



John 14:15-21
New International Version

¹⁵“If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be^[c] in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. **Because I live, you also will live.** ²⁰On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

May 24, 1738

John had a heart for mission, and in 1735 traveled to America to minister to the 'Indians', But his efforts were unrewarding. He returned to England knowing that something was missing from his faith. He wrote in his diary in 1737 “I went to America to convert the Indians, but oh! who shall convert me?”

says, We need to allow the word to become flesh and dwell among us and less of theological debates in the flesh allowing carnality to dwell within us (John 1:14). We need our “heart strangely warmed” again.



Sermon Notes

Aldersgate Experience

A Convergence of Failure, Faith and Grace.

He went **UNWILLINGLY**, but he went.

He **consistently** put himself in the stream of God’s Grace.

He was ready for **GRACE**

Humility is the door through which Grace must pass.

He received the **UNEXPECTED**

He experienced the **INDESCRIBABLE**

He lived the **UNCONTAINABLE**

We need to live as a continuation of the Gospel, the fifth gospel, the third Testament, the next incarnation. Jesus said “As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

Do it **AGAIN**, Lord! Do it again!



FAITH AND FLAME: OUR MISSION

The purpose of true biblical discipleship is to warm the hearts of humanity so they can spread that fire to a cold dark world around them.

LIVING WORD

On May 24, 1738, John Wesley recorded in his journal,

“In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

Wesley’s experience that night was a conversion. He experienced a “conversion” in thinking and understanding about the nature of grace and salvation. That night Wesley realized that forgiveness of sins and acceptance by God (justification) is a free gift. Nothing we can do will every make us worthy or acceptable. God did the work of atonement on the cross in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. On May 24, 1738 Wesley’s was awakened to the truth Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Another way of describing Wesley’s experience is to say that at Aldersgate Street he got the order of salvation right.

THE CHARACTER OF A METHODIST

by John Wesley

1. THE distinguishing marks of a Methodist are not his opinions of any sort. His assenting to this or that scheme of religion, his embracing any particular set of notions, his espousing the judgment of one man or of another, are all quite wide of the point. Whosoever, therefore, imagines that a Methodist is a man of such or such an opinion, is grossly ignorant of the whole affair; he mistakes the truth totally. We believe, indeed, that "all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God;" and herein we are distinguished from Jews, Turks, and Infidels. We believe the written word of God to be the only and sufficient rule both of Christian faith and practice; and herein we are fundamentally distinguished from those of the Romish Church. We believe Christ to be the eternal, supreme God; and herein we are distinguished from the Socinians and Arians. **But as to all opinions which do not strike at the root of Christianity, we think and let think.** So that whatsoever they are, whether right or wrong, they are no distinguishing marks of a Methodist.

5. **"What then is the mark? Who is a Methodist, according to your own account?"** I answer: A Methodist is one who has "the love of God shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost given unto him;" one who "loves the Lord his God with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his mind, and with all his strength. God is the joy of his heart, and the desire of his soul; which is constantly crying out, "Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee! My God and my all! Thou art the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever!"