revival is coming." Revival is coming.

So in December 2022, I — let me be clear. I was actually not traveling and preaching at the time. I had taken a full step back into where I was doing ministry on the internet. That's all I did. I got online, I preached, I made resources. We touched people around the world. And then I could just go make whatever I wanted to eat for lunch in the kitchen and do my thing. I was having a great time. It's fantastic.

December 2022, I start to feel a spiritual intensity rise in my personal time with the Lord and in my life in general. I just started to feel the heat turn up for about a month in December 2022. When I got into January, about the middle of January, I was in prayer one morning and it wasn't a vision, it wasn't a voice, but it was almost like information beamed down from the heavens into me. And I was laying there — or I was down in my chair. I get down and I put my face in my chair, as long as my knees aren't hurting. Amen. Come on, somebody. I'm getting a little older.

And so I get down, I put my face in my Bible, in my chair, and I'm sitting there and I feel just this information downloading to me. And to be very clear, this is not normal. This is out of the ordinary. This isn't what it's like every day. I do not ever want to be one of those preachers that makes you think that it's always a mountaintop experience, because Moses would be the first one to tell you that you can receive on the mountaintop and come down and throw a fit real fast.

> **EXODUS 32:19** ESV
>
> 19 And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.

Okay? That was for Bible readers right there. Amen. Y'all got that.

And so it's not always a mountaintop experience, but this was a very specific moment. And what the Lord shared with me in that time was that within the next 18 to 36 months we would see a great outpouring hit the nation. Maybe the world — I kind of think in my own paradigm, but hit the nation. In other words, we're going to see the next great revival. We'll see the next great outpouring. We'll see the next great move of God. Eighteen to 36 months.

Now, I have not backed off of this number, but I want you to know we are in the very close of that number for me. But let me give myself a little bit of an out, that sometimes in a prophetic paradigm you can only receive as clearly as you can receive. Even Paul said that we see through a glass darkly.

> **1 CORINTHIANS 13:12** ESV
>
> 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So there are moments where you kind of see it.

So let me just say it to you this way. This is what I'm saying: if it happens at 39 months, I'm not going to sit back and kick myself. But I have sensed in this window — I really think 36 months. I think we're about to see a great outpouring in the nation. And that being said, would we be at the end of the 36 months? Now that I'm standing here, I'm wondering. I think we have another six months. So yeah, I'm not sure. Now I'm questioning my math.

Three weeks after I got this — so this is just in my room now, keep in mind, early 2023. It's not like revival fires are burning. It's not like Pentecostals are acting Pentecostal. I've never seen people as not Pentecostal as they've been in the last 15 years. We are the least Pentecostal-acting Pentecostals we've ever been. Okay? And I haven't turned on Pentecost, by the way. This isn't a comeback, I've been here for years. Amen. I didn't stop. That's why I had to go teach on the internet. I had to wait for people to warm back up to it. Amen.

And there wasn't a great Pentecostal feeling in the church. There wasn't a great Pentecostal feeling in the movement. There wasn't a great Pentecostal feeling amongst my peers. And I get this word. Within three weeks, the revival that breaks out in Kentucky at Asbury University happens. Within three weeks.

Now, my first thought was, I was wrong about the timeline. That was my first thought. I thought, this is it, I was wrong about the timeline. Within about 48 hours I knew that wasn't the case. And I'll tell you why in a little bit, but here's the sneak preview: it's because there wasn't any preaching. So I'll be back to that in a few minutes. Amen. Got to have preaching if you're going to have a move of God.

And so I thought my timeline may have been off, but then I realized that this was just a small quaking that was showing that God was about to do something. In fact, in every great awakening that has ever happened, there has always been a season of smaller outpourings. Probably the best one that I could illustrate to you would be the Azusa Street revival. When the Azusa Street revival hit in the early 1900s, you can trace Azusa Street back to Texas, back to Kansas, back to Pennsylvania, all the way over to Wales, across the ocean. That's how long there were little revival fires burning until something happened with William Seymour at Azusa Street. That was incredible. It was highly influential. It was powerful. It was a move of God.

Somebody ought to shout in this Pentecostal church just to prove that you are in fact Holy Ghost filled. Amen. All right, y'all will make me nervous if y'all are quiet. My God, I'll preach for three hours, Lord.

And so within just a few weeks that revival hits, and I was encouraged because I knew that I was on to something. And so at that time I started to do a lot of study on revivals in history. By the way, this season of intensity and kind of an open heaven lasted for about six weeks, from mid-January to the end of February at least. And I started to do a lot of study on revivals in times past and things that had happened in history, moments where there had been great awakening, great moves of God in the world. And I happened to just stumble upon a pattern that I shared Wednesday night. Again, if you'll go back and listen to that, I think it'll be very helpful to you. But I happened to just stumble on this pattern. I wasn't looking for it. I guess just my systematic brain kind of caught it as I was reading, that these outpourings happen about every 20 to 35 years.

