

A *ChristNow.com* eBook

The Hope For A Christ Awakening in America... Anytime Soon.



“Christ Awakening” = *When God’s Spirit uses God’s Word to reintroduce God’s people to God’s Son for ALL He is.*



Introduction

Do you remember waking up this morning? Do you remember how enough things invaded your consciousness—maybe the alarm, maybe the sunshine, maybe the smell of fresh coffee—that it was impossible for you to roll over and go back to sleep? You had to get up, put on your clothes and get on with the day—right?

Similarly, a “Christ Awakening” takes place (whether for an individual, a congregation or a nation) when God’s Spirit uses God’s Word to reintroduce—to wake up—God’s people to God’s Son and the fullness of who he is in his supremacy *so that* we can’t go back to sleep on him any longer. We have to rise up, “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and get on with *his* great Day.

Paul describes it this way in Romans 13: “The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber...the day is almost here....clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ...”

This eBook explores the possibility that just such a movement of Christ Awakenings is at hand for the Church across our nation. It is a wake-up call to get ourselves ready.

The Appendix (taken from www.ChristNow.com) summarizes general facets of a Christ Awakening. Therefore, you may want to read it first.

Here’s where we’re headed through the short chapters of this eBook:

**(1) Christ Awakening Movements:
God’s Grand Promise That’s Always Pending**

**(2) Does the American Church Really *Need*
A Christ Awakening Anytime Soon?**

**(3) Can Christ Awakenings Happen Anytime *Soon*?
Here Are Seven Confidence Builders for You!**

(4) Getting Ready for the Coming Christ Awakenings

Appendix: What Is A Christ Awakening?

About the author, David Bryant

Known as a proclaimer of Christ and Messenger of Hope, David Bryant is the founder and president of Proclaim Hope!, a ministry whose goal is to serve a nationwide Christ Awakening. David is the author of five books, including *Christ Is ALL! Join in the Joyful Awakening to the Supremacy of God’s Son*.

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Chapter One

**Christ Awakening Movements:
God's Grand Promise That's Always Pending**



*As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will free your prisoners from the **waterless pit**.
Return to your fortress, you **prisoners of hope**;
even now I announce that
I will restore twice as much to you.
(Zechariah 9:11-12)*

Turbulence...straight ahead! Political, economic, racial, moral, domestic, environmental, presidential, theological, ideological, international.

Existential.

You name it. Directly or indirectly, these days as a nation America is full of turbulence.

At such a moment as this, some may wonder, "How can the possibility you raise in your title hold any practical relevance?"

Actually, no issue could be more relevant! Unhesitatingly and unequivocally, I can say that for many committed Christians the answer to the title comes down to one simple response.

Absolutely! There *is* hope for a Christ Awakening movement in America. In fact, it is impending.

In these four chapters I want to tell you why I have to raise this issue, why I'm so confident of the prospects, and what this could mean for all of us as we traverse the days just ahead of us.

The God Who Offers a Certain Kind of Hope

Let's be clear...from beginning to end, our God is a God of *hope*. "May the God of hope [that's his name!] fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Christ, *so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*" (Romans 15:13; emphasis added).

We might say it like this: **Our God holds lots of promises for us up his sleeves. And he has *big* sleeves!**

In both Testaments, however, God's promises focus primarily on one specific kind of hope. He offers his people the hope of *new beginnings*, including entire seasons of renewal, especially for those who feel as if they merely are surviving in "*waterless pits*" (to use Zechariah's vivid metaphor in the opening Scripture above).

To such helpless ones as these God promises restoration—in abundance. He intends to restore, the prophet says, "*twice as much*" of anything we may have forfeited.

Here's the Great "Good" in the Good News

That's because the promised "good" proclaimed in the truly *good* news about Christ flows not only from his incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection, but also from his *ascension*.

The moment he took his place as supreme Son on the throne of his Father's kingdom all the promises of God were inherited by the Son. Exclusively. Permanently.

