

PaLM NJ

March 22, 2013 (Jireh)

Discussion on Center Church, Gospel Renewal

Definition: *Renewal is the intensification of the normal operations of the Spirit (conviction of sin, regeneration and sanctification, assurance of grace) through the ordinary means of grace (preaching the Word, prayer, and the sacraments) (p.54).*

1. Discuss the cultural factors which led to the revivals of the 1700s. What were the charges against the revivalists? What are cultural factors today and their influence on the ministry of the Church?
2. Discuss Keller's assertion on p.57 that "our truth-allergic, experience-addicted populace wants transformation but doesn't want the loss of freedom and control associated with submitting to authority within a committed community."
3. Have you experienced spiritual renewal in a corporate setting? How can you bring more of a gospel renewal focus to your existing ministry?
4. How are *irreligion* and *religion* ultimately the same thing (idolatry)?
5. What are some underlying idols today?
6. What is the temptation behind moralistic and legalistic preaching and ministry methods?
7. Choose one area of life change (generosity, husbands honoring wives, and self-control, or any other), and take notes on how you would bring the gospel to bear on the motivation of someone in your congregation.
8. How has *earnest* prayer impacted your church's renewal?
9. Have you implemented what Keller calls "conversations" in gospel renewal? If so, how did your church begin the practice, and how has it fared?
10. Why does Keller argue that we should preach to both Christians and non-Christians at once?