

The so called Second Great Awakening began around 1790 and grew rapidly. By 1820 all churches had grown tremendously.

It began in Boston in 1792. This was because the Baptists started an ever-growing prayer initiative. It began with just one day a month. These prayer meetings grew at a steady rate. Often entire congregations were converted. In the New England states all were affected in every type of church.

During the Second Great Awakening church membership rose sharply and the preachers came from all levels of education and different races. Many new denominations were formed.

There was widespread expectation that the second coming of Christ was very near.

The great revival quickly spread to Ohio. By 1800 the awakening was as far as Kentucky. It then crossed the mountains among uneducated people on the frontier. There was trembling and shaking, weeping and shouting. The revival totally changed Kentucky and Tennessee.

At Cane Ridge, Kentucky in 1801 as many as 20,000 people participated. This was considered the frontier at that time. The growth in old churches and the creation of new churches stressed salvation as a personal relationship with Christ and not church membership.

It moved into Virginia and North Carolina and South Carolina, and into Georgia. There were large crowds and their buildings were too small. They met in fields in groups of thousands. Many observers were converted in large numbers and joined the churches.

The colleges were revived. As Christianity grew, the students became missionaries and expanded the educational ministry. The Second Great Awakening was partially responsible politically for the Two Party System. All forms of democracy were encouraged.

We can only conclude from history that no matter how weak Christianity may become as the generations pass, God will move to restore the next generation. And with the restoration comes a deep personal faith which is not dependent on the institutional organization often referred to as the Church. The life is not in the institution, although it is often bolstered by an awakening. The life is in the hearts of the people as the Spirit of Christ moves among them and upon them.

The strength of Christianity always returns but perhaps not in the form that we expect. The U.S.A. is not the Kingdom of God. However, America's next great faith is a strong, revitalized, victorious Christianity.