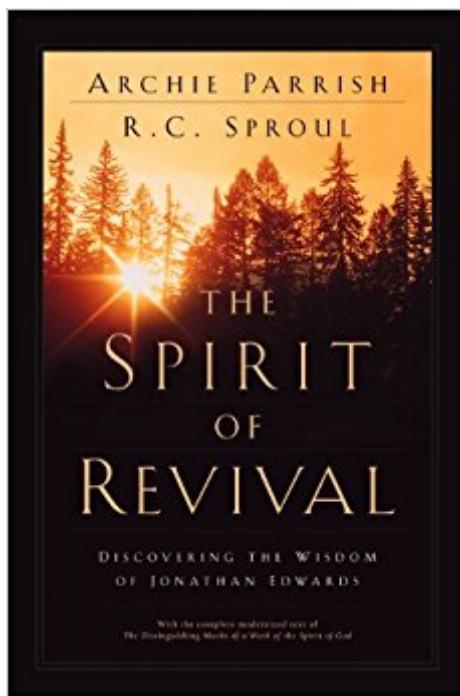


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# The Spirit Of Revival: Discovering The Wisdom Of Jonathan Edwards



## Synopsis

The Distinguishing Marks of a Work of the Spirit of God by Jonathan Edwards is one of the great classics of revival literature. A key figure of the Great Awakening, Edwards wrote this important discourse in 1741 just after the revival had reached its peak. In it you will discover a thorough examination of the true and false signs of revival based on the exhortations found in 1 John 4. Edwards concludes that while many a Spirit-led movement is accompanied by excesses and actions of a questionable nature, these negative signs do not necessarily disqualify it as authentic. You may be surprised at Edwards's remarkable balance in embracing the genuine enthusiasm in these elements while disavowing that there is definitely no supernatural origin for them. His critique is kind and gentle as he points to the true marks of revival: love and humility. In *The Spirit of Revival*, editor Dr. Archie Parrish makes Edwards's entire work accessible by modernizing the text and adding explanatory footnotes. R. C. Sproul's extended Introduction effectively compares Edwards's nineteenth century to our society, and the Preface by Edwards's contemporary, William Cooper, also rings resoundingly to today's church. Edwards's work therefore provides more than just insight into the Great Awakening of his day. It is a map to follow for all revivals in all times and is of abiding value for us today. "One studies the time and backgrounds of some men in order to understand them. Others have such rare greatness that one studies them in order to understand their times.... Jonathan Edwards was such an original." --Paul Ramsey, editor of Edwards's ethical writings in the Yale critical edition "No man is more relevant to the present condition of Christianity than Jonathan Edwards." --D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones "The western church... much of it drifting, enculturated, and infected with cheap grace... desperately needs to hear Edwards' challenge." --Charles Colson "He speaks with an insight into science and psychology so much ahead of his time that our own can hardly be said to have caught up with him." --Perry Miller, former Harvard historian "One of the most holy, humble and heavenly minded men that the world has seen since the apostolic age." --Ashbel Green, 1829, former president of the College of New Jersey "... the profoundest reasoner, and the greatest divine... that America ever produced." --Samuel Davies, 1759 "He was a man who put faithfulness to the Word of God before every other consideration." --Iain Murray, Edwards biographer "The disappearance of Edwards's [theocentric] perspective in American Christian history has been a tragedy." --Mark Noll, Wheaton College historian

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This edition will enable the curious to get a taste of eighteenth-century American religion and its most celebrated theologian."â "Gerald R. McDermott,â Jordan-Trexler Professor of Religion, Roanoke College; co-author,â The Theology of Jonathan Edwards" This reader-friendly volume begins with an introductory essay by Sproul.â .â . For readers unfamiliar with Edwards, Sproul's essay is a valuable introduction. The book includes a discussion guide and a suggested application of the material for small-group settings."â "Glenn Kreider, Professor of Theological Studies, Dallas Theological Seminary; Contributor, Bibliotheca Sacra --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

R. C. Sproul (Drs, Free University of Amsterdam) serves as senior minister of preaching and teaching at Saint Andrewâ ™s Chapel in Sanford, Florida, and is the founder and president of Ligonier Ministries. He has taught at numerous colleges and seminaries, has written over seventy books, and is featured daily on Renewing Your Mind, an international radio broadcast. Archie Parrish is the founder and president of Serve International and faithfully works to train evangelical churches in prayer discipleship. JONATHAN EDWARDS (1703â "1758) was a pastor, theologian, and missionary. He is generally considered the greatest American theologian. A prolific writer, Edwards is known for his many sermons, including "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God", and his classicâ Treatise Concerning Religious Affections.â Edwards was appointed president of the College of New Jersey (later renamed Princeton University) shortly before his death.â --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is clearly written so that anyone can distinguish between the work of the Holy Spirit and the spirit of this world

a great read

Excellent book on discerning true revival movements. Especially with all the strange stuff that goes on in our day.

