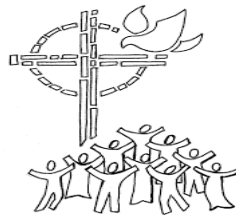




1 Kings 18:45-46:

Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling and Ahab rode off to Jezreel. **The power of the LORD came on Elijah** and, tucking his cloak into his belt, **he ran** ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.

RUN WITH THE WIND



---Keep in step with the charismatic and sanctifying works of the Holy Spirit.

Trinity Methodist Church, 14 May 2016 (Saturday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm), by Rev. Thomas Lau

9:00-9:15 am Praise and Worship

9:15-10:30 am **Talk 1: The Holy Spirit in the Bible and Methodist Revival Movement**

10:30-10:50 am Break

10:50-12:15 pm **Talk 2: Be filled by the Holy Spirit.**

12:15-1:15 pm Lunch

1:15-2:30 pm **Talk 3: Listen to the Holy Spirit**

2:30-2:45 pm Break

2:45-4:00 pm **Talk 4: Speak and act in accordance with the Holy Spirit---Prophecy**

4:00-4:30 pm **Conclusion.**

Talk 1: The Holy Spirit in the Bible and Methodist Revival Movement

(A) The Holy Spirit in the Bible:

1. The Spirit's first "name":



Normally the first thing we learn about a person is his or her **name**. We use the name to call that person, and the name sorts that person out in our mind from all the other person we know.

The Third Person of the Trinity, that is the Holy Spirit, also has a name. And the name by which the first recipients of revelation knew the Holy Spirit is **ruach** (in Hebrew), **pneuma** (in Greek). Literally, the name means **wind** (Genesis 1:2) and **breath** (Genesis 2:7), closely linked to one another.

*Genesis 1:1-3: "The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **ruach/Wind/Spirit of God** was moving over the surface of the waters."*



These special names of the Spirit of God reveal that **the Spirit of God is:**

- the **powerful**, freely-blowing, transcendent "Wind of God" that created the cosmos;
- the **perfect**, good, gentle, peaceful, intimate, vital, and life-giving "Breath/Breathing of God" that created human in the image of God.

Therefore, the Holy Spirit reconciles two twin truths about God: **God is over us and in us**. (Isaiah 57:15---"I dwell in a high and holy place, and also with him who is humble and lowly in spirit")

Later, in the New Testament, when the Holy Spirit is given in the Acts of the Apostles, the sign is that of a **strong wind** (Acts 2:2); in John's Gospel the same Spirit is given by the Risen Christ in the sign of **breathing**, in a gesture that deliberately recalls the Genesis account (John 20:22; Ephesians 4:24).

2. Walk through the Biblical Salvation History: Note...



- The “**charismatic action**” of the Holy Spirit---The Spirit is presented as **power** that on certain occasion breaks in upon special people, giving them the **ability** to do things and to explain reality in a way that is not humanly possible, in order to glorify God and proclaim Christ.

→ Exodus 28:3: “You shall speak to all the skillful persons whom I have endowed with the **ruach of wisdom**, that they make Aaron’s garments to consecrate him, that he may minister as priest to Me.

→ Exodus 31:3: “I have filled Bezalel with the **ruach of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship.**”

→ Numbers 11:17: “Then I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the **ruach** who is upon you, and will put *Him* upon them; and they shall **bear the burden of the people** with you, so that you will not bear it all alone.”

→ 1 Samuel 10:6, 10: the **ruach** on Saul, the new king---“Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will **prophesy** with them and be turned into another man.”

→ 1 Samuel 16:14: the **ruach** departed from the rebellious Saul while evil spirit terrorized Saul.

→ 1 Kings 18:12, 45-46: the **ruach** on Elijah, he ran extraordinarily fast!

→ Isaiah 11:2: “The **ruach** of the LORD will rest on Him, The **spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.**”

→ Joel 2:28-29: “It will come about after this That I will **pour out My ruach on all mankind**; and your sons and daughters will **prophesy**, Your old men will dream **dreams**, Your young men will see **visions**. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out **My ruach** in those days.”

→ Luke 4:1, 14, 18: “**Jesus, full of the Holy pneuma**, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness...And Jesus returned to Galilee **in the power of the pneuma**, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district...The **pneuma** of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the

prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

→ Acts 1:8: "But you will receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

→ Acts 2:2-4, 11: And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like **a violent rushing wind**, and it filled the whole house where the apostles were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And **everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit** and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability...**to all of us they are talking in our different languages, of the great works of God.**

→ Romans 12:6-8: "We have **different gifts**, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

→ 1 Corinthians 12:1-30: "Now to each one the **manifestation of the Spirit** is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of **wisdom**, to another a message of **knowledge** by means of the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another gifts of **healing** by that one Spirit, to another **miraculous** powers, to another **prophecy**, to another **distinguishing between spirits**, to another speaking in different kinds of **tongues**, and to still another the **interpretation** of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines...And there are varieties of ministries/services..."

