

# OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Phil O. Waldo  
*Lead Pastor*



1224 Hancock Drive  
Boone, Iowa 50036

Phone: 515 432-3329

Website: [www.booneopenbible.com](http://www.booneopenbible.com)  
E-mail: [office@booneopenbible.com](mailto:office@booneopenbible.com)  
[pastor@booneopenbible.com](mailto:pastor@booneopenbible.com)

**SERMON TITLE** God is on the Move

**SERIES**

**DATE** 2/26/2023

**KEY SCRIPTURE** Acts 3:19

**SYNOPSIS** Revival is sweeping across the nation. It's a new day!

**HIGHLIGHTS**



## ☞ God is on the Move

What began in Hughes Auditorium at Asbury Theological Seminary has now spread to more than 20 other colleges and universities. **A hunger for the presence and power of God has erupted in our nation and around the world.** Whether you call it a revival or an outpouring, it is powerful and contagious.

Many modern-day prophets have been predicting another great awakening or revival/outpouring in these last of the Last Days. One of the most notable is Dutch Sheets. Dutch is an internationally known conference speaker, pastor and author. He has written many books, including Authority in Prayer and his bestseller, Intercessory Prayer. Charisma Magazine had an article about Dutch on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. Here are some excerpts.

*“What is happening at Asbury is just another sign,” Dutch says. He isn’t fazed that the revival is ending at Hughes Auditorium. He believes the outpouring experienced there is part of the bigger picture of what God is doing in the earth.*

*On the week of 9/11 Dutch had an open vision from God about a revival happening in the hearts of young people. He describes seeing things in the Spirit with his eyes wide open. He saw a hand write on the wall Acts 3:19 which says, “Therefore repent and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”*

*Describing the vision, he saw a fire of God coming to America. The fires of revival began to burn on college campuses. “What I saw wasn’t like anything I’ve seen,” Dutch says. The grassroots movement wasn’t surrounding a ministry or person but students gathered together organically.*

**My notes:** In case you are a hardcore skeptic, I saw an interview with Dutch on FlashPoint with Gene Bailey on January 24<sup>th</sup>, a full two weeks before anything started happening at Asbury. In that interview he was recalling the vision he had back in 2001.

*Charisma goes on: What has happened at Asbury has sparked a fire in believers around the country. Repentance, holiness and worship has transformed the minds and hearts of many. God is reminding His church that He can and will move in this country. “There is no revival I know of in history that didn’t come at a very dark time spiritually, morally and nationally,” Dutch says.*

*Dutch, like many others are standing on faith that the awakening that’s coming will bring in a billion souls. Don’t be discouraged that Hughes Auditorium is closing its doors, this is just the beginning.*



As I mentioned, this outpouring has now spread to more than 20 other campuses as well as churches across the nation. Last week I also reported on significant revival happening in the Church of God in the US. I'm also hearing reports from Australia, Uganda and the Philippines.

God is on the move. We've seen evidence of revival right here as well. After last week's report on the outpouring starting in Asbury, there has been a lot of chatter amongst OBC'ers about revival. Last Sunday afternoon was marked by a renewed experience of the joy of the Lord. There's a renewed hunger for the things of God. There's a renewed passion to press in to God's presence. People are willing to linger and wait on the Lord. These are all signs of revival.

*From Charisma Magazine: The point of revival is to revive the hearts of the people. God can and will pour out His spirit on those who will respond. Let excitement and joy replenish your soul. What has happened in Asbury is real and along with Dutch, you should be encouraged by it.*

☞ The primary aspect of revival is that **Christians put God back at the center of everything**. For many believers, it's not that they have walked completely away from God, but that they have allowed other things to have priority over him. In Solomon's day in 1 Kings 8, the Ark of the Covenant was reestablished in its proper place of priority. It was put into the Most Holy Place of the Temple, around which, every other aspect of worship revolved. So, today, the Presence of God is being given its place of priority in the church. Christians and churches are putting God back into the center of everything.

