



# What is Revival?

## *Three Revivals*

# Spiritual WARFARE



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## Earth Wars

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Eph 6:12

- We are in an epic battle between good and evil, God and Satan, light and darkness
- Our space time universe is the physical manifestation of the battle in the invisible supernatural and spiritual universe.
- Not fought over geography, but over hearts and minds of men and women.
- The battle is fierce and spills over every day into the visible realm we inhabit.
- Revival is a time of powerful victory for God when a massive battle is won.
- There has been no great revival in over a century, so no memory of it.





# The First Great Christian Revival – Acts 2

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off —for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about **three thousand** were added to their number that day.

Acts 2:36-40



God Sends a Man  
(or Many Men)





# The Societies Movement

- 1673, Dr. Anthony Horneck preaches “awakening sermons”
- Several young men begin weekly meetings to build one another up, study the scriptures, help the poor, and show kindness to all.
- Small groups become known as Society Rooms
- By 1730, nearly 100 Societies are meeting in London
- Societies were the “cradle of revival”



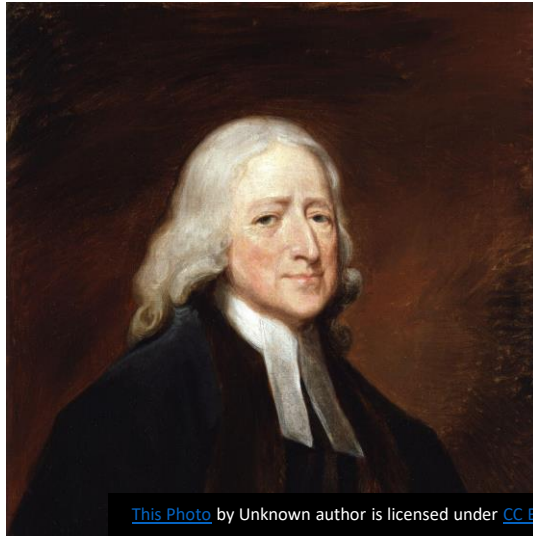
# Then God Sent a Man

- George Whitfield, 22 years old, preached throughout England and America
- “declaring the gospel in the pulpits of London with such fervour and power, that no church could hold the multitudes flocking to hear”
- Whitefield was joined by John and Charles Wesley who had brought him to Christ and disciplined him in a society called the "Holy Club" that they began at Oxford.





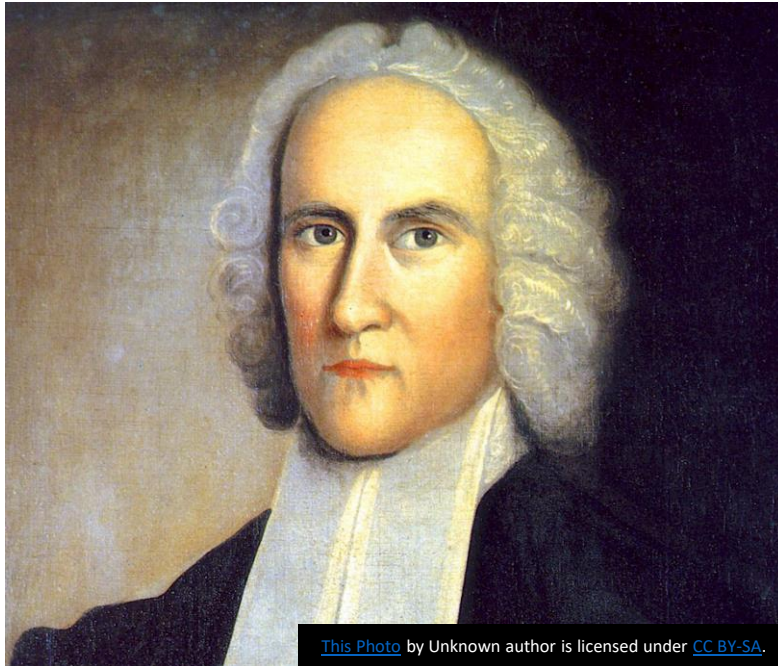
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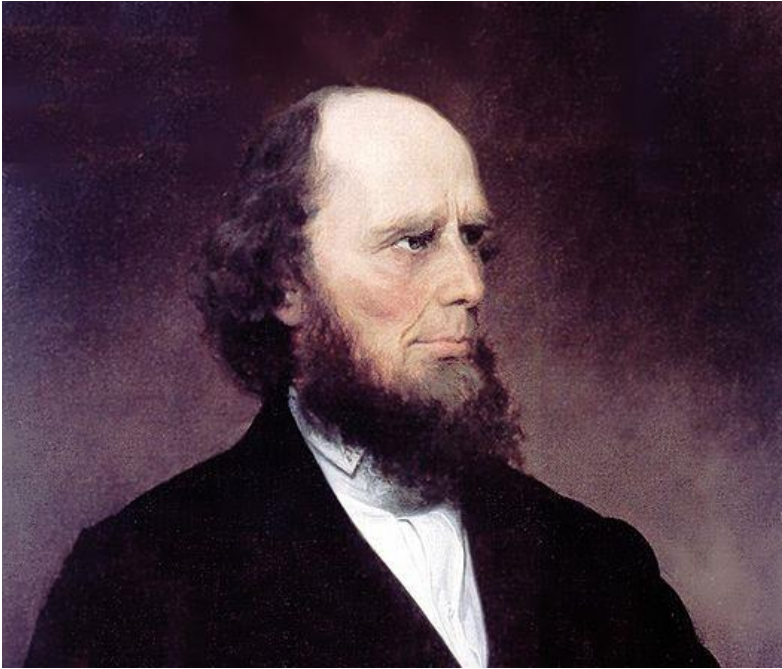
# Some Preachers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Great Awakening

