

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE

Times of Refreshing

SERIES

Come Alive in 2025

DATE

1/26/2025

KEY SCRIPTURE

Acts 3:19

SYNOPSIS

Times of refreshing can come from the Lord if we do our part.

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ Times of Refreshing

We've been talking about Coming Alive in 2025. God has authority and ability to take even what seems to be dead and dried up and make it alive again. He can breathe new life into you and your situation. He can create a new heart in you, bringing renewal and restoration. God can suddenly bring revival to us where bondages are broken, prodigals come back home, and there's an overwhelming sense of the presence of the Lord. Revival is a sovereign act of God, but we can prepare the way for his visitation.

☞ Acts 3:19

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

There is a lot of good material in this one simple verse. Most believers long for times of refreshing. Well, here is clear guidance on how to get those refreshed.

☞ **REPENT** = **change your way of thinking** (the #1 message of Jesus and the disciples; always in relation to sin; our natural tendency is to love sinning, but that needs to change)

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 13:14

clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

☞ Stop your Stinkin' Thinkin'

Stinkin' thinkin' is opposite of what God thinks. At its heart, stinkin' thinkin' is selfish. It's all about me! Things like this...

- What do I get out of this?
- How can I get ahead and rise to the top?
- *I* don't like the way so and so does such and such.
- *You* give me something and then maybe I'll help you out.
- Gotta look out for number one!

Now, as Christians, we usually know that we shouldn't be thinking like this. Here are some more signs to indicate that you might have stinkin' thinkin'. According to 1 Corinthians 3, jealousy and quarreling are indicators of stinkin' thinkin' along with division and taking sides. According to Romans 1, an ungrateful attitude and a lukewarm heart for God reveal stinkin' thinkin'. Ephesians



4 talks about anger, bitterness, unforgiveness and lying. 2 Peter 3 talks about scoffers and those who are overly skeptical. These are all signs of stinkin' thinkin'. A huge part of repentance is to change your thinking to agree with God. And, there's more...

You say: "It's impossible"

God says: All things are possible (Luke 18:27)

You say: "I can't go on"

God says: My grace is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

You say: "I feel all alone"

God says: I will never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)

You say: "It's not worth it"

God says: It will be worth it (Roman 8:2)

We need to align our thinking with God. Repent; change!

Ephesians 4:23

be made new in the attitude of your minds

☞ It's the attitude that determines the altitude. (airplanes have **Attitude Indicators**)

Philippians 2:5 NLT

☞ **You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had...** (humility; obedience)

Repent; change your way of thinking; stop sinning; choose an attitude that is like Christ.

☞ **RETURN** ...and turn to God

2 Chronicles 7:14

if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Sometimes when we've been caught up in sin, we feel ashamed and turn away from God, thinking he is angry with us. But we need to repent, change our way of thinking, and turn toward God. Remember the Prodigal Son! Remember the Prodigal's Father! Turn back to God.

☞ **Revelation 2:4-5**



You have forsaken your first love. 5 Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and **do the things you did at first.**

Psalms 42:1-4 talks about remembering how things used to be... looking forward to meeting with God; joining the crowd to worship with shouts of joy and thanksgiving. Return to God; do the **☞ things you did at first. Read your Bible; pray; be faithful to church; worship; look for God in daily life.**

To Come Alive in 2025 and experience Times of Refreshing, repent and return to God. When you repent and return to God, then, you will...

☞ BE RESTORED *...so that your sins may be wiped out*

Sin is a barrier between us and God. Isaiah 59:2 says, "your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you." God wants to remove that barrier even more than we do. Isaiah 43:25 says, "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more." This is an act of God that happens when we change our thinking and turn toward him. He forgives and restores.

☞ 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Once restored, there is refreshing...

☞ BE REFRESHED *...that times of refreshing may come from (presence of) the Lord,*

Refreshing = relief; recovery; rest; revival. Some people listening today need relief; others need rest. I believe we all need revival.

True refreshing comes from God, not people, places or possessions. Refreshing renewal comes by **☞ simply being in the presence of God.** Psalms 21:6 says there is joy in his presence. There's power in his presence. In him all things are made new.

☞ So, this entire subject of renewal boils down to coming back to God! We need to repent and change our thinking so that we aren't afraid to return to God. We need to do the things we did when we first fell in love with Jesus. When we do this there will be restoration with the barrier of sin broken; and there will be times of refreshing. Do this and Come Alive in 2025.



Are you getting tired of the extreme cold this winter? It may seem like the church has been in a Winter season spiritually, but Spring is coming! We can be refreshed by the Lord when He pours out his Spirit and brings new life. As always, the Lord wants to partner with us in this...

*☞ When we repent and change how we think,
We start the process to stop all the stink;
And when we return to the Lord that we love,
He tenderly reaches from Heaven above;
Restoring, forgiving; he makes us complete,
Refreshed in His presence, revival is sweet.
--Phil Waldo*

Do you want times of refreshing? A strong sense of God's presence? Then repent and return to God so that you can be restored and we may have Times of Refreshing.