

A TIMELINE OF TEN SIGNIFICANT REVIVALS AND OTHER HISTORICAL EVENTS

#	SIGNIFICANT REVIVALS & HISTORICAL EVENTS	YEARS A.D.		SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REVIVAL	SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE & PLACES
①	Pentecost	33		The beginning of a new era for all of Creation through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit; 120 were obedient to the risen Christ's directive to tarry in Jerusalem at the Jewish pilgrimage feast of Pentecost	
	The first of the 12 Apostles martyred - James	44			
	The Apostle Paul is martyred	65			
	Jerusalem and the Jewish Temple is destroyed by the Romans	70			
	The last of the 12 Apostles dies - John	99			
	The Old Testament is canonized	250			
	Constantine the Great adopts Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire	323			
	The Nicene Creed is revised/finalized	381			
	The New Testament is canonized	397			
	St. Patrick evangelizes Ireland	421	461		
The Roman Empire falls	476				
The Dark Ages	500	1500			
②	The Pre-Reformation	1300	1500	The greatness of their revivals is not measured by what was accomplished, but by what was accomplished by those who followed their example.	John Wycliffe 1328-1384 (England) John Hus 1369-1415 (Bohemia) Girolamo Savonarola 1452-1498 (Italy)
	The Renaissance	1400	1600		
	The printing press is invented	1436			
	The first Bible is printed	1455			
	Columbus discovers The New World	1492			
③	The Protestant Reformation	1517		This doesn't necessarily meet the traditional definition of revival, but Christianity was forever changed	Martin Luther 1483-1546 (Germany) John Calvin 1509-1564 (born France; ministry Switzerland) John Knox 1514-1572 (Scotland)
④	The First Great Awakening	1727	1750	The Moravians began a 24/7 prayer meeting that lasted 100+ years and included sending many missionaries abroad (inspiring other similar movements) This revival more than converted the masses; it promoted lay ministry and local church self-governance which planted the seeds for American colony self-governance	Nikolaus von Zinzendorf 1700-1760 (Moravia) John Wesley 1703-1791 & Charles Wesley 1707-1788 (England) George Whitefield 1714-1770 (born England; ministry England & America) Jonathan Edwards 1703-1758 (America)
	The American Revolutionary War	1775	1783		
⑤	The Second Great Awakening	1780	1810	Perhaps no other revival period has done so much to mobilize the church through foreign mission boards, multiple Bible Society training initiatives, and formalized Sunday School education	The British Isles Revival The South African Revival The Cane Ridge Revival (Kentucky) The Methodist Circuit Riders (America) American Colleges
⑥	The General Awakening	1830	1840	Evangelism evolved through methods developed by the atheist attorney turned evangelist Charles Finney as well as the spread of Methodist camp meetings	Charles Finney 1792-1875 (America)
⑦	The Layman's Prayer Revival	1857	1861	Relative to America's population at the time, this is considered the largest and most impactful revival in American history; it was during a time of economic collapse and America's greatest divide right before the Civil War -- however, this massive movement of God went beyond America	Jeremiah Lanphier 1809-1898 (America) D.L. Moody 1837-1899 (born America; ministry America and abroad) Charles Spurgeon 1834-1892 (England)
	The Civil War	1861	1865		
⑧	The 1904 Revival	1904		Many consider this the largest most impactful revival on a global scale with millions coming to Christ and huge societal shifts in nations that are still felt today	Wales (Evan Roberts and others prayed daily for revival for 13 years) Korean Revival (Pyongyang) Manchurian Revival Azusa Street Revival
World War I	1914	1918			
⑨	The World War II Revival	1935	1950	The global effort of nations uniting to defeat Nazism, fascism, and imperialism caused unforeseen dynamics to usher in a new evangelical era with an unprecedented explosion of ministries through modernized communications and travel	America (Billy Graham) Hebrides (Duncan Campbell) New Zealand (J. Edwin Orr)
	World War II	1939	1945		
⑩	The Baby Boomer Revival	1965	1971	Although many lifelong Christians had their faith renewed in this revival, its hallmark is the way God reached a generation of severely broken young people that many wrote off as hopelessly lost	The Jesus Movement (America) The Prairie Revival (Canada) The Asbury Revival (America; spread to 130+ campuses)

REVIVAL 101

A Working definition of REVIVAL:

- An extraordinary work of God
- His people humble themselves and repent of their sins and complacency
- A heightened awareness of God's presence
- A deep personal impact through intimacy with God and obedience to His Word
 - Also impacting our families & friends, churches & workplaces, and communities & nation

The "Faces" of REVIVAL:

All people have the same basic facial features, yet people's faces vary from person to person. In a similar way, revivals display the same essential features as they manifest God's presence, yet have different "faces". Here is a list of the "faces" of revival:

1. The REPENTANCE REVIVAL emphasizes a moral cleansing of individual lives, God's people collectively (the Church), and of society as a whole
2. The EVANGELISM REVIVAL focuses on winning souls to Christ
3. The WORSHIP REVIVAL centers on magnifying God
4. The DEEPER LIFE REVIVAL emphasizes the experience of God's indwelling
5. The SPIRITUAL WARFARE REVIVAL elevated energy towards battling spiritual forces of darkness
6. The HOLY SPIRIT REVIVAL is characterized by extensive manifestations of the Spirit
7. The RECONCILIATION REVIVAL leads to the removal of barriers to racial and ethnic harmony
8. The PRAYER REVIVAL displays vigilant efforts of intercession and other forms of prayer

God is sovereign and moves as He wills, but what can we do to posture our hearts and aid REVIVAL?

- Humble ourselves (He resists the proud and gives grace to the humble – Proverbs 3:34)
- Repent (from that time on Jesus preached "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand" – Matthew 4:17)
- Seek our Heavenly Father with earnest love (with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength – Mark 12:30 and Luke 10:27)
- Thank Him and praise Him (enter His gates with thanksgiving in our hearts, and enter His courts with praise – Psalm 100:4)

The actions above are summed up in the scripture that is most frequently prescribed and prayed before and during REVIVAL:

If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, I will forgive their sins, and I will heal their land.
2 Chronicles 7:14

Although God is sovereign and moves by His will, He wills that all men repent, come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and be gathered unto Him (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4; Ezekiel 18:23; Matthew 23:37). And He gives us the great privilege to partner with Him to see "His Kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

Finally, Psalm 133 contains a unique promise from God's Word. It describes how good and pleasant it is when God's people dwell together in unity. It's a unique promise because in that place of unity God is provoked to COMMAND A BLESSING. Perhaps this is why Jesus passionately prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane on the eve of His crucifixion, "Father, make them one even as You and I are one, so that the world may know that You sent me" (John 17:20-21). As we "endeavor to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace through humility, gentleness, patience, and love" (Ephesians 4:2-3), we honor the intimate prayer of the Son for unity with a hopeful outcome to provoke a blessing of REVIVAL that powerfully bears witness of Him to a lost and dying world in desperate need of Him.

PRIMARY SOURCE: *The Ten Greatest Revivals Ever* – Dr. Elmer Towns and Dr. Douglas Porter (2000)