

For ten days a group of Jesus' followers gathered together with expectation. Jesus had given them a promise, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8). On the day of Pentecost, God poured out His Holy Spirit and the Christian Church was born.

In August of 1727, a group of Christians who fled Moravia for Germany because of persecution found asylum on the estate of Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf of Saxony. Doctrinal differences among this group of refugees caused Zinzendorf to call this group to pray. Setting aside their religious bickering during those prayer meetings brought a sense of expectation. After a few weeks, at a communion service, the Holy Spirit came and a continuous prayer meeting lasted for 100 years birthing a missionary movement that eventually had an impact on two brothers, John and Charles Wesley.

In December of 1734, Jonathan Edwards, at his church in Northampton, Massachusetts, calls people to start praying after about five people gave their lives to Christ on a Sunday morning. This call to prayer sparked an expectation among the people. Six months later, 300,000 people give their lives to Christ causing a Great Awakening to occur that lasted from 1734–1760.

On January 1, 1739, John Wesley, along with his brother Charles, George Whitfield, and some of his Moravian friends gathered for prayer, praise, worship with a spirit of expectation. Leaving that prayer meeting, John Wesley and George Whitfield start "field preaching" to crowds of 15,000 or more people and the Wesleyan revival is born.

In 1800, a Presbyterian minister named Barton Stone, witnessed the work of the Spirit at a small outdoor gathering in Logan County, Kentucky. After praying for a year, in 1801, another outdoor meeting was held at Cain Ridge in Bourbon County, KY. There were high expectations for that meeting. The Methodists and Baptists get involved and the Cain Ridge Camp Meeting begins to draw crowds of 25,000 people.

An attorney named Charles Finney comes to Christ and is filled with the Holy Spirit. His experience of God filled him with expectation and he set out talking about his experience which sparked expectation in others. Revival breaks out in 1,500 towns in the Northeast.

A Methodist women's prayer meeting led by Phoebe Palmer, and a noon prayer meeting of businessmen in New York City in the 1850's created an expectation among the people of the Northeast and even Canada. Prayer meetings begin to break out all over, some having as many as 6,000 in attendance. In New York City alone, 50,000 come to Christ because of the noon prayer meetings.

In 1904 in Wales, Evan Roberts prays for and receives the Holy Spirit's fullness which sparked an intense compassion for the unbeliever's of Wales. At a meeting in his home on October 1, 1904, the Spirit comes in power on that small gathering and an expectation is birthed. They leave that meeting and start holding other meetings with that same expectation. Wales had a population of one million at the time and it is estimated that 250,000 gave their lives to Christ in Wales between 1904–1906.

In February of 1970 in a chapel service at Asbury College in Wilmore, KY, a group of college students who had been praying and meeting together in what they called "The John Wesley Great Experiment" began to share what God was doing in their lives and an expectation came upon the student body. That chapel service lasted 185 hours. Classes were cancelled, the news media began to report on it, and by the summer, 130 colleges and seminaries were touched by the Asbury revival.

In June and July of 2017 at Maples Memorial United Methodist Church, in Olive Branch, MS, a group of people gather on Wednesday nights to pray with expectation for God to move and bring renewal and revival that would not only impact our church, but the entire area as well as our denomination. Beginning on July 23, 2017 at Maples Memorial United Methodist Church the Holy Spirit came and... What are your expectations? What are you praying for? Remember, with God, all things are possible.

Because of Him, Pastor Hal