

NEW HOPE NEWSLETTER

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LEARNING FROM THE 1ST GREAT AWAKENING

Drawing from his own spiritual journey, Jonathan Edwards offers these ten brief lessons on spiritual revival:

First, Edwards and his colleagues show what God has often done – and still wants to do today – by means of urgent, vivid, preaching framed by the doctrines of grace. How many preachers can you name who share Edwards’s ability to render Bible doctrine urgent and Edwards’s commitment to write sermons that leave a beautiful, intellectually compelling, and enduring impression on their hearers?

Second, Edwards and his colleagues demonstrate the great promise of preaching to people’s hearts. As Edwards wrote in *Some Thoughts Concerning the Present Revival* (1743), . . . “Our people don’t so much need to have their heads stored, as to have their hearts touched; and they stand in the greatest need of that sort of preaching that has the greatest tendency to do this.”

Third, Great Awakening Christians showed that testimonies matter. I cannot do justice to this topic in this essay. Suffice it to say that what they often called “religious intelligence,” or news of the work of God and the spread of the gospel both at home and abroad, played a central role in spreading the revival.

Fourth, Edwards and his peers showed that prayer matters even more. Edwards preached for many years about the importance of praying persistently. And he exhorted all who listened to participate in transatlantic concerts of prayer for revival.

Fifth, Edwards and pastors like him demonstrated the importance of preaching what the apostle Paul called the whole counsel of God – even the parts about hell and the consequences of sin. God used such preaching to draw thousands to himself. Do we have the wisdom, faith, courage, and spiritual sensitivity to preach this way today, to the honor and glory of God?

Sixth, Edwards and his peers modeled pastoral wisdom in the midst of signs and wonders and spiritual intensity. They often failed to discern rightly. But they tried their best to open their Bibles and interpret the signs of the Spirit all around them, teaching the distinguishing marks of a work of the Spirit of God.

Seventh, Edwards and his peers demonstrated that word and Spirit always go hand in hand. Against those who taught the word without spiritual vitality, they called for real conversion and walking with the Spirit.

Eighth, Edwards and his peers modeled evangelical ecumenism. They avoided spiritual rashness and judgmental attitudes toward serious Christians, at least when at their best. Some did prove divisive from time to time. But again, when at their best, they showed that Anglicans, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Baptists, and others can work together for the gospel – giving rise to modern evangelicalism.

Ninth, Edwards and his colleagues did not let anyone despise them for their youth, as Paul said to Timothy (1 Timothy 4:12). Edwards was in his thirties at the height of the Great Awakening. Whitefield was in his twenties. God used them remarkably in spite of themselves.

Finally, the early evangelicals demonstrated the crucial importance of “social religion”: Christian fellowship, Bible study, testimony, prayer, and spiritual singing in small-group contexts. Indeed, they put these practices on the church-historical map. Millions have come to know Jesus as a result.

May God help us all make good use of their example, facilitating revival and renewal in our time.

EVENTS IN OCTOBER

- 3 Men's Breakfast at 8 AM
- 4 Safety Meeting at 5 PM
- 4 Fall Festival Planning Meeting at 5 PM
- 6 Women's Missionary Auxiliary at 10 AM
- 7 GriefShare at 6 PM
- 8 TrailBlazers meet at LaWaffalatta at 5:30 - 7:15 PM
- 9 Senior Adults Game Day, 1 - 4 PM, in the fellowship hall
- 11 Revival Begins October 11-14
- 11 Youth Fundraiser Lunch after the 10:50 service
- 11 GMA's and Sunbeams 4, Bldg. & Grounds 4:30, Missions 5
- 18 Lifeword Sunday
- 18 Deacon's Meeting at 5 PM
- 20 Women's Missionary Auxiliary at 10 AM
- 23 Senior Adults Game Day, 1 - 4 PM, in the fellowship hall
- 25 Reformation Sunday service at 8:00 AM in multi-purpose rm.
- 25 GMA's & Sunbeams at 4 PM
- 28 Youth at Lake Fork for Wednesday Night gathering
- 31 Fall Festival at the church from 6 PM - 8 PM



MINISTRY TEAM MEETINGS

SAFETY TEAM MEETING - OCTOBER 4 AT 5 PM

BUILDING AND GROUNDS MEETING - OCT. 11 AT 4:30 PM

MISSIONS MEETING - OCTOBER 11 AT 5 PM

DEACONS MEETING- OCTOBER 18 AT 5PM



WEEKLY STUDIES

MON 6 PM- BIBLE STUDY AT THE CURRY'S HOME

TUES 6 PM - GRIEFSHARE

WED 6 PM- ADULTS BIBLE STUDY

WED 7 PM- CHILDREN & YOUTH

THURS 5 PM- WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

To help in caring for the needs of the congregation, we have teams available. Please feel free to reach out to our Deacons, Hospitality team, and Helping Hands:

Deacon: David Curry: 903-830-3371

Hospitality Team: Diannea Stephens: 616-617-3864

Marci Curry: 903-283-5482

Helping Hands: Andy Hedlund: 806-438-8581

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Mason Margos
- 2 Raylan Spencer
- 3 Deborah Thompson
- 4 Cameron Bussell
- 4 Bobby Tucker, Jr.
- 4 Marissa Moore
- 5 Bunky Fortner
- 6 Allen Thompson
- 7 Buster Beck
- 7 Betty Skinner
- 7 Connie Love
- 11 Terrie Humphries
- 12 Kendall Seymore
- 13 Anton Jensby
- 13 Tim Williamson
- 14 Courtney Keel
- 15 Kevin Mize
- 15 Suzy Windle
- 16 Vickie Williamson
- 16 Piper Neidholt
- 18 Kathie Hubbard
- 19 Heather McCallum
- 20 Lindsay Taveau
- 21 Judd Moore
- 21 Alayana Hutton
- 22 Raymond Hays
- 22 Douglas Scott
- 24 Preston McCallum
- 27 Jennifer Mize
- 30 Cheryl Hedlund
- 31 Benjamin Hogue



October Anniversaries

- 9 Steve and Sherry Patterson
- 11 Ronnie and Nelda Alexander
- 20 David and Jennifer Spindle
- 29 Douglas and Christine Scott

