

Life Lessons

“Will Ask a Dangerous Question?”

Much of the spiritual foundation of our country was formed during a time of divine visitation and dynamic revival that swept America from 1725 to 1760. This time of revival set the values that that gave birth to our nation. The Revolutionary War, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution were shaped by **THE GREAT AWAKENING!**

No person was more greatly used of God to stimulate this Great Awakening than Jonathan Edwards. On July 8, 1741 at Enfield, Connecticut Edwards preached his famous sermon *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God* drawing his message from Dt. 32:35, *“Their foot shall slide in due time.”* Edwards was always quiet in his delivery. He read his entire manuscript and seldom looked up at the people. He did not pound the pulpit or shout. He simply opened the scripture and warned the lost to flee from God’s wrath on sin and to fall into the loving arms of God. So powerful was the moving of the Spirit and so great was the conviction that many cried out in fear, some fell out of the pews clinging to anything within their grasp to keep from falling into judgment. Edwards had to stop the message in order to allow the people to regain composure so that he could continue. When the message was over many stayed rejoicing in the grace of God.

Now, the dangerous question...

QUESTION: What was it about Edwards that God used to spawn the Great Awakening?

ANSWER: Edwards always aimed first at moving the heart before instructing the mind. He wrote, *“True religion, in great part, consists in holy affections.”* Remember, he was not speaking of shallow emotionalism but rather a true stirring of the heart to prepare people to receive the truth of God.

We cannot and will not penetrate people’s minds until we touch people’s hearts. Are you aiming at the heart? Are you praying over every lesson, song, witness, and ministry event saying, *“LORD, equip show me their hearts? LORD, capture my heart. LORD, touch their hearts through me.”*

George Whitefield, wrote, *“I am greatly persuaded that the generality of preachers talk of an unknown, unfelt Christ. The reason why congregations are so dead is because dead men preach to them.”* **May the Lord deliver us from dead preachers and dead witnesses!**