→ Ephesians 4:11-12: "So Christ himself gave **the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers**, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

→ 1 Peter 4:10-11: "Each of you should use whatever **gift** you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone **speaks**, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone **serves**, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ..."

→ Revelation 1:10-13: "On the Lord's Day I was **in the Spirit**, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: 'Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches..."



- The “**sanctifying action**” of the Holy Spirit---the Spirit is associated with the process of making God’s people clean, new, and **holy**, transforming the person from within---created to be **like God** in true righteousness and holiness; to be **perfect**, as the heavenly Father is perfect (Ephesians 4:24; Matthew 5:48; 1 John 4:12, 16-18). Such action finds apex in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, and in the New Testament!

→Psalms 51:11: “Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your **Holy ruach** from me.” (Isaiah 63:10-11: “But they rebelled and grieved His **Holy ruach**)

→Ezekiel 36:26-27: “I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put **My ruach within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.**

→Luke 3:22: The **Holy pneuma descended** upon Jesus in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”

→1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8: “But earnestly desire **the greater gifts**. And I show you a still more excellent way. If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. **Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.** Love never fails.”

→2 Corinthians 7:1: “Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, **perfecting holiness** out of reverence for God.”

→Galatians 5:22-23, 25: “But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives.” (MSG)

→Ephesians 5:18-21: “Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, **be filled with the Holy Spirit**, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (NLT)

→1 Thessalonians 5:19-24: “Do not quench the Spirit...May God himself, 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 he will do it.”

(B) The Holy Spirit in the Methodist Revival Movement:



"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!"

He is therefore **happy in God**, yea, always happy, as having in him "a well of water springing up into everlasting life," and overflowing his soul with peace and joy. "Perfect love" having now "cast out fear," he "rejoices evermore." He "rejoices in the Lord always," even "in God his Saviour;" and in the Father, "through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom he hath now received the atonement." "Having" found "redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of his sins," he cannot but rejoice, whenever he **looks back** on the horrible pit out of which he is delivered; when he sees "all his transgressions blotted out as a cloud, and his iniquities as a thick cloud." He cannot but rejoice, whenever he **looks on the state wherein he now is**; "being justified freely, and having peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." For "he that believeth, hath the witness" of this "in himself;" being now the son of God by faith. "Because he is a son, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into his heart, crying, Abba, Father!" And "the Spirit itself beareth witness with his spirit, that he is a child of God." He rejoiceth also, whenever he **looks forward**, "in hope of the glory that shall be revealed;" yea, this his joy is full, and all his bones cry out, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten me again to a living hope -- of an inheritance

incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for me!" (in "The Character of a Methodist," 1742, *The Works of John Wesley*, 8:341-342).

By Methodist I mean, a people who profess to pursue (in whatsoever measure they have attained) **holiness of heart and life**, inward and outward conformity in all things to the revealed will of God; who place religion in an uniform resemblance of the great object of it; in a steady imitation of Him they worship, in all his imitable perfections; more particularly, in justice, mercy, and truth, or **universal love filling the heart, and governing the life**. [in "Advice to the people called Methodists", 10 Oct 1745; Thomas Jackson, ed., *The Works of John Wesley*, 14 vols. (London: Wesleyan Methodist Book Room, 1872; Reprinted Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007), 8:352]

"The chief spiritual gifts, conferred on the apostolic church, were, **1. Casting out devils; 2. Speaking with new tongues; 3. Escaping dangers, in which otherwise they must have perished; 4. Healing the sick; 5. Prophecy, foretelling things to come; 6. Visions; 7. Divine dreams; and, 8. Discerning the spirits**. Some of these appear to have been chiefly designed for the conviction of Jews and Heathens---as the casting out devils and speaking with new tongues; some, chiefly for the benefit of their fellow-Christians---as the healing the sick, foretelling things to come, and the discernment of spirits; and all, in order to enable those who either wrought or saw them, to 'run with patience the race set before them,' through all the storms of persecution which the most inveterate prejudice, rage, and malice could raise against them." (in letter to the Rev. Dr. Middleton, 1748/49, *The Works of John Wesley*, 10:16).

"We **seldom hear of them** [the extraordinary gifts] after that fatal period when the Emperor Constantine called himself a Christian; and from a vain imagination of promoting the Christian cause thereby, heaped riches and power and honour upon the Christians in general, but in particular upon the Christian Clergy. From this time they [the extraordinary gifts] **almost totally ceased**; very few instances of this kind were found. **The cause of this was not (as has been vulgarly supposed) 'because there was no more occasion for them,' because all the world was become Christians. This is a miserable mistake; not a twentieth part of it was then nominally Christian. The real cause was, 'the love of many,' almost of all Christians, so called, was 'waxed cold.'** The Christians had no more of the Spirit of Christ than the other Heathens. The Son of Man, when he came to examine his Church, could hardly 'find faith upon earth.' **This was the real cause why the extraordinary gifts of the Holy Ghost were no longer to be found in the Christian church; because the Christians were turned Heathens again, and had only a dead form left.**" (in sermon "The More Excellent Way," 1787, *The Works of John Wesley*, 7:26-27).



