

PASTOR LIERTE SOARES

New Life Community Church, Georgetown, Massachusetts

LESSONS

FROM AMERICAN REVIVALS



*A Study and Call for Spiritual Renewal in
the Land of the Great Awakenings*





REVIVAL NOW AWAKENING THE HEART OF AMERICA

Pastor Lierete Soares
Senior Pastor of New Life Community Church
President of the Baptist Churches of New England

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Pastor Soares's academic journey, from Brazil to the United States – has shaped a ministry marked by cross-cultural leadership, church revitalization, and a vision for global awakening. His calling as a “reverse missionary” in New England reflects his lifelong passion to see God bring revival once again to the land where the Great Awakenings began.

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PREFACE

When the Fire Returns to New England

I never imagined that the same land where George Whitefield once preached to multitudes under open skies would one day become the soil of my own ministry. When I first arrived in New England, I was struck by its beauty – the old churches, the quiet towns, the sense of history everywhere. But behind the beauty, I also sensed something else: a spiritual hunger.

As a pastor from Brazil, I grew up hearing stories of revival in America – the Great Awakenings, the fiery preaching of Jonathan Edwards, the courage of the Puritans, and the missionary zeal of the Methodists.

Those stories shaped my calling.

I dreamed of serving in a place where the flame of revival once burned brightly. And by God's sovereign hand, that dream became reality when He led me to serve as pastor of New Life Community Church in Georgetown, Massachusetts – a congregation founded in 1785, during the aftermath of the First Great Awakening.

What began as the First Baptist Church of New Rowley, under the influence of the "New Lights" – those awakened by the preaching of Whitefield and Edwards – has now become a living testimony of God's continuing work.

Centuries later, the same Spirit who visited this region in the 1700s is calling us again:

"Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" – Psalm 85:6

This book is born from that cry.

It is not merely a history of revivals, but a call to renewal.

We live in a moment when America – once the missionary sender – has become one of the great mission fields of the world.

Yet I believe that God is writing a new chapter of revival here, and that it will come through a global partnership – what we call reverse mission.

My prayer is that these pages will help pastors, leaders, and believers everywhere rediscover the patterns, principles, and promises of revival.

The same God who visited New England three centuries ago is still sovereign, still gracious, and still eager to awaken His people today.

Licete Soares

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CHAPTER 1

WHAT IS REVIVAL?

"Revival is God's invasion of the lives of His people."
– Stephen Olford





CHAPTER 1 – WHAT IS REVIVAL?

Revival is one of the most misunderstood and yet most powerful realities in Christian history. It is more than a series of emotional meetings or temporary excitement. Revival is the supernatural renewal of God's people by the power of the Holy Spirit, restoring the church to its first love, its spiritual vitality, and its mission in the world.

Throughout the centuries, believers have tried to define this mysterious work of God. Each definition adds a piece to the mosaic:

- “The restoration of God’s people after a period of indifference and decline.” – K. J. Hardman
- “The work of the Holy Spirit to restore God’s people to a more dynamic spiritual life, testimony, and work, through prayer and the Word, after deep repentance for their spiritual decline.” – E. E. Cairns
- “Revival is the reanimation of those who already have life. In its strictest sense, it concerns the people of God.” – C. E. Autrey
- “An extraordinary movement of the Holy Spirit that produces extraordinary results.” – R. O. Owens
- “The strange and sovereign work of God in which He visits His own people, restoring, reviving, and releasing them into the fullness of His blessing.” – Stephen Olford
- “A movement of the Holy Spirit that brings about the revival of New Testament Christianity in the church of Christ and the surrounding community.” – J. Edwin Orr
- “God’s invasion of the lives of one or more members of His people in order to awaken them spiritually to the ministry of the Kingdom.” – M. McDow and Alvin Reid

Taken together, these voices help us see that revival is God’s initiative. It is not something we can manufacture, but something we can prepare for through prayer, repentance, and obedience. It is both divine and human – God’s sovereign action meeting human surrender.





The Essence of Revival

At its core, revival is about life – God breathing afresh into His people. It is the moment when truth becomes alive, worship becomes passionate, holiness becomes attractive, and mission becomes urgent. Revival restores the church’s heartbeat to match the rhythm of God’s heart. Revival always begins within the church but never stays there. As the people of God are renewed, the fire spreads outward – families are changed, communities are transformed, and entire nations can be awakened. Revival is both personal and corporate, both spiritual and social in its effects.

The Elements of Revival

Every authentic revival includes four enduring elements:

1. The Word of God – preached with conviction and authority.
2. Prayer – fervent, united, and persevering.
3. The Holy Spirit – moving in power to convict, convert, and consecrate.
4. The Sovereignty of God – choosing the time, place, and people to accomplish His purpose.

Human methods may vary, but these pillars never change. Revival is not a strategy; it is a visitation. It is when God comes down, and His presence changes everything.

Revival and Evangelism

Revival is not identical to evangelism, yet the two are inseparable. Revival revives the saints; evangelism results from that revival. As believers are filled with the Spirit, their witness becomes bold, their love becomes contagious, and conversions multiply. As C. E. Autrey observed, revival is “an instrument of evangelization.”





THE NEED FOR REVIVAL TODAY

Our age resembles many moments before past awakenings – spiritual apathy, moral confusion, and institutional fatigue. Yet history reminds us: the darker the night, the brighter the light of revival. God often visits His people when human hope seems exhausted.

In New England, the birthplace of the First Great Awakening, we sense that same longing again. Churches planted by revivalists now pray for revival once more. The same Spirit who stirred Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield is still moving – perhaps now through unexpected voices, even through missionaries from distant lands.

Revival is not a relic of history. It is the promise of a living God: “For thus says the High and Exalted One who lives forever... I dwell with the contrite and lowly of spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

– Isaiah 57:15





CHAPTER 2

THE MARKS OF TRUE REVIVAL

“When God steps into the midst of His people, there are unmistakable signs of His presence.”





CHAPTER 2 – THE MARKS OF TRUE REVIVAL

If revival is the supernatural visitation of God, how can we recognize it when it happens? Throughout Scripture and church history, authentic awakenings have carried certain marks – divine fingerprints that distinguish a true movement of the Spirit from mere enthusiasm or emotion.

Revival has always been both mysterious and measurable. Its origin is invisible, but its effects are undeniable. When God revives His people, hearts change, communities shift, and the spiritual atmosphere of entire regions is transformed.

1. The Centrality of the Word of God

Every genuine revival begins and continues with a fresh revelation of God through His Word. The Scriptures become alive again – not as theory, but as the living voice of God.

In the days of Josiah, revival began when the Book of the Law was rediscovered and read aloud (2 Kings 22-23). In Nehemiah 8, the people stood for hours listening to the reading of Scripture, weeping and repenting as they understood its meaning.

Likewise, during the First Great Awakening, Jonathan Edwards' sermons were saturated with the Word. He preached on justification by faith, not with human eloquence, but with spiritual conviction. The power did not lie in his style but in the truth itself.

“The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.” – Psalm 19:7

When revival comes, preaching regains its authority, and Scripture reclaims its central place in the life of the church. The Bible ceases to be an old book on a shelf and becomes a burning fire in the heart of God's people.





2. The Spirit of Prayer

Prayer is both the seed and the fruit of revival. No revival has ever occurred without prayer, and every revival multiplies prayer.

Before Pentecost, the disciples gathered in an upper room, “all with one accord, devoting themselves to prayer” (Acts 1:14). Before the Third Great Awakening in 1857, small lunchtime prayer meetings began in New York City – first with six people, then dozens, then thousands. Within months, tens of thousands were gathering daily across the nation.

Prayer unites heaven and earth. It is the cry of dependence that prepares the way for divine visitation. True revival never begins with programs but with people on their knees.

