

## Awakenings in America (Part 2)

### Act 2:1-14,36-41

- Increased awareness of God's presence and work

"The facts are indisputable. A considerable body of men, for a long period before the Second Great Awakening, preached the same message as they did during the revival, but with vastly different consequences. The same men, the same actions, performed with the same abilities, yet the results were so amazingly different! The conclusion has to be drawn that the change in the churches after 1798 and 1800 cannot be explained in terms of the means used. Nothing was clearer to those who saw the events than that God was sovereignly pleased to bless human instrumentality in such a way that the success could be attributed to him alone." RandR 127-128

- Enhanced love of Christ and souls

Samuel Davies - Because he loves him, he longs for the full enjoyment of him... because Christ is precious to him, his interests are so too, and he longs to see his kingdom flourish, and all men fired with his love. Because he loves him, he loves his ordinances; loves to hear, because it is the word of Jesus; loves to pray, because it is maintaining intercourse with Jesus; loves to sit at his table, because it is a memorial of Jesus; and loves his people, because they love Jesus.

- Deeper conviction of indwelling sin

Jl Packer – No upsurge of religious interest or excitement merits the name of renewal if there is no deep sense of sin, at its heart. God comes near the impact of his word makes Christians much more sensitive to sin than they previously were consciences become tender, profound humbling takes place, and unbelievers see themselves as they are.

- Serious attention to prayer

- Heightened sense of reverence to God

### Student at Amherst in 1820

The first circumstance which attracted my attention was a sermon from the president on the Sabbath. I do not know what the text and subject were, for according to a wicked habit, I had been asleep till near its close. I seemed to be awakened by a silence which pervaded the room - a deep solemn attention which seems to spread over an assembly when all are completely engrossed in some absorbing theme. I looked around astonished and the feeling of profound attention seemed to settle on myself. I looked towards the president and saw him calm and collected, but evidently most deeply interested in what he was saying, his whole soul engaged and his countenance beaming with an expression

of eager earnestness which lighted up all his features and gave to his language unusual energy and power. what could this mean? I had never seen a speaker and his audience so engaged. he was making a most earnest appeal to prevent those who were destitute of religion themselves from doing anything to obstruct the progress of the revival, which he hoped was approaching, or of doing anything to prevent the salvation of others, even if they did not desire salvation for themselves. he besought them by all the interests of immortality and for the sake of themselves and of their companions to desist from hostilities against the work of God. the discourse closed and we dispersed, but many of us carried away the arrow in our hearts. the gayest and the heartiest trembled at the manifest approach of a sublime and unwanted influence in the aspect of the pious and a solemnity apparent in almost all which forcibly impressed us with the conviction that in very deed God was in this place

- Focused emphasis on eternal realities
- Elevated joy in corporate worship

Worship was heavenly -our public assemblies were then beautiful ,the congregation was alive in God's service. everyone earnestly intent on the public worship every hearer eager to drink in the words of the minister as they came from his mouth. the assembly in general were from time to time in tears while the word was preached. some weeping with sorrow and distress, others with joy and love, others with pity and concern for the souls of their neighbors.

our public praises were then greatly enlivened God was then served in our psalmody in some measure in the beauty of holiness. it has been observable that there has been scarce any part of divine worship wherein good men amongst us have had grace so drawn forth in their hearts so lifted up in the ways of God as in singing his praises... JE

- Intensified zeal for good works

Heman Humphrey in Revival Sketches- whatever view we take of the work of God at the beginning of this century it was a glorious period in the religious history of the country.... when that era dawned, there were no missionary societies, foreign or domestic, no Bible societies, no tract societies, no education societies, no onward movements in the churches of any sort for the conversion of the world. At home it was deep spiritual apathy; abroad, over all the heathen lands, the calm of the Dead Sea - death, death, nothing but death.

