
AWAKENING HEARTS

Pastor-Facing Doctrinal Summary

The theological substance behind the Awakening Hearts Pathway

Designed for pastors, elders, and theological reviewers evaluating partnership with Awakening Hearts. Includes Scripture anchors for every affirmation.

"When the heart changes, everything changes."

PSALM 24:6 · A GENERATION THAT SEEKS HIS FACE

heartsawakeningnow.org

OVERVIEW

Why this document exists

"Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood." — Acts 20:28

Awakening Hearts is a discipleship pathway built on the conviction that only Jesus changes the heart, and that lasting transformation comes through union with Christ, regeneration by the Spirit, and Spirit-empowered sanctification in the context of the local church.

Before any pastor brings a discipleship resource into their congregation, they have a right and a responsibility to evaluate its theological substance. This document exists to make that evaluation efficient and direct.

What follows is a summary of the doctrinal commitments that govern every season of the pathway. Each affirmation is anchored in Scripture. The full theological framework is available as a separate download for pastors and reviewers who want the underlying pressure-test.

How to use this document

Read the ten affirmations. Test them against Scripture. Note where you have questions or pastoral concerns. Then schedule a 30-minute conversation with Dan to discuss whatever surfaced. The goal of partnership is not theological uniformity on every secondary matter — the goal is shared confidence in the gospel core, the formation arc, and the pastoral posture this pathway carries into your congregation.

THE TEN AFFIRMATIONS

With Scripture anchors

01

Scripture

AFFIRMATION

We hold the Bible — the Old and New Testaments — as the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God. Scripture is the final rule for all matters of faith, doctrine, and practice, and it stands above all spiritual experience, intuition, tradition, and impression.

SCRIPTURE ANCHORS

2 Timothy 3:16-17 · 2 Peter 1:20-21 · Psalm 119:160 · Isaiah 8:20 · John 17:17

02

The Triune God

AFFIRMATION

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — equal in essence, distinct in role, perfect in love and holiness, sovereign over all creation and redemption.

SCRIPTURE ANCHORS

Deuteronomy 6:4 · Matthew 28:19 · John 1:1-3, 14 · 2 Corinthians 13:14 · 1 Peter 1:2

03

The Human Problem

AFFIRMATION

Humanity is created in the image of God yet fallen, alienated from God by sin. This alienation is expressed through sinful worship, disordered loves, unbelief, pride, rebellion, and hardness of heart. The human problem is not merely behavioral, emotional, or relational. It is the moral and spiritual condition of the heart before God.

SCRIPTURE ANCHORS

Genesis 1:27 · Genesis 3 · Jeremiah 17:9 · Romans 1:18-25 · Romans 3:9-18 · Ephesians 2:1-3

04

The Person and Work of Jesus

AFFIRMATION

We believe Jesus is the eternal Son of God, fully God and fully man, born of the virgin Mary, who lived a sinless life, died as a substitutionary atonement for sin, was buried, and rose bodily from the dead. He ascended to the right hand of the Father, intercedes for His people, and will return to judge the living and the dead and to make all things new.

SCRIPTURE ANCHORS

John 1:1-14 · Philippians 2:5-11 · Isaiah 53 · Romans 5:6-11 · 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 · Hebrews 7:25 · Acts 1:11

05

The New Heart and the New Life

AFFIRMATION

Salvation is the gift of God received by repentance and faith in Jesus alone. Through union with Christ, the believer is justified, given a new heart, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and brought into the family of God. Sanctification is the Spirit-wrought process of being conformed to Jesus, which includes the renewal of mind, the putting of sin to death, and growth in love, holiness, and obedience.

SCRIPTURE ANCHORS

Ephesians 2:8-10 · Romans 6:1-11 · Ezekiel 36:26-27 · Romans 8:9-11, 29 · Romans 12:1-2 · Colossians 3:5-10

06

The Pattern of Discipleship

AFFIRMATION

We believe Scripture teaches a clear pattern of discipleship: Diagnosis (seeing the heart honestly), Surrender (turning to Jesus in repentance and faith), Renewal (Spirit-wrought transformation), and Mission (faithful witness and service in the world). This pattern is not invented but discerned from Scripture and the historic faith of the Church.