“O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years; make it known in the midst of the years; in wrath remember mercy.” – Habakkuk 3:2

When the church prays with humility and persistence, God stirs the atmosphere. The Spirit awakens faith, repentance, and love. Revival is not earned by prayer, but it is never separated from prayer.

3. Deep Repentance and Holiness

Revival is not comfortable – it is convicting. It reveals sin, pride, and hypocrisy not to condemn, but to cleanse.

When God draws near, the first reaction is not celebration but brokenness. People see their sin in the light of His holiness. During the revivals of the 18th and 19th centuries, testimonies of repentance filled journals and sermons. Men returned stolen goods, reconciled with enemies, and abandoned immoral practices.

Repentance is the turning point of every awakening. Without it, revival becomes an empty emotion. But where there is genuine sorrow for sin, there is joy unspeakable – the joy of restored fellowship with God.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” – Psalm 51:10

The revived church does not only repent once; it lives in repentance. Holiness becomes beautiful again. The fear of the Lord returns, and with it, a passion for purity and obedience.





4. The Manifest Presence of the Holy Spirit

Every true revival is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit. He is the divine agent of conviction, regeneration, and empowerment.

In revival, the Spirit makes Jesus real – not just as a doctrine, but as a living Lord. His presence brings both tenderness and power: conviction of sin, joy of salvation, and boldness in witness.

The Spirit's work is never chaotic. Though emotions may rise, His true mark is not disorder but transformation. Jonathan Edwards warned that emotional excitement alone is not proof of revival; the test is whether the Spirit exalts Christ and produces holy fruit.

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.” – John 3:8

The church must learn again to depend not on human ability but on divine anointing. Without the Spirit, activity multiplies but power diminishes. With the Spirit, even small acts become eternal in impact.

5. The Sovereignty of God

Revival is a divine visitation, not a human invention. God determines its time, place, and purpose. We can prepare the altar, but He alone sends the fire.

History shows that revivals often break out unexpectedly – in obscure places, through unlikely people. In 1734, Northampton was a small, forgotten town. In 1857, the prayer meeting began in a single room. God delights to display His glory through weakness.

Recognizing His sovereignty keeps us humble. We cannot manipulate the Spirit, but we can position ourselves to receive Him – through repentance, unity, and hunger for God.

When revival comes, no one can take credit. The glory belongs to Him alone.

“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.”
– Zechariah 4:6





6. Visible Transformation

The ultimate evidence of revival is fruit – changed lives, renewed churches, and awakened communities.

When God visited Northampton in 1735, Jonathan Edwards wrote: “The town seemed to be full of the presence of God... more than three hundred souls were brought to Christ in six months.”

In every era, revival has led to tangible renewal: marriages restored, injustice confronted, missions launched, and churches multiplied. The same should be true today. Revival that does not change behavior, relationships, and society is incomplete.

The test of revival is not how loud we sing, but how deeply we love.

7. The Glory of God

Finally, the supreme mark of all true revival is the glory of God. Everything else – the conversions, the miracles, the emotion – is secondary. Revival begins when God is once again at the center of attention.

“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.” – Romans 11:36

When God is glorified, the church is purified, the world is evangelized, and heaven rejoices. The greatest revivals in history have always begun and ended in worship – when people forgot themselves and were overwhelmed by the majesty of God.

That is the heart of revival: God, once again, taking His rightful place among His people.



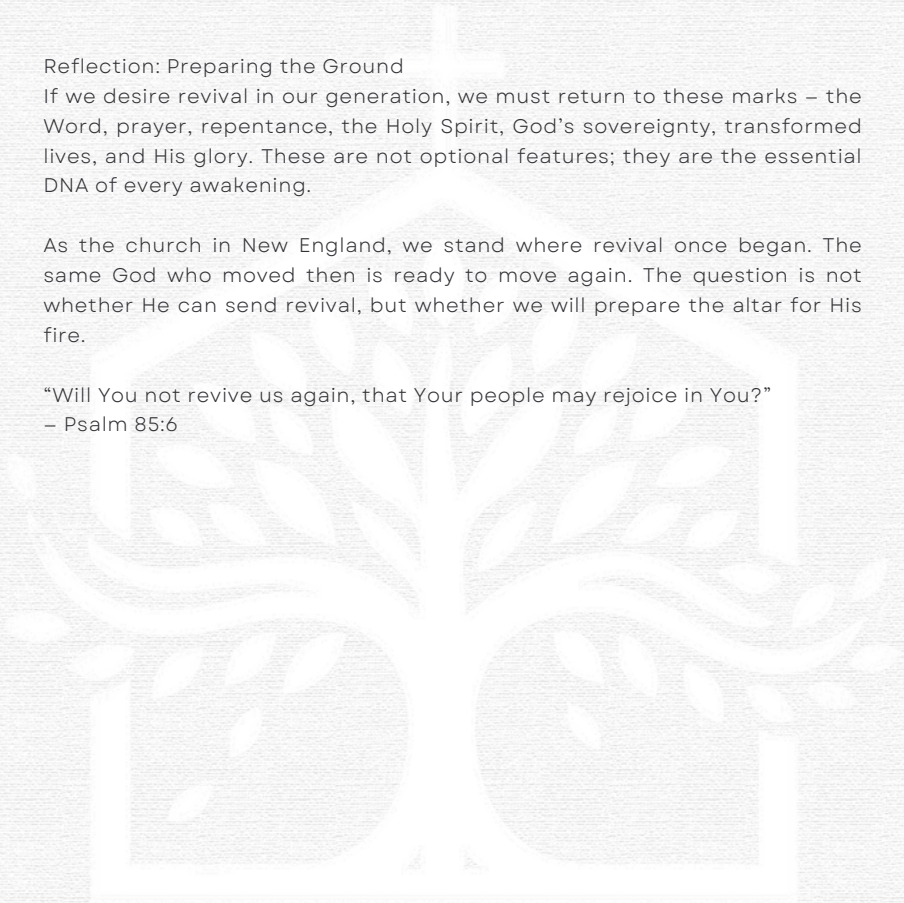


Reflection: Preparing the Ground

If we desire revival in our generation, we must return to these marks – the Word, prayer, repentance, the Holy Spirit, God’s sovereignty, transformed lives, and His glory. These are not optional features; they are the essential DNA of every awakening.

As the church in New England, we stand where revival once began. The same God who moved then is ready to move again. The question is not whether He can send revival, but whether we will prepare the altar for His fire.

“Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?”
– Psalm 85:6





CHAPTER 3

REVIVAL IN THE SCRIPTURES

“The Word of God is not silent about revival; it is the story of a God who again and again breathes new life into His people.”





CHAPTER 3 – REVIVAL IN THE SCRIPTURES

Revival is not a modern invention or a theological theory – it is a biblical reality that runs through the entire story of redemption. From Genesis to Revelation, we see a pattern: God’s people drift into spiritual apathy, cry out in desperation, and are visited again by His renewing presence.

To understand revival in our day, we must first see it through the lens of Scripture. The Bible gives us not only examples but principles – divine rhythms of awakening that reveal how God works in history and how He desires to work today.

1. Revival in the Old Testament: The God Who Restores

The Old Testament is filled with accounts of national and personal renewal. Each revival followed a familiar sequence: spiritual decline, divine confrontation, repentance, and restoration.

The Revival under Moses: Returning to Covenant

In Exodus 32, Israel fell into idolatry while Moses was on Mount Sinai. When he descended, he interceded for the people, broke the tablets, and called, “Whoever is on the Lord’s side—come to me!” (Exodus 32:26).

That day marked not only judgment but renewal – a fresh covenant was made, and God’s glory once again descended upon the mountain.

