

# The World is My Parish



<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9 New International Version

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## **Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 1, 2025

**Theme:** God's Initiating Grace (Prevenient Grace)

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 John 4:10)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

John Wesley emphasized that God's grace always works ahead of our awareness or response. This "prevenient" or "preventing" grace is God's love in action, drawing us towards Him, creating a desire for salvation, and enabling us to respond to His call before we are even conscious. It is the first stirring of spiritual life, the initial awareness of our need for God, and the ability to turn towards Him. This grace surrounds everyone, gently leading and preparing the heart to receive the gifts of convicting, justifying, and sanctifying grace. It reminds us that our spiritual journey doesn't begin with our effort but with God's loving initiative.

### *Reflection:*

Reflect on moments where you sensed a nudge towards God or spiritual things, perhaps even before you fully understood it. Recognize these as signs of God's prevenient grace at work.

### *Prayer:*

Father, thank You for Your grace, which seeks me out before I even seek You. Help me recognize and respond to the gentle drawings of Your Spirit today. Thank you for initiating this loving relationship. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 85: On Working Out Our Own Salvation  
(Philippians 2:12-13)

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 2, 2025

**Theme:** The Spirit's Conviction (Convicting Grace)

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"When he [the Spirit of truth] comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:" (John 16:8)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

John Wesley understood Convicting Grace as a critical part of his four-fold sequence of God's prevenient (preceding) work. It is the specific activity of the Holy Spirit awakening individuals to their sinfulness, their accountability before God, and their desperate need for salvation. God doesn't intend this conviction to condemn or crush, but mercifully to expose our actual condition and the inadequacy of our righteousness. It's the Spirit proving the world "to be in the wrong," making us uncomfortable with our sin, revealing our separation from God, and preparing our hearts to recognize our need for Christ's forgiveness and justification. Wesley saw this often-unsettling awareness not as God's anger but as His loving and necessary first step in drawing us toward repentance and true faith.

### *Reflection:*

Recall when you were deeply aware of your sins or shortcomings before God. Can you now see that awareness, however uncomfortable, as a work of God's grace drawing you closer to Him? How can you remain sensitive to the Spirit's gentle conviction today?

### *Prayer:*

Holy Spirit, thank You for the grace of conviction. Help me not to resist or resent the awareness of sin You bring, but to see it as Your merciful work preparing me for more profound repentance and reliance on Jesus. Keep my conscience tender and my heart responsive to Your voice, leading me continually to the cross for forgiveness and cleansing. Amen

*Notes for further study: Sermon 85: On Working Out Our Own Salvation*

(Philippians 2:12-13)

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 3, 2025

**Theme:** The Means of Grace

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer." (Acts 2:42)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

How do we grow in God's grace and love? Wesley strongly advocated the diligent use of the "means of grace." These are the ordinary channels through which God conveys His grace to us. Wesley primarily identified prayer (both private and public), searching the Scriptures (through hearing, reading, and meditation), Holy Communion (also known as the Lord's Supper), fasting, and Christian conferences, which involved fellowship, mutual encouragement, and accountability. He saw these not as ways to earn God's favor but as essential practices ordained by God for meeting Him, strengthening our faith, deepening our love, and receiving the spiritual nourishment needed for the journey of holiness. Consistent engagement with these holy opportunities opens our hearts to God's transforming work.

### *Reflection:*

Which of the means of grace feels most life-giving to you currently? Is there one you feel led to engage with more intentionally this week?

### *Prayer:*

Lord, thank you for providing tangible ways to meet with you and receive your grace. Give me the desire and discipline to diligently use the means You have pointed out—Scripture, prayer, fellowship, and the Supper—so that I might grow closer to You and become more like Christ. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 16 The Means to Grace (Malachi 3:7)

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## A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional

**Date:** June 4, 2025

**Theme:** Growth in Holiness (Progressive Sanctification)

### Scripture (NIV):

"Not that I have already obtained all this or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me... Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:12,14)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

While Wesley taught the possibility of a distinct experience of "entire sanctification" or being made perfect in love, he also strongly emphasized that holiness is a lifelong growth journey. Even after experiencing significant spiritual moments, the Christian life involves continually pressing on. This progressive sanctification means constantly growing in love, deepening our conformity to Christ, overcoming specific temptations, and maturing in faith through the work of the Holy Spirit. It's a dynamic process, not a static state. Wesley encouraged believers to expect continuous growth, always "straining toward what is ahead," utilizing the means of grace and cooperating with the Spirit's ongoing work of refinement and transformation.