In other words, the promises all point to Jesus, are embodied in him, and only can be fulfilled in him—preeminently for the purpose of exalting him.

But—and this is the source of such great joy for all of Jesus’ followers—because we fully belong to him, the Father pronounces a cosmic “Yes” over our lives and our churches regarding the most intimate as well as the most profound implications of every promise encompassed by our King (see 2 Corinthians 1:19-20).

They are his, but they have become ours, because we are his.

Read that sentence again.

Especially that vast array of God’s pledges regarding every facet of our reclamation in Christ –it is all ours in him!

Thus, forever he remains the God of the hope of replenishment. Of revitalization. Of renovation. Of resurrection! Of awakening!

But all of it is *in*—and *only* in—Christ Jesus.

A Promised Certainty in the Midst of Turbulences

Therefore, we can be absolutely certain that in such a time as this, the Holy Spirit desires nothing higher than to take believers where we have never gone before with our Savior. He wants to transform us, individually and collectively, into (again borrowing from Zechariah 9) “*prisoners of hope*”—that is, into people so captivated and compelled by our hope in Christ that we’re able to weather any turbulence ahead of us.

I’m talking about a hope of a work of God’s Spirit where he uses God’s word to reintroduce us to God’s Son for ALL he is—which includes ushering us into every promise *in* Jesus for which Jesus redeemed us.

I’m talking about the kind of hope we might crystallize with an increasingly popular term “*Christ Awakening*.”

The fact is, the premiere blessing received when *any* promise of God is fulfilled for us in Christ is the *reawakening* of God’s people to more of the fullness of God’s Son.

Consequently, we should be eager to enter each day defying the din of the world’s taunts and testing, anticipating instead a rousing, heaven-initiated reconnection and reengagement with the reign of our Lord—unleashed among believers at any time in any place.

In the same breath we should boldly proclaim to one another as believers the hope of this Christ Awakening, stirring up one another to prepare for it without reserve and with full resolve.

Because we *do* need to get ready for it...right now. Because this promise is real!

Listen. Carefully.

Do you not hear him? At this hour all through the body of Christ the Holy Spirit is amplifying for the Church one overarching prospect: “And the secret [of the Gospel message] is simply this: Christ in you! Yes, Christ is in you *bringing with him the hope of all glorious things to come.*” (Colossians 1:27, Phillips; emphasis added).

How should we respond to this reality? By seeking from our Father nothing *less* than a shaking and waking of the Church to the supremacy of the Son and to the grand purposes that lie before us in him?

The truth is, already such a spiritual revolution is *impending*. It is bearing down on top of us. Currently there is nothing that the Father deserves, desires, designs, or decrees more than *this*. In fact, he is not only able, not only willing but also ready to bring it to pass...soon.



Chapter Two

Does the American Church Really Need A Christ Awakening Anytime Soon?



After years of research comparing the purposes of God in Scripture with annals of Church history, the New England pastor and scholar Jonathan Edwards wrote in 1747 about what many of us today call a “Christ Awakening”:

God has had it much on His heart, from all eternity, to glorify His dear and only Son. Universal dominion is pledged to Christ. Even so, there are special seasons God appoints to that end, where **He comes forth with omnipotent power to fulfill this promise and oath to His Son. These seasons are times of remarkable outpourings of His Spirit. They prove the reality of Christ’s Kingdom to a skeptical world and serve to extend its bounds** [emphasis added].

As I’ve taught on this wonderful possibility across our nation for the past 25 years—describing the biblical hope for, significant impact from, and impending nature of any God-given, nationwide Christ Awakening in our own generation—I’ve found many people asking me:

- *How much does the American church really need such a Christ Awakening right now?*
- *And even if we do, in the light of so many pressing crises, what practical difference could such a phenomenon possibly make?*

The previous chapter discusses how the universal testimony of Scripture is that waking up his people to more of his glory in his Son dominates the revealed purposes of God the Father. As we found, he *wants* to give this good grace to the Church anytime, anywhere—including every individual follower of Jesus.