They happen about every 20 to 35 years throughout all of church history. Once you kind of get past the early church, every 20 to 35 years you see a great awakening in the earth. So now I've got a word from God. My spirit likes that. But now I got something my brain really likes. I can throw this bad boy into Excel and make a spreadsheet and find out when the next one's coming.

What I'm telling you is, I've got a word from God on this, but I also have a statistical probability on my side, because the last great outpouring came to an end around 2005. I'd say maybe 2007 is probably when the last bit of embers went away. But since about 2005 we have not been as Spirit-filled as we once were. The last great move of God kind of came to a close. It kind of wrapped up, the last bits of flames off of it. So now we're in the 20 year from the end, 30 year from the beginning of the last great outpouring that happened in the nation. We're due for a move of God. We're due for one. We're due for one like — we could put it, I know y'all send money to them preachers that put big charts on the stage. I could make you a big chart right now and show you we're due for one. Somebody say, "Send it, Lord." Amen. Hallelujah.

So I just want to talk to you through a few things that the Lord shared with me in this time. Now, normally I preach kind of one, two, three, A, B, C — you know, that's kind of how I preach. I give it to you real systematic. I don't have any system for this this morning. There is no system for this. I'ma share with you as best — and I'ma preach fast and loose. Amen.

But I believe this is going to help you just see some things that I'm seeing that are coming. And I believe God's about to do a great work.

So the first thing I want to share with you is a revival cycle that the Lord showed me. Again, Wednesday night I talked about this in depth, and so you can go back and see that. But there's a constant cycle that the church is going through. When it comes to a move of God, there's a constant cycle that we're in, and the cycle is formation. It starts with formation. Okay? You move from formation to consecration, and then from consecration you move to visitation. That cycle is always in motion. That cycle never ends. Okay? Formation, consecration, visitation.

Formation is when we're shoring up the foundations of the faith. This is when you have churches that are getting serious about the disciplines that go along with living for the Lord: Bible reading, prayer. This is when we start talking about doctrine. This is when you get just good foundational Bible teaching where you learn what to believe and expect from the Bible. This is formation. It's foundational. It's building out a framework. It's formation. This is a very important season for a church to go through — not only a church, but the church at large. Amen.

And so there's formation, then you move into consecration. This is where, after you've been in formation for so long — let me just tell you this: you can only spend so much time in the word. You can only spend so much time in prayer. You can only come to so many services at church. You can only listen to so many good godly podcasts. You can only watch so many preachers on YouTube before eventually this thing just grabs a hold of you. You can only do so much of that before it grabs you and pushes you to a different level in the Lord. And that is consecration.

Consecration is the moment where you click over from just building your foundation to, all of a sudden, you are pulling away from things that may not even be a problem, may not even be bad. I'm not talking about pulling away from sin. I'm talking about pulling — you might just find that you all of a sudden have a distaste for football. You might find that you all of a sudden — for me, it's TV. Just when I go into these moments, I can't do TV no more. I don't have a problem with TV. I like TV, want to be on TV. I'd love to just start my own sitcom today. Amen. I have a good time. I'm going to start a reality TV show right here in the church. I would love that. I want to be on TV. But in these moments I pull away from TV. I just find myself doing that.

For you, I mean, it could be any good godly thing. I'd encourage you not to make it work. Amen. Three people got it. I'm happy about that. Amen. But you'll pull away from things and you'll go to a place spiritually where you start to get a little more serious. You start to get a little more tuned in. You start to go to a place in the Lord that is deeper. It doesn't last forever, but you will have those seasons of consecration.

At some point, as we consecrate ourselves unto the Lord, we separate ourselves from things that are frivolous and we really focus on the Lord. We really focus on Jesus. We really focus on his presence. There's a moment of visitation. It's sovereign. It's divine. But there's a moment where God looks down, he sees it, and he pours out his Spirit. Somebody say, "Yes, Lord." Yes, Lord.

So there's a moment of visitation, or as we like to call it, revival. There's a moment of revival. And I had a pastor friend who pastored a church that was in revival in a season in the late '90s. And I asked him one day, I said, "What was it like?" And he said, "In revival, everything works." He says, "In revival you can do no wrong. Every strategy works, every invitation works, every joke works, everything works." Just everything works in revival. You say "lift your hands," people lift their hands. They fall on the ground, they run to the front, the whole bit. Just everything works in revival. There's a great grace on the results of revival.

I'm going to talk about that more in just a second, but I do want to just share something with you that I felt like the Lord told me before service to share with you. This cycle is always continuous. The cycle is always continuous. The cycle always goes formation, consecration, visitation, formation. So visitation should go back to formation at some point.

What we do really poorly in the Pentecostal church at large — in fact, if you want to go back through 2,000 years of supernatural history in the church and find out where it goes off the rails, it goes off the rails right here — is that when God pours out his Spirit and there's a moment of visitation and revival hits, we have confused revival with arrival. But revival is not arrival. Revival is just part of the cycle.

So if God poured out his Spirit this morning in a way where all of a sudden none of us could stand and we're in here for the next six hours under just the glory being poured out — I knew a preacher that said you got to get under the spout where the glory pours out. Amen. And so God pours out his glory and none of us can move and we're receiving from the Lord, and then we get up and go to the buffet when it's done and act like nothing ever happened.