1. How have you experienced or witnessed the twin-work of the Holy Spirit---charismatic and sanctifying?
2. What is the importance of this twin-work of the Holy Spirit for Christian life, church ministry, Christian impacts in the society today?



Hymn: Veni, Creator Spiritus / Come Holy Spirit, Creator Blest

(attributed to Rabanus Maurus, 776-856 A.D.)

1. Come Creator Spirit, visit the minds of those who are yours; fill with heavenly grace, the hearts that you have made.
2. You who are named the *Paraclete* [Advocate, Consoler], gift of God most high, Living fountain, fire, love, and anointing for the soul.
3. You are sevenfold in your gifts [Is. 11:2-4: fear of God, piety, knowledge, fortitude, counsel, understanding, wisdom], you are finger of God's right hand, you, the Father's solemn promise, putting words upon our lips.
4. Kindle a light in our senses, pour love into our hearts, infirmities of this body of ours overcoming with strength secure.
5. The enemy drive from us away, peace then give without delay; with you as guide to lead the way, we avoid all cause of harm.
6. Grant we may know the Father through you, and come to know the Son as well, and may we always cling in faith to you, the Spirit of them both. Amen.

Talk 2: Be filled by the Holy Spirit.



Introduction:

1. How do you know when anything is filled, for example, the petrol/fuel tank of your car is filled?



2. When one is filled by the Holy Spirit...?



Ephesians 5: ¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, **be filled with the Spirit**, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

1. **Context of Ephesians 5:** Ephesians was a letter written by Paul from the prison at Rome (3:1; 4:1; 6:20). According to Acts 28:30, Paul was placed under house arrest in Rome for two years. The letter was probably written sometimes around A.D. 60. The first half of the letter (chapters 1-3) teaches about “**Life in Christ**,” and the second half of the letter (chapters 4-6) gives practical lessons on “**Living for Christ**.”

- 4:1-16: Living in **unity** as the body of Christ.
- 4:17-5:21: Living in **newness** of life which involves:
 - i. the new-self replaces the old-self (4:17-24),
 - ii. truth and love replace falsehood and bitterness (4:25-5:2),
 - iii. light replaces darkness (5:2-14),
 - iv. wisdom replaces folly (5:15-20).
- 5:22-6:9: Living in **harmonious** relationships---husband and wife (5:21-33), children and parents (5:1-4), servants and masters (5:5-9).
- 6:10-24: Living in **victory** over the power of Devil and darkness.

2. **Contemplate Ephesians 5:18:** *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, **be filled with the Spirit**.*

2.1 **Command**---It is imperative, necessary, compulsory. Paul writes this statement as a command for *all* Christians.

2.2 **Continuous**---The Greek present tense used here ruled out any once-for-all filling of the Spirit but points to a continuous filling, replenishment, *go on being filled*.

2.3 **Comfort**---The verb is passive, which indicates that this is *not* a self-made, self-manufactured experience (Gal. 3:2,5). What we should do is *believing* and *desiring*---having faith in the goodness and love of the Holy Spirit in filling God's children with all kinds of perfect-holy graces and powerful gifts from God, for the glory of God the Father and advancement of Christ's kingdom on earth.

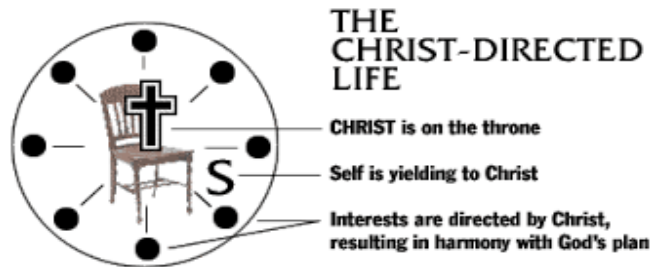
Such "believing and desiring" should start with and always primarily focus on Jesus Christ (John 16:14---"He will glorify me")

- a. Believe in Jesus as crucified, risen, ascended **Savior**, and thus be filled by the regenerating, indwelling, sealing, witnessing graces of the Holy Spirit (John 1:12, Ephesians 1:13, Romans 8:15-16).
- b. Believe in Jesus as **Fire-Baptizer** and thus be filled by the sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit through repentance and renouncing sins, bringing along freedom from sins, bondages, and messes caused by sins (Luke 3:16; Acts 2:1-11; 2 Corinthians 7:1) .
- c. Believe in Jesus as **Gift-giver** and thus be filled by the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit for the service to the church, to mankind, and to God (Ephesians 4:7-13).
- d. Believe in Jesus as **Healer** and thus be filled by the healing grace of the Holy Spirit, healing or delivering us from sicknesses, rebelliousness, desires of sinful nature, brokenness, sorrow, hurts.
- e. Believe in Jesus as the **Coming King** and thus be filled by abounding hope in the Holy Spirit, especially in the face of sufferings, persecutions, tribulation, even martyrdom (Romans 5:1-5; 15:13).

