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from an eyewitness watching the thousands that gathered in Kentucky plains. “The noise was like the roar of Niagara... Some of the people were singing, others praying, some crying for mercy. A particularly strange sensation came over me. My heart beat tumultuously. My knees trembled, my lips quivered...”

**We are promised a Third Great Awakening.** David Wilkerson shared a prophetic word with his minister-friend Mike Evans. It was written down and placed among papers in Mike’s Bible. At Covid time, the paper fell from his Bible. Mike picked it up and read the message:

I see a plague coming on the world, and the bars, churches and government will shut down. The plague will hit New York City and shake it like it has never been shaken. The plague is going to force prayerless believers into radical prayer and into their Bibles, and repentance will be the cry of the man of God in the pul-

pit. Out of it will come a Third Great Awakening that will sweep America and the world.



**So, what does this mean for we who are in IMA?** Prophetically, God is saying He wants some things to change in His church! First, God desires His church to be awakened. This is happening right now. Expect greater manifestations of God’s presence than ever before. Second, pray and fast. Seek God more intensely; press into God with holy passion. Challenge those God has entrusted you with to do the same. Third; give the Holy Spirit time and space to operate in altar calls and with the prophetic. “Stir up the gift of God which is in you” (2 Tim. 1:6). Don’t be afraid of the “R” word; Repentance is key for God to send refreshing!

## Quotable Quotes

**“Oh! Men and brethren, what would this heart feel if I could but believe that there were some among you who would go home and pray for a revival...their love fiery enough to lead them from this moment to exercise unceasing intercessions that God would appear among us and do wondrous things here....”** ~Charles Spurgeon

**“I believe there is no doctrine more dangerous to the Church today than to convey the impression that a revival is something peculiar in itself...”** ~ Billy Sunday

**“There can be no revival when Mr. Amen and Mr. Wet-Eyes are not found in the audience.”** ~Charles Finney

**“When Holy God draws near in true revival, people come under terrible conviction of sin. The outstanding feature of spiritual awakening has been the profound consciousness of the Presence and holiness of God.”** ~Henry Blackaby

**“Maybe you are the key to revival in your church.”** ~Leonard Ravenhill

Relational

Actional

Missional

# YEAR 2021: Third Great Awakening



By Dr. Timothy L. Warner; IMA National Chairman

*Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. Act 3:19 ESV*

**Third Great Awakening; what’s it all about?** What is this? Do you think God will bring about something so great that people will run to the altars once again? Get real, Chairman! ... I just don’t see that happening around here. Is there something the Holy Spirit is trying to tell us here?

Today, the challenge is to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to bring about a genuine encounter between people and the Living God. It’s to flow with the Spirit to help people experience God first-hand. It means to touch the hunger in people with fresh manna from heaven. Let’s open the altars once again. **These are seeds of a Third Great Awakening.**

Perhaps we should refresh ourselves as to

the First and Second Great Awakenings. **The First Great Awakening goes back in our (US) History when people in the Original Thirteen Colonies had lost their “Christian fervor.”** God sent great preachers in the 1740s like Jonathan Edwards to confront their lethargy. One of his sermons was called, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” It was said people came under such conviction that they gripped their hands to the pews. Repent they heard; repent they did! They were challenged to make their faith come alive, practice it daily, and change their society.



Historian David Barton said that its influence “did to the American colonists what the Reformation did in Europe.”

**The Second Great Awakening happened in about 1790-1820s.** Again, the spiritual fervor had waned; they lost a personal relationship with God. Preachers such as Charles Finney, the Lawyer Revivalist, proclaimed the *Gospel of Grace* coupled with the *Fear of God*. Today, Grace is out of balance, showing no fear. We say, “Come to Jesus for the BLESSED LIFE!” Those preachers called for the SURRENDERED LIFE! Grace without fear (of God) leads to churches who were rebuked by Jesus in Revelation Chapters 2-3. Grace / fear message brought this account

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# Functional Hope

By Rev. Daniel Hernandez; Water of Life Ministries; Rockford, IL



Let us say life is difficult and confusing. I want to ask you the question: when life is hard for you, when you are dealing with the unexpected, where do you run for hope? Where do you run for comfort and security? I know that these thoughts are falling on men and women of God. I know that you know the right answer, but I am not asking for the right answer; I am asking for unadulterated truth. That "closet truth" where it's you being real with you. 2020, pulled me out of my comfort zone. It rattled my cage and sent me scrambling for innovation and skills I needed. Most of all, 2020 caused me to evaluate and appraise myself, my **FUNCTIONAL HOPE**.

I remember walking into my closet of prayer asking God for help to navigate through the terrain of unknowns. What I got back was silence. I asked for courage, wisdom and for strength, and still silence. I asked for insight and revelation and discernment; there was no answer. Days were dissolving one into the other, and nothing. Finally, in one act of sincere desperation, I cried: **"God I want You! I need You!"** In that moment, all that I had asked for and desired came flooding in and my eyes were opened.