- **Jonathan Edwards** - Congregational preacher in Enfield, Connecticut, preached "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" (July, 1741).
- **John Wesley** - With his brother Charles, founded the Holy Club at Oxford. Developed a discipleship method through the Holy Clubs that became the pattern for the awakening and "Methodism".
- **George Whitfield** - Joins Wesley's Holy Club in 1733, Converted in 1735, Begins preaching in 1736. "His preaching attracted large crowds who were drawn to his simple message of the necessity of the new birth as well as by his manner of delivery. His style was dramatic. At times, he wept or impersonated Bible characters. He was cross-eyed and in poor health, but possessed an incredibly powerful voice. By the time he left England for the colony of Georgia in December 1737, Whitefield had become a celebrity."
- Whitfield comes to America in 1738 and changes it forever.



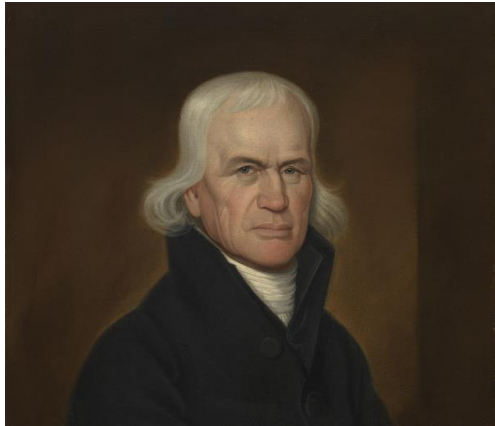
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# Some Preachers of the 2nd Great Awakening

- **Charles Finney** - A lawyer who comes to the Lord as an adult and is ordained as a Presbyterian minister. A powerful preacher who preaches for a verdict.
- **Francis Asbury** - Methodist minister. There are towns and cities, hospitals, seminaries, and schools, named for him. He brought Methodism to America in 1771, and over the next 45 years, he traveled over 265,000 miles on horseback, preaching to backwoods America.
- "He was a frontiersman and a pioneer. He could have given Lewis and Clark a map to follow before they embarked on their journey and told them which roads to take and which roads were dead ends...His message: "God's love can be experienced by everyone and that once it's experienced by everyone. The Holy Spirit takes up residence in your life and makes a difference." Rev. Alfred T. Day III
- He organized the circuit rider preachers and the "method" throughout the west.
- **Peter Cartwright** - Called the "Backwoods Preacher", an uneducated Methodist circuit rider who preaches extemporaneously, personally baptized twelve thousand converts.
- **The revival occurred across all denominations – Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Shakers, and others.**



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# The Preacher of the Welsh Revival

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- **Evan Roberts** (1878–1951), a 26-year-old former coal miner and ministry intern. He grew up in a coal mining community and quit school to become a coal miner at the age of twelve. At thirteen Evan Roberts received Christ as his Savior.
- Despite the grueling work in the coal mine, he began to attend every prayer meeting, youth meeting, or any other meeting offered by the church. He was at church six out of the seven days of the week, every week throughout his teen years.
- He had an obsession for studying revivals, especially the great revivals in Wales. He stated, “I could sit up all night to read or talk about revivals.”
- He was once forced out of his rented room by his landlady, who would hear him pray and preach in his room for hours on end, and concluded he was dangerous and quite likely insane.