SCRIPTURE ANCHORS

Psalms 139:23-24 · Mark 1:15 · Romans 12:1-2 · 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 · Matthew 28:18-20 · Acts 2:42-47

07

The Believer's Ongoing Struggle

AFFIRMATION

The believer in Christ continues to wage war with indwelling sin, the world, and the powers of darkness until Jesus returns. Ongoing struggle does not disprove conversion; ongoing impenitence does. The Christian life is one of repentance, faith, and dependence on the Spirit — already redeemed, not yet glorified.

SCRIPTURE ANCHORS

Romans 7:14-25 · Galatians 5:16-25 · 1 John 1:8-10 · Hebrews 12:1-2 · 1 Peter 5:8-10 · Philippians 3:12-14

08

The Church and the Means of Grace

AFFIRMATION

We believe the Church is the body of Christ, the family of God, and the primary context of Christian formation. Heart change is not meant to be pursued in isolation. The ordinary means of grace — Scripture, prayer, preaching, the sacraments, fellowship, confession, and the gifts of the Spirit — are central instruments by which Jesus forms His people.

SCRIPTURE ANCHORS

Acts 2:42-47 · 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 · Ephesians 4:11-16 · Hebrews 10:24-25 · James 5:13-16 · 1 Peter 2:9-10

09

The Spirit and His Power

AFFIRMATION

We believe in the present and active ministry of the Holy Spirit. He empowers obedience, illuminates Scripture, distributes gifts for the building up of the Church, produces the fruit of Christlike character, and bears witness to Jesus. Spiritual power must never be detached from truth, love, holiness, and obedience.

SCRIPTURE ANCHORS

John 14:16-17, 26 · John 16:13-15 · Acts 1:8 · Romans 8:13-16 · 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 · Galatians 5:22-23

10

The Goal

AFFIRMATION

The aim of all formation is conformity to Jesus Christ — not self-improvement, not religious activity, not platform — but lives that reflect Him. We call people to repent, believe, surrender, and be transformed by Jesus, our Savior, Sanctifier, Shepherd, and coming King.

SCRIPTURE ANCHORS

Romans 8:29 · 2 Corinthians 3:18 · Galatians 4:19 · Ephesians 4:13-15 · Colossians 1:28-29 · 1 John 3:2-3

WHAT THIS THEOLOGY PRODUCES

The kind of believer the pathway is forming

Theology is never abstract. It produces a kind of person. The convictions above are designed to form believers whose hearts have been changed by Jesus and whose lives reflect Him. Specifically, the pathway is forming:

- People who tell the truth about their hearts and are not crushed by what they see.
- People who repent quickly, walk in confession, and do not stay in shame.
- People rooted in Scripture, prayer, the local church, and the ordinary means of grace.
- People who serve, bear burdens, and take the lower place with joy.
- People who endure suffering without bitterness and who hold the hope of the Kingdom honestly.
- People who disciple others — not as experts, but as fellow recipients of mercy walking with them.

"Only Jesus changes the heart. And when the heart changes, everything changes — including what kind of person you become."

FOR PASTORS CONSIDERING PARTNERSHIP

A real conversation, not a sales call

If you have read this document and the substance lands honestly, the next step is a conversation. No pitch. No pressure. Just an honest discussion of what your church is wrestling with and whether this pathway serves it.

Three concrete next steps are available:

- 1. Request the Pastor Packet.** Includes the Pathway Overview, sample Season One materials, and the full theological framework.
- 2. Schedule a 30-minute call.** A direct conversation with Dan Ziegler to walk through the pathway, answer questions, and discuss fit with your church.

3. Pilot Season One with a small group. Begin with a single group of 8 to 12 in your church. Six weeks. Honest feedback. Decide afterward whether to scale.

CONTACT

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