

Faith in America – Part 2

Jude 17-25 • July 10, 2022

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A. INTRODUCTION

Finding God's response to the things that divide us

- The First Great Awakening: 1730 - 1740
 - The Second Great Awakening: 1800 - 1840
 - The Third Great Awakening: 1850 - 1900
 - The Fourth Great Awakening: 1950 -1970
- (Find a Sunday seminar video series on SCC Downloads page)

B. THE THIRD GREAT AWAKENING – country & church divided

Cultural issues

- Financial panic of 1857
- Darwin's "Origin of Species" in 1859
- Civil War from 1861-65
- Urban & industrial expansion
- Marxism was introduced

Key people: Dwight Moody and Billy Sunday

Impact

- Fundamentalist and Modernist camps
- The rise of the Pentecostals
- Church growth – 58% attended by 1927

World Wars & Depression caused people to depend on God

C. THE FOURTH GREAT AWAKENING – Billy Graham (1950's)

Cultural issues

- Societal upheaval in 60's and 70's
- Civil rights – Martin Luther King Jr.

Impact

- Holy Spirit interest grew in all denominations
- The "Jesus People" movement
- Campus ministry and missions expansion

From 1970-1990, 7% were religiously unaffiliated. Today: 25% (Among Gen Z young adults, 45% are in this category)

"Overwhelmingly, they think that religious organizations are too concerned with money and power, too focused on rules and too involved in politics." — Pew Research Center - None's on the Rise

Over 70% of these believe in God, think the church is good for strengthening community bonds and helping the needy. But only half think the church "protects and strengthens morality".

D. A REASON FOR DIVISION FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

My dear friends, must remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ predicted. They told you that in the last times there would be scoffers whose purpose in life is to satisfy their ungodly desires. These people are the ones who are creating divisions among you. They follow their natural instincts because they do not have God's Spirit in them.

— Jude 17-19

- **What can we do in this ongoing dilemma?**

But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love.

— Jude 20-21

- **Our response is to be caring and relational**

And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering. Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives.

— Jude 22-23

- **The task at hand is God's work!**

Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from stumbling and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault. All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.

— Jude 24-25