

A Heart Set Free

- 1 Prologue
- 1.1 That Charles Wesley was born prematurely and survived without any post-natal care was extraordinary. How do you see this as Divine Providence?
- 2 Opening Titles
- 3 A Root of Dry Ground
- 3.1 How are our social, moral and spiritual conditions similar to those in the days of Charles Wesley?
- 3.2 In Charles Wesley's days, Deism appears to have been the most serious challenge to biblical Christianity. What are the conflicting and competing "isms" in our days and how do we meet them?
- 4 The Family Tree
- 4.1 Charles Wesley emerged from a lineage of clergymen some of whom were also dissenters. How important was this background to his spiritual development?
- 4.2 What are the implications of this for the church to encourage children of clergy men and women?
- 4.3 What does this mean for lay-involvement in the renewal, revival and reformation of our churches?
- 5 The Early Years
- 5.1 Charles Wesley was heavily influenced by his stay-at-home mother. How can mothers in our modern society continue to have moral and spiritual influence on their children when many of them have to handle the pressures of a job as well as possible abuse, neglect or abandonment by the fathers of their children, and lack of support from society including the church?

6 Preparation for
Oxford

6.1 Charles Wesley prepared for his higher studies by a solid foundation in the basics. What lessons can we learn and apply to our curricula, both in our church schools and in our public schools?

7 Oxford and the Holy
Club

7.1 Today we have reports of anti-Christian biases in our higher institutions that are similar to the anti-religious environment that existed in the days of Charles Wesley. What lessons can we learn from the manner in which Charles Wesley maintained his religious faith?

7.2 What organizations on our secular campuses come to your mind that may be similar to the Holy Club?

7.3 How can Christian clubs and organizations be influential on secular campuses?

7.4 Since the nickname "Methodist" implied a methodical study of the Bible, how does the name "Methodist" apply to your local congregation and to you individually?

8 Farewell Father!

8.1 Do you think that Charles and John Wesley failed their father by not continuing in his pulpit?

8.2 Do you think that if Charles or John Wesley had accepted the pulpit at Epworth, they would have missed their greater calling?

9 To America

9.1 How did the Moravians influence Charles and John Wesley?

9.2 Who and what influences have you experienced in your journey of faith?

9.3 What were the reasons for the failure of the American mission for the Wesley brothers, especially Charles?

9.4 One of the main problems that Charles Wesley faced was the attitude of his parishioners who almost revolted against his "straight talk." As a congregation, what lessons can we learn about relating to our pastors?

10 Back in England

10.1 Charles Wesley has been described as a manic-depressive who felt very alone and had suicidal thoughts after his failures in America. How real is it for Christian leaders to feel this way when confronted by rejection, failures and aloneness today?

10.2 How can we discern and encourage our pastors and leaders?

11 Conversion

11.1 Though both Charles and John Wesley were brought up in the church and parsonage, and had been ordained as clergymen themselves, their religion was based on legalism and works. How rampant is this malaise in our churches?

11.2 Describe your own conversion experience and your journey to that experience.

11.3 How can we present the Gospel in a clearer and more succinct manner so as to avoid these misunderstandings of the Christian faith?

11.4 What role can the church play in bringing individuals to their conversion experience?

12 The New Life

12.1 How did the conversion experience change the life of Charles Wesley?

12.2 How has your conversion experience changed your life?

12.3 How did Charles and John Wesley deal with the opposition and persecution they encountered?

12.4 What kinds of opposition or persecution, if any, have you encountered and how did you deal with it?

12.5 How can the church adequately prepare new members to face these trials?

13 The Poet

13.1 Because the gift of poetry ran in the family, how natural was it for Charles Wesley to become a hymn writer?

13.2 How did Charles Wesley's classical training enrich his hymn writing?

13.3 What are some of the main themes of Charles Wesley's hymns?

13.4 Why do Charles Wesley's hymns reflect forgiveness as the fundamental Christian experience?

13.5 How are Charles Wesley's hymns steeped in scripture?

13.6 How do Charles Wesley's hymns reflect a pastoral heart?

13.7 How do Charles Wesley's hymns demonstrate literary quality and poetic craftsmanship?

13.8 What lessons can we learn about poetry and hymnody from Charles Wesley as we incorporate contemporary hymns and praise songs into our worship and devotional life?

13.9 Charles and John Wesley had a creative partnership where Charles submitted to John's editorship. What does it teach us about the role of humility in any successful endeavor?

13.10 By the use of personal pronouns in his hymns, Charles Wesley displays a fervent devotion to Christ. How have his hymns brought you into a closer relationship with Him?

14 Matters of the Heart

14.1 How did Charles Wesley's interference lead to a disaster for John Wesley?

14.2 How can we as a congregation discern and encourage our pastors and leaders who may have marital strife?

15 Husband and Father

15.1 Charles Wesley was disappointed that his children did not follow in his spiritual footsteps. How real is that disappointment to many in the church today, and what steps can be taken to exhort the younger generation?

16 The Latter Years

16.1 How inevitable was the eventual separation of the Methodists from the Anglican Church?

16.2 What lessons can we learn from the loyalty to his "Mother Church" displayed by Charles Wesley?

17 Death

17.1 Charles Wesley went to his eternal rest fully confident of his salvation. How confident and secure are you about your final destiny?

18 Epilogue: The Legacy

18. Have you accepted the invitation that Charles Wesley has extended through his life, ministry and lyrics?