I don't think that's what we want. Because I've been in Jeremiah. I'll throw pins, I don't care. It is easy to prophesy favor, favor, favor, favor, favor, favor, favor. It sounds good, it preaches good, everybody likes it and everybody will be happy with you.

> **JEREMIAH 23:16-17** ESV
>
> 16 Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain
> hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. 17 They say continually to those who
> despise the word of the Lord, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they
> say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'"

But there is something that is possible in the Spirit. It's called favor in the unfavorable. It doesn't all have to be a Cinderella story, baby.

You won't live in revival forever. It will come to an end. But if you will re-engage in the cycle, you'll grow deeper and deeper and deeper and deeper in the Lord. Somebody say amen. Hallelujah.

So it's a cycle. Here's what you can expect in revival. This is something else that the Lord shared with me. The first thing you can expect in revival — if you've been in here for the last two months, you ought to know what I'm about to say — is souls. Salvation, salvation, salvation. Salvation. There will be people getting saved. They won't be able to get here fast enough to give their life to the Lord.

That's what happens when a visitation happens, when there's a revival that breaks out, when the presence of the Lord hits the church in a unique and powerful way. Sinners will bum-rush the doors.

> **ACTS 2:1-4** ESV
>
> 1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a
> sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of
> fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to
> speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And I can prove it to you, because in Acts chapter 2, starting in verse 1, it says, "When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues of fire appeared to them and rested on each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak" — hallelujah — "in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."

And they're in this room and the Holy Ghost pours out in such a way that there's not even three people in the back row going, "I don't get it." Everybody got a touch from God in the room. Everybody. Everybody experienced the glory of God at Pentecost. And by the end of the chapter, Peter's got his head reached out a window and he's preaching, and with 120 people in the room, 3,000 people give their life to Jesus Christ.

> **ACTS 1:15 ESV**
>
> 15 In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said,

> **ACTS 2:41 ESV**
>
> 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Hallelujah. You know what I like about them numbers? That means we could see 3,000 people get saved at any moment. Come on, somebody, give the Lord a shout right there. Whoo!

So it's inevitable. When there's outpouring, when there's revival, when there's visitation, it is inevitable that people will get saved. And yes, revival is a blessing to the saints, but my friends, hear me. I used to have a pastor who said this, he harped on it and it got in me: revival is more than goose pimples and doodads. Right? We need to see the power of God.

And along with people getting saved — which if we get nothing else, that's a pretty good bargain right there, I'll take it — if we get nothing else, there are supernatural results that occur in revival. And there's typically these four things that happen when there is a visitation from heaven. Normally see these four things.

One is prophecy. We'll see prophecy increase. We'll see people receiving from the Lord in a way that they can articulate and share with other people. Prophecy and things in the prophetic realm: words of knowledge, words of wisdom, etc. Words of encouragement, I would say, go in there.

You'll also see tongues. The baptism of the Holy Spirit will almost happen just naturally. I have a gift for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but I've never walked in the room and people just started getting it. So I'm expecting that in revival. Amen.

And healing. Supernatural healing, divine healing. This is one of our 16 core beliefs in the Assemblies of God, is that divine healing is for today. Healing is your portion. But healing goes to a whole nother level in revival.

And then there's a fourth one. Now, those three are pretty normal. You can actually live a life where those three things are in occurrence on a regular basis. The fourth one happens uniquely in places where the presence of God pours out, at least in my observation, and that is people falling on the ground. This is the one people find to be the strangest, but it's the one I kind of like the most. Amen. I enjoy it. I like it. This is the one that I — I always tell people that prophecy,

tongues and healing are for other people, but when I go do services, the falling's for me. Amen. That's the Lord just saying, "Okay, you can enjoy it too." Hallelujah.

And so people always ask, where's it at in the Bible? The best Bible I can give you on this — and I can take you through several hypotheses on this — but 2 Chronicles chapter 5: the priests entered the temple to minister before the Lord, and the Bible says that the glory of the Lord fills the temple so that the priests are unable to stand.

> **2 CHRONICLES 5:13-14 ESV**
>
> 13 and it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving
> to the Lord), and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to
> the Lord, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever," the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a
> cloud, 14 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the
> house of God.

They are unable to stand. Now, what that means to me is that they fell down, because I'm pretty sure they didn't crawl in there. At some point they were standing up, and the glory of God touched them in such a way that they could no longer stand. They hit the ground, and the Lord ministered in that room.

And so I'll also tell you this. People treat falling — and I'm not going to just get people to fall. In fact, I always tell people, don't fall if you're not going to fall. Like, don't give me no freebies in the altar. But if you're going to fall, you know, just go with the Lord. Let's see what happens, and stay down there for two minutes and see if the Lord does something.