# When Does An Awakening/Revival Happen?



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“Awakenings begin in periods of cultural distortion and grave personal stress, [as a result] we lose faith in the legitimacy of our norms, the viability of our institutions, and the authority of our leaders in church and state... They (awakenings) are times of revitalization. They are therapeutic and cathartic, not pathological. They restore our cultural verve and our self-confidence, helping us to maintain faith in ourselves, our ideals, and “covenant with God” even while they compel us to reinterpret that covenant in light of new experience...”

*Revivals, Awakenings, and Reform* by William G. McLoughlin



# England 1732 – On the Eve of Revival

Social Dysfunction on every level:

“The people are engulfed in voluptuousness and business, and a zeal for godliness looks as odd upon a man as would the antiquated dress of his great grandfather. Freethinkers are formed into clubs, to propagate their tenets, and to make the nation a race of profligates; atheism is scattered and broadcast throughout the kingdom...”

"It is publicly avowed that vice is profitable for the state; and that polygamy, concubinage and even sodomy are not sinful."

**The Weekly Miscellany**



# America 2021 – On the Eve of Revival?

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- Social Dysfunction Has Exploded
  - Ongoing riots
  - Cancellations
  - Divisiveness
  - Antagonism to Christians and Jews
  - Antagonism to traditions, statues, and history
  - Cult to self
  - Crime rapidly increasing
  - Fear at record levels – of Covid, of death, of one another



# The First Great Awakening (1730s-1740s)

# An Eyewitness Record

From the diary of uneducated farmer Nathan Cole, upon hearing that Whitfield would be preaching soon:

"Now it pleased God to send Mr Whitefield into this land. I longed to see and hear him... and then one morning all on a sudden there came a messenger and said mr whitefield is to preach at Middletown this morning at 10 o'clock.

I was in my field at work. I dropt my tool that i had in my hand and run home and throu my house and bade my wife to get ready quick to go and hear mr whitefield preach... and run to my pasture for my horse with all my might fearing i should be too late to hear him and took up my wife and went forward as fast as I thought the horse could bear and when my horse began to be out of breath i would get down and put my wife on the saddel and bid her ride as fast as she could and not stop or slack for me except i bade her, and so i would run until I was almost out of breath and then mount my horse again... fearing we should be too late to hear the sermon for we had twelve miles to ride dubble in little more than an hour."



"i saw before me a cloud or fog i first thought of from the great river but as i came nearer the road i heard a noise something like a low rumbling thunder and i presently found out it was the rumbling of horses feet coming down the road and this Cloud was a Cloud of dust made by the running of horses feet. It arose some rods into the air over the tops of the hills and trees and when i came within about twenty rods of the road i could see men and horses slipping along - it was more like a steady stream of horses and their riders scarcely a horse more than his length behind another...

i found a vacancy between two horses to slip in my horse and my wife said law [Lord] our cloaths will be all spoiled see how they look - and when we gat down to the meeting house thare was a great multitude it was said to be 3 or 4000 and when i looked towards the great river i see the fery boats running swift forward and backward -"



"when i see mr whitefield come up upon the scaffold he looked almost angelical a young slim slender youth before thousands of people and with a bold undaunted countenance and my hearing how god was with him everywhere as he came along it solemnized my mind and put me in a trembling fear before he began to preach for he looked as if he was clothed with authority from the great god and a sweet solemnity sat upon his brow and my hearing him preach gave me a heart wound and by god's blessing my old foundation was broken up and i see my righteousness would not save me."





# The Effect of Whitfield's Preaching

"...a religious revival burst forth... which changed in a few years the whole temper of English society. The Church was restored to life and activity. Religion carried to the hearts of the people a fresh spirit of moral zeal, while it purified our literature and our manners. A new philanthropy reformed our prisons, infused clemency and wisdom into our penal laws, abolished the slave trade, and gave the first impulse to popular education."

