

STOKING THE FIRE OF REVIVAL

with Russell Johnson

loses her voice, the

world loses its mind.

Can you share about being called into ministry and how the Lord changed the trajectory of your life?

RJ: My earliest memories of spiritual awakening came from watching the Brownsville Revival on VHS tapes. Those images and stories became imprinted on my soul and my prayer became... "God, give me a story of my own." Although I went to Bible College in my 20's and received a ministry degree, I found myself working in the political field for nearly a decade until God opened a door for a part-time ministry job at a local church. In that church, we had a youth revival and saw God touch thousands of young people. That experience led to the planting of The Pursuit and we have seen the faithfulness of God across the Pacific Northwest now for the last 8 years.

In the early days of church planting, your family faced many struggles. How did God sustain you through that time?

RJ: When we planted The Pursuit, we had no institutional or denominational support. In fact, we had the opposite. Although at the time, the rejection of other spiritual leaders

weighed heavily on me, God used that wilderness season to develop a tenacity in my soul that endued me with courage and boldness for the task ahead. I was bivocational for the first 3 years of our church plant and worked in pest control to pay the bills. I spent more time in crawl spaces

cleaning out rat infestations than I did preaching on a stage. But God honored the sacrifice of my life and responded with outpouring. Today we have an incredible staff of 40+ who are contending alongside of me for spiritual awakening, and I couldn't be more proud of the early days which were filled with hard work and sweat equity that produced in me a desperation for the things of God.

How would you encourage someone who feels called into ministry but is facing a difficult road?

RJ: God doesn't promise us an easy life, He promises us a worthwhile life. We are in sales, and God is in management. Success looks like obedience, and we ought to let God handle the harvest. But if we will be faithful to put our hand to the plow and not look back, God will use every part of our difficult journey to bring glory to Himself. A God-given dream will always die in the natural before it lives in the supernatural. If God said, He will do it, and if you find yourself walking a difficult road, refuse to give up for what awaits you on the other side is the goodness of God in the land of the living.

You and your church are known for taking bold, biblical stances on important issues of our day. Why is it important for Christians to speak out on what many would categorize as "political" issues?

RJ: The Apostle Paul says the church is the "pillar and foundation of truth" in society. Because of my political background, I am uniquely aware of the need for godly voices in the public square of civic engagement. When the Church loses her voice, the world loses its mind. We saw this most prominently during the Covid shutdowns. While the churches were closed, our cities erupted into lawlessness and chaos. We took a stand and reopened in defiance of the governmental edicts and God rewarded that

courage with increase like we could never imagine. We owe the culture an encounter with truth and the Church must again adopt a social willingness to engage of the issue of life, gender, family, and marriage.

Have you ever received backlash for standing against the popular narrative on an issue? How should we respond when this happens?

RJ: Most of the backlash we have received has come from religious people, not secular people. That is the unfortunate reality of the state of the Church in the West. The culture wars are a proxy for the spiritual wars. I want to demonstrate an uncompromising allegiance to Scripture married to an unconditional love for people. I haven't always done that well, but I am learning and growing. My encouragement to leaders and pastors is simply this... crucify your need to be liked, and "after doing everything to stand, stand therefore".

What does revival mean to you, and how can we see it in our churches?

RJ: I've been impacted by Bethel Church and their definition of revival...simply put, they say: revival is the "personal, regional, and global expansion of God's kingdom through His manifest presence." We all know and agree that God is omnipresent in every sphere of life and society. However, in the local

church, the God who is everywhere decides to be somewhere. The Scriptures say, "in His presence, there is fullness..." My commitment is to take people into the manifest presence of God and allow His transformational power to redeem, restore, and heal every part of their broken life. In a revival, people return to the Spirit of God. In reformation, people return to the Word of God. My hope is The Pursuit is a place where both the Word and the Spirit change lives.

We are seeing God move powerfully on college campuses and even in high schools in this season. What do you think God is showing us about this generation?

RJ: I so solemnly believe we are on the verge of another Great Awakening that will transform the religions landscape of, not only this county, but many nations around the globe. God is radically grabbing ahold of an entire generation, meeting them in dorm rooms, chapel services, lunch halls, and classrooms. Every recorded revival in history had an element of generational awakening. I believe that what God is birthing at places like Asbury University, Lee University, Regent University, and others, is an indication of spiritual hunger like I've never seen before. Hunger always precedes awakening. It is the first-fruits of any lasting revival. To quote Jon Tyson, "I see the cloud the size of a college kid's fist" and rain is coming to America again.

What do you feel like God is calling the church to do in this current season we are in, and what are some of the things God has put on your heart for this year?

RJ: I believe we are in a season of unapologetic boldness and tenacity that is sparking the flames of renewal in churches and schools all across the nation. If there was ever a time to call the Church to prayer, repentance, and worship, it's now.

BY JIMMY EVANS

In the early morning hours, Frank readied himself for work as he'd done a thousand times before. He grabbed breakfast, read a chapter out of his Bible, filled his thermos with coffee, and headed out the door. That's when he heard it. A sound he had longed to hear. A smile spread across his face, and just like that he was gone.

