



The Legacy and Influence of the Methodist or Wesley Revival from 18th Century

## Description

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The 18th-century Wesleyan Revival, led by John and Charles Wesley, significantly impacted Christianity and society. This movement, rooted in Methodism, transformed religious practices and community structures, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to influence the modern Christian faith. As we delve into the history and influence of the Methodist Revival, we will explore its origins, key figures, theological contributions, societal impacts, and enduring legacy.

## Origins of the Wesleyan Revival

The Wesleyan Revival began in the early 18th century, with John Wesley's heartwarming experience on May 24, 1738, often considered the movement's starting point. This profound spiritual awakening led to the establishment of Methodist societies. Inspired by the words of Romans 8:16, "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children," John Wesley emphasized a personal and transformative relationship with God.

## Key Figures: John and Charles Wesley

John Wesley, an Anglican cleric, and his brother Charles, a prolific hymn writer,

were the primary leaders of the revival. John's theological insights and relentless preaching, along with Charles' inspiring hymns like "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," created a powerful synergy that spread Methodism across Britain and beyond. Their commitment to spreading the gospel and fostering community worship brought new life to the Christian faith.

## Theological Contributions

Methodism introduced several key theological concepts, including the emphasis on personal holiness, sanctification, and the assurance of salvation. John Wesley's doctrine of "Christian perfection," based on Hebrews 6:1, "Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity," encouraged believers to strive for spiritual maturity and a holy life. This focus on personal sanctity and an experiential faith was revolutionary for its time.

## Societal Impact

The Wesleyan Revival had profound societal implications. Methodists were at the forefront of social reforms, including the abolition of slavery and the establishment of educational institutions. John Wesley's belief in practical Christianity, inspired by Matthew 25:40, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me," motivated many Methodists to engage in charitable works and social justice initiatives.

## Enduring Legacy

The legacy of the Methodist Revival endures in various forms today. Methodism has grown into a global denomination, with millions of adherents worldwide. The movement's emphasis on small group fellowship, known as "class meetings," has influenced many contemporary Christian practices. Moreover, the Wesleyan tradition's focus on social justice continues to inspire modern Christian activism, reminding us of the call in Micah 6:8, "To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

The Wesleyan Revival of the 18th century remains a testament to the transformative power of the Holy Spirit and the enduring influence of dedicated Christian leaders. Through their devotion, the Wesleys sparked a revival that not

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only renewed the church but also profoundly impacted society, leaving a legacy that continues to resonate today. ?

**Salvation Prayers** : Dear Lord Jesus, I come to you today acknowledging my need for salvation. I confess that I have sinned and fallen short of your glory. But I believe that you died for my sins and rose again. I ask that you come into my heart and be my Lord. I commit to following you and living for you every day. Thank you for your love and for the gift of eternal life. In your name I pray, Amen. **Amen** If you prayed the above prayers kindly click here to get more information [https://www.xgospel.net/harvest\\_form/form/?page=0&salvation=true](https://www.xgospel.net/harvest_form/form/?page=0&salvation=true)

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### Multiple Choice Questions

1. When did John Wesley's heartwarming experience, which marked the beginning of the Wesleyan Revival, occur?

- A. May 24, 1738
- B. April 25, 1725
- C. June 15, 1740
- D. March 30, 1735

2. Who was the primary hymn writer of the Wesleyan Revival?

- A. John Wesley
- B. George Whitefield
- C. Charles Wesley
- D. Jonathan Edwards

3. Which theological concept emphasizes striving for spiritual maturity and a holy life in Methodism?

- A. Predestination
- B. Christian perfection
- C. Transubstantiation
- D. Baptismal regeneration

4. Which verse inspired John Wesley's belief in practical Christianity and social

justice?

- A. Romans 8:16
- B. Hebrews 6:1
- C. Matthew 25:40
- D. Micah 6:8

5. What was a key practice in Methodism that influenced contemporary Christian practices?

- A. Large congregational meetings
- B. Class meetings (small group fellowship)
- C. Silent meditation
- D. Ritualistic ceremonies

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How did the Wesleyan emphasis on personal holiness and sanctification shape the modern Christian understanding of spiritual growth?
2. In what ways did the societal reforms advocated by Methodists during the 18th century influence later social justice movements?
3. How do contemporary Christian practices reflect the influence of the Methodist class meetings?
4. Discuss the role of hymnody in the Wesleyan Revival and its impact on worship practices in today's churches.
5. How can the Wesleyan approach to practical Christianity and social justice be applied to current global issues?

### **FAQs**

Q: What were the main objectives of the Wesleyan Revival?

A: The main objectives were to renew personal faith, emphasize holiness and sanctification, and address social issues through practical Christianity.

Q: How did John Wesley's theological views differ from those of his contemporaries?

A: Wesley emphasized personal holiness, assurance of salvation, and Christian perfection, which contrasted with the more rigid doctrines of predestination and formalism prevalent among his contemporaries.

Q: What is the significance of the term “Christian perfection” in Methodism?

A: “Christian perfection” refers to the process of becoming spiritually mature and living a holy life, reflecting the character of Christ.

Q: How did the Wesleyan Revival contribute to the abolition of slavery?

A: Methodists, inspired by Wesley’s teachings, were active in the abolition movement, advocating for the end of slavery through preaching, petitions, and social reforms.

Q: Are there still Methodist class meetings today?

A: Yes, while the format may vary, the concept of small group fellowship remains an integral part of Methodist and many other Christian denominations.

### Multiple Choice Answers

1. A. May 24, 1738
2. C. Charles Wesley
3. B. Christian perfection
4. C. Matthew 25:40
5. B. Class meetings (small group fellowship)

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