### *Reflection:*

In what area of your life do you sense God inviting you to grow in holiness or Christ-likeness right now? What step can you take today to "press on" in that area?

*Prayer:* Heavenly Father, thank You for not being finished with me yet. Grant me the grace to grow in love and obedience continually. Help me to forget past failures and press on toward the goal You have set before me in Christ Jesus. Strengthen me by Your Spirit for the journey ahead. Amen.

Notes for further study: Sermon 14 The Repentance of Believers (Mark 1:15)

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## A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional

**Date:** June 5, 2025

**Theme:** The Witness of the Spirit (Assurance)

### Scripture (NIV):

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."  
(Romans 8:16)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

A vital aspect of Wesley's teaching was the doctrine of assurance – the inner testimony of the Holy Spirit giving believers a direct, personal conviction that they are children of God, forgiven and accepted. This is not based merely on logical deduction or observing good works but is an inward impression, a sense imparted by the Spirit Himself. Wesley described it as God's Spirit witnessing with our spirit. While not all believers experience this with the same intensity, Wesley considered it a common privilege, bringing deep peace, confidence in God's love, and motivation for holy living. This assurance is not a presumption; it rests on God's promise and the Spirit's work, fueling our love and gratitude towards Him.

### *Reflection:*

Reflect on how you sense God's presence or affirmation in your life. How does the knowledge (or the seeking) of being God's child impact your daily walk and approach to challenges?

### *Prayer:*

Holy Spirit, thank You for the promise of Your inner witness. Testify to my spirit that I am a child of God, beloved and forgiven through Christ. Grant me a deeper assurance of Your love so I may live with confidence, peace, and joyful obedience. If doubts linger, gently affirm your truth within my heart. Amen.

*Notes for further study: Sermons 10-11 Witness of the Spirit, Discourse 1 and 2, (Romans 8:16) and Sermon 12 The Witness of Our Own Spirit, (2 Corinthians 1:12)*

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 6, 2025

**Theme:** Holiness in Action (Social Holiness)

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." (James 1:27)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

For Wesley, holiness wasn't merely an internal state of love or piety; it inevitably flowed outward into compassionate action and engagement with the world's needs. He famously stated, "The gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness." This doesn't negate personal devotion but insists that genuine love for God must manifest as love for neighbors, particularly the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, and the marginalized. Faith works through love. Therefore, holiness growth involves cultivating inner temperaments and actively participating in works of mercy (addressing immediate needs) and piety (fueling our passion). True Christian perfection is inseparable from active compassion and justice in society.

### *Reflection:*

Consider your community and the world around you. Where do you see needs that stir your compassion? How can your faith translate into tangible acts of love and service this week, reflecting God's heart for justice and mercy?

### *Prayer:*

Lord Jesus, You showed us perfect love through serving others. Instill in me a deep compassion for those in distress. Please show me how to live out my faith in private devotion but in acts of mercy and justice. Help me to be Your hands and feet in the world, reflecting Your social holiness. Amen

*Notes for further study.* Sermons 21-33 Upon Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)

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## **Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 7, 2025

**Theme:** The Renewed Heart (Holy Tempers)

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." (Philippians 4:8)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Wesley emphasized transforming the inner person – the "heart." He often spoke of "holy tempers," the dispositions, attitudes, and affections that characterize a heart renewed by God's grace. These inclinations are formed within us by the Holy Spirit, replacing sinful tendencies. The key examples are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (cf. Galatians 5:22-23). Wesley understood that actions flow from these inner states. Therefore, pursuing holiness involves actively cooperating with the Spirit to cultivate these Christ-like tempers, nurturing thoughts and affections that align with God's character. This internal renewal is the engine of a holy life.

### *Reflection:*

Examine your dominant thoughts and feelings today. Which "tempers" or inner attitudes are most prevalent? Are they aligned with the fruit of the Spirit? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one area where He wants to cultivate a more Christ-like disposition in you.

### *Prayer:*

Holy Spirit, renew my heart and mind. Uproot sinful tempers and cultivate the holy tempers that reflect Jesus' love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control within me. Help me set my mind on true, noble, proper, pure, lovely, and admirable things so that my inner life may increasingly honor You. Amen.