# The Second Great Awakening (1796-1836)

# Westward Expansion

- BY THE YEAR 1800, almost a million people had settled west of the Blue Ridge in Virginia, in Kentucky, Tennessee, the Northwest, and in the Indian Territory. 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was finalized, doubling the land area of the United States and providing impetus to western migration.
- But the migration was lawless and dangerous. An Episcopal preacher described the Carolinas:
  - "How many thousands . . . never saw, much less read, or ever heard a Chapter of the Bible! How many Ten thousands who never were baptized or heard a Sermon! And thrice Ten thousand, who never heard of the Name of Christ, save in Curses . . . ! Lamentable! Lamentable is the situation of these people."
  - A French nobleman who made a tour of the states wrote that "religion is one of the subjects which occupies the least of the attention of the American people...."





# The Spark that Ignited Revival

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- 1796 – Rev. James McGready became pastor of three small Presbyterian churches in Logan County, in southwest Kentucky.
- Methodist preacher Peter Cartwright described it:  
"[The area] was called Rogues' Harbor. Here many refugees from almost all parts of the Union fled to escape justice or punishment. . . . It was a desperate state of society. Murderers, horse—thieves, highway robbers, and counterfeiters fled there, until they combined and actually formed a majority."

# The Moving of God's Spirit

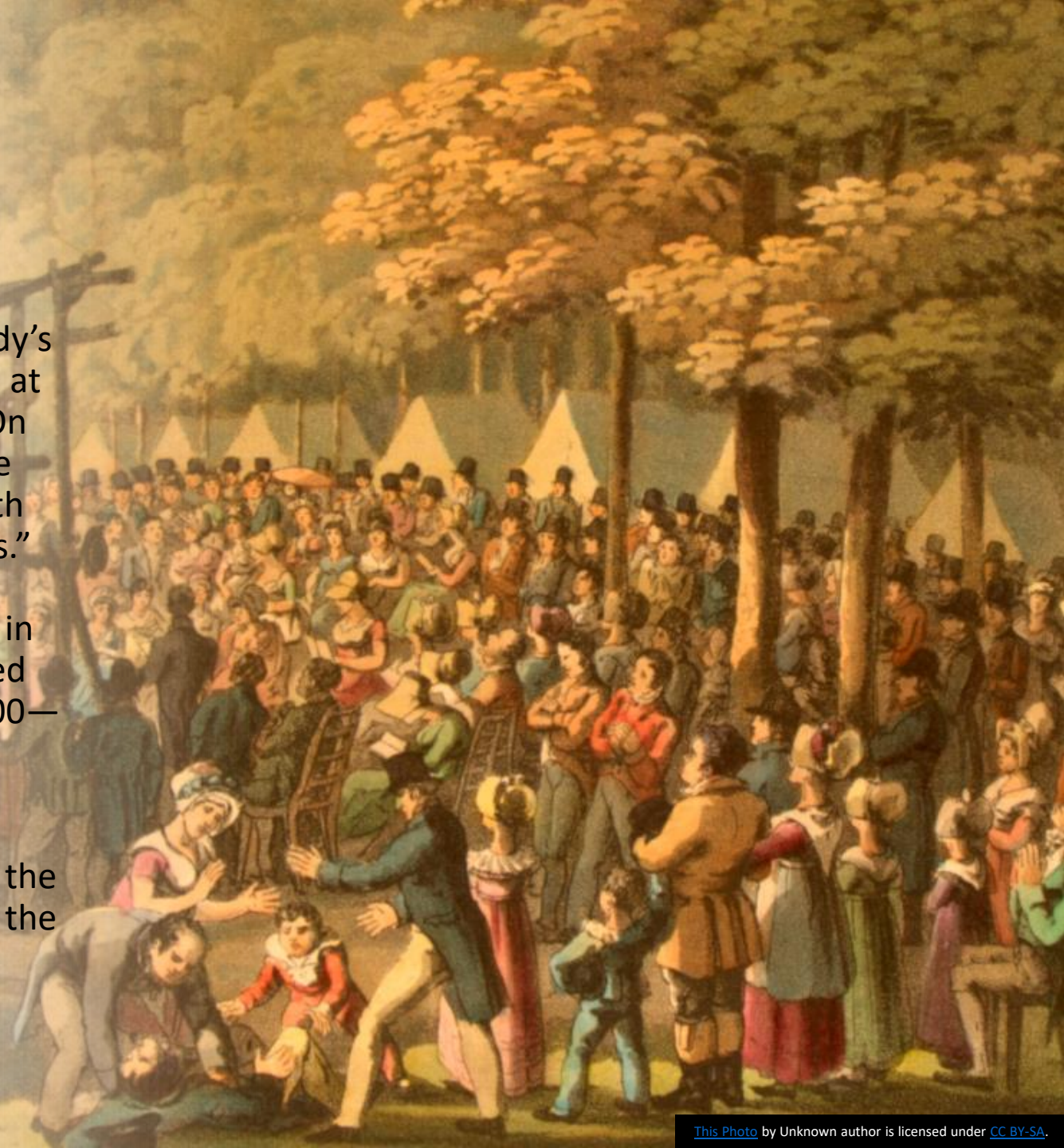
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- 1799 - A Presbyterian pastoral letter sees the flicker of holy flame:
  - Although there was still immorality and vice, "We have heard from different parts the glad tidings of the outpourings of the Spirit, and of times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. . . . From the east, from the west, and from the south, have these joyful tidings reached our ears.
- 1801 – The flame spreads
  - "Revivals, of a more or less general nature, have taken place in many parts, and multitudes have been added to the church. . . . From the west, the Assembly have received intelligence of the most interesting nature. On the borders of Kentucky and Tennessee, the influences of the Spirit of God seem to have been manifested in a very extraordinary manner."
- This 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Awakening began in 1796 and ran for 40 years, much longer than the 1st Great Awakening. The revival came in two phases, and its effect on the nation would be massive and deep.



