

Isaiah 57:15 – “I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” Revival is a periodic restoration of God’s people after a time of indifference and decline. Awakenings have more to do with the effects on society once the church has been revived. The United States needs an awakening for survival. This was not untrue of conditions in the history that preceded the First two Great Awakenings in America. It was also true preceding the awakening under Wesley and Whitefield. Keith Hardman cites the following elements of an awakening. First, revival is usually preceded by a time of spiritual depression, apathy and gross sin, in which the great majority of nominal Christians are hardly different in any substantive way from the members of secular society, and the churches are moribund. Second, an individual or a small group of God’s people becomes conscious of its sins and backslidden condition, and vows to forsake all that is displeasing to God. People recall past outpourings of God’s grace and power, and long for them to be manifest again. Third, as occasional Christians begin to yearn for a manifestation of God’s power, one or more leaders arise with prophetic insights into the causes and remedies of the problems. A new vision of the holy and pure character of the Lord is given. Fourth, the awakening of Christians occurs. Fifth, the awakening may be God’s preparation to strengthen His people for future challenges or trials. Throughout church history renewal has often been antecedent to persecutions and severe tests, as yet unseen, that were to come and winnow God’s people. We are ripe for revival in the United States. The church shows symptoms of spiritual depression which make it hard to tell Christians from the world. If you are personally conscious of the seriousness of this situation and are willing to forsake all that displeases God, He is probably leading you to pray for God’s power to be manifest in revival. Pray daily that God would raise up new voices with insights necessary to lead the youth of this generation without compromising the Word of God. When revival comes, we must be prepared for persecutions. They come with the territory, and right now the territory isn’t looking favorable to godliness. “The mystery of lawlessness is already at work...” HA