

WAY OF THE MASTER YAHSHUA

Church History

John Wesley and the Great Awakening: The Power of the Holy Spirit!

The First Great Awakening, a period of religious revivalism that swept across the American colonies in the mid-18th century, was marked by extraordinary manifestations of the Holy Spirit. One of the most prominent figures during this time was John Wesley, the founder of Methodism.

According to Wesley's own writings and church history, his sermons were often accompanied by powerful spiritual experiences. People would fall under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, tremble violently, and even faint. Many reported receiving the 'baptism of the Holy Spirit,' which Wesley believed was a unique experience once from conversion.

These encounters with the Spirit were often accompanied by the gift of speaking in tongues. Wesley referred to this as 'jubilation,' and described it as a 'strange and involuntary motion' of the tongue that produced 'a sound like singing.'

The power of the Holy Spirit was so evident at Wesley's meetings that people would sometimes have to be transported home on flatbed wagons and while on the way home, while they continued to speak in tongues. Some individuals would speak for up to three days without ceasing.

Wesley himself witnessed and recorded numerous instances of these extraordinary spiritual manifestations. In his journal, he wrote:

'Many fell to the ground, being seized with strong trembling; and some with violent bodily agitations. Some burst out into a flood of tears, and others into a loud and bitter crying.... Others broke out into singing in the Spirit in tongues, or into the high praises of God; and many into strong and various expressions of joy.'

Wesley believed that these experiences were a genuine work of the Holy Spirit and that they were essential for Christian growth. Wesley taught that the baptism of the Holy Spirit empowered believers with spiritual gifts, an such as the ability to heal those praying for others laying on hands, prophesy, and speak in tongues.

Wesley also believed that the gifts of the Spirit were distributed according to God's will and that all Christians would receive the different gifts by the same Spirit. However, he emphasized that all believers should seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit and that it was a sign of God's favor upon the receiver.

Wesley's teachings on the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit had a profound impact on the Methodist movement and further on Christianity as a whole! "When people of his time

claimed that the gifts of the Holy Spirit had ceased, he referred to church history and pointed out that many people after the first century continued to experience and demonstrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their times."

Review

They helped to shape the understanding of the Holy Spirit's role in Christian experience and led to a renewed emphasis on spiritual gifts and the power of God in the lives of believers.

Discussion Time –



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