# The First Major Manifestation of Revival

- June 1800. Four to five hundred members of McGready's three congregations, plus five ministers, had gathered at Red River for a "camp meeting" lasting several days. On the final day "a mighty effusion of [God's] Spirit" came upon the people, "and the floor was soon covered with the slain; their screams for mercy pierced the heavens."
- Convinced that God was moving, McGready and his colleagues planned another camp meeting to be held in late July 1800 at Gasper River. They had not anticipated what occurred. An enormous crowd—as many as 8,000—began arriving at the appointed date, many from distances as great as 100 miles. Tents were set up everywhere, wagons with provisions brought in, trees felled and their logs cut to be used as seats. Although the term camp meeting was not used until 1802, this was the first true camp meeting where a continuous outdoor service was combined with camping out.







# Gaspar River Camp Meeting - William McGee's Message

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- At a huge evening meeting lit by flaming torches, William McGee, a Presbyterian pastor, gave a passionate message on a doubting Peter sinking beneath the waves.
- McGready described what happened:

"The power of God seemed to shake the whole assembly. Towards the close of the sermon, the cries of the distressed arose almost as loud as his voice. After the congregation was dismissed the solemnity increased, till the greater part of the multitude seemed engaged in the most solemn manner. No person seemed to wish to go home—hunger and sleep seemed to affect nobody—eternal things were the vast concern. Here awakening and converting work was to be found in every part of the multitude; and even some things strangely and wonderfully new to me."

# The Turning Point

- The Gasper River camp meeting was the turning point of the Awakening in the West. Interest in spiritual things now became commonplace; concern for one's salvation was uppermost in that region where recently lawlessness had ruled. Other huge camp meetings were held in later months, and the area of revival soon spread into Tennessee.
- Barton W. Stone (1772–1844), Presbyterian pastor of the Cane Ridge and Concord churches, northeast of Lexington, Kentucky. Stone traveled to Logan County to observe McGready's work, and returned home to plan a similar meeting for August 1801 at Cane Ridge.
- Being better publicized than the meetings in Logan County, Cane Ridge attracted an amazing multitude. The numbers arriving, coming from as far as Ohio and Tennessee, were estimated between 10,000 and 25,000. (Lexington, then the largest town in Kentucky, had fewer than 1,800 citizens!) Stone looked on as "the roads were crowded with wagons, carriages, horses, and footmen moving to the solemn camp."

A dove is depicted in the center of the slide, its body and wings engulfed in bright, intense flames. The flames are a mix of orange, yellow, and red, creating a dramatic and powerful visual. The dove's head is turned slightly to the left, and its wings are spread wide. The background is dark, making the fire and the white dove stand out prominently.