Revival always begins with intercession and a return to covenant relationship. Like Moses, true leaders stand between a sinful people and a holy God, pleading for mercy and renewal.

“Then the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.” – Exodus 32:14





The Revival under Samuel: From Religion to Reality

By the time of Samuel, the nation had grown spiritually cold. The Ark of the Covenant had been captured, and the priesthood was corrupt. But through the ministry of a single child dedicated to the Lord, a movement of renewal began.

“Then all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.”

– 1 Samuel 7:2

Samuel called the people to repentance at Mizpah:

“If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods... and serve Him only.” – 1 Samuel 7:3

The people confessed their sins, fasted, and prayed. God responded by defeating their enemies and restoring His presence among them. Revival broke the spiritual silence.

The Revival under Hezekiah and Josiah: The Word Rediscovered

Centuries later, Hezekiah and Josiah led two of the most remarkable reforms in Judah’s history. Their revivals were marked by the same foundation – rediscovering the Word of God.

When the Book of the Law was found in the temple, Josiah tore his clothes in repentance (2 Kings 22:11). He gathered the nation, read the covenant aloud, and led them to renew their faith.

“Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart.” – 2 Kings 23:25

Every revival in the Old Testament was, at its core, a return to the Scriptures – God’s revealed truth reclaiming the center of the people’s worship.

The Revival under Ezra and Nehemiah: The People Awakened by the Word
In Nehemiah 8, after years of exile, Israel gathered “as one man” to hear Ezra read the Law from morning till noon. The people wept as they understood God’s Word. Then Nehemiah and Ezra declared, “Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” – Nehemiah 8:10





This revival shows a balance of brokenness and joy – sorrow for sin followed by celebration of grace. It was both emotional and practical: they renewed the covenant, restored worship, and rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.

Revival in the Old Testament always led to reformation – the visible reordering of life according to God’s Word.

2. Revival in the New Testament: The Spirit Poured Out

The New Testament brings revival to its highest expression: the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the person and work of Jesus Christ and His church.

John the Baptist: The Voice that Prepares

Before Jesus began His ministry, God raised up a prophet in the wilderness – John the Baptist – crying, “Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.” – Matthew 3:3

John’s call to repentance was the spark of a new era. His ministry marked the bridge between the old covenant and the new – a revival of expectation, preparing hearts for the Messiah.

Every true revival has a “John the Baptist voice” – a prophetic call that awakens a sleeping generation and points them back to Christ.

Pentecost: The Birth of the Church and the Pattern for All Revivals

Acts 2 is the ultimate picture of revival. The disciples waited in obedience and unity, and suddenly, “There came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind.” – Acts 2:2

The Holy Spirit filled them, Peter preached with boldness, and three thousand people were saved in a single day. The church was born not through strategy, but through Spirit visitation.

Pentecost is not just an event to be admired – it is a pattern to be pursued. The same Spirit who descended then continues to fill, convict, and empower today.

“This promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off.” – Acts 2:39





Revival in Samaria and Ephesus: The Gospel Spreads by Power

Throughout Acts, revival followed the advance of the gospel. In Samaria, Philip preached Christ, unclean spirits fled, and “there was great joy in that city” (Acts 8:8).

In Ephesus, Paul’s preaching led to mass repentance. Occult books were burned, and “the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed” (Acts 19:20).

Everywhere the Spirit moved, the result was the same: the Word advanced, idols fell, and the name of Jesus was exalted.

The Seven Churches of Revelation: The Call to Be Revived Again

In Revelation 2–3, Jesus addresses seven churches – some faithful, others fallen asleep. To Ephesus, He says, “You have left your first love. Remember... repent... and do the works you did at first.” – Revelation 2:4–5 To Sardis, “You have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up!” – Revelation 3:1–2

The final book of the Bible ends with a revival appeal – a call to awaken, repent, and renew love for Christ. It is the heartbeat of Scripture: God continually calling His people back to Himself.

3. The Theology of Revival: God’s Initiative, Human Response

From Genesis to Revelation, revival reveals a divine pattern:

- God initiates – He awakens, convicts, and calls.
- Humans respond – through repentance, faith, and obedience.
- Transformation follows – lives, families, and nations are changed.

This pattern reminds us that revival is both sovereign and participatory. We cannot manufacture it, but we can align ourselves with God’s desire. “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.” – James 4:8

When the church returns to intimacy with God, revival is not only possible – it is inevitable.





4. Revival and the Mission of God

Every biblical revival moves outward. God revives His people not for their comfort but for His mission.

From Abraham's covenant to Pentecost's commission, revival always ends with the nations in view.

When the Spirit fell in Acts 2, the first result was missional expansion – people from every nation heard the gospel in their own language. Revival is not merely renewal within the church; it is renewal for the world. God breathes on His people so that they might become His breath in the nations.

That is the heart of reverse mission – God reviving one people to revive another, sending fire from unexpected places to reignite the places where the flame once burned.

Reflection: The Bible's Revival Story Is Our Story

The Bible is a book of revivals – of a God who refuses to let His people stay asleep.

From the altars of Abraham to the upper room in Jerusalem, the story is the same: God restores what is broken and breathes life where there is death.

We are part of that same story today.

New England, once the cradle of awakening, can become the cradle of awakening again.

The same God who revived Israel, Judah, and the early church is still calling His people to rise, repent, and return.

“Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?” – Psalm 85:6





CHAPTER 4

REVIVAL IN NEW ENGLAND: THE FIRE THAT ONCE BURNED

"The same fields that once echoed with Whitefield's preaching now wait for the sound of new awakening."





He wrote:

“The Spirit of God began extraordinarily to set in, and souls did as it were come by floods to Christ.”

Conviction of sin swept through the town. People wept, prayed, reconciled, and gathered daily to hear the Word. In six months, more than three hundred came to faith.

What began in Northampton soon spread across the colonies, carried by itinerant preachers like George Whitefield, the fiery evangelist from England whose voice could be heard by tens of thousands in open air. Whitefield crossed the Atlantic thirteen times, preaching up and down the eastern seaboard. When he came to New England, entire towns shut down to hear him. Benjamin Franklin – though not a believer – marveled at his voice and influence.

The Awakening broke denominational barriers, united believers across colonies, and rekindled a sense of divine purpose in a young nation. “The gospel came not only in word, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit.” – 1 Thessalonians 1:5

3. The Marks of the Great Awakening

What made this revival so transformative? It bore the same divine fingerprints we’ve seen in Scripture:

- Preaching of the Word: Whitefield, Edwards, and others preached with authority and clarity. The Word was central.
- Conviction and Repentance: Listeners often fell to their knees crying out for mercy.
- Unity Across Boundaries: Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists – all were touched by the same Spirit.
- Mission and Education: Out of the Awakening came new colleges (like Princeton), mission societies, and a vision for global evangelization.

The Awakening did not only stir emotions; it reshaped theology, education, and social conscience.

It laid the foundation for the abolition of slavery, the rise of modern missions, and the birth of America’s evangelical identity.





4. George Whitefield: The Voice of a Generation

George Whitefield was more than a preacher – he was a phenomenon. Born in England in 1714, converted while at Oxford with the Wesley brothers, he was consumed with one passion: to proclaim the new birth in Christ.

When pulpits closed to him, he took to the fields, preaching in marketplaces and meadows to tens of thousands. His message was simple but burning: “You must be born again.” – John 3:7

When Whitefield came to New England in 1740, revival exploded. He preached in Boston, Salem, Ipswich, and the small village then known as New Rowley – today, Georgetown, Massachusetts.

It was here that his influence left a lasting mark. The people who responded to his message became known as the New Lights – men and women transformed by the power of the gospel. Out of that movement, new churches were born, including what would one day become New Life Community Church of Georgetown.

