The Church Awakening: An Urgent Call for Renewal
It's Time to "Restore the Years"
Ezekiel 33:30–33; Amos 8:11–12; Joel 2:21–27

The Heart of the Matter

Churches are struggling to find their identities. Pastors, who once understood their responsibility and the roles they were called to fill, have ignored the scriptural guidelines and chosen to walk a different path. This has left congregations unsure of themselves, biblically illiterate, and starving for spiritual direction. The bold proclamation of God's Word that once characterized influential evangelical pulpits has been replaced with shallow and sometimes silly substitutes designed to entertain listeners rather than convict of sin, feed the soul, and equip the believer for a deeper walk and sacrificial service. It's as if a plague of locusts has invaded, resulting in a famine across the land. It's time to "restore the years" that the locusts have eaten.

Discovering the Way

1. Let's Hear the Complaint of a Lonely Pastor

Where have all the strong-hearted expositors gone? Looking back, there were many, but looking ahead, the ranks are terribly and embarrassingly few.

2. Let's Respect the Words of Three Bold Prophets

Ezekiel spoke to a fickle congregation (Ezekiel 33:30–33). Amos warned of a coming famine (Amos 8:11–12). And Joel promised a hopeful future (Joel 2:21–27).
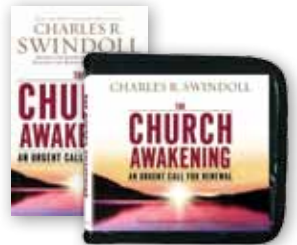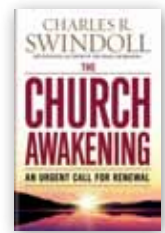
Starting Your Journey

Let's acknowledge the changes that must occur if the Lord is to "restore the years." First, the people of God must return to a hunger and thirst for righteousness. Second, the ministers of God must repent of their failure to fulfill God's calling. Third, the house of God must represent its biblical purpose for existence.

INSIGHT FOR LIVING
UNITED KINGDOM