# Holy Spirit Revival

- Invitations had been sent by the Presbyterians to Methodist and Baptist preachers from far and near.
- Barton Stone recalled: “all appeared cordially united in it. They were of one mind and soul: the salvation of sinners was the one object. We all engaged in singing the same songs, all united in prayer, all preached the same things.”
- "The careless fall down, cry out, tremble, and not infrequently are affected with convulsive twitchings. . .  
" Rev. Moses Hoge



# The 2nd Great Awakening Changes the Culture

- Bars, brothels, and saloons closed wherever Finney preached.
- Crime diminished massively
- The abolitionist movement was born in the revival, since preachers preached against sin and against slavery.
- Francis Asbury ordained the first black Methodist pastor who then founded the African Methodist Episcopal denomination.
- The circuit riders laid the groundwork to tame the wild west

# The Welsh Revival (1904-1905)

# The Calling of Evan Roberts

“At the age of 25 he woke up one night and found himself in the presence of God. His fellowship with God was so real, he said: “I found myself with unspeakable joy and awe in the presence of the almighty God ... I was privileged to speak face-to-face with him as a man speaks face-to-face with a friend.” This deep communion went on for four hours, and then he fell asleep again. He was surprised to find that the same experience occurred the next night, again resulting in an extraordinary fellowship with God that lasted about four hours. **This continued every night for the next three months.**”



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# Filled With the Holy Spirit

Preacher Seth Joshua prayed at the end of one of the services, “O God, bend us.” (Conform us to your will.) For some reason these words shook Evan Roberts to the core. Here are his words about what happened at that point:

*“I felt a living power pervading my bosom. It took my breath away and my legs trembled exceedingly. This living power became stronger and stronger as each one prayed, until I felt it would tear me apart... I fell on my knees with my arms over the seat in front of me. My face was bathed in perspiration, and the tears flowed in streams. I cried out, “Bend me, bend me!” It was God’s commending love which bent me ... what a wave of peace flooded my bosom...”*

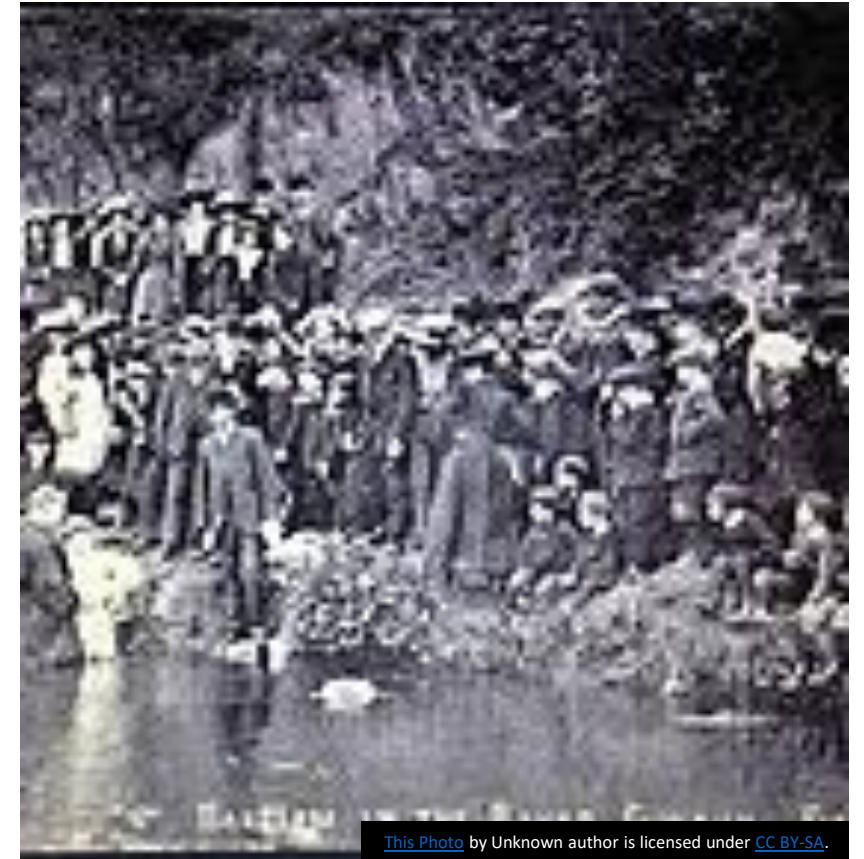
This Holy Spirit experience transformed Evan Roberts. Before that time he had tended to be a serious and somewhat gloomy personality, but henceforth he radiated tremendous joy. Before this experience he had been a timid and hesitant speaker, but now spoke with an authority and boldness that could hardly be resisted. Even his health was improved. He had been physically weak and unable to walk short distances, but now found he could walk for miles without tiring.