The roots of that congregation trace directly to the fields where Whitefield preached and the tears of those who were awakened by his message.

5. The Legacy: From New Lights to New Life

The New Lights were not content with a formal religion. They desired heartfelt faith, conversion, and missionary passion. They faced opposition from “Old Light” ministers who accused them of fanaticism, yet they persevered, forming new congregations and sending missionaries across New England and beyond.

In 1785, one of those communities established what was then called The First Baptist Church of New Rowley. Their charter declared their commitment to Christ, Scripture, and revival faith.

Centuries later, that same congregation would become New Life Community Church, carrying the DNA of awakening into a new generation. What began in a field under Whitefield’s voice became a local expression of global revival – a living testimony that the fire never truly dies; it only waits to be stirred again.





6. The Second and Later Awakenings: Revival Continues

After the First Great Awakening, waves of revival continued to roll across America. The Second Great Awakening (1790-1840) began in prayer meetings and frontier camp gatherings. Figures like Charles Finney and Francis Asbury carried the torch, preaching repentance and social transformation.

The Awakening gave rise to the missionary movement, the abolition of slavery, and countless schools and churches. New England saw fresh fires – especially among students, like those at Williams College, whose prayer meeting under a haystack sparked the American Board of Missions.

Even in later centuries, revivals in places like Wales, Korea, and Brazil bore the marks of that same Spirit – the same hunger for God's glory.

7. From Memory to Mission: The Call to Reignite

Today, New England is known more for spiritual heritage than spiritual vitality. Many church buildings stand as museums of what once was. Yet, within that history lies a divine invitation: to dream again of awakening.

Revival is not nostalgia – it is prophecy. The God of Whitefield and Edwards is still the God of New England. He still longs to visit His people.

When a new generation in these towns begins to pray, repent, and preach the gospel with fire again, the old wells of revival will overflow.

That is why the story of New Life Community Church is not only about preservation – it is about restoration. God planted that church through revival and now calls it to live for revival again.





Reflection: Remember the Fire
Revival is not history to be admired but heritage to be reawakened.
The fields that once heard Whitefield's cry still belong to the same Lord.

If the gospel could shake New England in the 18th century – before microphones, airplanes, or social media – what could God do today if His people burn with the same holy passion?
The story is not over.

The same Spirit who moved in Northampton, in the fields of Rowley, and in the heart of George Whitefield is ready to move again – perhaps through you, through this church, through a new reverse mission that sends fire back to where it began.

“Lord, do it again – not because we deserve it, but because You have done it before.”





CHAPTER 5

THE REVERSE MISSION: WHEN THE FLAME RETURNS

The gospel that once crossed the ocean from England to America, and from America to the world, is now returning through a new generation of missionaries who carry not only the message – but the memory of revival.”





CHAPTER 5 – THE REVERSE MISSION: WHEN THE FLAME RETURNS

1. A Prophetic Circle of Fire

Every true revival begins with a divine cycle – God moves, people respond, nations are touched, and then He calls a new generation to carry the flame forward.

When the First Great Awakening swept through New England, its effects were not confined to the colonies. Missionary movements emerged that reached Africa, Asia, and eventually Latin America. The same gospel that was preached by George Whitefield in Massachusetts would, centuries later, find its way to Brazil – where that flame would burn again with power.

Now, in our generation, something remarkable is happening: the fire is returning to its source.

The mission field has become the mission force.

This is what we call Reverse Mission – a movement of God in which the nations once evangelized by the West are now sent by God to re-evangelize the West.

It is not a strategy of man, but a divine orchestration – the closing of a circle that began with the early awakenings.

2. From New England to Brazil: The Journey of the Flame

In the 18th and 19th centuries, missionaries from Europe and North America arrived in Brazil with hearts burning for the gospel. They brought with them Bibles, hymns, and the heritage of revival.

Men like William Bagby and Zacharias Taylor (Southern Baptist missionaries) planted the seeds of what would become one of the largest evangelical movements in the world.

Those early missionaries preached the same gospel that Whitefield and Edwards had preached – repentance, conversion, and sanctified living. And the same Spirit that moved in Northampton now moved in the sertão and the cities of Brazil.





For decades, revival swept across Brazil – from the Pentecostal outpourings of the 20th century to the missionary awakenings of the 21st. Churches multiplied, prayer movements flourished, and a new missionary generation was born – a generation not content to only receive, but compelled to give back.

That generation includes us.

We are the sons and daughters of revival – now called to return to the lands of our spiritual ancestors.

3. A New Mission Field: America in Need of Awakening

When Brazilian missionaries arrive in the United States, they are often surprised. They come expecting to find the same fire that once set the world ablaze. Instead, they find a nation rich in Christian heritage but poor in spiritual vitality.

The cathedrals stand tall, but the pews are empty. The Bible Belt is losing its grip. The land that once sent missionaries to the nations now needs missionaries from the nations.

It is not arrogance that brings us – it is gratitude.

The Reverse Mission is not about replacement; it is about revival.

We come not to teach America a new gospel, but to remind her of the old one.

The same gospel that shook New England in the 1700s can still shake it today – but this time, the voice may come with a Brazilian accent, the song may carry a different rhythm, and the revival may look different.

Yet the Spirit is the same.

4. The Call to Georgetown: A Story Reborn

On November 20, 2022, when Pastor Liete Soares and his family arrived in Georgetown, Massachusetts, to serve at New Life Community Church, it was not merely a pastoral transition – it was a prophetic fulfillment

The church he came to serve was founded in 1785 by the New Lights, men and women whose hearts had been set ablaze by the First Great Awakening.





What began under George Whitefield's preaching became a congregation born out of revival.

Now, centuries later, God was sending a new voice – from the global South – to call the descendants of those same awakenings back to life. This is not coincidence; it is covenant.

It is the story of God reviving the place of the original fire through the ministry of those who once received that fire abroad. When the Brazilian church prays for revival in New England, it is not just intercession – it is restitution.

It is God using the fruit of American missions to water the roots that once nourished it.

5. From “Mission Field” to “Mission Force”

This paradigm shift defines a new era of global Christianity.

The missionary map of the world has changed – and the Holy Spirit is the cartographer.

The centers of revival have shifted from the North Atlantic to the Global South – from Europe to Africa, from America to Latin America, and now, back again.

We are living in a time when the nations are not only being reached, but are reaching back.

Brazil, once the destination of missionaries, has become a sending nation – raising pastors, evangelists, and educators who carry a fire that burns with gratitude and global vision.

This is the heart of the Reverse Mission movement:

The nations that once received grace now return it with interest – the interest of revival.





6. New Life: A Church with an Old Fire and a New Mission

New Life Community Church is more than a building with centuries of history.

It is a living symbol of what God can do when the past meets the present under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Born from the First Great Awakening, now renewed by the vision of the Reverse Mission, New Life stands as a bridge between what God did and what God will do again.

The church's legacy is not simply to preserve revival history, but to become revival prophecy – a house where old promises and new prayers collide.

When Brazilians, Americans, and believers from many nations worship together in Georgetown, it is as if heaven is rewriting history:

The same Spirit that united the saints of the past is forming a new community of awakening for the future.

7. Revival Comes Full Circle

The flame that began in the fields of New England crossed oceans and generations – and now returns home.

What God started through Edwards and Whitefield, He now continues through new voices, new languages, and new hearts.

It is as if the Lord Himself says:

“I am the God of Edwards and Whitefield, but I am also the God of Soares. I am not done with New England. I am not finished with America.”

The story of revival is not linear – it is circular.

God revives His people, sends them out, and then brings them back to restore the land of their spiritual fathers.

And when the nations unite in prayer and repentance, revival ceases to be a memory – it becomes a movement once again.





Reflection: The Fire Returns Home
We are not here by accident.
We are here by assignment.