2.4 **Conduct**---The *overflow, outflow*! **Ephesians 5:19-6:20**



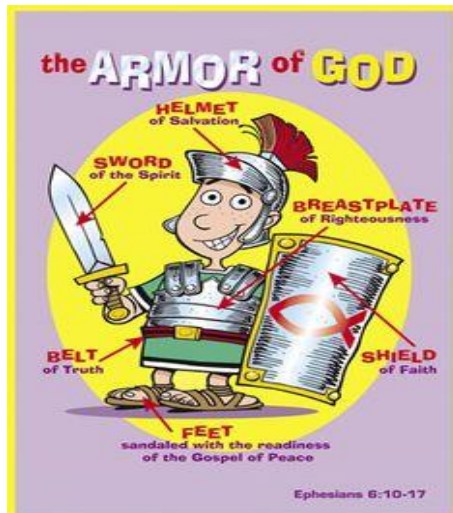
- a. **There is change in spirituality, personal and communal (5:19)---**
speaking to one another with psalms (OT Psalter which was integrated with Christian worship from the first), hymns (Christian songs taken from texts other than the Psalms), and songs (spontaneous singing in the Spirit) from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord!
- b. **There is change in attitude of life (5:20-21)---**always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.



- c. **There is change in marriage, family life, marketplace (5:22-6:9).**



- d. **There is change in worldview (6:10-20)---**aware of the spiritual warfare and be watchful in putting on the full armor of God.





Talk 3: Listen to the Holy Spirit

Text: John 14:12-27

1. **Purpose of the book:** The Gospel of John is written to meet the spiritual need of the church that had little background in the OT. John's intention is clearly stated in 20:31: "These [signs] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."
2. **Passion of the Apostle:** John wants people to know that Jesus is supernatural in his origin, powers, and goals.
 - 1.1 He was the Logos who had come into the world (chapter 1).
 - 1.2 He performed miracle, or signs, that illustrated his many-faceted powers, especially applied to human need (chapters 2-12).
 - 1.3 He died an unusual death, but he rose from the dead to give eternal life to whosoever believes in him and to send his disciples out on a universal mission by the power of the Holy Spirit (chapters 13-21).
3. **Part of the Holy Spirit:** 14:12-14.



- 1.1 **The Spirit as helper *with us and in us*** (14:15-17): "If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **advocate** to help you and be with you forever—the 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 in you."

"Advocate" = *parakletos* means one who is called alongside as a helper or defender, a friend at court.

- 1.2 **The Spirit as interpreter** (14:25-26): "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will **teach** you all things and will **remind** you of everything I have said to you."

1.3 **The Spirit as witness** (15:26-27): “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will **testify** about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.”

1.4 **The Spirit as prosecutor** (16:4b-11): “...now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ...But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will **prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment**: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.”

1.5 **The Spirit as revealer** (16:12-15): “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will **guide you into all the truth**. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

4. Listen to the Holy Spirit:



4.1. **The Spirit as Interpreter**---The Gospel of John mentions repeatedly that the disciples of Jesus fail to understand much that Jesus says during his earthly ministry (2:22; 12:16). Now Jesus says, when the Holy Spirit comes, the Spirit will help the disciples to recall and understand what Jesus teaches.

4.2. **The Spirit as Revealer**---Jesus has come to earth as the revealer of the Father, but the limited period of his ministry is too brief for the disciples to take in all that he has to reveal. His ministry of revelation would carry on after his departure by the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)



Jesus himself is the embodiment of truth (14:6). The truth which the Spirit will disclose is **not** truth **additional** to “the truth as it is in Jesus” (Eph. 4:21), it is **further unfolding** of that truth. The disciples had already been

introduced to the way of truth by Jesus, and the Spirit would guide them further along that way. The Spirit will not speak on his own initiative; the Spirit would just make the message of Jesus **explicit**.

As Jesus brings out plainly the fuller implications of the revelation before his coming, so the Holy Spirit will bring out the fuller implications of the revelation embodied in Jesus and **apply** them relevantly to each succeeding generations.

4.3. The principles of listening to the “voice” of the Holy Spirit:

- 4.3.1. **Persistent** with the Scripture and God’s attributes (2 Tim. 2:13; 3:16-17; Ex. 34:6-7; Lev. 19:2).
- 4.3.2. **Praising** and glorifying Jesus Christ (Jn. 16:14)
- 4.3.3. **Peace** deepened (Jer. 29:11; Jn. 14:27; Phil. 4:7; Col. 3:15)
- 4.3.4. **Power** enhanced (Josh. 1:6,7,9; 1 Cor. 14:3; Eph. 4:29; 2 Tim. 1:7)
- 4.3.5. **Patiently** wait (Ps. 27:14)
- 4.3.6. **Prompting** growth (2 Pet. 1:5-7) eg. A smart Uni student in Miri...
- 4.3.7. **Paradoxical** to human mind (Isa. 55:8; Matthew 5:39; Josh. 5:13-6:27)



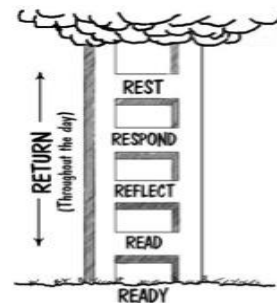
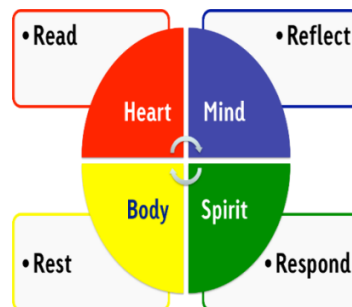
4.4. How do we listen to the “voice” of the Holy Spirit?