But people often treat falling like it's a modern invention in the Pentecostal church. Our roots on paper are only about 120 years old. And I'll give people that — about 120 years ago people who were getting touched by the power of God went, "Hey, maybe we ought to write some of this down." But if you go back about 500 years, if you look at people like John Wesley, Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield, Charles Spurgeon, there are a lot of accounts of people under their ministry falling.

In fact, in John Wesley's ministry, they said that people would crumble in the altars — that it would make... I'm sorry, not in the altars, in the aisles — that they would walk in and grown men would be made weak and they would fall and they would hit the ground under the power of God. So we've seen this throughout all of church history. Lots of documentation in the last 500 years. Prophecy, tongues, healing, falling.

The Lord also showed me two marks that would be evident in the next move of God. There would be two things that would be important. They would be pillars. They would be anchor points of the next move of God. One of them is a little obvious, and that is that preaching must be a priority. Preaching will be a priority in a move of God, the next move of God particularly. But in history, no revival has lasting substance unless there is strong preaching.

John Wesley famously said, "Light yourself on fire with passion and people will come from miles around to watch you burn." And when revival fires pour out in a church, when something gets lit up in the church, people will come from all over the place to see it. It will happen. But one of the groups of people that will be attracted are going to be lost people. That's why you must constantly have the gospel preached around revivals. You must constantly have the gospel preached.

But also, you're going to have believers flock to a move of God. Believers will hear God's doing something. They'll hop on a plane and they'll head out to go be a part of it. And if people are going to engage, especially believers, in a unique

environment where the presence of God is pouring out in a special way, then not only can you have revival, but you must have revelation. Revelation must pour forth in those environments, because revival, as we said earlier, it does not last forever. Revival is not arrival. But the word of God never withers. It never fades. It never fails. It never returns void.

> **ISAIAH 55:11** ESV
>
> 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

So whenever there's revival, you must have strong preaching.

The second mark is this — and I need you all to give me some latitude as the pastor of the church here on this one. The second mark is that ministers are going to start laying their hands on people again. For about the last, I'd say 20 years — we have seen, maybe probably maybe 20 years ago, we saw a great exodus of pastors from the altar. And so now a lot of altar calls happen, they happen from up here, and they're just observed. And you'll get people down in the altars praying and pastors will kind of just observe what's happening, and they won't involve themselves with it.

Being a preacher, I can tell you there's some good reasons for that. Looking at the church at large, I can tell you that there's been a season that that was needed. We needed a season to step away, to come back into that. But it was in December of 2022, this was one of the first things the Lord showed me, is that if we were going to see God move in a powerful way, preachers were going to have to get back in the altars.

When I started traveling to preach, the key reason that I did it when I went back into going in — and let me just be honest with y'all what I did when I went back into having to go in and dealing with people. I didn't have to on the internet. I shut that MacBook Pro and I was done for the day. Amen. But when I went back into having to be in the room, deal with people — what I wanted to do was show pastors how easy it is to navigate getting in the altar and praying for people. Because I've watched a lot of my peers be very afraid of it. They don't know what to do with it. We did not have great models for what to do with it in the time that a lot of my friends came into ministry. But I started a little early and I saw some things that have helped me. And so the next great move of God's going to be marked by pastors getting in the altars.

One of the reasons that pastors have gotten away from it — we talked about it the last two weeks. This was not intentional at all. It's a happy accident, or as I like to call it, the anointing. But we've talked over the last couple of weeks about how there is a unique difference between believers who are in the marketplace and believers who are in the ministry. And we talked about a kings and priests paradigm in one week, and then we came back the next week and we talked about the priesthood of believers, how we are all a royal priesthood and so everyone is a minister.

> **REVELATION 1:6** ESV
>
> 6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

> **1 PETER 2:9** ESV
>
> 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

And both of these things being true, what that means is it's not a problem to solve, but Lord, it is a tension to manage. It really is.

And so what pastors did is they pulled away from the altar because they said, "I'm going to let the priesthood of the believer operate in our churches." And I watched pastors say, "If you need something this morning, someone standing near you, just lay their hand on you." That's all good and fine. But the next move of God will be marked by pastors stepping back into their apostolic authority and laying hands on people and seeing the supernatural power of God flow — not by accident, not off in a corner, but intentionally in their services. If you believe that, give the Lord a shout of praise. Amen.

So where are we now? Where are we now in this timeframe of the Lord pouring out? I'll be honest with you. When I say we look through a mirror darkly, that is the best way I can describe something like this. I resist every urge to chomp at anything that I see, because sometimes when you get something like this, every time the wind blows, you want to run after it to see if that's the thing.

I remember after the revivals of the '90s had come to a close, we watched for two or three years that every time somebody sneezed in a service, 2,500 people showed up and they thought it was the next great move of God, and in six weeks they realized, well, we've just been doing long services for no reason. Right? I mean, that's the truth. And so I try not to run after everything that I see.

But I will just tell you some things that are happening in our culture right now. In a recent Barna report — now, Barna does a lot of studies and statistics and... there's another S word that I'm looking for here and it's not coming to me. I can't think of it. They do a lot of polls, surveys. Surveys, that was the word. I don't know how polls got me there, but it did. Amen.

