

A Brief History of Revivals

by Mack Tomlinson

This sermon emphasizes the historical accounts of God bringing revivals to souls, churches, nations, and missionary work throughout different periods, highlighting the impact of prayer, preaching, and the Holy Spirit's sudden and powerful movements. From the Great Awakening to the Fulton Street Prayer Revival, Hebrides Islands, and Western Canada, these stories showcase how God's work can spread like wildfire, transforming lives and communities through the outpouring of His Spirit.

Scripture: Matthew 18:20, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:1, Joel 2:28, Psalm 85:6

Topics: "Revival", "Power of Prayer"

Description

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Transcript

God has always brought revivals to souls, to churches, to nations, to missionary work. The first Great Awakening, 1730's to 1780's. Britain was gone morally horrendously worse really than even what we see now in America.

God raised up George Whitefield and the Wesleys. Jonathan Edwards in New England. And just through the preaching and praying of God's people, God sent rivers from heaven and turned the tide.

And the Gospel swept the British Isles. George Whitefield preached in Boston when the population was 12,000. And Benjamin Franklin estimated there were 14,000 people there that day that came from everywhere.

It was like a prairie fire. Fast forward, 1857-1858. The Fulton Street Prayer Revival.

How many of you know about that? Fulton Street, Manhattan. Right near Ground Zero Memorial. Right there.

The North Dutch Reformed Church, Fulton Street. A young evangelist, city missionary they called him, Jeremiah Lamphere, had a burden. He said, you know, I think it's a good idea maybe to start a prayer

meeting for businessmen.

He did. He put up fliers about it. And first day, he was there and nobody else.

And then suddenly, two came in, three came in, five came in. And within months, around New York City, there were 50,000 people gathering at noon in prayer meetings. They couldn't find buildings big enough to hold them.

And that prayer revival, hundreds began to be converted. And within a year, there were 50,000 recorded conversions and people joined the evangelical churches. In the day when you didn't walk the aisle, sign a card, and you're a member.

No, you were examined to see if your profession was credible. 50,000 filled the churches of New York City in the greater area. And that prayer revival spread west like a prairie fire.

All around the South to South Texas, all the way to California. God ignited a huge season of revival in prayer. Fast forward quickly, 1949, 52.

Hebrides Islands of Scotland. Duncan Campbell was an evangelist. He was preaching in England, but there were two little praying ladies in Scotland, in the Hebrides.

Peggy and Sue. Thank you, historian. Peggy and Catherine.

Peggy and Sue, that's a Western song. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Anyway, two little women whose ministry was intercession in their house. They had never been married. Hey guys and ladies, if you don't ever get married, God doesn't do that, give yourself to a ministry of intercession.

It's the biggest need. A lot of young guys want to preach and teach. How many of them want to give themselves to a life of prayer? So these ladies started praying.

They had a burden and they called their minister to come by and they said, we believe God wants to bring Duncan Campbell here. Would you send him a telegram or whatever? Well, he respected these ladies, so he did. Campbell replied, I couldn't come for two years.

I'm just booked. So the minister comes back and tells the ladies and to which one of them said, that's what Duncan Campbell says, but God says he's coming. He's preaching on a platform in a conference in England.

He's supposed to bring the closing message and he's overwhelmed with this burden that he needed to leave and go to Scotland. He does. He leaves, ultimately gets on a boat to go to the Hebrides Islands.

He arrives, I don't know, two days, three days later. He gets off the boat and there's a man standing there who says, are you Mr. Campbell? Are you walking with God? Well, there's a meeting in the church tonight you're going to preach at. He said, how did you know I was coming? He said, how did you know to come? God was at work.

And the Spirit of God swept those Hebrides Islands. Many, many conversions. I don't have time to tell that story.

Fast forward, 1971, Western Canada, Bill McLeod, they were having a crusade, two weeks of meetings, the Spirit of God fell and hundreds were converted. They couldn't find buildings big enough for the crowds that began to come and it swept Western Canada and parts of the northern states, northwestern states in America. God has always brought revivals and when the Holy Spirit comes, He comes suddenly, surprisingly, mysteriously, sometimes like a gentle breeze, sometimes like a gushing wind.

It's like a snowball rolling down a snow-covered hill. It's growing. It's like a gentle light rain increasing and more keeps coming until a downpour soaks everything.

The wind was blowing. That's how you explain Pentecost. The wind was blowing.

Acts 4, they pray, the house is shaken and they're all filled with the Spirit of God. The wind was blowing. We need, brothers and sisters, for the wind to blow.

Your church needs it. Our church needs it.

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