# Evan Roberts began preaching.

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- His parents were puzzled to see their son come home from college, and more puzzled still when he announced he had come to speak to the church (without being invited by the pastor) and was considering going through all Wales preaching and soul winning. The pastor of their home church didn't quite know what to do with Evan. He decided to play it safe and allowed young Evan to speak only after the main prayer meeting was over. Sixteen people and one little girl decided to stay and hear what he had to say.
- Roberts wasted no time in getting to the heart of his message. He spoke about a fullness of the Holy Spirit that was available for Christians, but declared that they must fulfill four conditions:
  - Confess all known sin to God.
  - Put away all doubtful habits.
  - Obey the Holy Spirit promptly.
  - Confess Christ publicly.



# The Effect of Roberts' Message

- So powerful was this first meeting that Roberts was given a second night to share, and then a third. With each passing night more and more people came. By the second week the church was packed out, and the revival was on!
- The effects were astonishing. Churches which had been only half full were now unable to hold all the people eagerly coming to find Christ. Services which had been formal and lasting an exact designated time, were now hotbeds of prayer, praise, and singing, starting sometimes at six in the evening and going on till past midnight.
- One pastor, when asked about the times of his services, replied, "From six until midnight." The astonished inquirer said, "You mean you have church from six p.m. until midnight?" "No," said the pastor. "I meant from six a.m. until midnight."





# Wales Was Transformed

- Within a couple of months Wales was a changed nation. Crime was reduced to almost nothing. Often magistrates were given a ceremonial pair of white gloves when they arrived at the courtroom, signifying that there were no cases to try.
- There was a wave of bankruptcies, as taverns were nearly vacant. One man found himself as the only patron in a tavern when a group of young enthusiastic youths from the revival meetings came past the building, singing praises to God. The tavern owner, sickened by his loss of business, growled at them and threw a couple of empty ale pots at the youths. The patron, sickened by such behavior, went out into the street and joined the singing group as they made their way to the church, where he gave his life to Christ.

# A New Role for Police

- A reporter went to a police station, wondering what the policemen did now that there was so little crime. He was told, “We used to serve two purposes, dealing with crime and controlling the crowds. Now that the revival has come there is no crime. So we go where the crowds are, to the churches. We have several good singing voices among our policemen so we have formed three quartets, and sing at the meetings whenever we get the chance.”
- The Llynfi Valley police court had been averaging 700 cases per week six months before the revival. After the revival was going full force, the average was 2.
- So radical was the change in the coal miners that there was a slowdown in the mines. The pit ponies, so used to being cursed at and screamed at by the ungodly miners couldn't figure out what to do when their transformed masters spoke kindly to them.