*Notes for Further Study:* Sermon 17 Circumcision of the Heart (Romans 2:29)

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 8, 2025

**Theme:** Justification by Faith

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Central to Wesley's understanding of salvation is the doctrine of justification by faith alone. This is God's act of pardoning our sins and accepting us as righteous, not because of anything we have done, but solely based on our faith in Jesus Christ's atoning work. Wesley emphasized that this justification brings immediate peace with God, removing condemnation and restoring our relationship with Him. It's a foundational experience, received through trusting Christ, which opens the door to the ongoing work of sanctification — being made holy. Justification changes our standing before God instantly; sanctification changes our character progressively.

### *Reflection:*

Reflect on the peace from knowing God accepts you through faith in Christ, not your efforts. How does this truth free you from striving and empower you to live thankfully?

### *Prayer:*

Lord Jesus, thank You for the incredible gift of justification. Thank you for forgiving my sins through faith in You, and I have peace with God. Help me rest in this truth daily and live in the freedom and gratitude it brings. Amen.

Notes for further study: Sermon 5 Justification by Faith (Romans 4:5)

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 9, 2025

**Theme:** The New Birth (Initial Sanctification)

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Concurrent with justification, Wesley taught the reality of the "new birth" or regeneration. This is the beginning of sanctification – the work of the Holy Spirit renewing our hearts and imparting spiritual life. While justification changes our outward standing with God (pardoned), the new birth changes our inner nature (made alive). It is the beginning of God restoring His image in us, sowing the seeds of love, and giving us the power to overcome sin. This initial work of sanctification marks the beginning of the journey toward entire holiness, moving from being forgiven to being inwardly transformed.

### *Reflection:*

Consider the evidence of the Holy Spirit's renewing work in your life since you first came to faith. Where have you seen changes in desires, attitudes, or the ability to resist sin?

### *Prayer:*

Holy Spirit, thank You for the miracle of the new birth and Your ongoing work of renewal within me. Continue to wash, regenerate, and transform my inner being. Empower me to live out the new life I have received in Christ. Amen.

*Noted for further study.* Sermon 45 The New Birth (John 3:7)

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 10, 2025

**Theme:** Means of Grace: Searching the Scriptures

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Wesley passionately believed in the power and necessity of Scripture for Christian growth. He considered "searching the Scriptures" – reading, hearing, and meditating on them – a primary means of grace. He urged Methodists to approach the Bible with the expectation of meeting God, receiving guidance, understanding doctrine, being corrected, and being equipped for holy living. It was an academic exercise and a vital way to nourish the soul, deepen the love for God, and understand His will. For Wesley, regular, prayerful engagement with God's Word was indispensable for anyone serious about pursuing holiness.

### *Reflection:*

How are you currently engaging with Scripture? Is it merely informational, or are you approaching it prayerfully, expecting God to speak and transform you through His Word? Consider one way to deepen your engagement this week.

### *Prayer:*

Father, thank You for the gift of Your Word. Open my heart and mind as I read it. Teach me, rebuke me where needed, correct my paths, and train me in righteousness. May Your Word equip me and shape me more into the image of Your Son. Amen.

*Notes for Further Study:* Sermon 16 The Means to Grace (Malachi 3:7)

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 11, 2025

**Theme:** Freedom from Sin's Dominion

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him... No one born of God will continue to sin because God's seed remains in them; they cannot continue sinning because they have been born of God."(1 John 3:6, 9)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Wesley interpreted passages like this to teach that through the new birth and the power of the Holy Spirit, believers are freed from the dominion of sin. While acknowledging ongoing human weakness and the possibility of sin, he emphasized that habitual, intentional sinning is contrary to the nature of one born of God. The "seed" of God within creates a new disposition that hates sin and desires righteousness. Growth in grace, particularly striving towards entire sanctification, involves claiming this God-given power to resist and cease from known, willful sin. It is a call to live out the victory Christ has won.

### *Reflection:*

Is there an area of known, habitual sin you feel powerless against? Reflect on the truth that God's "seed" remains in you, providing power to resist. How can you actively cooperate with the Spirit today to walk in freedom?

### *Prayer:*

Lord God, thank You that sin no longer has dominion over me through Christ and the new birth. Grant me the grace to believe this truth and live in its power. Where I struggle with habitual sin, reveal Your power to overcome and help me walk in freedom and obedience, not by my strength, but by Your Spirit within. Amen.

