

Big Doors – Small Hinges (2)

“The Door of Next Great Awakening”

1 Corinthians 16:9 (NLT) - There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me.

Introduction:

God is as good as Scripture says He is!

God can do everything Scriptures says He can do!

When we are praying for people to receive miracles, we are not hoping that he is in the mood to do it, no we understand that these things emanate from his very character. It is who he is because he is as good as Scripture says he is, and he can't do everything Scripture says he can do!

We are contending for an awakening, an outpouring, another great, sweeping, soul-converting, life transforming, culture shifting move of God. There are and will always be cynics who say God cannot or will not move again that he has given up on America. However, let me tell you a story of the great awaking that swept across America through the likes of John Wesley, George Whitefield, etc. The great awaking was so effective that it impacted 8 out of 10 people in the population leading them to repentance of sin.

It was told of Ben Franklin, who was a self-proclaimed deist and cynic of religious institutions, attended one of George Whitefield's revivals. When he arrived to a crowd of tens of thousands on the Boston Common he turned the pockets of his pants inside out to let the people and the preacher know that he did not have any money that he planned to give. By the end of the meeting, with tears flowing down his cheeks, he reached up into a tree to one of the other national founders who was also weeping saying, “give me some money to give, I will pay you back...” – GOD CHANGED HIS HEART!

We need another awakening like this. It is a big door, but it can be opened unto us. This door will have many adversaries: worldliness, flesh, politics, and even religion; However, it is a door that we must contend to find the keys for.

This door also hangs on small hinges...they are small, but they hold the weight of heaven itself upon them:

1. **Intercession**

- Intercession is kind of prayer, but I believe it is the deepest aspect of prayer and very few actually inter into it.
- Definition: **The action of intervening on behalf of another**
- Two examples:

- **Moses** – Exodus 32:7-9, 30-33 (NLT) - The Lord told Moses, “Quick! Go down the mountain! Your people whom you brought from the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. ⁸How quickly they have turned away from the way I commanded them to live! They have melted down gold and made a calf, and they have bowed down and sacrificed to it. They are saying, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.’” ⁹ Then the Lord said, “I have seen how stubborn and rebellious these people are. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone so my fierce anger can blaze against them, and I will destroy them. Then I will make you, Moses, into a great nation.” The next day Moses said to the people, “You have committed a terrible sin, but I will go back up to the Lord on the mountain. Perhaps I will be able to obtain forgiveness for your sin.” ³¹ So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Oh, what a terrible sin these people have committed. They have made gods of gold for themselves. ³² But now, if you will only forgive their sin—but if not, erase my name from the record you have written!”
- **Paul** – Romans 9:1-3 (NLT) - With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it. ² My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief ³ for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them.
- Are you willing to stand in the face of God and say, “If it is them, then let it be me as well...”
 - Your family
 - Your spouse
 - Your church
 - Your nation
- 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NIV) - I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.
 - What – “Intercession...”
 - When – “first of all...”
 - Who – National leadership
 - Why – So we have a peaceable life, and all men get saved (The door of awakening opens...)

2. Reconciliation

- **2 Corinthians 5:17-21 – (NET)** ¹⁷ So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come! ¹⁸ And all these things are from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹ In other words, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting people’s trespasses against them, and he has given us the message of reconciliation.

- This passage clarifies three important things for us – We all have:
 - The Metamorphosis of Reconciliation
 - The Ministry of Reconciliation
 - The Message of Reconciliation - **This is the message of reconciliation: "...not counting people's trespasses against them..."**
 - As long as you hold someone guilty you can't reconcile or be reconciler
- The message and ministry cannot operate from defensive posture (Luke 15 and the Prodigal Son)
 - **The Father was not hunkered on the back forty prepping for the apocalypse; he was on the front porch expecting an awakening!**
 - Father was optimistic, not pessimistic about reconciliation. When the son came home he said "kill the fatted calf...". It takes 8 weeks to prepare a fatted calf. The father was preparing for a celebration. Not spending his time on Facebook complaining about the dilemma.
 - **His preparation for a celebration made him a reconciler!**
 - When there is one movement toward reconciliation get off the porch.
- Reconcilers are forgivers. There are people who are mad and bitter toward people who are dead.

3. Education

- Revelation 1:3 - Blessed *is* he who **reads** and those who **hear** the words of this prophecy, and **keep those things** which are written in it; for the time *is* near.
- **Information = Revelation**
- **Revelation = Transformation**
- **Isaiah 56:10** - His watchmen *are* blind, They are all ignorant; They *are* all dumb dogs, They cannot bark; Sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

4. Influence

- Current missions' model is "**Humanitarian Mission**" – This has been the method for the last 100 years. Red Cross with Gospel at the end.
- But you can't change a nation from bottom up, you have to change it from the top down. We cannot transform cities or nations with a soup kitchen, at some point we must raise up influencers.
- There will have to be a new model formed – "**Influencer Missions**"
 - People who are prepared and groomed to infiltrate and fill the offices of the most critical influencing positions at every level.
- Apostle Paul is arrested in Israel, put in prison, handcuffed, placed on a ship and sent to Rome to be tried for treason where they will lift his head. On the way he ends up in a terrible shipwreck in Malta. Finally, he makes it to Rome and stands before the leaders in shackle to be tried. The Roman officials had lost his paperwork and this trial was delayed. He was released so he started the church in Rome and built it into a mega church.
- 4 years later he writes a letter to the Philippians (another Church he founded)

Philippians 4:21-22 - Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. ²² All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household.

The power of an influencer... He can arrive a ward of the state, shackled and looking like a drowned rat and 4 years later he can influence his way all the way to the first family of Rome and convert them to Jesus.

Conclusion: Effects and Results of the Great Awakening

The Great Awakening in America in the 1730s and 1740s had tremendous results. The number of people in the church multiplied, and the lives of the converted manifested true Christian piety. Denominational barriers broke down as Christians of all persuasions worked together in the cause of the gospel. There was a renewed concern with missions, and work among the Indians increased. As more young men prepared for service as Christian ministers, a concern for higher education grew. Princeton, Rutgers, Brown, and Dartmouth universities were all established as a direct result of the Great Awakening. Some have even seen a **connection between the Great Awakening and the American Revolution --Christians enjoying spiritual liberty in Christ would come to crave political liberty**. The Great Awakening not only revived the American church but reinvigorated American society as well.