They do a lot of surveys that affect things that are happening in the church. In the last few years they've been surveying Gen Z. Gen Z right now is around the ages of like 14 to 28. So these are young professionals and those who are going to be young professionals within the next 10 years. Gen Z is the generation that will be running the world in the next 15 years. Okay? And as young as I look, I'm not one of them. Amen. When you laugh, it hurts me.

But they've been surveying Gen Z, and for the first time in American history we have seen something happen in Gen Z that we've never seen in any other — even from colonial America, we've never seen this happen before. And that is that Gen Z men — Gen Z, well, they aren't all men, because they're too young, so Gen Z boys and men, amen — right now are attending church more than Gen Z women. We've never seen this in American history. Women have always dominated religious attendance in our nation, and right now we see Gen Z men attending church more than the women.

And some media is reporting that the gender gap in Gen Z with church attendance is going to continue broadening, that we're going to see that happen more and more and more, where men are leading the way in that. That is culturally unique in this time period. In fact, they said that from 2019 to 2025, Gen Z church attendance climbed 15 percentage points. From 2019 to 2025, Gen Z men have said, "I have got to get in the house of the Lord." And I will tell you something about this generation that you can't really see, is how much Christian content they took in on the internet before they ever made that decision. So they're just taking in the word of God, and then eventually they say, "I've got to get in the house of the Lord."

Additionally — and I try my best not to sensationalize anything. The Lord is so good and it is so easy and it is so normal for the believer. I don't have to hype up the Lord before he moves into the room. You can receive very easily from the

Lord. So I'm very careful about sensationalizing. I want you to know I'm very cautious about this. But the assassination of Charlie Kirk — we're like super early in on this right now, and we don't know what the full play culturally is going to be from his assassination. At the moment, it does not look like his death will be in vain. It looks like Charlie Kirk could be a lightning rod, could be a catalyst for the next great move of God.

Even people who disagree with him are taken aback by it — except the people you see on the internet. You got to stop looking at those people, they're crazy. There's a reason they're showing up in your feed. Right? It's because another 2 million people watched that reel and went, "What in the world is this person talking about?" That's why it's showing up. But even people who don't agree, even people who are on the other side of the aisle, even people who are not born again, are looking at this moment in our current history — because this is history. You may not realize it, but you just lived through history. And they're looking at it and they're going, "That's not right." So something is wrong here. Something is not lining up.

And I believe his death might be a catalyst for the next great move of God, because some of the statistics we're hearing back about people who have gone to church since then, people who have started reading the Bible since then, people who've engaged with online content about the faith since then, people who have made decisions to join his organization... And listen, I'm going to tell you right now, I don't get into the political realm. His organization is obviously conservative, it's Republican, that's what he does. But let me tell you something, his organization's also got a strong gospel vein. And they point people towards the church. They point people towards — in fact, that night that it happened, on Wednesday night, if you were here, one of the first things I said is we need to pray for preachers that Charlie Kirk was connected with, because they might not be safe. They don't have Secret Service.

So there's a strong faith vein in his organization. People have joined it in droves. It's in the hundreds of thousands of people who have joined his organization right now. I just say those things to tell you that there's something happening. There's a shifting. There's a stirring right now, more so than I have seen in the last few years.

When I received this word from the Lord, a revival broke out within weeks. And I think it's great that some people went to Kentucky and sang some songs. I think that's great. I don't want to belittle it, but to some degree I have to, because we get so excited over the mildest stuff sometimes in the church. But in the last several months we have seen things happening in our nation. We have seen a stirring in the church. An entire generation has upset the cultural norm when it comes to the church. We have just seen someone who — for whatever reason that he was assassinated, for whatever reason, political martyr, religious martyr, however you want to — for whatever reason, it has somehow, somehow pointed people towards the cross. Something's happening. Something's happening.

> **2 CHRONICLES 16:9** ESV
>
> 9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars."

Second Chronicles chapter 16 says, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him." The eyes of the Lord are just searching throughout the earth. The eyes of the Lord are looking at churches and prayer meetings and private times with the Lord, and the Lord is looking constantly to and fro throughout the earth.

And I just believe that if we'll commit ourselves to his word, to his presence... For the last several weeks I've been talking about this mission statement: we're building a Jesus-centered, Spirit-filled church. I'll probably talk about this again in a

few weeks. But there was a day that the Sadducees come to Jesus and they challenge him with a question, and they said, "Well, how does this work, and this work, and this way?" And they start hitting him with some — trying to put him in a corner. And Jesus answers their question, and then he finally looks at him and he says, "You know why you guys struggle with this? Because you know neither the Scripture nor the power of God."

> **MATTHEW 22:29 ESV**
>
> 29 But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.

We're building a Jesus-centered, Spirit-filled church. Because if Jesus is the word made manifest and the anointing breaks the yoke, then we need Jesus.

> **ISAIAH 10:27 ESV**
>
> 27 And in that day his burden will depart from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck; and the yoke will be broken because of the fat."

We need the word and we need his power. We need both.

