

The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way – Chapter 3

1. The focus on this chapter is on two phrases from scripture, found in diverse contexts in Wesley's works: "The form of godliness" and "The power of God."
 - a. What are some things associated with "the form of godliness," in Wesley's day and in our setting?
 - b. What are some good reasons for keeping the "form of godliness?"
 - c. What did the "power of God" look like in Wesley's day?
 - d. What is controversial about the "power of God," then and now?
 - e. Why would we want to see more of the power of God in our church and life?
2. What do you learn about Wesley's lifestyle (the "forms of godliness") in this chapter?
 - a. How do these forms match up with Christians today? With your own life?
 - b. Which of these features do you find most attractive?
 - c. Which of these features do you find most challenging?
3. Wesley liked to distinguish between having "the faith of a servant" and the "faith of a child."
 - a. How are these two kinds of faith different according to the authors? How are they alike?
 - b. In what ways have you experienced these two kinds of faith? Which do you prefer? Why?
 - c. What are some ways we can help people gain the "faith of a child?"
4. The original biblical context for the differentiation between "the form of godliness" and "the power of God" is 2 Timothy 3:1-9.
 - a. How does our discussion of the Wesleyan Way fit this biblical context?
 - b. How does being a "lover of pleasure" get in the way of being a "lover of God?" Which loves cause the most challenge to believers in our current context? What can we do about it?
 - c. What are some ways that one can be "always learning" but "never coming to a knowledge of the truth?" (v. 7)
5. Charles Wesley wrote the hymn "Spirit of Faith, Come Down." How does this hymn bring together the "form of godliness" and the "power of God?" What would it look like for us to seek and experience for ourselves what this hymn talks about?

1. Spirit of faith, come down,
reveal the things of God,
and make to us the Godhead known,
and witness with the blood.
'Tis thine the blood to apply
and give us eyes to see,
who did for every sinner die
hath surely died for me.
2. No one can truly say
that Jesus is the Lord,
unless thou take the veil away
and breathe the living Word.
Then, only then, we feel
our interest in his blood,
and cry with joy unspeakable,
"Thou art my Lord, my God!"
3. O that the world might know
the all atoning Lamb!
Spirit of faith, descend and show
the virtue of his name;
the grace which all may find,
the saving power, impart,
and testify to humankind,
and speak in every heart.
4. Inspire the living faith
(which whosoe'er receive,
the witness in themselves they have
and consciously believe),
the faith that conquers all,
and doth the mountain move,
and saves whoe'er on Jesus call,
and perfects them in love.