*Notes for Further Study:* Sermon 19 The Great Privilege of Those That Are Born of God (1 John 3:9)

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 12, 2025

**Theme:** Christian Conference (Fellowship & Accountability)

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Wesley was convinced that Christian growth happens best in the community. He organized Methodists into small groups, known as classes and bands, for "Christian conferences," which were regular meetings focused on prayer, mutual encouragement, spiritual accountability, and discussing their walk with God. This was a vital means of grace. He believed that sharing struggles and victories, praying for one another, and gently holding each other accountable helped believers grow holiness, avoid backsliding, and effectively spur one another toward love and good deeds.

### *Reflection:*

Who are the people in your life who spur you toward love and good deeds? Are you actively participating in Christian fellowship where you can be encouraged and held accountable? Consider how you can invest more deeply in such relationships.

### *Prayer:*

Father, thank You for the gift of a Christian community. Help me actively participate in fellowship, receive encouragement and accountability, and offer it to others. Please show me how to encourage others in their faith and be open to their support on my journey toward spiritual growth and holiness. Amen.

*Notes for Further Study:* Sermon 74 Of the Church (Ephesians 4 1-6)

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 13, 2025

**Theme:** Love as the Fulfillment of the Law

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law." (Romans 13:8)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

While emphasizing grace, Wesley did not discard God's law. He saw it as a guide for holy living, revealing God's character and will. However, he taught that the law is fulfilled not by mere rule-keeping but by love. When our hearts are filled with love for God and neighbor by the Holy Spirit (Christian perfection), obedience flows naturally. Love becomes the motivating principle, shaping our desires and actions to align with God's commands. The law shows us the shape of love, but only the Spirit can empower us to live it. Therefore, holiness means pursuing love, which fulfills the law's intent from the heart.

### *Reflection:*

Consider a command from Scripture that you find challenging. How might viewing it through the lens of loving God or loving your neighbor change your perspective or motivation?

### *Prayer:*

Lord, fill me with Your love, that I might fulfill Your law not out of duty or fear but out of a heart transformed by grace. Help my love for You and others be the driving force behind my obedience. May Your Spirit write Your law upon my heart. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 34: The Original, Nature, Property, and Use of the Law (Romans 7:12)

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 14, 2025

**Theme:** Entire Sanctification: A Crisis of Love

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"May God, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and will do it."

(1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Wesley taught that beyond the initial work of the new birth, believers could experience a "second work of grace" or "entire sanctification." He described this as God purifying the heart from the roots of inbred sin, filling the believer wholly with the love of God. It is a moment where love becomes the sole ruling principle of the heart and will. This is not sinless perfection in an absolute sense (mistakes and infirmities remain), but perfection in motive – loving God with all one's heart, soul, mind, and strength. Wesley believed this was attainable through faith and God's faithfulness, empowering believers to serve more deeply and become Christ-like.

### *Reflection:*

Do you desire a heart wholly devoted to God, where love is the primary motive? Reflect on God's promise to sanctify you "through and through" and His faithfulness to accomplish it.

### *Prayer:*

God of peace, I long for a heart entirely consecrated to You. Sanctify, purify my motives, and fill me with Your perfect love. I trust in Your faithfulness in doing this work for me by grace through faith. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 76 On Perfection (Hebrews 6:1)

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 15, 2025

**Theme:** Means of Grace: The Lord's Supper

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." (1 Corinthians 11:26)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Wesley regarded the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) as a crucial means of grace, referring to it as both a "converting ordinance" and a "confirming ordinance." He encouraged frequent participation, believing that Christ is spiritually present, conveying grace, forgiveness, strength, and renewed life to those who receive the elements in faith. It was not merely a memorial but an active channel through which believers could encounter the risen Christ, be strengthened in their faith, deepen their union with Him and fellow believers, and receive nourishment for the journey of holiness. He saw it as a vital spiritual meal for the soul.

### *Reflection:*

How do you typically approach the Lord's Supper? Do you see it as a powerful encounter with Christ and a channel of His grace? Consider approaching it with greater faith and expectation next time.

