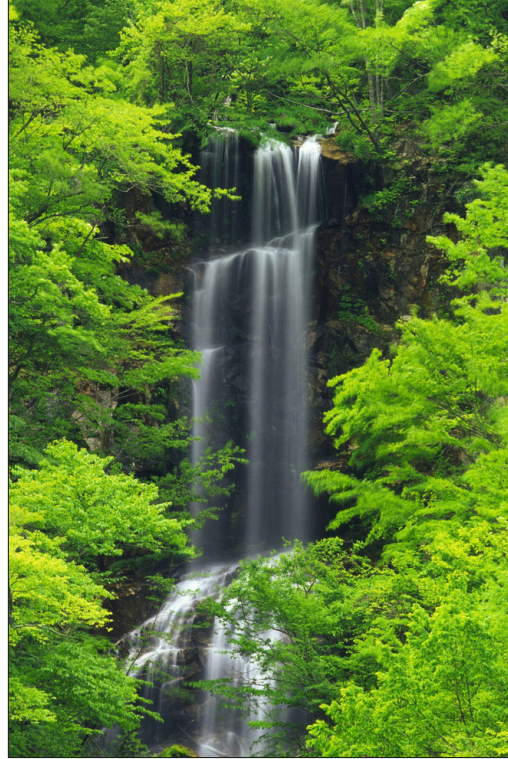




PRAYER 4 AWAKENING

The Result of Awakening in Churches: Transformation of Lives



"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."
- JESUS, JOHN 7:38

In his book, *Revovation of the Heart*, Dallas Willard states "The process of spiritual formation in Christlikeness is a process through which all the dimensions of our life are transformed as they increasingly take on the character of our Teacher. That process is the natural condition of the disciple of Jesus, and the natural outcome is that we will increasingly do what he says."

Red Stedman is quoted, "God's first concern is not what the church does, it is what the church is. Being must always precede doing, for what we do will be according to what we are. To understand the moral character of God's people is a primary essential in understanding the nature of the church. As Christians we are to be a moral example to the world, reflecting the character of Jesus Christ." (Willard)

When the church experiences awakening by the Spirit of God, we will be like Jesus Christ. We will be transformed.

"The presence of God in the midst is the only sure mark of the true ecclesia." And what would our congregation look like if this were true? "...a place where divine life and power is manifestly present to glorify God and meet the needs of repentant human beings. This would imply an atmosphere of honesty, openness, indiscriminate acceptance of all, supernatural caring, with utter admiration for and confidence in Jesus." (Willard) And that would be transformation!

Scripture tells us we are not alone. Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

PRAYER

Spirit of promise, Spirit of unity,

We thank thee that you are also the Spirit of renewal. Renew in the whole church, we pray, the passionate desire for the coming of thy kingdom which will unite all Christians in one mission to the world. May we all grow up (be transformed) together into Him, who is our head, the Saviour of the world, and our only Lord and master.

Adaptation, Olive Wyon, 1881-1966, *Oxford Book of Prayer*

Practice:

- Write a note of encouragement to someone in whom you have seen transformation by the Spirit.
- Take a prayer walk through your church focusing on the transforming power of Christ.
- Thank God for someone in the great cloud of witnesses that helped transform you.
- Clean out a closet or clean off your desk...see the power of ordinary transformation... and be glad.