And I believe if we'll do those things and we'll commit to those things — for all people, not for some people. But if we'll say we're going to open up the Scripture for all people, we're going to create a place where all people can encounter the presence of the Lord — I think if we say we're going to build... I've been saying a lot lately that build is the most important word in the whole thing right there. We'll build. If we'll just say we're going to get busy about the work of the Lord — I think if we'll do those things, if we'll commit, the eyes of the Lord will search to and fro throughout the earth, and maybe, just maybe, we'll catch his attention right here at Saraland Church. If you believe that, give the Lord a praise this morning. Hallelujah.

All across this place, why don't you lift your hands to heaven? Heavenly Father, we ask you to move in this place today, God. Stir something in our hearts that prepares us for revival. Stir something in our hearts that prepares us for a move of God. Stir something in our hearts that says we're not going to live under the status quo. We're not going to live under the status quo of false promises from preachers we can't trust and false promises from preferences that we cannot seem to let go of. But God, let us just fall in love with the authentic power of God.

Pour out your Spirit in this place. Do a work that only you can do. Father, we repent for every moment that we've taken for granted in your house and in your presence, that we treat it as casual and common. And Lord, we invite you today to do something in this church that maybe even from a leadership perspective, if we step back, we'd go, "Oh, it's reckless to let that happen." Well, why don't we just let go and let you have your way? God, teach us the art of letting go. Teach us the art of letting you have permission to do what you want to do, in the way that you want to do it.

Holy Spirit, we invite you to mess up our paradigm, to mess up our expectations. Holy Spirit, we invite you to mess up the church if that's what you want. But while you're at it, pour your Spirit out in a powerful way. Let your power and your presence be evident in this place. Every time somebody walks in, let them sense that there's something in the atmosphere that is different. We invite you. We invite you. We invite you. We submit and surrender to you, Holy Ghost.

02

Preaching Notes

Before You Preach

This is a testimony message. It rests on a personal experience of hearing from the Lord, so it does not move in a tidy one, two, three. Say so up front, and give yourself room to preach "fast and loose" while keeping the three anchors clear: the cycle, what to expect, and the two marks.

It was preached two weeks before a six-week series on hearing from God, and the Wednesday before, the revival cycle was taught in more depth. Point people to that teaching if it is available.

Two cautions. First, a prophetic word is received "in a mirror dimly" (1 Corinthians 13:12). Hold the timeline with humility and say so. Second, the closing section points to current events (the Barna findings on Gen Z and the response to Charlie Kirk's assassination in September 2025). These were fresh when preached. If you preach this later, update or replace them with what is stirring in your own day, and check the figures against the source before you use them.

Introduction

> JOEL 2:28-29 ESV
>
> 28 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

This morning I want to share an experience I had a few years ago, a season when I got under what I can only call an open heaven and began to hear from the Lord in a special and specific way.

To some of you that will sound like just another day. To others it will sound out of reach. Here is the good news: it is not special for pastors. It is not special for prophets. It is not special for apostles. You too can get under an open heaven and hear from the Lord.

Today's message: **Revival Is Coming.** Have the congregation say it together.

MY EXPERIENCE

In December 2022, I began to feel a spiritual intensity rise in my personal time with the Lord. For about a month the heat turned up.

By the middle of January 2023, I was in prayer one morning, face down in my chair, and it was not a vision and not a voice. It was as if information was being downloaded from heaven. That season lasted about six weeks, from

mid-January to the end of February.

Be clear that this is not normal, and it is not what every day is like. Don't ever make people think the Christian life is one long mountaintop. Moses could tell you that you can receive on the mountaintop and come down and throw a fit fast (Exodus 32:19).

What the Lord shared with me in that season was this: **within the next 18 to 36 months, we would see a great outpouring hit the nation.** The next great revival. The next great move of God.

I have not backed off that word. But in the prophetic you can only receive as clearly as you can receive. Even Paul said, "For now we see in a mirror dimly" (1 Corinthians 13:12). If it comes at 39 months, I will not kick myself.

ASBURY: AN EARLY SPARK

Within three weeks of receiving that word, revival broke out at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky. At the time there was not much Pentecostal fire in the church, in the movement, or among my peers.

My first thought was that I had the timeline wrong. Within about 48 hours I knew this was not "the big one," because there was no preaching. More on that later.

I came to see Asbury as an early spark, a small quaking that showed God was about to do something. Most great outpourings have a trail of smaller outpourings leading up to them.

Illustration: Azusa Street. When revival broke out at Azusa Street under William Seymour in the early 1900s, you could trace the fire back through smaller outpourings in Texas and Kansas, and across the ocean to Wales. Little revival fires burned for years before something broke open at Azusa Street.

A PATTERN IN HISTORY

During that season I began reading about great awakenings, revivals and outpourings. As I studied, I stumbled on a pattern I had never heard anyone talk about: **these outpourings seem to come about every 20 to 35 years.**

So now I had a word from God, and I had something my brain liked too. The last great outpouring in our nation wound down around 2005, with the last embers gone by about 2007. By that pattern, we are due for a move of God.