Now let's try to address some persistent follow-up questions about the extent of the current *need* for such a miracle.

What Does God See?

First, however, let's ask another question: *What do you think God sees when he looks at the American church today?*

Despite all the glitz and glamour, how much hollowness, barrenness, and spiritual exhaustion does he find inherent in our ways? Regardless of our published claims and flurry of commendable activities, when it comes to advancing the work of Christ's kingdom, how often do you think he finds our ministries ineffective, paralyzed, stymied? Though outwardly we seem to be prospering in the workings of "Church-ianity" would he not conclude that inwardly we are far too dull, too weak, too stagnant?

Remarking on evidence of the church's current spiritual depletion, world-renowned British evangelical leader Dr. John Stott sometimes expressed it this way (paraphrased): When the nighttime overwhelms us we don't blame the darkness; it's only being what darkness is. We blame the tragic dimness of the light. If the hamburger spoils we don't blame the patty; that's what happens to dead meat. The problem is with the potency of the salt that should have retarded its decomposition.

Stott concludes: "We should not ask, 'What is wrong with the world?' for that diagnosis has already been given. Rather, we should ask, 'What has happened to the salt and light?'"

To that point, when research tells us there's little difference between the lifestyle of Christians inside the church and that of our society as a whole, it's not hard to understand why our influence for Christ (our salt and light) is so negligible in the life of our nation.

The truth is that grievous manifestations of moral and spiritual disintegration rampant in the culture at large can be found all through our churches as well. Racism. Hypocrisy. Hero worship. Materialism. Busyness. Lack of social conscience. Road rage. Dysfunctional families. Addiction to pornography. Status quo mediocrity. Self-indulgent abundance.

These leave America (including our local communities) to fend for itself in the face of persistent fears of terrorism, stunting political gridlock, the drumbeat of ethical scandals, urban poverty and violence, unresolved economic and racial injustices, as well as confusion over our nation's proper role in a world also in turmoil.

Look What We've Done to Christ!

The sad part is that when these crises (inside and outside the church) are combined, they create for us a multitude of distractions that end up, for all intents and purposes, marginalizing the living Christ among us. Spiritually exhausted, most of us are unable to retain the kind of passion for him he deserves as Supreme Lord of All.

Unconsciously, many Christians settle for regarding him as little more than a divine *additive* available to embellish the schedules of our churches, enhance the reputation of our ministries, and possibly help America reclaim her divine mission in the world. **Sadly, he is treated more as our "mascot" than our monarch.**

As American evangelicals, can we read Revelation 2-3 and not wonder if our Lord may be speaking equally penetrating analyses of much of contemporary Christianity? I think you would agree, for example, that modern-day believers frequently "have forsaken [our] first love" (Revelation 2:4), leaving us with "a reputation of being alive, but behold [we] are dead" (Revelation 3:1).

In many churches, the counsel of Jesus two millennia ago to a lukewarm congregation in Asia Minor needs to be repeated over and over to believers in 2016: "I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear,

so you can cover your nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see” (Revelation 3:18).

Open Wide the Gates! Let the King of Glory Enter In!

If the American church became more intentional about gaining a better diagnosis of our true need, discovering how we too have become “wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:17), **surely we would run—no, we would race—to Christ.** Together we would fall before him begging the King of Glory to once again burst through the doors of our hearts and the doors of our congregations, manifesting himself among us in the fullness and power of his reign.

Thankfully, there is nothing the Father is more able, willing, and ready to do by the Spirit than to have his Son invade his followers afresh, conquer us anew, and retake us captive to himself and to all he embodies as Savior and Sovereign.

That’s what Jonathan Edwards concluded.