The same God who once stirred the fields of Massachusetts has now stirred the hearts of His people in Brazil to return and rekindle that flame. The Reverse Mission is not a human strategy – it is a divine response. It is God saying to America:

“The fire you sent out will return to warm you once more.”
And to His church in New England:
“The story is not over. The next Great Awakening has already begun.”

Prayer:

“Lord, thank You for the privilege of carrying the flame back to where it was first lit.

Let the fire of Whitefield, the depth of Edwards, and the zeal of the New Lights burn again in our generation.

Make New Life a house of awakening, and let the fire return home – until all of New England is ablaze for Your glory.”





CHAPTER 6

LESSONS FOR A NEW AWAKENING

“We do not study revival to admire it. We study it to reproduce its spiritual DNA – to discover what moves the heart of God and how to prepare the altar for His fire again.”





CHAPTER 6 – LESSONS FOR A NEW AWAKENING

1. Revival Is God's Work – Not Ours

Every genuine awakening in history begins the same way – not with human programs, but with divine initiative.

Jonathan Edwards called it “a surprising work of God.”

George Whitefield preached it as “the strange and sovereign visitation of the Spirit.” The first lesson of revival is humility.

We cannot manufacture what only the Spirit can create.

We can build altars, but we cannot send fire.

We can prepare the atmosphere, but we cannot control the wind.

We can preach, but only God can quicken dead hearts.

The posture that invites revival is dependence.

As long as the church believes it can manage without the Holy Spirit, it will only have good meetings – never divine visitations.

“Revive us, O Lord – not because we are ready, but because You are merciful.”

2. The Word and Prayer: The Twin Pillars of Awakening

In every historical awakening, two elements are always present – the Word and prayer.

When the Scriptures are preached with authority and the people of God unite in intercession, heaven responds.

- In Northampton, revival began when Edwards preached on justification by faith – the Word ignited faith.
- In New York (1857), revival began when Jeremiah Lanphier gathered six men for a noonday prayer meeting – prayer became the spark that spread across America.
- In Wales (1904), young Evan Roberts prayed, “Bend us, Lord,” and God bent a nation.





The formula has not changed.
Where the Word is honored and prayer is fervent, the Spirit always moves.
Without the Word, prayer loses direction.
Without prayer, the Word loses power.
Together, they form the furnace of revival.
“Faith comes by hearing... and fire comes by praying.”

3. Revival Begins with Repentance

No revival ever came without repentance.

Before God awakens the church, He humbles it.

Jonathan Edwards wrote that during the awakening in Northampton, “the people were made sensible of their sinfulness and dependence on divine grace.”

Revival is not about louder music or bigger crowds – it’s about broken hearts.

It is not the celebration of man’s success but the confession of man’s failure.

When the church stops blaming culture and starts confessing its own coldness, revival is near.

Repentance is not merely saying sorry – it is turning fully toward God, burning every bridge back to complacency.

“For thus says the High and Exalted One... I dwell with the contrite and humble in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly.” – Isaiah 57:15





4. Revival Starts in the Church, Not in the World

Evangelism is the fruit of revival, not its root.

Before the world can be reached, the church must be revived.

The Great Awakenings did not begin in the streets – they began in the pulpits, in homes, in secret prayer meetings.

When God’s people come alive, the lost are drawn to the light.

The Spirit revives the church so that the church can reach the world.

“Judgment begins in the house of God – but so does mercy.”

We cannot expect society to burn with a passion for God if the church herself is cold.

Revival is not primarily about church growth – it is about church health.

A revived church will always grow, but growth without revival is merely expansion without transformation.

5. Revival Unites Generations and Nations

In the First Great Awakening, farmers, merchants, and scholars worshiped side by side.

In the Second, Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians prayed together.

In every move of God, denominational walls crumble and generational gaps close.

The Spirit does not honor our divisions – He heals them.

That is why the Reverse Mission movement is so significant.

It is the global church coming together – the sons and daughters of former mission fields now joining hands with the descendants of former missionaries.

Revival is heaven’s way of reconciling the family of faith.

When Brazilians, Americans, and believers from every nation kneel together, revival becomes unstoppable – because it reflects the heart of Revelation 7:9:

“A great multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne.”





6. Revival Produces Holiness and Mission

One of the greatest misunderstandings about revival is to reduce it to emotional experiences.

But in Scripture and history, revival always leads to holiness and mission.

- After Pentecost came persecution – and yet the church multiplied.
- After Northampton’s awakening came ethical reform and missionary zeal.
- After the Second Great Awakening came schools, orphanages, and the abolition movement.

Revival is not escape from the world; it is empowerment to transform it.

True revival makes the church more holy and more missional.

If people are excited in worship but unchanged in character, it’s not revival – it’s emotion.

But when worshipers begin to walk in righteousness, justice, and compassion, revival has truly begun.

“Be holy, for I am holy.” – 1 Peter 1:16

7. Revival Requires Leadership That Burns

In every awakening, God used leaders whose hearts were aflame.

Edwards was scholarly, Whitefield was passionate, Finney was strategic – yet all shared one thing: a burden for souls and a hunger for God’s glory.

The church today needs leaders like that again – men and women whose authority flows not from position but from the presence of God.

Leaders who love Scripture more than trends, and intercession more than influence.

Leaders who pray longer than they post.

Leaders who weep over their cities before they preach to them.

Revival leaders are not perfect, but they are burning.

And when leaders burn, the people catch fire.

“He makes His ministers a flame of fire.” – Hebrews 1:7





8. Revival Demands Perseverance
Every revival has its critics.
The “Old Lights” opposed Edwards.
The media mocked Finney.

Even in the book of Acts, revival was followed by persecution.
But every true move of God endures because its roots go deeper than
emotion – they rest in conviction.

Revival will always face resistance – from pride, from tradition, from the
enemy himself – but those who persevere see the promise fulfilled.
“Do not despise the day of small beginnings.” – Zechariah 4:10
We must learn to pray until heaven opens, preach until hearts break, and
love until the fire spreads.

9. Preparing the Altar Today
Revival cannot be scheduled – but it can be prepared for.
We do not control when God moves, but we can make sure that when He
does, He finds us ready.

To prepare the altar for awakening in our generation:

1. Return to the Word – make Scripture the center of all teaching.
2. Rebuild the prayer meetings – private and corporate prayer must again
become the engine of the church.
3. Repent deeply – allow God to purify motives and renew the heart.
4. Reconnect generations and nations – honor the past, empower the
young, embrace the global church.
5. Restore holiness and mission – live what we preach.

When these altars are restored, the fire always falls.





10. The Next Great Awakening Begins Here

Revival is not a story to remember – it is a call to answer.

New England has seen awakening before; it can see it again.

And perhaps, this time, the fire will spread from a small church in Georgetown – just as it once did from Northampton.

The question is not can God do it again – the question is will we make room for Him to do it again?

“Lord, revive Your work in our day. Do it again, and let it begin with us.”

– Habakkuk 3:2

Prayer of Consecration:

“Father, we stand where revival once burned, and we ask You: light the fire again.

We surrender our pride, our programs, and our plans.

We ask for the wind of Your Spirit to blow once more upon this land.

Make us the answer to our own prayers.

Let Your church be revived, and let Your glory fill New England again – until the world knows that Jesus is Lord.”





CHAPTER 7

THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH IN A GLOBAL AWAKENING

“Every great move of God begins locally – in a praying church, in a surrendered people, in a community where heaven finds an open door.”





CHAPTER 7 – THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH IN A GLOBAL AWAKENING

1. Awakening Begins in Ordinary Places

The history of revival is not written in palaces but in prayer rooms.

God rarely begins with the famous or the powerful – He begins with those who are available.

