

What Does It Mean to be *Evangelical*  
Great Awakening, Part 1:  
Revivalism

Bill Petro

*your friendly neighborhood historian*

[billpetro.com/lighthouse](http://billpetro.com/lighthouse)

# Objectives

By the end of this session you should be able to

- Trace development of the **Great Awakening**
- Identify the key players: **3 W's**

# Revivalism

1. God's saints are revived
2. They share their faith locally
3. Missionary enterprise beyond the locale
4. Social outreach

# Colonies: 1750



# Middle Colonies Course of Awakening

- 1720's: Theodore Fruehlinghausen

N. New Jersey Dutch pastor – Rariton River Valley

- He noticed some of his Deacons were becoming converted

- New Brunswick, NJ – Presbyterians

William Tennent and his Irish sons

# William Tennent

- 1673-1745
- Presbyterian evangelist
- Log College



# Northern Course of Awakening

- 1734-37: Connecticut River Valley -  
*Congregationalists*: Northampton to the Atlantic
- Died down for 3 years
- Enflamed under **Whitefield**:  
Boston, Salem, Portsmouth, all of New England
- Leadership and writings of **Jonathan Edwards**

# *“Evangelicalism”*

- Premise: conversion, “new birth”
- Puritans: public profession
- 1730s, 40s: “Awakenings”  
Colonies, England, Wales, Scotland
- Mass conversions, open air preaching of the Word
- Split churches: “New Lights/New Side” vs. “Old Lights/Old Side”



# Southern Course of Awakening

- **Presbyterians** in N. Virginia
- **Baptists** (Separate Congregationalists) in New England (Connecticut) expands to Separate Baptists in N. Carolina
- From 6,000 – 20,000 in 3 years, foundation of **Southern Baptists**

# Baptists

- In America since 17<sup>th</sup> century
- Galvanized by Great Awakening



# The 3 W's



George Whitefield

Whitefield



Edwards



Wesley

# George Whitefield

- 1714 - 1770
- In 1738 made 1st of 7 visits to the America
- Ordained Anglican
- “Great Itinerant”
- Member of Wesley’s Oxford “Holy Club”
- Popular as G. Washington
- Huge crowds: 30,000



# Preaching in the Field

- Collapsible Field pulpit



# The New Birth

- John 3:1-8
- Whitefield: "How this glorious Change is wrought in the Soul cannot easily be explained."



# Ben Franklin on Whitefield

- Heard Whitefield preach in Colonies & England:
- Philadelphia Hall
- Georgia orphanage
- Size of crowds
- Pleased with discourse
- **More:** [billpetro.com/history-of-ben-franklin](http://billpetro.com/history-of-ben-franklin)



# John Wesley

- 1703 - 1791
- “a brand plucked from the burning”
- Holy Club →  
Methodism





# 1-Word Summary

- Pilgrims
  - Puritans
  - Whitefield
  - Wesley
  - Great Awakening
- Separatists  
Saints  
Dramatic  
Methodism  
Fire