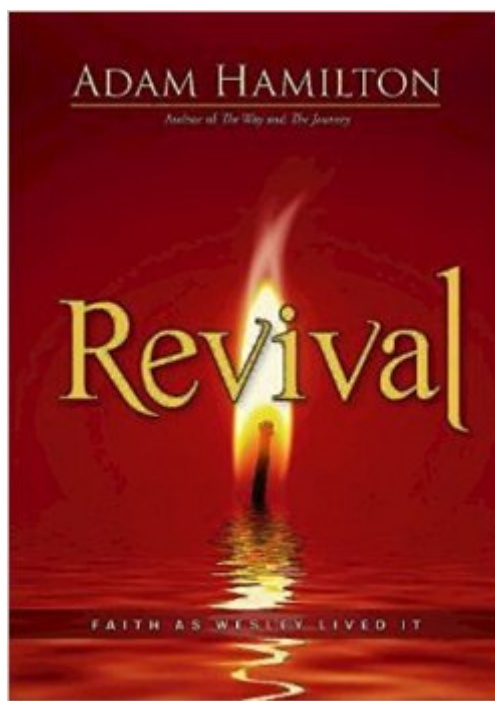


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Revival: Faith As Wesley Lived It



Synopsis

Wesley's message and his faith continue to speak to 21st-century Christians "calling for a revival of our hearts and souls so that our world might be changed. Join Adam Hamilton for a six-week journey as he travels to England, following the life of John Wesley and exploring his defining characteristics of a Wesleyan Christian. Wesley's story is our story. It defines our faith and it challenges us to rediscover our spiritual passion. This is a gracious gift that we will benefit from reading. The commentary is written by a superb preacher who has a pastor's heart and knows how to make the past come alive to strengthen our own experience. Prepare to be transformed. Richard P. Heitzenrater, William Kellon Quick Professor Emeritus of Church History and Wesley Studies at Duke Divinity School Adam Hamilton connects John Wesley's contribution in 18th-century England with his legacy for 21st-century America, bringing lessons from Wesley's life and ministry to bear on discipleship today. This is an excellent resource for personal and denominational revival. Scott Jones, Resident Bishop of the Great Plains area of The United Methodist Church and author of *The Wesleyan Way*

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St. Andrew's Church Epworth

Just off the square, a short walk from the Red Lion Inn, is St. Andrew's Church, the

Anglican church where Samuel Wesley, John's father, served as rector from around 1695 to

his death in 1735. Parts of the church building may date back to the 1100s. **Baptismal Font** The building has recently been renovated, but inside you can still see the baptismal font where both John and Charles were baptized. John served as curate (essentially an associate to his father) for a short while after his ordination. Spend time at St. Andrew's praying and reflecting upon how your own faith has been shaped by the Wesley boys who grew up in this church. **Samuel Wesley's Grave** Step outside the church, and nearby you'll find the grave of Samuel Wesley. Samuel's grave was the site of a famous incident, when John visited Epworth and the new and somewhat insecure rector did not allow him to preach in St. Andrew's. Later that day, John stood on his father's grave and preached to a crowd significantly larger than had attended St. Andrew's in the morning.

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[Epworth Old Rectory](#)

You will want to visit the Epworth Old Rectory (the parsonage). This home was built in 1709 after the first rectory burned down, the incident that nearly cost John his life. This "new" old rectory is now owned by the World Methodist Council and is being restored. **Christ Church Oxford** If you want to experience the Wesley sites chronologically, start with Christ Church, the college Wesley attended while at Oxford. Plan to take the guided tour, which takes about an hour.

John Wesley's Apartment These photos show the interior of the preaching house on the main floor and Wesley's apartment on the second floor. While in Bristol, make sure also to visit Charles Wesley's home. Charles lived in Bristol from 1756 to 1771 and ultimately settled in London, where he died in 1788. **City Road Chapel** Today, over 200 years after it was built, City Road Chapel (now called Wesley's Chapel) still houses an active congregation and is a hub of Methodist activity. Next door is John Wesley's house, and Wesley's grave is behind the church.

I am a tremendous fan of Rev. Adam Hamilton and have read 16 of his books. The reason I say this is because I do not want to be critical of Revival in any way. If you are looking for a book providing a biography of John Wesley, I think you will be disappointed with this book. In fact, Hamilton says in his introduction that he is not trying to write a book telling about the beliefs and practices of Wesley. There are many fine books that do this by authors like Henry Rack, Kenneth Collins, Stephen Tomkins, Robert Tuttle, and Ronald Stone to name a few. What sets this book apart from many of the others is that Hamilton reviews Wesley's life with brief historical comments, examples of his faith, experiences finding his true meaning of salvation and trials causing him to question his own

salvation. Hamilton verbally paints a psychological picture of Wesley's beliefs, personal conflicts, and motivational stimuli that drives the founder of Methodism to establish practices different than the Church of England and the theologies of his time. But Hamilton even goes further by bringing a personal touch throughout the book through inserting examples from his church and pastoral experience. I don't think anyone will be disappointed if they realize this is not a historical biography.

A great book that mixes spiritual development and Wesleyan history. Adam Hamilton does a great job of mixing the reader's current reality and the original origins of the Wesleyan movement. In doing so, the reader learns that much of what they are struggling with are the same things Christians struggled with in the 1700s.

This book by noted Methodist pastor and thinker Adam Hamilton is one of his best works, and one of - if not THE - best Methodist "primers" out there. History, Theology, reflection and exhortation are wrapped up in this clearly-written and easily accessible work. This one is for anyone from confirmand, to new member, to life-long disciple, to seminary professor, to pastor to "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest." Worth your money to buy it, your time to study it - and your application to everyday discipleship.

This is a short, interesting and unpretentious book that was written to introduce Methodist church study groups to the exciting life and interesting theology of their denomination's founder, 18th century Anglican/Episcopalian priest John Wesley. Christians in other denominations may also find the book interesting because Wesley was a world-class church planter. His strategies and thoughts on church planting have relevance for Christians of many different denominations who are attempting to revitalize their churches. The book's "angle" is that it uses photographs of important sites in Wesley's life, such as his childhood church in Epworth, England or a church where he preached at Oxford University, to illustrate points in Wesley's life when he showed great courage, or made major errors, or thought out new aspects of his take on what became Methodist theology. Wesley, a mild-mannered scholar, had a knack for enraging the complacent Anglican Church of England in his era through his well-aimed and sometimes abrasive criticisms of its sloth, rigidity and failure to reach out to the lower classes, who were mostly "unchurched." He ended up as the target of repeated murder attempts, mob violence and house burnings by enraged Anglicans, before he became (in old age) an English national hero and the head of a new denomination. Readers should keep in mind that the book is an introduction to Wesley's life and

thought, and if they wish to learn more about him after reading it, there are many existing collections of his journals and sermons, plus more comprehensive biographies. I am an Episcopalian/Anglican and do not agree with some of Wesley's theology or how he approached his Church of England colleagues -- to say he was tactless would be putting it very mildly -- but the book taught me much about Methodists that I did not know and also told me some facts about the Anglican persecution of Wesley that I had not been aware of.

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