Doing "business as usual" is no longer satisfying. We want an encounter with God. Yes, there are still typical elements of a church gathering, but the focus has shifted. We don't want to just go through the motions. We want to wait on the Lord and experience the power of his presence.

Back in 1999 I wrote a song with those words in it. Many will recognize it. *"Lord, we need your touch. Lord, we need your hand of mercy. Fill us now. Lord, we need your grace. Lord, we need your Holy Spirit. Fill us now. Let the power of your presence fill this place. We are longing for the day we see your face. Lord, we need your mercy. Lord, we need your grace. Let the power of your presence fill this place."*

It was really a prayer asking for more of God. And now we are seeing a tangible answer to that prayer. God is making his presence known and felt among us. God is granting us mercy and grace. God is filling us with his Holy Spirit. He is refreshing his people.

☞ **Acts 3:19 NLT**

**Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord**

Repent of your sins = change your mind; express sorrow for your sins



Turn to God = return; turn back

Wiped away = washed; removed; erased

Refreshment = anapsyxis (*only here*); a cooling; recovery of breath; revival

The presence of the Lord = his face; his company or proximity

Here's what God is doing: He's calling his people, that's you and me, to repentance. Change the way you think about sin. It's not just a little mistake or "no big deal." It's a barrier between you and God.

It's not that you've committed the worst of all sins, but that you have allowed barriers to arise between you and God. I have never physically abused my wife. I've never beat her up. But I have allowed things to come between us. Even misunderstandings or less than loving words can build a barrier. If I don't keep her in a place of priority in my life, it creates a barrier. But I don't want any barriers between us, so I try to repent of even the slightest things that disrupt the unity of our marriage.

Likewise, with God, it's not that you have completely turned away, but you have allowed barriers to disrupt your relationship with him. You have allowed other things to take priority ☞ over him. **Repent! See your sins as God sees them and express sorrow for falling short.** Express sadness and grief for having disappointed God. Change your way of thinking on those things and turn back to God.

☞ Turn back simply means to **put him back in the place of prominence and priority in your life.** Stop giving him the back seat. **Give him the driver's seat!** Make God number one in your life. You're not number one and neither is anything or anyone else. He is.

When you do those things, then God instantly responds. He erases the barriers of sin that have built up. It's like the father in the story of the Prodigal Son. He is quick to forgive. He's been ☞ waiting and watching for this moment of return. **He welcomes us back and completely restores the relationship.** And, there's nothing like that relationship.

In the story of the Prodigal, the father throws a party at his son's return. He brings out all the best stuff for this son-returned-home. There's a great feast and celebration. The son has access to all that the father owns. That young man who had covered himself in the dirt and dung of the pigs, contaminated with their smell, and starving from lack of supply, was suddenly washed clean, smelling beautiful and feasting like a king.

Likewise, when we return to God, giving him the place of prominence and priority, **he brings ☞ times of refreshing.** He breathes spiritual life into us. It's like the Day of Pentecost in the Upper Room. There's a wind blowing, bringing fresh air to people.



☞ There's **life** and **energy** in the refreshing he brings. There's new **joy** and new **vitality** in your walk with the Lord. That's **the way it's supposed to be**. It comes from the presence of the Lord.

☞ We are designed to **be in close proximity to God**, and when we get back in that proper position, **it's like a brand-new day! (music will start here)**

God is on the move. There are reports of spontaneous, grass-roots revivals taking place everywhere. It's happening right here at OBC, which was prophesied several times, decades ago. This is it! It's happening! **God is on the move, and there's more to come.**

*Dutch Sheets asks us the question, "So, how can you prepare yourself for all that is still yet to come?" And he answers, "Stay hungry for God and walk in humility before the Lord; He is our only hope! Continue to pray and ask for revival and be supportive of where God moves."*

We are going to spend some time pressing in to God's presence today. In a moment we'll sing this song and the altar will be open. I encourage you to find a place of prayer and linger for a while, pursuing the presence of the Lord.

## **The Power of Your Presence**

### **Altar Ministry**