When the First Great Awakening began in the 1730s, it did not start in London or Boston's elite circles. It started in small towns – Northampton, Newburyport, and the open fields of New England – through humble preachers and hungry congregations.

Likewise, in our time, God is not waiting for a perfect church; He is looking for a postured one – a church willing to pray, repent, and obey. Every awakening has a postal address.

For this generation, one of those addresses is Georgetown, Massachusetts, and one of those houses is New Life Community Church. "Do not say, 'We are too small.' For the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed." – Matthew 13:31-32

2. The Local Church: God's Chosen Vessel for Global Impact

In an age of digital reach and global networks, it is easy to forget that God's primary instrument for changing the world has never changed – it is still the local church.

The church is not a spectator venue; it is a sending base.

It is not merely a gathering; it is a gateway through which heaven touches earth.

In Acts 13, revival broke out in Antioch – a local congregation that became a global mission center.

From one church, the gospel spread across continents.

Likewise, when a church experiences renewal, its impact always extends beyond its walls.

New Life Community Church is positioned to be such a place – a modern Antioch in New England.

"When the local church burns, the world cannot remain cold."





3. The DNA of a Revival Church

What makes a church a catalyst for awakening?

It's not size, budget, or buildings – it's spiritual DNA.

A revival church carries at least five core traits:

1. Presence-Centered Worship – The focus is not performance but presence. Worship becomes an altar, not a concert.
2. Biblical Preaching – The Word of God is proclaimed with conviction, clarity, and compassion.
3. Intercessory Prayer – Prayer is not an event but a lifestyle; the church becomes a house of prayer for all nations.
4. Authentic Community – People walk in unity, forgiveness, and shared mission.
5. Missional Passion – Every believer sees themselves as a missionary – across the street or across the ocean.

When these five traits align, a church stops simply existing – it starts burning.

4. New Life Community Church: A Bridge Between Generations and Nations

New Life's story is uniquely prophetic.

Born in 1785 out of the First Great Awakening and reborn in the 21st century through the vision of Reverse Mission, it stands as a bridge between the past and the future, the local and the global, the American and the Brazilian church.

Its very name, New Life, is a declaration of purpose – to breathe life again into old wells of revival.

Through partnerships with the Baptist Churches of New England (BCNE), the Inspire Network, and global mission allies, the church embodies a rare call: to honor revival history while igniting revival destiny.

When a church like New Life opens its doors to nations, it becomes a prophetic picture of heaven – a multiethnic, multigenerational family united under one Spirit.

This is not just strategy. It is eschatology in action – a foretaste of Revelation 7:9 lived out in Massachusetts.





5. The Church as a Mission Hub in the Reverse Mission Movement

The Reverse Mission movement is not only theological; it is practical. It calls local churches in the West to once again become mission bases, not just ministry centers.

In the early centuries, European and American churches sent missionaries to the world.

Now, churches like New Life are partnering with missionaries from the world – Brazilians, Africans, Asians – who come not as guests but as co-laborers.

The local church becomes the meeting place where global mission flows both ways – from America to the nations and from the nations back to America.

Every Sunday gathering becomes a mission encounter, every home group a training ground, every outreach a cross-cultural bridge.

This is the beauty of the new era of missions:

“The nations are no longer only the harvest field – they are now the harvest force.”

6. The Pastor as a Catalyst of Revival

A local church cannot rise beyond the spiritual temperature of its leaders.

When pastors burn, churches blaze.

The pastor’s primary role in awakening is not administration – it is intercession and proclamation.

The pulpit is the steering wheel of revival.

Pastor Liete Soares, with his passion for renewal and his vision for the Reverse Mission, embodies this calling.

His leadership reflects a blend of Whitefield’s fire and Edwards’s depth, contextualized for a new generation and a multicultural landscape.

He stands in a long line of revival carriers – ordinary men with extraordinary surrender.

As leaders learn from his example, the call becomes clear:

“Before we lead men, we must first kneel before God.”





7. Revival Churches Multiply, Not Compete

The goal of revival is never to make one church famous but to make Jesus famous in every church.

When God visits a region, He raises a network of burning churches, not a monument to one.

Revival churches see themselves not as competitors but as co-laborers.

That's why partnerships like the Inspire Network USA and BCNE collaborations are vital.

They create unity without uniformity – synergy without control.

The local church that burns with revival will naturally reproduce itself – planting churches, mentoring pastors, and sending missionaries.

Revival is not maintained by control; it is multiplied by generosity.

“The fire spreads fastest when we stop trying to own it.”

8. Awakening the Community: From the Church to the Streets

A revived church cannot stay silent.

Its flame must spill into the streets.

Historically, awakenings transformed entire towns – crime dropped, taverns closed, families reconciled, and culture shifted.

That same potential remains today when a church refuses to stay inside its walls.

In Georgetown and throughout New England, the next awakening will not be confined to Sunday gatherings.

It will happen in coffee shops, schools, workplaces, and homes – wherever believers live as ambassadors of the Kingdom.

The local church must train its people not just to invite others to church, but to bring the presence of the church to others.

“Revival is not the filling of a building; it is the flooding of a city.”





9. The Church as a House of Nations

New Life Community Church carries a prophetic symbol in its diversity.

Brazilians, Americans, and believers from many cultures worship under one roof – the very image of the global church that Jesus prayed for.

This multicultural unity is not accidental; it is missional.

When the nations worship together, they announce to the world that the Kingdom of God transcends language, politics, and ethnicity.

The local church becomes a living prophecy – a preview of heaven on earth.

In a divided world, unity itself is revival.

“That they may be one, so that the world may believe.” – John 17:21

10. The Church as a Revival Movement

The most powerful churches in history did not have only members – they had movements.

The Moravians prayed for a hundred years.

The Methodists rode on horseback to carry the gospel across America.

The early Baptists and New Lights risked persecution to preach revival truth.

Today, New Life and churches like it are called not just to exist, but to ignite – to see the local congregation as the launching pad of a regional and global awakening.

When the Spirit falls again in New England, it will not be because of programs, but because ordinary believers in ordinary churches said, “Lord, here we are. Use us.”





Reflection: From Local Fire to Global Flame
The local church is the spark in God's hand.
From one altar, He can light a nation.
From one praying people, He can birth a movement.
When New Life burns, Massachusetts will feel it.
When Massachusetts burns, America will remember.
And when America burns again with the fire of the gospel – the world will be awakened once more.

Prayer for the Local Church:

“Lord, make our church a place where Your glory dwells.
Let our worship host Your presence, our preaching proclaim Your truth,
and our lives reveal Your love.

Use our community as a bridge between generations and nations.
Let revival begin in our hearts, in our homes, and in our house of worship –
until the fire spreads to every corner of the earth.
In Jesus' name, amen.”





CHAPTER 8

THE NEW LIGHTS AND THE NEW FIRE

"The Spirit always finds a people ready to carry His fire. When history and heaven intersect, new lights rise to ignite the world once again."





CHAPTER 8 – THE NEW LIGHTS AND THE NEW FIRE

1. Who Were the New Lights?

During the First Great Awakening, the term New Lights was used to describe those who embraced revival's power.

They were ordinary people, yet extraordinary in faith.

They were called “new” because they refused to settle for nominal Christianity. Their hearts burned for God; their lives reflected transformation.

Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield, and other revivalists stood at the forefront, but the New Lights were the body – the people who lived, prayed, evangelized, and built the future of the church.

The New Lights:

- Saw the necessity of personal conversion.
- Experienced deep spiritual affections and conviction of sin.
- Spread revival through community, home meetings, and mission efforts.
- Risked opposition, persecution, and social disapproval for the sake of obedience.

They were ordinary, yet God used them to change the course of a nation.

