

**What
I
Really Believe**

about
Revival
and
Church History

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What I Really Believe

1. GOD'S PURPOSE for mankind has not been changed by the advent of sin, nor by the advent of the Savior. Jesus' Great Commission to make disciples of nations (Matt 28:19) is more or less the New Testament version of the Cultural Mandate to fill the earth, subdue it and have dominion over all that God created (Gen 1:26 & 28).

2. FOLLOWING ISRAEL'S deliverance from Egypt, the Ten Commandments far surpassed in importance any signs and wonders and miracles witnessed by the Hebrews. Hebrew culture was shaped far more by the written word than by supernatural phenomena. All of Hebrew culture was shaped by the Word of God, not just their spiritual or religious worlds.

3. OUR OWN NATION was birthed, shaped and formed primarily by the written and spoken word of the Puritans, the several east coast institutions of higher learning established by the Puritans, and especially the pulpit of Jonathan Edwards.

4. REVIVALS SINCE EDWARD'S "Great Awakening" have essentially fallen short of God's purpose for them because they have lacked a "complete" theology, focusing mostly on personal salvation, deliverance and sanctification but very little on the Cultural Mandate and Great Commission to make disciples of nations. The gradual cultural decline of the last 200 years is the result of the Church's poor thinking, incomplete theology and our unbiblical tendency to segment life into secular and sacred worlds. We lost most of the great institutions of higher learning to the devil because we divorced ourselves from cultural involvement.

5. CHRISTIANS OF OUR DAY (most of them) suffer from an incomplete understanding of God's true purpose in creation.

6. DURING THE 1800'S the Church in America split into two essential groups--the Retreatists (that's us--the Evangelical, Pentecostal streams of the Church) and the Accomodationists (the present day mainline denominations). We Retreatists buried our heads in the sand and divorced ourselves from the institutions of our culture, willingly surrendering them to the devil. (We still do this today). The Accomodationists succumbed to the devil's subtle philosophies of evolutionism, humanism socialism and other devilish isms.

7. DISPENSATIONALISM (the bedrock of Retreatist thinking) crippled the modern Church because it took the concept of kingdom and placed it into the future and inappropriately divided God's creation into the secular and the sacred.

8. THE REFORMED STREAM of the modern Church has an essentially good theology except that they rule out the gifts of the Spirit and the works of power performed by the Holy Spirit in the present day.

9. WE NEED A RETURN to an understanding of, and a relationship with the Father to be a healthy, whole Church again. The modern Evangelical/Pentecostal/Charismatic Church mostly knows Jesus and the Holy Spirit but has little relationship with the Father.

What I Really Believe

10. FOR THE GREAT COMMISSION to be fulfilled, the Church of today needs a marriage of the sound doctrine of the Reformed faith and the power of the Holy Spirit as understood and experienced in our Pentecostal/Charismatic circles.

11. I AM PRETTY MUCH A SKEPTIC when it comes to talk of the coming revival. Not because I don't believe it is coming but, based on revival history of the last 200 years, I don't really expect much more than what we've already experienced in previous years. We just don't have the theological and intellectual foundation to do much more with revivals than what's already been done.

12. THE CHARISMATIC/PENTECOSTAL stream of the Church is headed for another round of semi-real, yet semi-self-delusional revival hysteria at a time when God wants to restore the biblical vision of our Puritan forefathers—a vision of “the glory of the Lord covering the earth as the waters covers the sea.” This earth-covering glory cannot come solely by revival but in fact will only come by a return to sound doctrine and sound biblical theology imparted systematically to large segments of the body of Christ by leaders who truly know how to make disciples and by disciples who can catch the vision of truly selling out their lives for the sake of Christ and His gospel .

This prophetic message cannot be delivered and cannot be received because there is very little theological framework or understanding of historical context among the hearers in which to place the prophetic message. Thus, the prophet dwells in a continual state of semi-depression because he carries a message from God but has little hope of ever delivering it successfully.