That’s also what Dr. Ebenezer Porter, president of Andover Theological Seminary on the East Coast, reported in 1830 to his student body. In a series of seven lectures, he shared firsthand observations of the essence of what happened in churches throughout the decades historians define as the “Second Great Awakening” in America, including:

When the Redeemer comes in the triumphs of His grace to visit His churches, then his true followers are seen **waking from their apathy, and going forth to welcome the King of Zion with an energy and earnestness and ardor of affection greatly surpassing their first love** [emphasis added].

Could another such radical “visitation” of our Redeemer come upon our people today?

Could another such “waking from apathy” into “ardor of affection” toward Christ unfold among us sometime soon? Even this year?

Why not?

Chapter Three

Can Christ Awakenings Happen Anytime Soon? Here Are Seven Confidence Builders for You!



During February's 50th anniversary Super Bowl, over half our nation eyeballed TV screens and mobile devices to watch the top two NFL teams strive to become football's world champions. Days prior to the kickoff, of course, various experts and sports commentators will argue facts to support their confidence about which team will prevail.

With greater fervor than I could ever muster for a football game, I want to show you what I believe is solid evidence that we could see God-given Christ Awakenings at any time in our nation's churches—*even this year!*

Already we have asserted that as God's people *we have no other hope* than for God to awaken us!

And we saw that Christians in America's churches *desperately need this reintroduction to Christ* that he is so ready and willing to give us.

Now let's present reasons why all of us should pray and prepare for impending Christ Awakenings in America *with an unwavering hope that we will not be disappointed.*

In other words, how can we know *for sure* such a grace is at hand?

Let's examine what I call "Seven Confidence Builders" designed to fill Christians everywhere with reassurance that such a spiritual breakthrough is at hand. I believe

these seven are irrefutable. See if they don't help to build *your* confidence about the possibilities.

The Seven Confidence Builders are:

The Decisive Person
The Divine Pattern
The Dark Prospects
The Disturbing Paralysis
The Dramatic Preparations
The Distinctive Praying
The Determined People

Let's examine each one briefly.

Confidence Builder # 1: The Decisive Person

God intends for his Son to be the focus of everything—at the end of history as well as every step along the way. He has no greater desire. In whatever he does, his ultimate purpose is to sum up all of heaven and earth under Jesus as Lord (Eph. 1:10). Every Christ Awakening—including the Final Revival (Rev. 21-22)—is meant to accelerate, intensify, and expand this process. In such seasons God dramatically intervenes to restore Christ's rightful role as Redeemer King among his people and to more fully advance his kingdom among the nations. ***The Father's passion should lead us to pray and prepare with confidence for Christ Awakenings to unfold right now.***

Confidence Builder # 2: The Divine Pattern

God is faithful and consistent in all of his ways. He has been pleased to grant times of significant renewal and revitalization to many generations of his people, from Genesis to the present. One day he will culminate all revivals in the Final Revival—the consummation of everything in Christ. Since historically he has granted innumerable Christ Awakenings, and since God is no respecter of persons, we can be assured that what he's done for others he will do for us. We need not doubt that he is able, willing, and ready to grant such a "re-set" right now. ***Therefore, with confidence we should pray and prepare for this without delay.***

Confidence Builder # 3: The Dark Prospects

God loves the world and longs to see his Son exalted among all of earth's peoples. But he knows the world is currently facing extraordinary crises and challenges beyond its own resources. In addition, humankind suffers under the dominion of both sin and dark spiritual powers. Therefore, deliverance for the nations—for America itself— rests, as always, on God's sovereign intervention among his people to reveal more of the glory of his reigning Son.

He intends to push back the darkness by releasing fresh solutions through believers made fully alive to the supremacy of Christ in a manner equal to and even surpassing the desperate needs (and opportunities) of our time. In fact, Christ Awakenings in the Church really are the only hope he currently holds out to a dying world. ***Therefore, because the fame and reign of Christ must prevail against all darkness, with confidence we may pray and prepare for new waves of victory right now.***

Confidence Builder # 4: The Disturbing Paralysis

God loves the Church and intends to bring glory to his Son among the nations primarily through his people. But he also sees that the desperate condition of the world is due, in large measure, to the Church's struggles with its own spiritual impotency, brokenness, dullness, division, and sin. Because of our calling in Christ he will not leave us indefinitely in this powerless state. Since he is committed to the welfare of Christ's body for the advancing of Christ's kingdom, he must deliver us.

