



The Aftermath of a Call to Awakening

Message Notes, January 15, 2017

“And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed” (Romans 13:11).

God has graciously called us to an awakening. It began last Fall. God fueled this call in us for many months. With the start of the new year, His awakening began as we fasted and prayed. It erupted in fullness last week as we gathered nightly for worship, prayer and crying out. Now, he calls us to walk in this newness of His Spirit. The awakening is not over; it has just begun! May we continue in it, day by day. “Holy Spirit, help us.”

Ephesians 5:8-21

- What vivid contrast is Paul describing here?
- How do these verses about “coming out of the darkness and living in the light” connect with awakening?
- Verse 15 – “be careful how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity ...”
- How does this relate to awakening?
- What specific expressions of walking in awakening (living as wise) are expressed in vv. 17-21?
- How do we “be filled with the Holy Spirit”? (v. 18)

Romans 13:11-12

How do these verses reiterate the same truths expressed in the Ephesians passage above?

How do we “clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus”? (v. 14)

God is awakening us to:

1. A greater revelation of Himself:

- Opening our spiritual eyes to see Him (who is Spirit).
- He is present and engaged (not distant and uninvolved in our lives).
- He is the Lover of our souls!

2. The true state of our souls:

- We are weak and frail and in need of His Spirit.
- The idols that we (often not recognizing) hold in our hands that come between us and the Lord. Isaiah 44:18-20 gives a vivid picture of such idolatry. What idol “blocks of wood” do you have in your life?
- Our true identity is in Him – made in His image, uniquely precious, deeply loved, eternally secure.

3. The reality of the Big Story:

- Eternity! This life, while a great gift, is but a blip.
- The spiritual realm around us; there is a spiritual battle going on – for the souls of people.



4. The power of bold faith:

- Will we trust God unconditionally?
- Will we be bold to “ask and imagine” things of which He can do “immeasurably more?” (See Ephesians 3:20.)

5. The power of bold love:

- Deep devotion and tangible care for one another.
- Empathetic love that “weeps with those who weep,” that “bears one another’s burdens.”
- Compassionate love that goes to the lost and broken with the love and gospel of Jesus.

Yes, He has awakened us, but this experience is not an end; it is a beginning! How do we walk in this? How do we “stay awake?” A big part is to *continue* in these spiritual “patterns” or disciplines.

1. PRAYER – hungry, expectant, sacrificial, coming after Him and crying out (individually and together).

- Listening and waiting, and then responding in worship, surrender and obedience.
- “Asking and imagining” (Ephesians 3:20).

2. FASTING – giving up food (or other idol things) so we can focus our attention and desire on Him.

3. HIS WORD – seeking His heart, listening for His voice by giving time and attention to the scriptures.

4. SPIRITUAL HEALING / GROWING in WHOLENESS

- The devil wants to keep us in prisons of fear, doubt, and self-loathing because of the wounds and mistakes of our past.

God wants to bring these things into the light, and heal them and set us free, so we can walk by His Spirit in awakening.

5. IMAGINING and ASKING – see “Prayer” above.

Reflection Questions

1. Is there anything from this message or the awakening experience last week that you do not understand?
2. What one truth or idea has most awakened your heart (from last week or this message)?
3. Which one of the five things God is “awakening us to” most captures your heart, and why?
4. What is one *tangible* commitment to “staying awake” (the five ways above) that you want to pursue?
5. What are some specific tugs and pulls back into “slumber” that you think you will have to battle?

If you haven’t already done so – spend time in prayer, “imagining and asking” God to do “immeasurably more than” in your lives individually and in your life together as a group.