*Prayer:* Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of Holy Communion. As I receive the bread and cup, help me by faith to encounter You, receive Your strengthening grace, and be reminded of Your sacrifice. May this sacrament deepen my love for You and unite me more closely with Your body, the Church. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 101 The Duty of Constant Communion (Luke 22:19)

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 16, 2025

**Theme:** Stewardship of God's Gifts

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Wesley believed that everything we have – time, talents, money, resources, even life – is a gift from God entrusted to us for His purposes. He strongly emphasized the importance of faithful stewardship, particularly regarding finances, famously advising: "Gain all you can, save all you can, give all you can." This was not about accumulating wealth, but about using God-given resources responsibly, avoiding waste, and generously using them for God's glory and the benefit of others, especially the poor. Holiness, for Wesley, included managing God's gifts wisely and generously as stewards accountable to Him.

### *Reflection:*

Consider the gifts God has entrusted to you: time, skills, money, and opportunities. Are you managing them as a faithful steward? Is there one area where you could be more intentional about using God's gifts for His glory and the good of others?

*Prayer:* Gracious God, all that I have comes from You. Help me be a faithful steward of the time, talents, and resources You have entrusted me with. Guide me to use Your gifts wisely and generously for purposes that honor You and bring blessings to others. Amen.

*Notes for further Study:* Sermon 87 Dangers of Riches (1 Timothy 6:9)

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 17, 2025

**Theme:** Persevering in Grace

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"But the one who stands firm to the end will be saved." (Matthew 24:13)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

While celebrating the power of God's grace, Wesley did not teach the doctrine of "once saved, always saved" in an unconditional manner. He believed believers could neglect the means of grace, fall back into sin, and ultimately "make shipwreck" of their faith (cf. 1 Timothy 1:19). Therefore, he emphasized the need for perseverance – actively continuing in faith, utilizing the means of grace, resisting temptation, and pursuing holiness throughout life. Salvation involved a past decision, an ongoing relationship, and a journey that required diligence and dependence on God's sustaining grace to stand firm.

### *Reflection:*

What helps you to stand firm in your faith during difficult times or when facing temptation? How can you actively cultivate perseverance in your walk with God this week?

*Prayer:* Lord, thank You for Your sustaining grace. Grant me the strength and determination to stand firm in faith, persevere through trials, and pursue You continually. Keep me from drifting and empower me by Your Spirit to remain faithful. Amen.

*Notes for Further Study:* Sermon 86 A Call to Backsliders (Psalm 77:7-8)

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 18, 2025

**Theme:** Holiness as Christ-likeness

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."  
(Romans 8:29)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Ultimately, Wesley understood holiness as being restored to the image of God in which humanity was created, specifically, being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. God's saving and sanctifying work aims to make us like Jesus in our character, attitudes, affections (tempers), and actions. Perfect love, holy temper, and outward righteousness are all expressions of this growing Christlikeness. The entire Christian journey, empowered by the Spirit and pursued through the means of grace, is aimed at reflecting Christ more fully to the world.

### *Reflection:*

Consider one aspect of Jesus' character (e.g., humility, compassion, obedience, prayerfulness). How can you intentionally seek the Spirit's help to grow in that specific area of Christ's likeness this week?

### *Prayer:*

Father, Your desire is for me to conform to Your Son's image. By Your Spirit, transform me more and more into His likeness. Shape my thoughts, words, actions, and heart so that I might reflect the character and love of Jesus to the world. Amen.

*Notes for Further Study:* Sermon 17 The Circumcision of the Heart (Romans 2:29)

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## A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional

**Date:** June 19, 2025

**Theme:** Means of Grace: Prayer

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Prayer was foundational to Wesley's life and teaching – a vital means of grace and communion with God. He encouraged continual prayer, not just formal petitions, but maintaining an ongoing attitude of dependence and conversation with God throughout the day. He practiced and advocated for private prayer (personal devotion) and public prayer (corporate worship). For Wesley, prayer was essential for receiving grace, discerning God's will, overcoming temptation, expressing gratitude, interceding for others, and deepening one's love relationship with God – all of which are indispensable for growing in holiness.

### *Reflection:*

How would you describe your prayer life at the moment? Is it more of a duty or a delight? How could you cultivate a more continual sense of God's presence and conversation with Him today?

*Prayer:* Lord, teach me to pray. Cultivate in me a heart that rejoices always, prays continually, and gives thanks in all circumstances. Draw me into deeper communion with you through prayer, that I may receive your grace and be transformed. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 35/36 The Law Established Through Faith

(Romans 3:31)

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 20, 2025

**Theme:** Good Works as Fruit, Not Root

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

While stressing justification by faith alone, Wesley equally insisted that genuine faith inevitably produces good works. He saw good works not as the root of salvation (they don't save us) but as the necessary fruit of salvation (we are saved for them). They are the natural evidence of a heart transformed by grace and filled with love. These works, prepared by God, encompass acts of mercy, acts of piety (utilizing the means of grace), and efforts to strive for justice. Wesley believed a faith that does not result in holy living and good works is dead or false.

