



GOOD NEWS

(#26b) – Taking a short break ... about Spiritual Revivals occurring in the world

A comparison of revivals occurring in some areas of the world... to what's happening here (= the opposite).

BACKGROUND...

Every year or so, it seems, I hear people make the claim that "major revival" is "about to occur" in our nation... but it never seems to happen. Instead, deadness and apostasy seem to increase... with no end in sight.

Yet, at the same time, I do hear of revivals that actually are occurring... but they always seem to occur in other parts of the world. Perhaps we should be asking "Why?"

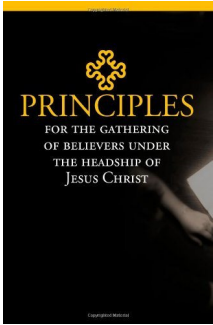
In this MM, I make reference to a specific book ("Principles for the Gathering of Believers under the Headship of Jesus Christ") that was written about this issue. Doing so makes a convenient starting point for the various things I mention. However, similar information can probably be found in many places on the internet.

If someone desires, the book is available at several locations on the internet.

- Print versions are available from various sources at cost (or close to it).
- There are also electronic document (PDF, epub) and audio versions available for free.

A LETTER

From Christians around the WORLD...



To US.



GREAT SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS ARE OCCURRING in other countries – such as China, North Korea, Iran, etc.

But not here.

WHY?

In our country...

We are often told it's a virtue to be "silent" in our "witness" about Jesus.

"I am not praying only on their behalf, but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their silence, ..." **SILENCE**
John 17:20 (NET)

In those other countries...

They consider silence to be a sin.

WHICH DID JESUS SAY?

"I am not praying only on their behalf, but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their testimony, ..." **TESTIMONY**
John 17:20 (NET)

WHY?

In our country...

We are often told there is no need for anyone to know that we are following Jesus.

In those other countries...

They consider it to be a life or death matter.

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, **and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith** and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 (NIV2011)

And how are they to believe in one they have not heard of?

Romans 10:14b (NET)

WHY?

In our country...

People are afraid to speak up about Jesus, out of fear that people will respond with disfavor.

In those other countries...

They are afraid to be silent about Jesus, out of fear that more people will perish without him.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

John 3:16, 18 (ESV)

WHY?

In our country...

When a person makes a "decision," he is considered "saved."

In those other countries...

"Following Jesus" means daily learning how to follow, and daily communication with the One being followed.

Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:29 (NLT)

If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine.

Matthew 10:38 (NLT)

WHY?

In our country...

We are told to be careful, so we don't offend the unsaved. Offense is unnecessary!

In those other countries...

They expect the unsaved to often take offense – unless God intervenes in the situation.

And everyone will hate you because of your allegiance to me.

Luke 21:17 (NLT)

... don't be surprised if the world hates you.

1 John 3:13b (GW)

WHY?

In our country...

We want to be liked by the world... and to be so much like the world, that it sees no reason to hate us.

In those other countries...

They expect to be hated by the world – and are often persecuted, and sometimes killed.

If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you.

John 15:19 (CSB)

WHY?

In our country...

Only 3% to 5% of people claiming to be "Christians" tell others about Jesus.

In those other countries...

Telling others about Jesus is part of what it means to "follow Jesus."

You are salt for the earth. But if salt loses its taste, how will it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled on by people.

Matthew 5:13 (GW)

WHY?

In our country...
By their words, people claim to love Jesus.

In those other countries...
By their words AND lives, people prove that they love Jesus.

But they overcame [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.
Rev. 12:11 (NET)

We know that we have crossed over from death to life because we love our fellow Christians. The one who does not love remains in death.
1 John 3:14 (NET)

WHY?

In our country...
It's the church's job to teach children about God and the Bible.

In those other countries...
It's the parent's job to teach children about God and the Bible.

Teach [God's commands] to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
Deut. 11:19 (NIV)

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.
Ephes. 6:4 (NIV)

WHY?

In our country...
People in the church tend to have inflated opinions about their importance.

In those other countries...
They know they are nothing; so they are utterly dependent on Jesus.

Our dedication to Christ makes us look like fools, but **you** are so wise! **We** are weak, but **you** are so powerful! **You** are well thought of, but **we** are laughed at. ...**we** are treated like the world's garbage, like everybody's trash—right up to the present moment.
1 Cor. 4:10, 13b (NLT)

WHY?

In our country...
People place a high emphasis on their church building and its importance.

In those other countries...
All they need is 2 or 3 people gathered together for the purpose of praying and learning God's Word. (Buildings may be nice, but are optional.)

"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst."
Matthew 18:20 (NASB)

WHY?

In our country...
A "healthy" church is seen by its various programs and activities.

In those other countries...
A "healthy" church is seen by its dependence on God, and obedience to God.

"I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can shut. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me."
Rev. 3:8 (NLT)

WHY?

In our country...
Pursuit of godliness is considered a nice objective... when you have the time to do it.

In those other countries...
Pursuit of godliness is the way we show our love for God and our appreciation for all he has done in our lives.

... we are God's children now, ... when [Jesus] appears, we will be like him ...
And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself just as he is pure.
1Jn 3:2a, c; 3:3 (CSB)

WHY?

In our country...
 People don't seem to give much significance to those Scripture passages that condemn the way we live.

In those other countries...
 They believe those passages need to be given serious attention... and followed.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
 James 1:22 (NIV)

Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'
 Matthew 7:23 (NIV)

WHY?

In our country...
 Deliberate sin in the church is tolerated or overlooked.

In those other countries...
 Deliberate sin is to be confronted. Those who refuse to repent should be asked to leave.

If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. ... if he will not listen, take one or two others along, ... If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.
 Matthew 18:15a, 16a, 17 (NIV)

Remove the evil person from among you.
 1 Cor. 5:13b (NET)

WHY?

In our country...
 People in the church always seem to have a "good excuse" for not doing what the Bible says.

In those other countries...
 Excuses are sin – and not an option.

"So why do you call me 'Lord,' when you won't obey me?"
 Luke 6:46 (NLT)

For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.
 Romans 2:13 (NIV)

WHY?

In our country...
 "If Jesus loves us, he will remove us from our trials."

In those other countries...
 "Trials are inevitable. If Jesus loves us, he will lead us through our trials."

Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?
 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
 Romans 8:35, 37 (CSB)

WHY?

In our country...
 Jesus' soon coming does not really influence our daily life choices.

In those other countries...
 Jesus' soon coming is the determining factor in daily life's choices.

"Yes, I am coming soon!"
 Rev. 22:20b (NLT)

So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.
 1 Thes. 5:6 (NIV)

... making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.
 Ephes. 5:16 (NIV)

GREAT SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS ARE OCCURRING
 in other countries – such as China, North Korea, Iran, etc.

WHY?

But not here.

Credits (1)

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- Book – picture can be found where the book is available on the internet (example: <https://www.gettextbooks.com/item/9781489557315>) Principles for the Gathering of Believers Under the Headship of Jesus Christ (1st Edition) by Gospel Fellowships Paperback, 412 Pages, Published 2013
- Presentation – Dennis Hirks © 2020.