Our paralysis is not the last word. He intends to awaken us to a much fuller revelation of the greatness of his Son because he knows such an outpouring of the Spirit is the only way into the needed restoration and liberation of his people. Like the dark prospects around us this other reality inside the Church should drive us toward renewed hope in Christ. ***That's why we can pray and prepare for Christ Awakenings today with solid expectations.***

Confidence Builder # 5: The Dramatic Preparations

The increased commitment of the contemporary Church to fulfill the Great Commission forms nothing less than a prelude to a fresh Christ Awakening movement just ahead. The great increase of new Christians in churches among the nations; the remarkable potential in resources, technologies and workers just waiting to be released; the comprehensive strategies for world evangelization developed by many streams of the Church; the growing collaboration among Christians on many fronts to complete the task—all this and more cries out for fulfillment through the kind of mobilization every Christ Awakening brings. Clearly God is setting the stage worldwide for new advances of Christ's kingdom. Since this is his work of preparation surely he will not fail to bring it to completion. ***Let's boldly seek him for Christ Awakenings among his people even as we rejoice in its certainty.***

Confidence Builder # 6: The Distinctive Praying

In unprecedented fashion, God is stirring up his people worldwide to pray unitedly, specifically, increasingly, and persistently for a Christ Awakening in every part of the body of Christ. He is doing so by giving believers all over the globe a common vision for the need for radical revival. There's a broad-based, biblical agreement on what a genuine Christ Awakening looks like. There's a growing conviction that such a move of the Holy Spirit is near as we commit to intercede for it together. Since God is stirring up the Church to pray with a distinctive Christ-exalting focus and consensus then surely he does not intend for us to pray in vain. These are requests he promises to satisfy fully. ***We should prepare for those answers without fear of disappointment, standing on tiptoe as we wait for him to act.***

Confidence Builder # 7: The Determined People

God is galvanizing a critical mass of people worldwide convinced that widespread Christ Awakening movements are the only hope for the Church, as well as for the nations, including America. Fearless in their confidence that there is so much more God wants to do in this generation for his Son, they are willing to pay any price to prepare the way for the Father to do it, beginning with repentance.

In addition, they are active in spreading to other believers the same compelling hope in Christ. With their numbers increasing, these “activists” seek to foster and serve Christ Awakenings with Christians and congregations wherever they go. Thus, they are a strong sign of the nearness of a Spirit-given reintroduction to God’s Son among God’s people. In fact, they form the very first phase of the awakenings that must come. ***So then, all of us should join them to get ready, because they are evidence that the “time is at hand”.***

So then, *do* we have any hope that America could experience a Christ Awakening movement anytime soon?

Look again at the extraordinary rationales we’ve just uncovered—then *you tell me!*



*Chapter Four***Getting Ready for
the Coming Christ Awakenings**

Today we find ourselves in another presidential election cycle. Are you excited yet?

As always, each candidate promises us just what every voter is desperate for—new beginnings.

Supposedly that will happen by replacing the current White House occupant with someone who can secure “change we believe in,” or help us “make America great again,” or assure us that (as FDR did in his slogan) “happy days are here again.”

But that’s plain politics. And we all know how much the “same old, same old” prevails in the end!

In contrast, the early church father Irenaeus concluded:

“Christ brought us every newness by bringing us *himself* [emphasis added].”

In other words, unlike professional politicians, Christ our King gives us a steady stream of life forever new—and then new again!

We can be sure *newness* always will stamp Christ Awakenings because by them—whether with individuals or entire congregations or a whole nation—God accelerates, intensifies, deepens, and extends in fresh and unexpected ways the *incomparable newness* Jesus secured for us by his cross and resurrection and ascension, and now by his ongoing reign.