I bought 2 of these as gifts for my pastors, who are such Godly men and faithful servants of the Lord!

I just finished reading this short book and it is excellent. In it you will find the modernized text of an article pastor Jonathan Edwards wrote at the climax of the Great Awakening en New England. Edwards, which is considered the best theologian ever to come from the United States, deals with the topic of revival, and the issues of "spiritual/emotional manifestations" so common and so criticized during the religious services of the Revival period. He tries to understand (and not necessarily discard!!!!) them in light of the Scriptures, logic and common sense, and then labors to unveil the real marks of a "true work of the Spirit". This book has the power to move some orthodox, conservative evangelicals to a more condescending and understanding view of those "manifestations", in light of the long term results on the life of individuals touched by the revival, even if the reaction of men to the Spirit's touch is not the "most adequate" in their view. At the same time, it will help greatly the pentecostal/charismatic camp that is too quick to embrace any manifestation as if its from God without "judging the spirits", usually resulting in tragedy and shame for the Church. I hope the message of this book is read aloud in many places, and reach many hearts and minds!

The Spirit of Revival Many times one may hear is this of God or by mere man. In this work Jonathan Edwards discusses how one may know if a revival is from God or the construction of man. What is from the Holy Spirit and what does not come from the Holy Spirit. Through arguments and reasoning he urges the believer to explore whether a revival is a true Revival of God's church or just human activity. Pastor Edwards elaborates how human emotional expression and the body physically reacting God's word preached/shared may be the result of the Holy Spirit working within the individual; He also argues that emotional expression and bodily reaction is not conclusive proof

it is the work of God. Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1 AV) Jonathan Edwards argues every spirit should be tested. He does not argue the response has to be miraculous. Just because the reaction could occur without supernatural response does not mean the Holy Spirit has not intervened. God uses ordinary means to build His kingdom and the Holy Spirit leads the Christian in sharing God's word and to serve God. The Holy Spirit also leads the follower of Christ to respond emotionally. Rarely does the Holy Spirit use people to do God's miracles. The Holy Spirit commonly uses less spectacular methods. Erwin Lutzer's book titled *Seven Convincing Miracles* goes into greater detail about this. So how does the Christian discern whether a revival is from God? Emotional reaction and physical response is worthy praise to God. But to some individuals may be ends to their own: a type of entertainment. Edwards asks whether the reaction is in response to God's word preached? Is the Gospel of Jesus Christ being preached? To elaborate, is man's sinfulness expressed, do people learn about Jesus not sinning when living as man on this earth, do people hear about the suffering of Jesus, do people hear Jesus dying on the cross and on the third day raising from dead? Do people know they are sinners and only through Jesus can they avoid spiritual death? Jonathan Edwards continues to argue that a sign of the Holy Spirit is whether the Bible is preached and shared. Included in this is whether people seek to be obedient to the Word of God. Co-author Archie Parrish tries to elaborate after the words of Jonathan Edwards are finished; Parrish's words do not seem to express continuity. Sproul's chapter before the message by Edwards will help the reader to comprehend the Jonathan Edwards' message. Arguments in how to use the book to bring revival to your own church are unconvincing.

This book is similar to Piper's *God's Passion for His Glory* in that it contains a commentary on Edwards and the text of one of Edwards' books (although this book is an infinitely easier read than Piper's). Sproul and Parrish do a fantastic job in the introduction where they give the background to the state of revival in New England. At the end of the book are exercises for those who would like to prepare for revival. The text of Edwards, *Concerning the marks of the Spirit of God* is much easier to read than his other works (although Sproul modernizes the text--this probably a good thing for many of Edwards' sentences would go on for pages). I would recommend this book for the challenge it offers Bible Believers (who else could be involved in a revival?) as they pray for revival. May God raise up another Edwards to combat the secularist, charismatic, postmodern onslaught facing our churches!

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