

Acts 29

Great Awakenings (AD 1720-1857)

Introduction

The church is not simply a collection of individuals who follow Jesus, but it is a preview of what humanity will look like under the rule of Jesus. We are to be a picture of redeemed people living together. The Spirit creates a new family that demonstrates a supernatural love for one another that is both attractive and counter-cultural. This is itself a presentation of the gospel.

Discussion Questions

- The early church devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (Acts 2:42). Why is theological growth essential for revival and renewal? If the Bible's truth is constant, why does our theology need constant examination?
- Jesus' followers became less self-centered and more kingdom-centered in their praying. Consequently, they experienced the power of God in awe inspiring ways (2:42-43). Since God already knows our needs, why is it important that we voice them in prayer? In your life, and at Sanctuary, where is more prayer needed?
- Belief in Jesus means belonging. A new family with new values is formed around Jesus and the gospel (2:44-46). Do you think our culture promotes this kind of community? In what ways? How can we better fulfill the scriptural emphasis of being members of a body and family?
- In the beginning, the sensitivity and generosity of God's people was instrumental in the gospel going forth (2:46-47). How important is it for us to have perspective on spiritual and physical needs of the city and world today? Why do churches find it hard to focus on missions and service to others?

Think About It

The vital signs of a Spirit-filled community are theological depth, intimate relationships, joyous worship, relentless evangelism, and sacrificial service. This is not a prescription for the Spirit's work but description of what the church looks like when the power of the Spirit is at work.

What Will You Do?

Pray for courage to let the Spirit show you specifically where you (and Sanctuary) need renewal. Pray for a spirit of dependence to increasingly characterize your individual life and our corporate life together. Pray for personal spiritual revival and renewal. Pray for corporate spiritual revival and renewal within Sanctuary and the other churches in the city.

Renewing Your Mind

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus. (Titus 3:5-6)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. (Ps. 51:10)

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? (Ps. 85:6)

Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. (1 Thes. 5:17-19)

Pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ. (Col. 4:3)

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:46-47)

Prayer Requests