“Do not despise the day of small beginnings.” – Zechariah 4:10

2. The Fire of the New Lights

The New Lights carried a fire that was both inward and outward.

- Inward: Personal holiness, prayer, Bible meditation, and daily surrender.
- Outward: Evangelism, church planting, community transformation, and mission.

This dual fire is what made them remarkable. Revival is never self-contained; it flows from personal renewal to public transformation.

The spiritual DNA of the New Lights is the same DNA God calls the church to today.

It is a fire that ignites hearts, communities, and nations.





3. New Fire in New Life Community Church

New Life Community Church in Georgetown is more than a historical descendant of the New Lights; it is their modern echo.

Just as the original New Lights rose in response to the First Great Awakening, today's congregation rises in response to the Reverse Mission vision:

- Brazilian missionaries and pastors returning to New England, carrying the flame God first gave the West.
- Multicultural congregations reflecting heaven's diversity.
- A church committed to prayer, preaching, and discipleship.
- A congregation willing to burn for revival, even in a region that has long been spiritually dormant.

New Life embodies a spiritual continuity – the flame may have dimmed, but the fire was never extinguished.

4. Lessons from the New Lights for Today

What can modern churches learn from the New Lights?

1. Awareness of Spiritual Decline: The New Lights knew their churches had grown comfortable, formal, and routine. Revival begins with honest assessment.
 2. Dependence on the Spirit: They did not rely on human programs alone; they sought divine visitation.
 3. Courage to Obey: They faced opposition, yet followed God's call.
 4. Community Accountability: Revival was communal, not individualistic. People held one another accountable in prayer, repentance, and mission.
 5. Global Perspective: Their work impacted regions and nations – just as God's call today reaches across borders through Reverse Mission.
- “A single soul revived may light thousands more.”





5. Spiritual Parallels: Then and Now

The parallels between the 18th-century New Lights and today's New Life Church are striking:

New Lights (1700s) New Life Church (Today)

Ordinary people with extraordinary faith Multicultural congregants carrying revival vision

Responded to revival through repentance Responding to Reverse Mission and global calling

Built churches, prayed, evangelized Planting, discipling, and sending missionaries

United across denominational lines Partnering globally through networks like BCNE and Inspire

Spread revival to new regions Bringing revival back to New England through Reverse Mission

God's work repeats in history when hearts remain faithful.

6. The Modern New Lights: You and Me

Revival is not a relic; it is a call.

The "modern New Lights" are not famous preachers or scholars – they are those who:

- Pray without ceasing.
- Live holy and surrendered lives.
- Reach across cultures, languages, and traditions.
- Are willing to stand, even when the world is lukewarm.

Every believer in a local church is called to be a New Light.

Every prayer, every act of obedience, every soul shared is a spark in the fire of revival.

"You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others." – Matthew 5:14-16





7. Igniting the Next Awakening

The world today needs New Lights as desperately as New England did in the 18th century.

The Reverse Mission movement is a prophetic signal that God's fire is returning to its source.

Just as Whitefield's voice drew thousands, and Edwards' sermons brought conviction, today's fire spreads through:

- Praying communities
- Global partnerships
- Local obedience and witness
- Faithful leadership that inspires and equips

The mission is clear: to rekindle the flame wherever it has dimmed, to breathe new life into communities, and to raise a new generation of revival carriers.

8. A Vision for the Future

Imagine New England and the broader world awakened again:

- Churches united across cultures and generations.
- Cities transformed by prayer, evangelism, and social renewal.
- Missionaries flowing both ways – from the Global South to the West.
- Ordinary people burning with extraordinary faith, carrying the gospel to every corner.

The story of the New Lights is not over. It continues through you, me, and every believer willing to answer God's call.

The fire is not lost; it is waiting.

“Come, Holy Spirit, and ignite us once more. Let the New Lights rise again, and may the fire never die.”

Prayer: “Lord, raise up a new generation of New Lights in this city, this region, and this nation.

Let Your fire burn in our hearts and spill into our communities.

May we be faithful to carry the flame of revival to every home, every street, every nation – until Your glory fills the earth.”





CHAPTER 9

PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINING REVIVAL

“Revival is not a one-time event; it is a lifestyle. God does not merely visit – He dwells where hearts remain ready.”





CHAPTER 9 – PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINING REVIVAL

1. Revival Is a Continuous Pursuit

History teaches us that revival comes in waves – sometimes sudden, sometimes gradual – but sustaining it requires intentionality.

- The First Great Awakening inspired generations, but New England's spiritual decline in between waves shows that revival does not preserve itself.
- The Second Great Awakening's movements waned when churches became comfortable.

Principle: Revival must be actively nurtured. It will not survive on memory alone.

“Stir up the gift of God that is within you.” – 2 Timothy 1:6

2. Maintain an Atmosphere of Prayer

Prayer is the oxygen of revival.

- Edwards observed that during Northampton's awakening, the prayer of the faithful prepared hearts for God's move.
- In 1857, lay-led prayer meetings in New York sparked revival across cities.

Action Steps for Sustaining Revival Through Prayer:

1. Daily personal prayer: Every believer maintains a consistent habit of seeking God.
2. Corporate intercession: Churches commit to regular group prayer for revival and mission.
3. Fasting and prayer seasons: Periods of spiritual focus heighten sensitivity to God's voice.
4. Prayer chains and networks: Connecting congregations locally and globally to support one another.

“Revival begins where prayer does not end.”





3. Preach the Word Faithfully

Revival is birthed and sustained by the Word.

- Revivalists like Edwards, Whitefield, and Finney always centered their ministries on Scripture.
- Authentic preaching challenges, convicts, and equips believers.

Sustaining Principle: Preach truth, even when it is unpopular.

- Boldly confront sin, but offer hope.
- Teach holiness, but provide practical guidance.
- Emphasize mission, but remain anchored in doctrine.

“For the word of God is living and active.” – Hebrews 4:12

4. Cultivate Holiness and Integrity

Revival is not mere excitement – it is transformation.

- Communities that experienced awakening saw changes in character, family life, ethics, and public behavior.
- Revival is fragile if believers return to complacency or compromise.

Guidelines for Sustaining Revival Through Holiness:

- Encourage accountability groups within the church.
- Model integrity in leadership.
- Teach and practice personal and corporate repentance.
- Celebrate lives transformed, not just attendance or numbers.

“Be holy, because I am holy.” – 1 Peter 1:16

5. Engage in Mission and Outreach

Revival sustains itself when it flows outward.

- The New Lights were never inward-focused; their revival spilled into communities and nations.
- Every revival in history birthed movements of evangelism, education, and social reform.

Action Steps:

- Mobilize members for local service projects.
- Partner with global mission initiatives.
- Integrate evangelism into worship, teaching, and small groups.
- Mentor and raise the next generation of missionaries.

“Do not hide your light; let it shine for all to see.” – Matthew 5:16





6. Build a Culture of Discipleship

Revival grows where discipleship is intentional.

- Spiritual maturity prevents the church from returning to mere emotion.
- Edwards emphasized deep understanding and affections – not shallow excitement.
- Churches that multiply disciples multiply revival.

Practical Steps:

- Invest in small groups and mentoring relationships.
- Provide structured Bible study and leadership training.
- Encourage spiritual reflection, journaling, and personal prayer.
- Celebrate growth and transformation, not just attendance.

“Go and make disciples of all nations...” – Matthew 28:19

7. Unity in Diversity

Revival is strengthened when the church embodies the Kingdom’s diversity.

- The New Lights crossed social and denominational boundaries.
- The Reverse Mission movement demonstrates that multicultural, multigenerational collaboration ignites the fire of God.

Keys to Unity:

- Foster cross-cultural partnerships.
- Encourage intergenerational mentorship.
- Resolve conflicts biblically and swiftly.
- Celebrate diverse gifts and callings.