Previously we discovered:

- why God-given awakenings to the supremacy of God’s Son are the *greatest hope* the Father holds out to his own at any time, including 2016;
- how the *current crises* in the church in America—above all, the crisis of a woefully deficient vision of the greatness of God’s Son—demands nothing less than Christ Awakenings nationwide without delay; and
- what are the *seven major reasons* we can pray and prepare for such a work of God’s Spirit without fear of disappointment.

With that background in this final chapter let’s ask: If such radical, transformative newness seems to be impending for the American church—if we’re reaching a tipping point—*how should we go about getting ourselves ready for what is coming?*

Because, like the virgins on watch in Jesus’ parable (Matthews 25), we should be actively getting ourselves ready to welcome radical reintroductions to our Redeemer Bridegroom—ready to follow him wholeheartedly wherever he intends to take us in future advances of his kingdom?

Preparation....here are several suggestions.

Assume Greater Expectations

Don’t count on current Holy Spirit-infused renewals to look exactly like previous awakenings witnessed by other generations (such as the First, Second, and Third Great Awakenings in American history). Our Father seeks to glorify his Son in and through his people above and beyond what they’ve yet known or where they’ve gone previously.

Always with Christ there is more than before!

Move Past Superficiality

We must avoid the temptation to seek *revival experiences* rather than to seek the *reviver himself*, Jesus. The heart of any true awakening is the manifest presence and power of a *person*, God's Son. Instead of being predominantly testimonial-fed or experience-driven, genuine awakening movements should primarily identify as Scripture-fed and Jesus-driven. The bottom line: **To go deep, keep the focus on Christ for who he truly is as the beginning and end of every spiritual renewal.**

Avoid Nationalistic Motivations

Sometimes Christ Awakening movements are pursued as a last-ditch effort to salvage a whole nation, when, in fact, they comprise a work of God promised primarily to and for the Church. Only secondarily do they hold potential for healing a surrounding community or culture.

Our desire must be for God to get the greatest glory possible through the awakening of his people in whole new ways to the wonders of his Son even if the nation at large rejects this gracious work and undergoes consequent, sobering, divine reckonings—as happened with Jerusalem in AD 70 despite a Christ-focused, Spirit-empowered church in its midst.

Welcome Diverse Manifestations

Surprisingly, sometimes spiritual breakthroughs inadvertently *divide* Christians from one another because we're unable to accept the diverse ways they get displayed. Outward demonstrations of an inward reviving work of the Spirit often get shaped by *prior conditions* within the community undergoing it, such as: pre-existing human survival needs; ethnic and cultural contexts; ecclesiastical traditions; the age or temperament of those being awakened, their previous spiritual experiences, their historic theological grids, or the extent of their current spiritual malaise.

Even though there are common themes in every God-given revival—including the exaltation of his Son, sincere confession of sin, quickening of the truth of Scripture, increased love and unity of the brethren, and expanded outreach to the lost—**still a diversity in how all of this gets manifested must be expected and not resisted.**

Encourage Repentance as a Lifestyle

In every revival, repentance must become a way of life. Everything in us and in our congregations that grieves, quenches, resists, or disobeys the Holy Spirit—every sin, activity, or relationship that is incompatible with Christ himself who is the focus of the awakening—should be confessed to the Father and put away, daily if necessary. This is how we keep on drawing near to God, even as he keeps on drawing near to us. And he draws us to himself in order to give to individual Christians and whole congregations fresh installments of our riches in Jesus through splendid reawakenings to him as our King.

Press On in Joyful Prayer

Accounts of biblical and historical revivals reveal that often when God is ready to reawaken his people to the glories of his Son he stirs them to pray passionately—whether together in small and large groups, or each prayer warrior in his or her own “prayer closet.” Today we rejoice in the unprecedented concerted prayer movement for Christ Awakenings that God has ignited in churches and communities across our nation and the globe. **We should do everything possible to strengthen this initiative inside our own congregations and in our own lives.** Press on! The answers to our prayers are not far behind! These are the kinds of prayer the Father longs to fulfill.

