Preparing the Church for Revival

A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

In Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for the Degree

Doctor of Ministry

By

Joseph W. Jennings

April 15, 2006

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	111
Abstract	iv
Chapter 1. Introduction	1
Heart-Cry for Revival	
Definition of Revival	
Thesis Statement	
Four Assumptions	
Research Questions & Methodology	
Chapter 2. Review of Literature	23
Jonathan Edwards & the Great Awakening	
John Wesley & the Methodist Revival	
Charles Finney	
Modern Writings on Revival	
	5.4
Chapter 3. Biblical and Theological Implications	
Biblical Context of Revival	
Understanding Revivals from a Theological Perspective	62
Chapter 4. Design of the Study	76
Goals and Objectives	
Initial and Final Questionnaires	
Ten Classes on Revival	79
Chapter 5. Conclusions and Recommendations	86
Results of the Class	
Final Recommendations	
Appendix A. Initial and Final Questionnaires	97
Appendix B. Results of the Questionnaires	102
Vita	

Preparing the Church for Revival

Acknowledgments

There are many I would like to acknowledge to express deep appreciation for their support and assistance: first and foremost to my Lord, who has given me a passion to experience revival and a calling to promote revival as my life's ministry; to my wife, Maribeth, who has encouraged me, edited my revisions, and more than anything else has inspired me by practicing a devoted life of prayer; to my three children, Jesse, Hannah, and Benjamin, who have been patient with me through this extended process of being in school; to my parents, Dr. and Mrs. Ted Jennings, who have helped and supported me in so many ways through this project; to Maribeth's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Bob Danner, who both challenged me and offered practical help to ensure that I finished this thesis; to my church family, who not only allowed me the necessary time to work on this thesis, but encouraged me and prayed for me every step of the way; to the many others who have encouraged me, prayed for me, held me accountable. I want to thank each of you. May God receive this project and somehow use it to bring us to where we need to be!

Preparing the Church for Revival

Abstract

This work is a study of Christian renewal movements in an attempt to answer the question, "What can the church do to promote revival?" It is hoped that this study will contribute to the pool of knowledge that will help prepare our generation for revival.

From a study of Scripture and Church history, I have concluded that there are four things God is calling the church to do to prepare for revival:

- We must humble ourselves before God.
- We must increase our practice of prayer.
- We must earnestly seek the face of God.
- We must turn from our wicked ways.

Discovering what the church is called upon to do is only the first step. We must learn how to challenge and inspire the church to make the necessary sacrifices which these steps will require. This project is designed to measure these changes, which are assumed to contribute to the emergence of revival, as the students are exposed to some of the most dynamic spiritual revivals in history.

It is my thesis that an increased awareness of God's works of revival throughout church history will instill a dissatisfaction with the status quo, an increased expectation for the possibility of revival, and an urgent desire to seek and fulfill God's conditions for revival. If this is the case, the presentation of historical accounts of revivals could contribute to the emergence of a fresh revival in our generation.