Dark moments can be painful. Hope, however, can be revealed. We can awaken to expectations to which we have attached our hope. They are not, for the most part, evil things; they can be good things. When I put my trust in the gifts God gives, and not the Giver, my hope will fail and disappoint me. Gifts, talents, charisma, and understanding of Scripture have a fountain from which they flow; God!

**Hope is always an object and an expectation.** You always hope in

something and ask "that" something to deliver something to you. This is true for every human being. Here is the problem, **we tend to look for hope in all the wrong places.**

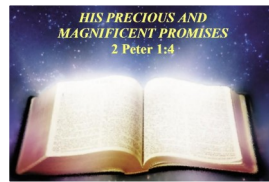
Allow me to pull a page from my own story: I went bike riding with my grandkids. We came to a flat, easy road, and I got the idea it was time to show them what Grandpa was made of; so, I let go of the handlebars. Being directly in front of my grandkids I was hoping for verbal affirmation of my dexterity and skill. I waited, nothing; so I threw my hands in the air. Then it came! "Grandpa," said my eight-year-old granddaughter. "Yes," I responded hoping for utter amazement. These are the words I heard next: "You should join the circus." I remember thinking, "I am risking my life for affirmation, and all I got is someone thinking I'd make a great clown." We all do this, some of you bought gifts you thought would induce a great response, but all you get is a lazy thanks. We tend to attach ourselves to a hope that will never deliver what we are asking it to deliver.



Could it be that the changes we experienced in 2020, was part of a larger divine plan of God all along? Could isolation bring us to ask this most vital question; "What subtle things have I come to lean on?" God has created us to find in Him only, our unspeakable joy, and peace that passes all understanding. In Him, we find a yoke that is easy and a burden that is light. You were pursued by God, that in turn you might pursue Him only. You were given life in God, that you might live. **God has filled you with a living hope that is found in Him alone and forever.**

"Sojourners and exiles" is who Peter wrote his first letter to in Asia Minor. He addressed them as sojourners, even though they had not relocated. For all we know, they were living in the same homes, in the same towns where they had always lived. They had not moved, however; they had become resident aliens – living in one country, yet belonging to another.

1 Peter 1:4 explains this hope as an inheritance that is so precious, he can only describe it by what it is not: **Imperishable, Undeclared, Unfading.** This hope grounds Christians and sets us apart from what we once were. I do not know what 2021 might bring. Let me add this important note; IMA members are not bound by exclusive, iron-clad standards, nor by legalistic views or ideas. I have found here a real willingness to encourage one another. Without each other's cheering exhortations, we sink. So, let us walk in our God-given purpose. **Let FUNCTIONAL HOPE encourage others and give glory to God!**



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# Retro Article: Old Time Religion

By Thomas Baird; IMA Herald of Truth; December 1959

Into our lives come experiences, that cut deep into our memory, which will never be forgotten. Many have had wonderful and blessed experiences that we long for today.

We sing, "Lord, send the old time power, the Pentecostal power," and "Give us that old time religion." I wonder what would happen if the Holy Spirit would descend upon our churches as it did in the early days? It was truly a manifestation of God with us. The love of God was shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Our hearts were filled to overflowing. It was so wonderful that we wanted others, who did not have it, to share the blessings of God with us.

It all began in an humble mission on Azusa Street in Los Angeles, California in the year 1906. I was not there at that time, but I was told that scores of people from various denominations came and received the infilling of the Holy Spirit. I received the baptism later in Seattle. Yes, it was an experience that I never shall forget. In fact, it was so out of this world that I wanted to go to heaven right away. We had such love for one another. We did not draw a line of demarcation on anyone, as to their nationality, creed or color. **"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).**



Our missions' doors were open day and night for those who wanted to pray and seek the Lord. The saints in those days had a burden for a lost and dying world. We often prayed all night with tears and groanings. Saints would come to the mission long before the services started and go to the altar and pray that sinners would be convicted of sin and brought to a saving knowledge of Christ. We stood loyally behind our pastor in prayer that God would anoint his message with food for our souls. Our prayers in those days were no hop, skip and jump kind. When we knelt to pray, we waited for the assurance that we had "prayed through."

Yes, and I have seen many justified, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Spirit in one night. That is God's plan of salvation. **"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).**



You Must be Born Again.

Filled with the Holy Spirit

The power of God is just the same today. We need a revival of Pentecost in our churches. The joy of the Lord needs to be restored in the hearts of our people. If we have lost that joy, let us pray until it is restored. **"For the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Neh. 8:10). "Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice" (Psalm 51:8).**

You wonder why I always refer to the days gone by. I am told that I am living in the horse and buggy days. I'll admit that, but don't forget that the buggies were here before the automobiles, radios, television and other things too numerous to mention. We did not have people spend Sunday out driving in their autos. No sir, you would find the old horse and buggy tied to a hitching post near your tent or barn door.

I often visit different Pentecostal churches to worship with them, but I come home heavy hearted, because all was cold and formal. I am sure no one wants to condemn me for taking my stand for the old-time experiences. There are very few people today who would care to seek the old paths. They would rather choose a modern highway, but the Lord says, **"Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein" (Jer. 6:16).** How true that is today! They say, "Speak unto us smooth things," and that is exactly what they are getting.