Proclaim the Hope Before Us

Since “faith comes by hearing the message of Christ” (Rom. 10), spiritual revolutions must be Word-anchored revolutions. Therefore, as “messengers of hope” Christians should minister to each other by reinforcing among ourselves the hundreds of biblical promises God has given us for personal and corporate renewal. In addition, we should spread reports of what God has done in the past and is doing today in Christ Awakenings all around the world—to help God’s people deeply yearn for and excitedly anticipate the potential *magnitude* of such a blessing in their own generation and in their own lives.

Test the Legitimacy of the Claims

Four key dimensions of the newness in Christ the Spirit creates among us can help us test the legitimacy of anything claiming to be a Christ Awakening (whether for one person or one thousand):

Existential

Does it exalt Christ in deeply *personal* ways, revealing him more directly and clearly as the one who has the supremacy in everything, especially for believers? Does God's Spirit unleash among God's people deeper levels of care for one another and ministries to one another that spring specifically from our shared, growing affection for and intimacy with the person of God's Son on his throne? In other words, do we love each other more for who we are because now we love Jesus more for who he is?

Ethical

Does it reproduce evidences of *Christlikeness* in individual disciples and in congregational life? Are godly compulsions compelling Jesus followers to apply his principles of righteousness to the social, moral, and spiritual ills that plague our generation, and to work for his kingdom priorities with believers and unbelievers alike? In other words, are we so alive to the supreme Justifier and Reconciler and Peacemaker himself that we gladly serve him by working for his kind of justice and reconciliation and healing in the world around us?

Ecclesiastical

Does it sharpen and empower the shared life of local congregations in such things as worship, teaching the Word, prayer, spiritual gifts, love for one another, and outreach with the Gospel? Does it encourage unity among Christians from various streams of the Church so that they labor *together* to magnify Christ in new ways?

Eschatological

Does it encourage a passion for the Final Revival? That is, does it increase our eagerness for the consummation of all things under Jesus as Lord? Does it reinvigorate Christians to serve Christ with agenda in keeping with that Great Day, as we extend his kingship through social reforms, compassion toward the poor, the pursuit of justice, reconciliation, and community transformation, and as we accelerate our outreach to earth's unreached peoples?

Final Thoughts

Let me conclude with these final thoughts:

This document provides all of us a working document to continue the conversation about the promise of Christ Awakenings in this critical hour.

In fact, you might say it forms a “poor man’s version” of Luther’s 95 Theses, nailed as it were to the wall of the Internet because it calls for a new kind of *reformation* in terms of how we see and seek and serve God’s Son in the full extent of his supremacy.

This document highlights what theologians more formally might term a “consequential Christology”—a vision of Christ so comprehensive that it necessarily impacts and reforms every aspect of the Christian life.

So, here is my appeal to serious-minded Christians everywhere who long for such a gracious move of God as this: It’s time for us...

to wake up to more of Christ,
to rise up with fresh hope in him,
to reach up in prayer for this God-given reformation,
to speak up to foster Christ Awakenings wherever we live.

That means it’s also time for us to ***link up***—to rally fellow believers to join an army captivated by Jesus and ready to serve him in realizing the hope for a nationwide Christ Awakening movement—*nothing less!*

Do you remember when I said that pervasive newness is the heart and soul of all Christ Awakenings? Well, now you know how convinced I am that such an unparalleled, incomparable, unsurpassable newness awaits us—a newness in our vision of the greatness of Christ and a newness in our life under the lordship of Christ—the holy and happy reformation that our Father desires to bring to the Church in America in 2016 and beyond.

It’s the newness Christ *alone* embodies; the newness his reign *alone* can bring; the newness that makes him *alone* our destiny.

What more could we want?

Are you longing for that kind of newness for yourself in your own walk with Jesus?