Present this as your own observation from your reading, not as an established statistic.

Normally I preach in a tidy outline. This morning there is no system. I am going to share what the Lord showed me.

1. The Revival Cycle

There is a constant cycle going on in the church: **formation, consecration, visitation.** The cycle is always in motion. It never ends.

Formation. The church is shoring up the foundations of the faith: Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, doctrine, good foundational Bible teaching. This is a teaching season, and it is important, for a local church and for the church at large.

Consecration. You can only spend so much time in the Word, in prayer, in church and in good teaching before it grabs hold of you and pushes you to a different level in the Lord. You begin to separate from things that may not even be bad. This isn't pulling away from sin; it's pulling away from frivolous things. For some it is football. For me, it is TV. You will feel the spiritual heat turning up in this season. It doesn't last forever, but you will have seasons of consecration.

Visitation. As we consecrate ourselves and focus on Jesus and His presence, there comes a moment of visitation. It is sovereign and divine. God looks down and pours out His Spirit. This is what we call revival.

Illustration: "In revival, everything works." I asked a pastor friend who led a church through revival in the late '90s what it was like. He said, "In revival, everything works. Every strategy works, every invitation works, every joke works." There is a great grace on the results of revival.

REVIVAL IS NOT ARRIVAL

The cycle is continuous: formation, consecration, visitation, and then back to formation.

Here is where the church goes off the rails, and you can trace it through two thousand years of supernatural history: when God pours out His Spirit, **we confuse revival with arrival.** But revival is not arrival. Revival is part of the cycle.

If God poured out His Spirit this morning and none of us could stand for six hours, we should not get up, go to the buffet, and act like nothing happened.

It is easy to prophesy favor, favor, favor (compare the prophets of Jeremiah 23:16-17, who kept saying, "It shall be well with you"). It preaches well and everybody likes it. But there is also favor in the unfavorable. It doesn't all have to be a Cinderella story.

You won't live in revival forever. It will come to an end. But if you re-engage the cycle, you will grow deeper and deeper in the Lord.

2. What to Expect in Revival

SOULS

The first thing you can expect in revival is **souls.** Salvation, salvation, salvation. When the presence of the Lord hits the church in a unique and powerful way, sinners will come.

> **ACTS 2:1-4** ESV
>
> [1] When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. [2] And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. [3] And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. [4] And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Everybody in that room got a touch from God. Then Peter stood up and preached to the crowd outside. There were about 120 in the room (Acts 1:15), and "there were added that day about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). That means we could see thousands saved at any moment.

Revival is a blessing to the saints, but revival is more than goose pimples and doodads. It's about people getting saved. If we get nothing else, that is a good bargain.

THE SUPERNATURAL

Along with salvations, four supernatural results typically come with a visitation from heaven:

- **Prophecy.** People receiving from the Lord in a way they can articulate and share: words of knowledge, words of wisdom, words of encouragement.
- **Tongues.** The baptism in the Holy Spirit happens almost naturally.
- **Healing.** Divine healing is one of the 16 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God. Healing is your portion, but it goes to another level in revival.
- **Falling.** People falling under the power of God.

The first three can be a regular part of the Christian life. The fourth tends to happen uniquely where the presence of God is poured out.

Where is falling in the Bible? The best text is 2 Chronicles 5. When the glory of the Lord filled the temple, "the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God" (2 Chronicles 5:14). At some point they were standing, and then they could not.

Don't push people down, and don't fall if you're not going to fall. But if the Lord touches you, go with Him.

People treat falling as a modern Pentecostal invention. Our movement's written roots are only about 120 years old. But there are accounts of people falling under the power of God in the ministries of John Wesley, Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield in the 1700s. Under Wesley's preaching, grown men were reported to fall in the aisles. We have documentation of this going back nearly 300 years.

3. Two Marks of the Next Move of God

The Lord showed me two marks, two anchor points, that will be evident in the next move of God.

MARK ONE: PREACHING MUST BE A PRIORITY

No revival has lasting substance without strong preaching.

A line often attributed to John Wesley says, "Light yourself on fire with passion and people will come from miles to watch you burn." When revival fire breaks out in a church, people come from everywhere.

- **Lost people will come.** That is why the gospel must be preached constantly around revival.
- **Believers will come.** They will hop on a plane to be part of it. And when believers step into an environment where the presence of God is poured out, revival must carry revelation.

Revival does not last forever. Revival is not arrival. But the Word of God never withers, never fades and never fails. It "shall not return to me empty" (Isaiah 55:11). So whenever there is revival, there must be strong preaching. This is why Asbury, as wonderful as it was, was not the big one.

MARK TWO: MINISTERS LAYING HANDS ON PEOPLE AGAIN

Ask for a little latitude on this one.

About 20 years ago we saw a great exodus of pastors from the altars. Altar calls now often happen from the platform, and pastors observe what is happening without involving themselves. There were good reasons for that, and the church may have needed that season. But one of the first things the Lord showed me in December 2022 was this: if we are going to see God move in power, preachers will have to get back in the altars.