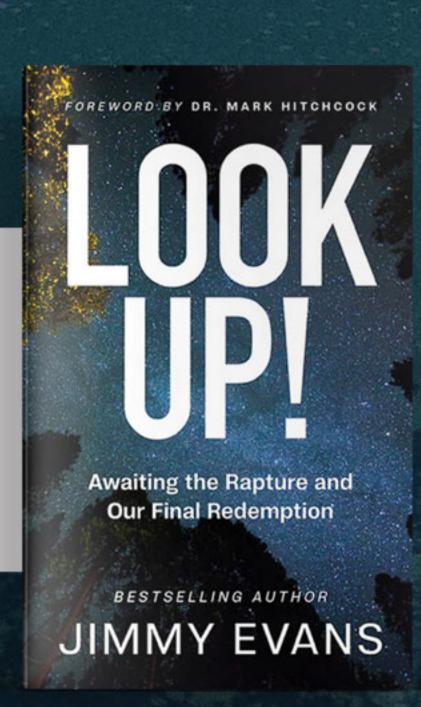
Maria was busy making sure her staff had finished all the rooms on the third floor before telling them, "Great job," and sending them off to the next tasks. She had become an efficient leader in her three years with the hotel. As she stepped onto the elevator humming her favorite worship song, she heard a sound that sent a rush of joy through her. By the time the elevator doors dinged open in the lobby, there was no sign of Maria.

Often times, the idea of the Rapture can be accompanied with a sense of anxiety, but should this monumental event give believers any fear? After all, this is a major prophetic event that is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

The truth is that when it comes to the Rapture, we should be looking for it with expectation, and in Jimmy Evans' book, Look Up: Awaiting the Rapture and Our Final Redemption, he unpacks why it should fill us with such eagerness, but also why it should motivate us to share the Gospel with as many as we can.

Uncover a deeper understanding of God's ultimate plan for your life regarding the last days by bringing home a copy of Jimmy Evans' book, Look Up: Awaiting the Rapture and Our Final Redemption.

To get yours, use the enclosed form to become a Daystar partner today!



HEART - for the - WORLD

Thank you, Partners, for another incredible Heart for the World!

Your generosity and passion to see the world reached with the Gospel never ceases to amaze us. Because of you, we are reaching further than ever before and shining the light of God's love in the darkest corners of the Earth.

We pray that this powerful week of ministry also touched your life and inspired you to continue seeking, praying, and living out the Great Commission until every soul has heard the Good News!

God bless you for YOUR heart for the world!













Hello, Daystar family!

Well, it's that time of year when we remember that God's plan for all of humanity is to pour out His love and give us hope and a future like the Word tells us in Jeremiah 29:11. Interestingly, spring kicked off last month here in America, and it's a time of resurrection in nature. So, it's fitting that Easter falls during this time of year, because it's through the resurrection of Christ that we know God does indeed make all things new just as He promised.

In November, Daystar will again be taking a group to Israel, and I am so excited because one of my favorite places we visit is the Garden Tomb. It reminds me how complete God's work is through the cross and of His power to bring life to any situation. The empty tomb is a declaration that God can and will transform our lives because He loves us that much!

This Easter I hope that message resonates with you, and I encourage you to rejoice in what God has done in your life. Go to church with your family and celebrate the gift that Jesus gave each of us by laying His life down as a sacrifice to pay once and for all the debt that sin laid upon humanity. Share it with others so they might know the joy we have in the Father's goodness!

I want to let you know how much I was touched by your generosity during *Heart for the World*. We are already seeing lives changed thanks to your giving. You are helping take the Gospel to those who may have never heard it otherwise. By giving, you are sharing the hope we have in Jesus, and you're empowering Daystar to reach even more lives every day. We are currently working on a deal to expand the Network's High Definition footprint, bringing the Good News to millions more homes. So, we are excited to hopefully share more about that in the near future.

We are thrilled at the response we have been getting since the launch of Daystar Español. There continues to be thousands of calls and emails from people loving the all-Spanish programming. And more and more people are discovering the power of God's presence through *Joni Table Talk* on A&E and the FYI network. Please continue to pray that God touches lives as we speak truth and share His love with the world.

I know that we couldn't do what we do without you, and I am praying God pours out new blessings on you this month in a mighty way!

Yours for Christian Television,

Joni Lamb

Co-Founder & President
Daystar Television Network

I appreciate your programs and am learning so much about the Kingdom of God and His promises. Even though I am 68, I believe God has a plan for my future and I must walk it out in faith and obedience! Thank you for all the rich teaching from the Word of God and for spreading it across the world!

Susan from Indiana

Thank you for the wonderful work that you are doing by spreading the Word of God throughout the world and for standing up for truth. My husband, our two children and I all watch Daystar regularly and are so blessed by the programs. We are so excited to be able to partner with you in the work of the Lord! We love you!

Cheryl from South Africa

THIS MONTH

MINISTRY NOW

APRIL 4 - Dr. Jack Graham
APRIL 5 - Paula White

APRIL 12 - David & Nicole Binion APRIL 26 - Russell Johnson

JONI TABLE TALK APRIL 3 & 4

Jesse Duplantis

Journey into the supernatural as Jesse Duplantis stops by to share about his experiences with Heaven and angels in two can't-miss shows.

APRIL 10

Samuel Rodriguez

Discover how to walk from your mess into God's miracles as Samuel Rodriguez joins the table to reveal how the Lord's promises still stand true even in the midst of our own chaos.

APRIL 27

George Foreman

From fighting Mohammed Ali to becoming Heavyweight Champion of the World when no one thought it was possible. Boxing legend George Foreman shares his hard-hitting journey to faith.

APRIL 28

David & Tamela Mann

Do you sometimes feel weighed down like the whole world is on your shoulders and you can't escape? David and Tamela Mann from the Tyler Perry films and plays talk about dealing with depression and how David found a way through.

EVENTS APRIL 7

Jentezen Franklin Presents: "The Easter Experience"

Share Your Testimony Daystar.com/DaystarTestimony