4.4.1. Study the Scripture devotionally as *Living Word* (Luke 4:20-21;)

Lectio Divina (Divine Reading):

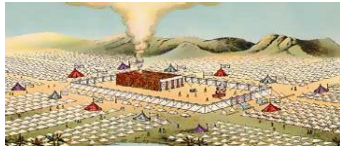
- **Relax/Ready**
Psalm 46:10: “Be still, and know that I am God.”
- Lectio (**Read** slowly and attentively)
Romans 10:8: “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart...”
- Meditatio (Reflect/**Relate**)
Psalm 19:7-9: “The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul...making wise...giving joy to the heart...giving light to the eyes.”
- Oration (**Respond** by prayer and listening):
Psalm 5:3: “In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.”
- Contemplatio (**Rest** for Restoration, Renewal, Refreshing, Revival)
John 15:7: “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”

Isaiah 40:31: “but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”



Testimony: 1 Peter 5:10 “the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast” sustained my ministry time in New Zealand.

4.4.2. **Examine everything Biblically and commit to 24-7 honoring God**
(Romans 12:1-2; 8:28; 1 Cor. 10:31; Colossians 3:17; 1 Thess. 5:16-18)



T.E.N.T of Meeting everywhere:

- Thankful! (to God and to people, filled by love)

Often people ask how I manage to be happy despite having no arms and no legs. The quick answer is that I have a choice. I can be angry about not having limbs, or I can be thankful that I have a purpose. I chose gratitude.

Nick Vujicic

QuoteAddict

- Encouraged! (By listening to the promises of God in your heart and head, filled by faith)
- Nothing is coincident! (Romans 8:28, purpose-driven, filled by hope)



- Tap into God's provision, pardon, protection, power! (Matthew 6:11-13; Psalm 86:11; Jeremiah 33:3; Philippians 4:13, filled by courage)

Sometimes God calms the storm. At other times, he calms the sailor. And sometimes he makes us swim.

Anonymous

QuoteAddict

Testimony: Graham Power committed to be 24 (hours)-7 (days) Christian; brother Chieng who suffers from depression is undergoing healing...

4.4.3. Reflect on the dream and vision carefully:



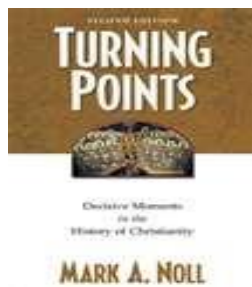
Acts 16:6-10: “Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching** the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but **the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to**. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a **vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’** After Paul had seen the vision, **we** got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, **concluding** that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

- What do I feel?
- Is it related to my inner life, recent experiences, sins, hurts, pains, desires, lust, etc.?
- Any Biblical principles, stories, verses, or testimonies of other Christian, which may become a light on my path?
- Who can I share this with, so that he/she can pray with and for me?

Testimony: My wife’s dream of his brother that worshipped idol...

Testimony: John Wesley---Minutes of Some Several Conversations between the Rev. Mr. Wesley and Others (from 1744 to 1789).

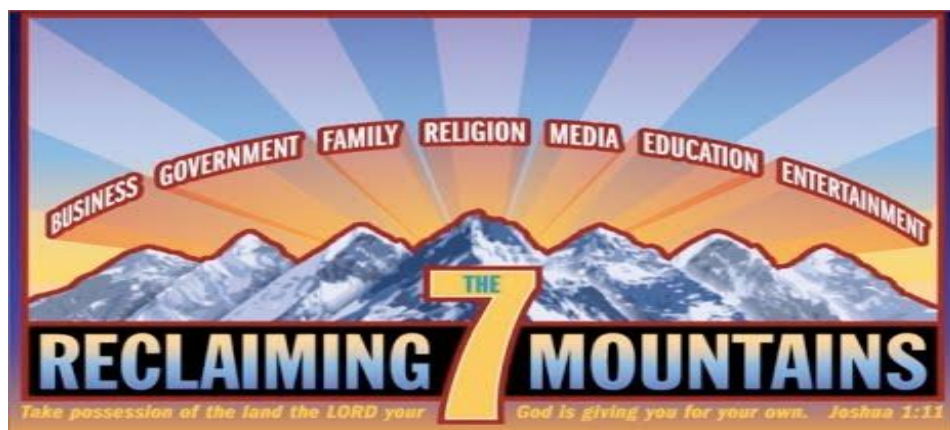
Q. 3. What may we reasonably believe to be God’s design in raising up the Preachers called Methodists? To reform the nation and, in particular, the Church; to spread scriptural holiness over the land.



Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity regards the conversion and ministries of John and Charles Wesley in the 18th century as one of those moments:

1. The Church pushed out on its own: The fall of Jerusalem (70 A.D.)
2. Realities of Empire: The Council of Nicaea (325 A.D.)
3. Doctrine, politics, and life in the Word: The Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.)
4. The monastic rescue of the church: Benedict's Rule (530 A.D.)
5. The culmination of Christendom: The coronation of Charlemagne (800 A.D.)
6. Division between East and West: The great schism (1054 A.D.)
7. The beginnings of Protestantism: The diet of Worms (1521 A.D.)
8. A new Europe: The English Acts of Supremacy (1534 A.D.)
9. Catholic reform and worldwide outreach: The founding of the Jesuits (1540 A.D.)
10. **The new piety: The conversion of the Wesleys (1738)**
11. Discontents of the modern west: The French Revolution (1789)
12. A faith for all the world: The Edinburgh Missionary Conference (1910)
13. Further turning points of the 20th century:
 - The rise and spread of Pentecostalism;
 - The Second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church;
 - The emergence of women into greater public visibility;
 - The massive production of new Bible translations as an aspect, more generally, of the globalization of Christianity;
 - The survival of Christianity under Communist regimes.

Testimony: God gave Loren Cunningham and Dr. Bill Bright the “7 Mountain Strategy” in 1975---categories of society which Christians should focus on in order to shape the society for Christ and turn nations around to God: (1) home, (2) church, (3) schools, (4) government and politics, (5) media, (6) arts, entertainment, and sports, (7) Commerce, science, and technology.



4.4.4. Note the little voice and prompting attentively:



1 Thessalonians 5:19: “Do not quench the Spirit.”

Luke 2:27: “Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts...”

Acts 8:29: “The Spirit told Philip, ‘Go to that chariot and stay near it.’”

Testimony: Brother Wong of Sabah Provisional Annual Conference was sure of God’s will through continual promptings and dream...to not kneel down as the family worships ancestor...won his dad to Christ eventually.

4.4.5. Engage in “means of grace” diligently and expect the Spirit to speak:

John Wesley taught that God’s grace is unearned and that we were not to be idle waiting to experience grace but we are to engage in the means of grace. The means of grace are ways God works invisibly in disciples, hastening, strengthening and confirming faith so that God’s grace pervades in and through disciples. The means of grace can be divided into works of piety and the works of mercy.

Works of Piety

Individual Practices – reading, meditating and studying the scriptures, prayer, fasting, regularly attending worship, healthy living, and sharing our faith with others.

Communal Practices – regularly share in the sacraments, Christian conferencing (accountability to one another), cell group, Bible study.

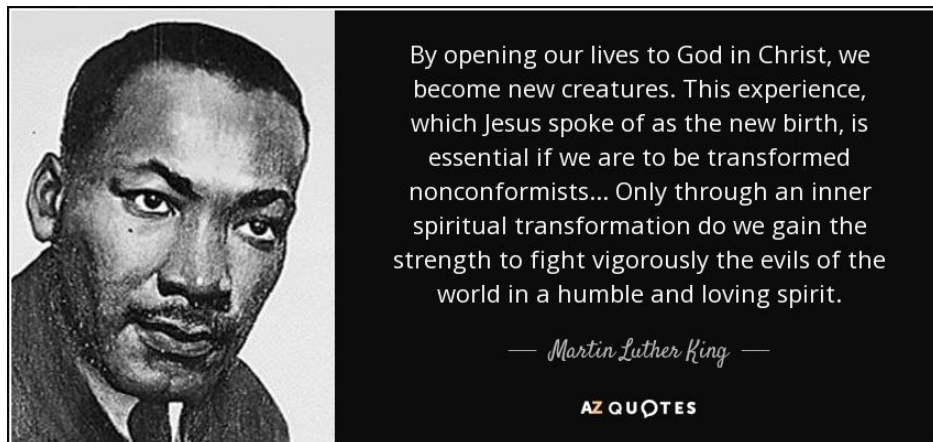
Works of Mercy

Individual Practices - doing good works, visiting the sick, visiting those in prison, feeding the hungry, and giving generously to the needs of others.

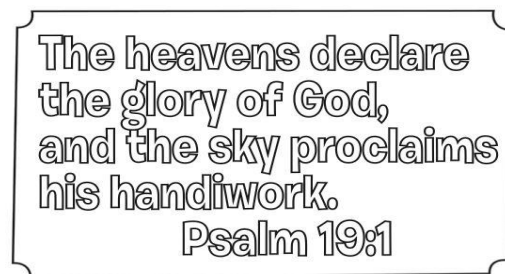
Communal Practices – seeking justice, ending oppression and discrimination (for instance Wesley challenged Methodists to end slavery), and addressing the needs of the poor.