When I went back to traveling and preaching, a key reason was to show pastors how easy it is to get in the altar and pray for people. Many of my peers are afraid of it because they never had good models.

Part of why pastors stepped back is a real tension. We have taught the kings and priests paradigm, that God has made us "a kingdom, priests to his God and Father" (Revelation 1:6), and the priesthood of every believer, that we are "a royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9). Both are true. It is not a problem to solve; it is a tension to manage.

Pastors pulled back to let the priesthood of the believer operate: "If you need something, let someone near you lay a hand on you." That is good and fine. But **the next move of God will be marked by ministers stepping back into their apostolic authority and laying hands on people,** not by accident, not off in a corner, but intentionally in their services.

OPTIONAL: LAYING ON OF HANDS IN ACTS

This material is in the original notes but was not preached on October 5, 2025. Use it if time allows.

- Peter and John in Samaria: "Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit" (Acts 8:17).
- Ananias laid his hands on Saul so that he would "regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 9:17).
- Paul at Ephesus: "And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying" (Acts 19:6).

4. Where Are We Now?

Hold this loosely. We see in a mirror dimly, and I resist the urge to chase every wind that blows. After the revivals of the '90s, every time something stirred in a service, crowds showed up thinking it was the next great move, and six weeks later realized it wasn't.

But there are things happening in our culture right now.

Gen Z. Barna's research on Gen Z (roughly ages 13 to 28 in 2025) reports a striking shift. Gen Z men are now attending church at higher rates than Gen Z women, reversing a long pattern in which women have led religious attendance in America. Barna also reported that commitment to Jesus among Gen Z men climbed about 15 percentage points between 2019 and 2025. Much of that generation took in Christian content online long before they decided, "I've got to get in the house of the Lord."

The assassination of Charlie Kirk. Be careful not to sensationalize. It is early, and we do not know its full cultural effect. But even many who disagreed with him have looked at this moment and said, "That's not right," and there are reports of people going to church, reading the Bible and engaging with faith content since. It may become a catalyst for the next great move of God. We don't do politics here; the point is that people are being pointed toward the cross.

There is a stirring. There is a shifting. I believe revival is inevitable.

Conclusion

> 2 CHRONICLES 16:9 ESV
>
> 9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars."

The eyes of the Lord are searching the earth, looking at churches, prayer meetings and private times with Him.

One day the Sadducees came to Jesus with a question meant to back Him into a corner, and Jesus said, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God" (Matthew 22:29). That is why we need both. Jesus is the Word made flesh, and it is His anointing that breaks the yoke (compare Isaiah 10:27). We need the Word, and we need His power.

If we will commit ourselves to His Word and His presence, open the Scriptures for everyone, create a place where anyone can encounter the presence of the Lord, and keep building, then maybe, just maybe, the eyes of the Lord will be drawn back to this place again and again.

Prayer. Have the congregation lift their hands. Ask the Lord to stir hearts and prepare the church for revival; to break the status quo; to forgive us for treating His house and His presence as casual and common; to teach us the art of letting go and giving Him permission to move however He wants; and to pour out His Spirit so that everyone who walks in senses something different in the atmosphere.

03

Scripture List

Every passage read, cited or alluded to in the message, in the order it comes up.

Read

Read aloud in the message.

JOEL 2:28-29	28 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.
ACTS 2:1-4	1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
2 CHRONICLES 16:9	9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars."

Cited

Named or quoted along the way.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:12	12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.
ACTS 2:41	41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

2 CHRONICLES 5:13-14	13 and it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the LORD), and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever," the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, 14 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.
1 PETER 2:9	9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
MATTHEW 22:29	29 But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.

Alluded to

Drawn on without naming the reference.

EXODUS 32:19	19 And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.
JEREMIAH 23:16-17	16 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. 17 They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'"
ACTS 1:15	15 In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said,
ISAIAH 55:11	11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
REVELATION 1:6	6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

ISAIAH 10:27	[27] And in that day his burden will depart from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck; and the yoke will be broken because of the fat."

Pastor Jason Mayfield

SENIOR PASTOR, CITYLIGHT CHURCH

Pastor Jason Mayfield is the Senior Pastor of Citylight Church in Saraland, Alabama, where he and his wife, Ashleigh, lead a church devoted to Building Lives on Jesus. His preaching is rooted in the Bible, full of hope, and grounded in one conviction: an incredible life is built on the finished work of Jesus Christ.

For more than 20 years, Pastor Jason has given his life to the local church. He has been credentialed with the Assemblies of God for 21 years and ordained for 14, and he has led revitalization in churches that went on to rank among the Top 100 Fastest-Growing Churches in America. He carries a deep conviction that the church can be both excellent and supernatural, and a passion for revival.

He is an author and the creator of Tear Up Your Bible and POWER 27, a daily rhythm of Bible reading, prayer and worship. His resources have helped more than 100,000 people go deeper in the Scriptures. Above every title, his greatest joy is seeing people meet Jesus, be filled with the Spirit, and grow into everything God has called them to be.

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