# The Location of The Welsh Revival

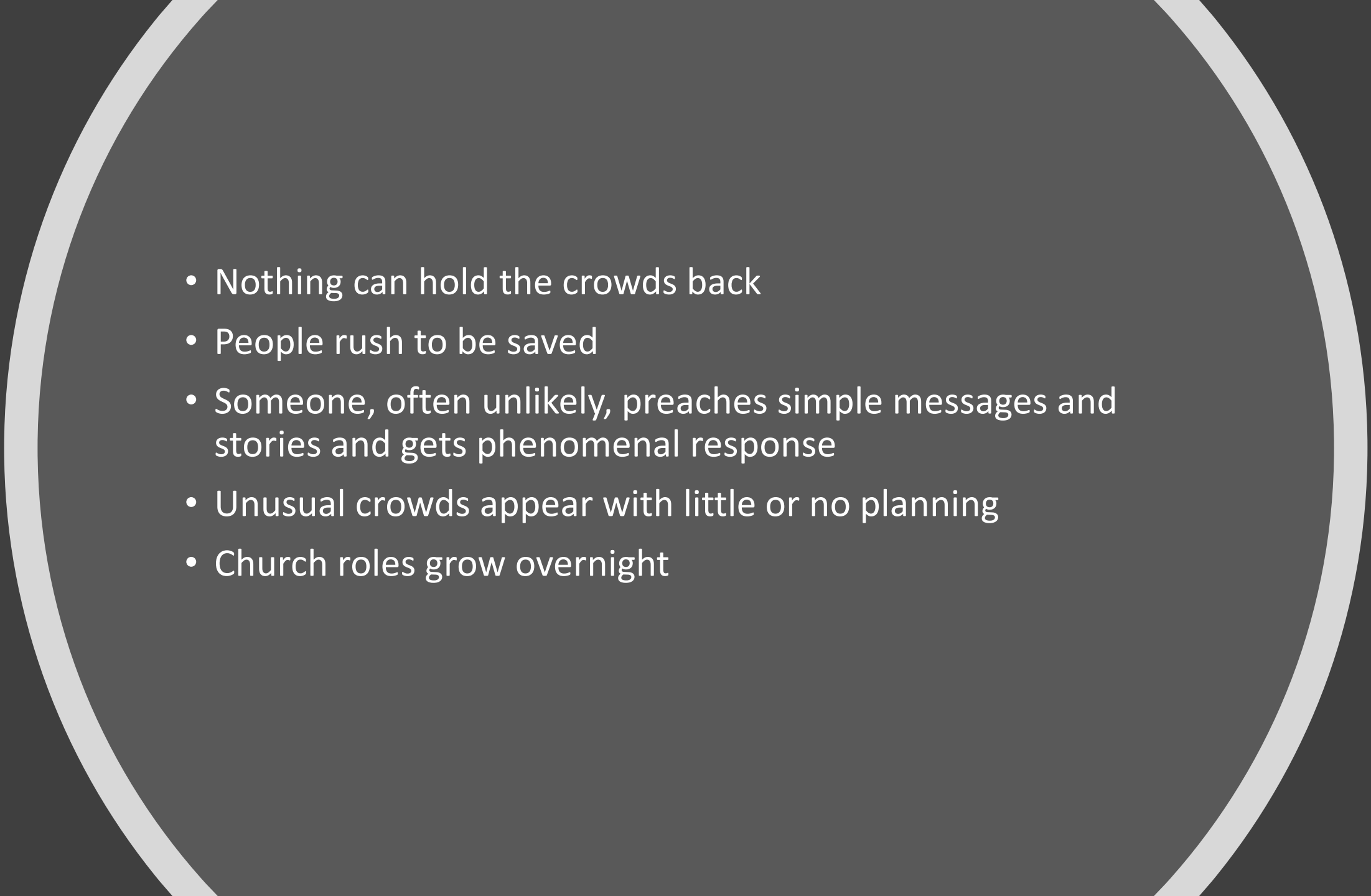
"The movement kept the churches of Wales filled for many decades, seats being placed in the aisles in Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Swansea for twenty years or so, for example. Meanwhile, the Awakening swept the rest of Britain, Scandinavia, parts of Europe, North America, the mission fields of India and the Orient, Africa and Latin America." J. Edwin Orr, *The Flaming Tongue*.

Newspapermen from London went to see firsthand the marvelous happenings of the great Welsh revival at the turn-of-the-century. On their arrival in Wales one of them asked a policeman where the Welsh revival was. Drawing himself to his full height he laid his hand over his heart and proudly proclaimed: "Gentlemen, the Welsh revival is inside this uniform!" He had caught the holy fire."





# Characteristics of Revival

- 
- Nothing can hold the crowds back
  - People rush to be saved
  - Someone, often unlikely, preaches simple messages and stories and gets phenomenal response
  - Unusual crowds appear with little or no planning
  - Church roles grow overnight

# Widespread Improvement in Culture and Morals

- First Awakening – England 1737, gin mills closed down. Alcoholism and crime diminished massively.
- Second Great Awakening – You could make money if you knew where Charles Finney would be preaching. After he preached, saloons closed down, gambling halls closed down, for lack of customers.
- Peter Cartwright – preached against slavery, slavery ultimately ended
- Welsh Revival – Massive cultural change in every area



# Mass Confession of Sin and Repentance

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 2:36-40



# Advice on How To Start Our Revival

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“Go home, lock yourself in your room, kneel down in the middle of your floor. Draw a chalk mark all around yourself and ask God to start the revival inside that chalk mark. When He has answered your prayer, the revival will be on.”

Evangelist Gypsy Smith