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” – Psalm 133:1





8. Perseverance in Opposition

Sustaining revival requires endurance.

- Every revival in history faced resistance – from skeptics, cultural pressures, and even internal conflict.
- Edwards and Whitefield experienced criticism; Finney faced church disputes; New England faced societal opposition.

Principle: Opposition is inevitable – perseverance is non-negotiable.

- Pray without losing heart.
- Protect the purity of the Word.
- Continue mission work despite resistance.
- Trust God’s timing over human acceptance.

“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial.” – James 1:12

9. Keep the Vision Alive

Revival dies when vision fades.

- Leaders must constantly remind the church of its calling: holiness, mission, and awakening.
- The Reverse Mission shows that vision is not local – it is global.

Practical Steps:

- Regularly communicate revival goals and stories.
- Celebrate answered prayers and transformation.
- Inspire the next generation with history and prophetic vision.
- Integrate vision into teaching, worship, and small groups.

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” – Proverbs 29:18





10. Be Ready for God's Surprising Move

Finally, sustaining revival means being ready for God's unexpected work.

- Edwards called it a "surprising work of God."
- History reminds us that revival often appears where it is least expected – in small towns, humble churches, and ordinary lives.

Action Steps:

- Stay flexible in methods – the Spirit works in ways we cannot predict.
- Embrace innovation without compromising truth.
- Train leaders to respond quickly to the Spirit's prompting.
- Encourage the congregation to celebrate God's surprises.

"Be alert, because the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect."

– Matthew 24:44

Reflection: Living in Revival

Sustaining revival is not about maintaining excitement or programs.

It is about nurturing a lifestyle of prayer, holiness, mission, unity, and perseverance.

- Revival begins in the heart, but it thrives in the church.
- Revival begins locally, but it impacts globally.
- Revival begins with God's Spirit, but it endures through surrendered, faithful believers.

"Revive us again, O Lord, and may our lives reflect Your glory every day." – Psalm 85:6

Prayer for Sustaining Revival:

"Lord, keep the fire alive in our hearts, in our church, and in our communities.

Help us to pray without ceasing, walk in holiness, reach the lost, disciple others, and persevere through every challenge.

Let our church be a beacon of revival – not for a season, but for generations to come.

In Jesus' name, amen."





CHAPTER 10

THE VISION FORWARD: NEW LIFE, NEW ENGLAND, AND THE GLOBAL CHURCH

“God’s work does not end with history; it continues through those willing to carry His fire forward.”





CHAPTER 10 – THE VISION FORWARD: NEW LIFE, NEW ENGLAND, AND THE GLOBAL CHURCH

1. Revival Is a Forward Movement

Revival is never static.

It moves through time, generations, and nations.

- The First Great Awakening ignited personal and communal transformation in New England.
- The Second Great Awakening reshaped society, education, and missions.
- The Third Awakening spread across cities, towns, and borders, responding to cultural and political crises.

Each wave left a legacy, yet revival itself is always incomplete until it finds new hearts ready to burn.

New Life Community Church carries this legacy into the 21st century – a living continuation of God’s historical work in New England, now shaped by global collaboration and Reverse Mission.

“Do not cling to yesterday’s fire. Let it spark tomorrow’s blaze.”

2. The Local Church as a Global Catalyst

New Life is uniquely positioned to model what every local church can become:

- Prayer-centered: Its people intercede for their city, region, and nations.
- Mission-focused: They engage in both local outreach and global mission initiatives.
- Intergenerational and multicultural: A living picture of heaven’s diversity.
- Equipped for multiplication: Leaders are raised, disciples are mentored, and new churches are planted.

The local church is the launching pad of revival, and New Life exemplifies how a single congregation can influence the world.

“From one altar, the fire can ignite a nation; from one congregation, the gospel can reach the world.”





3. Reverse Mission: Returning the Flame

One of the most significant movements in today's global church is Reverse Mission:

- Missionaries from the Global South returning to Western nations.
- Churches in America learning from the spiritual vitality of churches in Brazil, Africa, and Asia.
- Collaboration across continents to strengthen, disciple, and multiply believers.

New Life Community Church is a bridge in this movement, embodying the idea that God's blessing flows both ways.

The global church is no longer just a recipient of missions – it is also a sender of revival fire back to lands once thought spiritually mature.

“The nations that once drank from our rivers now return to irrigate our spiritual deserts.”

4. Cultivating a Culture of Prayer, Holiness, and Mission

Sustaining revival requires intentional culture-building.

- Prayer: The church must remain a house of prayer for all nations.
- Holiness: Personal and corporate integrity must be non-negotiable.
- Mission: Every believer should see themselves as a missionary, both locally and globally.

A culture like this transforms a church from a building into a movement, from a congregation into a kingdom force.

“Prayer without mission is incomplete; mission without prayer is powerless.”





5. Raising the Next Generation of Revival Leaders

Revival is not only about today; it is about tomorrow.

- Train young leaders in Scripture, prayer, and evangelism.
- Mentor emerging pastors to carry the fire faithfully.
- Empower youth to dream beyond borders and denominational lines.

New Life Community Church has a responsibility to prepare leaders who will multiply revival – leaders who will not only sustain the church but also spread the gospel across New England and beyond.

“The fire passes to those who are ready to carry it further.”

6. Unity Across the Global Church

God’s fire is amplified when the church is unified.

- Denominations, cultures, and generations must cooperate in mission.
- Networks like BCNE and Inspire provide a model of collaboration without compromise.
- Revival flourishes when the church demonstrates heaven’s diversity and unity on earth.

A church like New Life becomes a model for global unity, showing that revival is not just spiritual energy – it is spiritual alignment.

“When the church stands together, the gates of hell cannot prevail.” – Matthew 16:18

7. The Role of Vision and Prophetic Expectation

Vision fuels revival.

- History teaches that awakenings often begin when someone dares to see what God can do.
- Prophetic expectation creates anticipation and preparedness.
- New Life Community Church embodies this prophetic vision – a church aware of its place in God’s unfolding plan for New England and the nations.

Believers today are invited to see beyond the present moment and participate in what God is doing next.

“Where there is no vision, the people perish. But with vision, revival burns.” – Proverbs 29:18





8. New Life as a Model for the 21st Century Church

The church of the future will be:

- Spiritually alive: Spirit-filled worship, fervent prayer, and faithful preaching.
- Missionally engaged: Sending and receiving missionaries, planting churches, and influencing society.
- Globally connected: Bridging continents, cultures, and generations.
- Persistent in revival: Maintaining the fire through prayer, holiness, and leadership development.

New Life Community Church embodies all of these principles – a modern New Light carrying God’s fire into a world that longs for His presence. “Be the church that cannot be contained. Be the church that ignites nations.”

9. Invitation to Participate in Revival

Revival is not limited to pastors or leaders. Every believer has a role:

- Pray faithfully.
- Walk in holiness.
- Engage in mission.
- Mentor others.
- Expect God’s surprises.

As each member participates, the fire grows – from the pulpit to the pews, from the city to the world.

“Will you carry the flame? Will you be a New Light in your generation?”

10. Closing Vision

New Life Community Church stands at a crossroads of history and destiny.

- Its past is rooted in revival.
- Its present is alive with prayer and vision.
- Its future holds the promise of awakening not just New England, but the nations.

The next wave of revival is possible – because God is faithful, and His Spirit still moves.

Let this church, and every believer inspired by it, rise as a beacon: a light that cannot be hidden, a flame that cannot be quenched, a movement that will leave a mark on history and eternity.

“Lord, let Your kingdom come, and let Your will be done – in our church, in our city, and in the nations. Let the fire fall, and let it never die. Amen.”





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