Testimony: In Sunday Service on 30 October 2015, God spoke to me through the passage used for the Call to Worship---Psalm 24:8: “Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.” This verse gave me enough strength and courage to face my ministry in Papua New Guinea!

Testimony: A female lay leader of the Methodist Church in West Malaysia heard the Spirit’s voice to forgive a leader in the church during the Holy Communion.



4.4.6. **Observe inspirational messages from the creation for Holy Spirit is the Creator Spirit (Genesis 1:1-3):**



Matthew 6:25-34: “Look at the **birds** of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?...See how the **flowers** of the field grow. They do not labor or spin...If that is how God clothes the **grass** of the

field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?...seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Romans 1:19-20: “since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world **God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made**, so that people are without excuse.”



St Patrick Breast Plate

St. Patrick’s Breastplate is a popular prayer attributed to one of greatest missionary of the early church sent to Ireland. According to tradition, St. Patrick was born in 385 A.D. in Wales of Roman Britain. At the age of 16, he was kidnapped to Ireland by pirates and worked as a slave for six years. In the chilly, mountainous countryside, Patrick underwent authentic conversion and became a devoted Christian. Later he escaped and returned to Britain. He was sent, however, back to Ireland as a missionary.

“I arise today...Through the strength of **heaven**, Light of **sun**, Radiance of **moon**, Splendor of **fire**, Speed of **lightning**, Swiftiness of **wind**, Depth of **sea**, Stability of **earth**, Firmness of **rock**...Through God’s strength to pilot me, God’s might to uphold me, God’s wisdom to guide me, God’s eye to look before me, God’s ear to hear me, God’s word to speak for me, God’s hand to guard me, God’s way to lie before me, God’s shield to protect me, God’s host to save me, from snares of devils, from temptations of vices, from everyone who shall wish me ill, afar and anear, alone and in multitude.”

Talk 4: Speak and Act in accordance with the Holy Spirit---Prophecy



Exodus 7:1-2: “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your **prophet**. You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country.’”

“Prophet” = “spokesman” (Deuteronomy 18:18)

Ezekiel 34:1-6: “The word of the Lord came to me: ‘Son of man, **prophecy** against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them.’”



Prophecy as forth-telling---*proclaiming God’s will by teaching, warning, exhorting, encouraging, comforting, and strengthening people; combining spiritual insights into the needs of persons, communities and situations, addressing them with God-given revelation/enlightenment, leading to challenge or comfort, judgment or consolation, and ultimately building up the addressees.*

Ezekiel 30:1-4: “The word of the Lord came to me: ‘Son of man, **prophecy** and say: This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Wail and say, Alas for that day! For the day is near, the day of the Lord is near—a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations. A sword will come against Egypt, and anguish will come upon Cush. When the slain fall in Egypt, her wealth will be carried away and her foundations torn down.’”



Prophecy as fore-telling---*predicting events that will happen in the future.*

Acts 11:28-29: “One of them, named Agabus, stood up and **through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread** over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius). The disciples, as each one was able, decided to **provide help** for the brothers and sisters living in Judea.”

Acts 15:32: “Judas and Silas, who themselves were **prophets**, said much to **encourage and strengthen the believers.**”

Acts 21:10-11: “After we had been there a number of days, a **prophet** named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming over to us, he took Paul’s belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, “**The Holy Spirit says, ‘In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.**” ”

1 Corinthians 14:3,26: “But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their **strengthening, encouraging and comfort**...What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a **revelation**, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done **so that the church may be built up.**”



Prophecy for edification and direction but not canonization---*There are different “kinds of revelation”: those proclaimed by the Prophets and Apostles are meant for CANONIZATION while others are to be used in the local church for edification alone.*



Theology of prophecy:

“Essential-prophecy” REVEALED for canonization	“Everyday-prophecy” revealed for edification
Prophecies stated in OT and NT: <u>Matthew 5:18</u>: “For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.” <u>John 1:18</u>: “No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.” Eg. On the First and Second Coming of Christ; on signs in the end times.	Prophecy as forth-telling which includes expository preaching and prompting people with word from God that strengthens, encourages, comforts, warns, admonish, direct them, under the enlightenment and impulse of the Holy Spirit. Prophecy as fore-telling or predicting which results in relevant works of mercy and justice.

Prophecy as promptings and predicting:



1. There is limitation:

1.1 1 Corinthians 13:9: “For we know in part and we prophesy in part.”

1.2 Deuteronomy 29:29: “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.”

1.3 Case study 1: Joseph---God revealed, through dreams, that Joseph would be exalted, but did not revealed that he would undergo much sufferings and trials (Genesis chapters 37-50).

1.4 Case study 2: Paul---God revealed, through Agabus, that Paul would be persecuted and handed over to the Gentiles in Jerusalem but did not reveal that Paul would be brought to Rome, and furthermore, he would have unexpected opportunities to witness to many people throughout this journey (Acts chapters 21-28).