### *Reflection:*

How does your faith express itself in action? Are there specific "good works" you feel God has prepared for you to walk in right now? Consider how your actions demonstrate the reality of God's work within you.

*Prayer:* Father, thank You for creating me anew in Christ Jesus for good works. Help me to walk in the paths You have prepared, motivated by love and empowered by Your Spirit. May my actions be the authentic fruit of a life transformed by Your grace. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 118 On the Single Eye (Matthew 6:22-23)

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 21, 2025

**Theme:** The Heart of Religion: Affections and Tempers

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."  
(Proverbs 4:23)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Wesley believed true religion resided in the heart, specifically in the affections and "tempers" (dispositions) being rightly ordered toward God. He understood that outward actions ultimately flow from these inner states. Therefore, holiness required more than just correct behavior; it demanded a transformation of the affections – loving what God loves, hating what He hates. Cultivating holy temperaments, such as love, humility, patience, and gratitude, through the Spirit's work was paramount. This "heart religion" stood in contrast to mere formalism or outward observance lacking inner transformation.

### *Reflection:*

Pay attention to the underlying motivations and affections driving your actions today. Are they rooted in love for God and others? Ask the Spirit to purify your heart and align your deepest desires with His will.

*Prayer:* Lord, create a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. Guard my heart, purify my affections, and cultivate holy tempers by Your grace. May my life flow from a heart entirely devoted to You and ordered by Your love. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 7 The Way to the Kingdom (Mark 1:15)

# The World is My Parish

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 22, 2025

**Theme:** Responding to God's Call

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest." (Hebrews 3:1)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Wesley saw the Christian life as a response to a "heavenly calling" – God's invitation into a relationship with Him through Christ and into a life of holiness. This calling demands our attention and focus. We are called out of sin and into grace, called into community, called to grow in Christlikeness, and called to participate in God's mission in the world. Responding faithfully involves fixing our thoughts on Jesus, listening for the Spirit's guidance, utilizing the means of grace, and ordering our lives following this high calling.

### *Reflection:*

How are you actively responding to God's calling on your life today? In what ways are you fixing your thoughts on Jesus amidst daily distractions?

*Prayer:* Heavenly Father, thank You for Your gracious calling. Help me to live worthy of it each day. Keep my thoughts fixed on Jesus, my apostle and high priest. Empower me to respond faithfully and joyfully to Your invitations of grace and service. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 4: Scriptural Christianity (Acts 4:31)

# The World is My Parish

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 23, 2025

**Theme:** Growth Through Trials

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that testing your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (James 1:2-4)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Wesley understood that trials and suffering were often part of the Christian journey, permitted by God not for punishment, but for refinement and growth in holiness. He saw trials as opportunities to exercise faith, develop perseverance, deepen his dependence on God, and purify his character – essentially, tools God uses to help him become "mature and complete." While not enjoyable, facing trials with faith and reliance on God's grace can yield significant spiritual fruit, strengthening holy temperaments such as patience and trust, ultimately contributing to our conformity to Christ.

### *Reflection:*

Reflect on a past trial. How did God use it to strengthen your faith or develop perseverance? How can you approach current challenges with the perspective that God can use them for your spiritual growth?

*Prayer:* Lord, grant me grace to face trials with faith and even joy, knowing that You use them to refine me. Help me persevere, allowing patience to complete its work so that I may become mature and complete in You, lacking nothing needed for holiness. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 4: Scriptural Christianity (Acts 4:31)

# The World is My Parish

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 24, 2025

**Theme:** Accountability in Community

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:16)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Building on the need for Christian conferences, Wesley recognized mutual accountability as vital for spiritual growth and health. His class meetings provided a structured environment where members could honestly share their spiritual struggles and temptations, confess their sins, and receive prayer and support. This wasn't meant to be judgmental but restorative, helping believers overcome sin, find healing, and stay on the path of holiness. He believed this kind of vulnerable, supportive accountability within the community was a powerful antidote to spiritual pride and hidden sin.