Then I invite you to join me on a free, 55-session email-with-video journey as I share with you the riches of Christ explored in *The Christ Institutes*, a video series available as one of our many resources, which are all designed for the very purpose of preparing our hearts to be awakened to ALL that Jesus is!

Begin your journey today at www.ChristNow.com.



Appendix
(taken from www.ChristNow.com)

What is a “Christ Awakening?”

“You have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. **Wake up!**” (Christ in Revelation 3)

“**Wake up**, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” (Ephesians 5)

“The hour has already come for you to **wake up** from your slumber [and] clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 13)

In the New Testament and throughout church history, there always have been times when God’s people needed to be brought back to a fresh vision of the greatness and glory of God’s Son. Whether with few or many, for a season or a generation, at the start or multiple times throughout our life in Christ, this deeply transforming work of grace has been described by various terms: “renewal”, “restoration”, “reformation” and “revival”. Today the term “Christ Awakening” is increasingly popular as a way to talk about and pray about such a powerful and vital work of the Holy Spirit.

What’s a good definition for a “Christ Awakening?”

The 17th century Puritans called this spiritual revolution “*the **manifest presence of Christ***”. To illustrate: actors are “manifested” on a stage only when the curtain is pulled back. They are in the theater all along but hidden; until suddenly they’re revealed behind the curtain. In the same way, although by the Holy Spirit our Lord Jesus always is present and working among His people, in a “Christ Awakening” He pulls back the curtain, as it were, to reveal (to individuals as well as to congregations) much more of His fullness, His sovereignty, His majesty and His activity.

In other words, He becomes *manifested* – more evident, more real, more wonderful. In turn, Christians focus on Him more than ever – they trust Him and love Him more; then serve and share Him more than ever.

Here’s one definition that many today find helpful: “A *Christ Awakening is when God’s Spirit uses God’s Word to **reintroduce** God’s people to God’s Son for ALL He is.*” Putting it in simpler terms: “A *Christ Awakening is when a person or a church becomes **fully alive** to the full extent of the supremacy of Christ.*”

Why is a “Christ Awakening” necessary?

So many things can *diminish* our vision of God’s Son. We get distracted from Him by daily living; hardened toward Him by un-confessed sin; confused about Him by Satan’s deceptions; blinded to Him by trying to use Him for our own ends. Ultimately, we find ourselves in this “crisis about Christ” when we fail to give Him preeminence in all things – fail to seek Him and savor Him and speak of Him for *all* He is as our Redeemer King.

Have “Christ Awakenings” happened before?

Yes. There are multiple examples in the Gospels: Simeon and Anna at Jesus’ birth. Jesus’ neighbors when He preached in Nazareth’s synagogue in Luke 4. The disciples at the Transfiguration. The multitudes at His triumphal entry. For 500 at one time after the resurrection (I Cor. 15). The city awakenings sited in the book of Acts. Finally, the seven churches of Revelation.

We see them in church history, too: After great church councils. With missionary thrusts like Patrick’s. During the Reformation. In America’s four great awakenings. In the current global prayer movement for revival and mission. Above all, in countless individuals who have experienced the full force of 2 Cor. 4:6 (“*For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.*”)

How can I experience a “Christ Awakening?”

It is a gift of love to you from the Father for the sake of His Son. More than you can imagine *God’s Spirit wants to take God’s Word to reintroduce YOU to God’s Son for ALL He is.* So ask Him for it. As you do, continue to fill your mind and heart with as much truth about the vastness, wonders and reign of Christ as you can. Allow the Holy Spirit to take you into more and more of Jesus’ fullness. Where possible pursue Him together with others.

This is why www.ChristNow.com exists. We’re here to help you see the glory of Christ better. **Try this next:** View the 19-minute teaching video on “[How might we define a Christ Awakening?](#)” It is taken from [The Christ Institutes Video Series](#). It is one of the videos in Session I of the 55-session “[Journey into a Christ Awakening.](#)”