2. There is progression:

1.4 Romans 16:24-27: “Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith—to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.”

1.5 Case study 1: Abraham---called and given great promises at the age of 75 (Genesis 12), made known that the wife would give birth to a son at the age of 99 (Genesis 17), commanded to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering on a mountain which turned out to be a test of his faithfulness at the age of, probably, 125 (Genesis 22).

1.6 Case study 2: Daniel---received the revelation about Four-Kingdom as a youth (Daniel 2), about Four-Beast and the Son of Man as well as the Ram-Goat battle as an adult (Daniel 7), about the end of Babylonian empire, the future of Jewish people and the church, and the details of Greek Empire, as an old man (Daniel 5, 9-12).

1.7 Case study 3: Nebuchadnezzar---had the first dream of Four-Kingdom within which he was the head of gold (Daniel 2), the second dream of a strong tree being cut down but the stump and roots were preserved (Daniel 4).



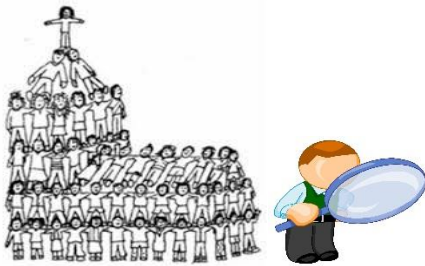
3. There is **condition:**

1.6 2 Chronicles 7:14: “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

1.7 Jeremiah 18:7-10: “If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.”

1.8 Case study 1: Simeon---“In Jerusalem at the time, there was a man, Simeon by name, a good man, a man who lived in the prayerful expectancy of help for Israel. And the Holy Spirit was on him. The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Messiah of God before he died. Led by the Spirit, he entered the Temple. As the parents of the child Jesus brought him in to carry out the rituals of the Law, Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God” (Luke 2:25–35, MSG).

1.9 Case study 2: Naaman healed of leprosy---Elisha asked Naaman to go and wash himself seven times in the Jordan, and his flesh will be restored as well as cleansed. Naaman was angry but later obeyed. He dipped himself in the Jordan seven times and his flesh became clean like that of a young boy.



4. There must be **communion and examination:**

4.1. 1 Corinthians 14:29: “Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.”

4.2. 2 Corinthians 13:14: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

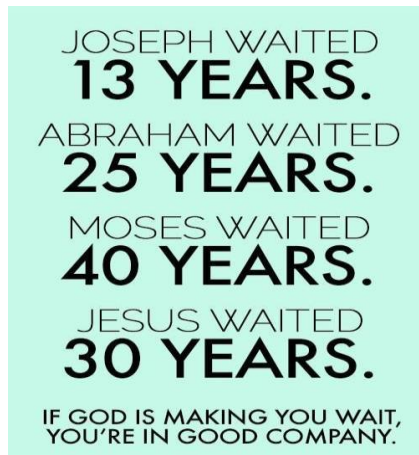
4.3. 1 Thessalonians 5:20-22: “Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.”

5. How to be spokesman for God?



5.1. **Receive prophecy:**

- 5.1.1. **Washed** by the blood of Christ Jesus in order to listen clearly and discern correctly. Matthew 5:8---“Blessed are those who are pure in their hearts, for they shall see God.”
- 5.1.2. **Watch** for promptings in light of God’s Word---can be a statement or word based on the Scripture, a striking thought, a vision, or dream. Psalm 119:105: “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” Psalm 5:3: “In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice; in the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch.”
- 5.1.3. **Wait with faith and patience**---Psalm 27:14: “Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.” Psalm 25:5: “Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day.”



5.2. **Speak for God and speak forth God’s heart:**

- 5.2.1. **Share** humbly, gently, wisely, courageously (Daniel 4:19-27).



“As I pray...as we wait upon the Lord together...it seems that there is such a prompting in me...Would you allow me to share...I sense that the Holy Spirit is leading me to discuss with you about...”

5.2.2. **Stimulate** thoughts, discussion, interaction, fellowship.

(2 Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 18:19-20)



“What do you think? What is the prompting(s) in you... What is your struggles...”

5.2.3. **Shield** the interaction and direction with God’s Word always.

(1 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 19:7-14)



“What does the Word of God say about this?...Are there any Bible verses / cases / examples that can be a lamp for your feet...a source of inspiration? What would Jesus do?”

5.2.4. **Strengthening**, encouraging and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3; John 3:17)

5.2.5. **Stress** the importance of seeking God continuously and personally

(Proverbs 16:20; Isaiah 40:31; Jeremiah 33:3)



“Let’s meet and talk about this again...I believe that God will speak to you...”

5.2.6. **Spend** time to pray and worship (Habakkuk 3:1-19; Hebrews 4:15-16)

5.2.7. **Shine** on the person with God’s promises and blessing, lifting people up.

(Numbers 6:22-27; 1 Peter 2:9; Genesis 24:16; 47:7; 1 Samuel 6:20; Proverbs 11:11; Romans 12:14)

Proverbs 11:25: “A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”