### *Reflection:*

Do you have trusted fellow believers with whom you can be spiritually vulnerable and hold each other accountable? How might practicing confession and mutual prayer within a safe community contribute to your healing and growth?

*Prayer:* Father, give me the courage to be honest about my struggles within the safety of the Christian community. Lead me to relationships where I can confess, pray, and receive prayer for healing and strength. Help our fellowship be a place of grace, accountability, mutual encouragement, and growth. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 104: On Attending the Church Service

(1 Samuel 2:17)

# The World is My Parish

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 25, 2025

**Theme:** The Indwelling Holy Spirit

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"Don't you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?" (1 Corinthians 3:16)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

The work of the Holy Spirit was central to every aspect of Wesley's holiness theology. He taught that the Spirit is not just an influence but God Himself dwelling within the believer. The Spirit convicts of sin, enables faith, regenerates the heart (new birth), provides assurance, empowers for holy living, cultivates holy tempers (fruit of the Spirit), guides into truth, and seals believers for redemption. Recognizing and relying upon the indwelling Spirit was key to experiencing God's grace and progressing in sanctification. The Christian life is a Spirit-filled, Spirit-empowered life.

### *Reflection:*

Are you consciously aware of the Holy Spirit dwelling within you today? How does recognizing your body as God's temple affect your choices and priorities? Ask the Spirit to fill you afresh and empower you.

*Prayer:* Holy Spirit, thank You for dwelling within me, making me Your temple. Fill me afresh today. Lead me, guide me, empower me, comfort me, and convict me. Help me to constantly rely on Your presence and power in all aspects of life and my pursuit of holiness. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 141 On the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:17)

# The World is My Parish

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 26, 2025

**Theme:** Avoiding Worldliness

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Wesley warned against "worldliness" – conforming to society's values, priorities, and practices contrary to God's will. This included not just sinful behaviors but also excessive love for money, pleasure, reputation, or fashion. He saw worldliness as a subtle danger that could quench the Spirit and hinder growth in holiness. True holiness involves being "transformed by the renewing of your mind," leading to a different set of priorities and a lifestyle distinct from the surrounding culture, focused instead on pleasing God and pursuing His kingdom.

### *Reflection:*

How might the "pattern of this world" influence your thoughts, desires, or priorities? Ask God to renew your mind and give you discernment to resist conformity and live according to His good, pleasing, and perfect will.

*Prayer:* Lord, guard my heart and mind from conforming to the patterns of this world. Renew my mind daily through Your Word and Spirit. Give me wisdom to discern Your will and courage to live counter-culturally, setting my affections on things above, not earthly things. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 80: On Friendship with the World (James 4:4)

# The World is My Parish

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## A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional

**Date:** June 27, 2025

**Theme:** Grace for Holy Living

### Scripture (NIV):

"But he said, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Wesley knew the call to holiness was high, seemingly impossible in human strength. His constant refrain was that holiness is lived only by God's grace. God doesn't just command holiness; He provides the necessary grace and power through the Holy Spirit to live it out. This grace is sufficient for every temptation, every weakness, every challenge. Recognizing our dependence on God's power, even in our weaknesses, allows Christ's strength to be perfected in us. The pursuit of holiness is not a matter of self-effort, but a life of reliance on God's all-sufficient grace. Simply put, it is "Holy-Grace" and available to all.

### *Reflection:*

Where do you feel weak or inadequate in your pursuit of holiness today? How can you shift from relying on your strength to God's sufficient grace and power made perfect in your weakness?

### *Prayer:*

Lord Jesus, I confess my weakness and need for Your grace. Thank you that Your grace is sufficient for me, and Your power is made perfect in weakness. Help me to rely entirely on You, boasting not in my strength but in Yours, that Your power may rest upon me for holy living. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 128: Free Grace (Romans 8:32)

# The World is My Parish

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## A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional

**Date:** June 28, 2025

**Theme:** Zeal Tempered by Love

### Scripture (NIV):

"If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:2)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

The early Methodist movement was known for its zeal, but Wesley recognized the danger of zeal without love. He cautioned against harshness, judgmentalism, or contention, even when promoting correct doctrine or practice. True holiness, rooted in perfect love, meant that zeal for God must always be expressed with humility, patience, kindness, and gentleness. Correcting others, defending the truth, or pursuing reforms should always be done in love, aiming for restoration and edification, rather than condemnation. Love must temper and guide all our spiritual fervor.

