

May it not be one of the consequences of this that so many of you are a generation of triflers; triflers with God, with one another, and with your own souls? For how few of you spend, from one week to another, a single hour in private prayer? How few have any thought of God in the general tenor of your conversation? Who of you is in any degree acquainted with the work of His Spirit? His supernatural work in the souls of men?

any talk of the Holy Ghost? Would you not take it for granted if one began such a conversation that it was either hypocrisy or enthusiasm? In the name of the Lord God Almighty I ask, what religion are you of? Even the talk of Christianity ye cannot, will not, bear! O my brethren! What a Christian city is this? "

John Wesley, Scriptural Christianity, delivered at St. Mary's Chapel, Oxford University, August 24, 1744



ts 2:1–13

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

rarthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."



All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."



John 15:5
"I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."





ustification – "that great work which God does for us, in forgiving our sins." John Wesley The New Birth

Regeneration (new birth) – "that great work which God does in us, renewing our fallen nature."

John Wesley The New Birth



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AMHAMP www.siamy.com my brother Charles were present at our love feast in Fetter Lane with about 60 of our brethren. About three in the morning, as we were continuing instant in prayer, the power of God came mightily upon us insomuch that many cried out for exceeding joy and many fell to the ground. As soon as we were recovered a little from that awe and amazement at the presence of His majesty, we broke out with one voice, 'We praise Thee, O God, we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord."

Journal of John Wesley, January 1, 1739

Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out."

John Wesley, Thoughts Upon Methodism, 1786



Luke 9:1–6
Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money – not even an extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

vithin many mainline traditions, there is a great fear of our dwindling numbers, our growing irrelevance, and institutional implosion. We therefore develop plans and programs—business plans, dashboards and benchmarks, church-growth initiatives, leadership development schemes, and other devices of our own invention as ways to curb the ongoing decline among our communities of faith. As a professional administrator, I certainly value well thought-out plans, and I understand the importance of strategic institutional initiatives. These are ways of being faithful stewards of what God has given us.

achieve church renewal or revive us as believers. Too often, we have functioned as if we are self-reliant and self-sustaining. We have institutionalized to the extent that we have forgotten our utter dependence upon the power of God. We have relied on endowments, on cultural Christianity, on the cultural significance of the mainline church itself, and we have forgotten the true source of our life. We are driving along in a beautiful 1968 Cadillac, but we've neglected to put gas in the tank. Without the empowering work of the Spirit, we cannot be faithful in our calling to make disciples, to baptize people into faith in Christ and teach them about new life in Christ. Therefore, we cannot exist as the Church.

demonstration of the Spirit's work. All true revival is the work of God. Therefore as followers of Christ, our primary task is to pray for the power of the Spirit and discern the work of the Spirit. This is, always has been, and always will be the only hope for any form of the Church. The Church, rightly conceived, exists as a community of believers bound together in the power, presence, and work of the Holy Spirit."

Dr. David F. Watson,

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