### *Reflection:*

Consider situations where you feel zealous for God's truth or ways. Are you expressing that zeal with love, patience, and humility? Ask God to ensure His love always guides and tempers your passion.

### *Prayer:*

Lord, ignite in me a passion for Your truth and righteousness, but temper my zeal with Your perfect love. Help me to speak the truth in love, to correct with gentleness, and to always act with humility and compassion, reflecting Your heart in all my fervor. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 92: On Zeal (Galatians 4:18)

# The World is My Parish

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 29, 2025

**Theme:** The Hope of Glory

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. " (Colossians 1:27)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Wesley's theology was profoundly hopeful. The present experience of God's grace – Christ dwelling in the believer by the Spirit – was not the end, but the "hope of glory." It was the down payment and anticipation of the future, full redemption and glorification with Christ. This hope motivated enduring hardship, persevering in holiness, and looking forward to the ultimate fulfillment of God's saving work when believers will be entirely freed from all infirmity and sin and share eternally in Christ's glory. This future hope shapes present living.

### *Reflection:*

How does the hope of future glory with Christ influence your perspective on present struggles or temptations? Let this hope encourage you to persevere in faith and holiness today.

### *Prayer:*

Lord Jesus, thank You for being Christ in me, the hope of glory. May this glorious hope anchor my soul, encourage my heart, and motivate me to live faithfully and pursue holiness as I await Your return and the fullness of Your salvation. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 15: The Great Assize (Romans 4:18)

# The World is My Parish

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** June 30, 2025

**Theme:** Corporate Worship as a Means of Grace

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"  
(Psalm 122:1)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Alongside small groups, Wesley highly valued corporate worship as an essential means of grace. Gathering together for public prayer, singing hymns, hearing the Word preached, and receiving the sacraments was vital for the spiritual health of individuals and the community. He saw corporate worship as a primary setting for encountering God, expressing praise, receiving instruction, being mutually encouraged, and experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit powerfully. It was a crucial rhythm for sustaining a life of holiness.

### *Reflection:*

How do you approach corporate worship? Do you see it as a vital means of encountering God and receiving grace? Consider how you can engage more fully and expectantly the next time you gather with fellow believers.

### *Prayer:*

Father, instill in me a deep love for worshipping with Your people. Help me approach corporate worship not as a spectator but as an active participant, eager to meet You, offer praise, hear Your Word, and receive Your grace alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen.

*Notes for further study:* Sermon 104: On Attending the Church Service

(1 Samuel 2:17)

# The World is My Parish

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## **A Wesleyan Moment: Daily Devotional**

**Date:** Postscript

**Theme:** Holiness Unto the Lord: Consecration

### **Scripture (NIV):**

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, given God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." (Romans 12:1)

### *Wesleyan Insight:*

Ultimately, the pursuit of holiness culminates in a life wholly consecrated to God – "Holiness unto the Lord." This means offering our whole selves – spirit, soul, body; time, talents, and resources – as a "living sacrifice." It's a response of gratitude for God's overwhelming mercy, dedicating every part of our lives to His service and glory. This consecration is not a one-time act, but a daily commitment to live entirely for Him, motivated by love and empowered by His grace. It is the practical outworking of a heart made perfect in love.

### *Reflection:*

Given God's mercy, what does it mean for you today to offer your body, your time, your plans, your very self as a living sacrifice? Is there any area you are holding back from full consecration to Him?

### *Prayer:*

In response to Your great love and mercy, Merciful God, I offer myself entirely to You today. Take my life – my body, my mind, my will, my time, my future – and use it as a living sacrifice for Your glory. Fill me with Your Spirit that I might live fully consecrated, holy, and pleasing in Your sight. Amen.

*Concluding with the Covenant Renewal Service.*

# The World is My Parish

## Sources Consulted

**Note:** The scriptural passages used throughout the devotional are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV) 2011. The theological insights regarding Wesleyan principles were synthesized from the following resources, which discuss relevant aspects of John Wesley's theology. Direct access to Wesley's primary works, including sermons, journals, and letters, was utilized to generate these specific devotional entries.

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## Acknowledgment

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## About the Author

Cleve is retired and lives with his wife, Joanne, in Florida. Owen Murphy has verified all scripture references.

## Dedication

This devotional is dedicated to Rev. Dale Shunk, a retired Global Methodist Church pastor who exemplifies what it means to be a Shepherd-Prayer-Warrior within the historical Methodist circle.