

September 27 | Sunday

Longing for Holiness

1 Peter 1:13-16



**28 | Mon – Helping each other toward holiness** | Read Hebrews 10:22-25 & 12:10-15

In 1728, John Wesley graduated from Oxford and became a priest in the Church of England. In 1729, he began participating in The Holy Club, a study group started by his brother, Charles. Together they worshiped, prayed, studied, cared for the poor, the sick, and orphans. How have your connections with other believers spurred you on to live out your faith? How are you able to encourage others?

**29 | Tue – Methodical worship** | Read Psalms 147:7-12 & Matthew 4:8-11

Wesley wanted to live a holy life and adopted many 'methods' to help him live that way. Regular worship was one of those essential methods for Wesley, and for us today. The ultimate object of our worship is always God, not our methods. To worship is to honor God and put our hope in His faithful love. How does worship affect your relationship with Him? How can you resist, like Jesus did, the temptation to worship something else?

**30 | Wed – Praying night and day** | Read Psalms 42:5-8 & 1 Thessalonians 3:5-10

Both the Old and New Testament speak of regular prayer as a characteristic of God's people. The Wesley brothers and their Oxford friends chose to pray at specific times throughout the day. In your own words, what do you believe is the main reason to pray? What could you do to make prayer a more regular part of your day?

**01 | Thu – Lives guided by the Bible's principles** | Read Acts 17:1-12 & Romans 15:2-7

The early Christians believed that the Scriptures bear witness to Jesus. John and Charles Wesley believed that careful study of the Bible was a key 'method' for spiritual growth. John suggest pausing frequently to "examine ourselves by what we read, both hearts and lives." When the Bible is hard to understand, try setting aside - for the moment - what is confusing and focus on applying what *does* make sense, even if it is only one verse.

**02 | Fri – Holiness that cares for orphans and widows** | Read James 1:22-27

One key that Wesley grasped early on was that true holiness is not just personal; it is also social. He and his friends became active in helping prisoners and widows in Oxford. There are many who claim to know Christ but their intellectual knowledge of His teachings makes no difference in the way they live. In what ways has your allegiance to Jesus changed your activities, priorities and lifestyle?

**03 | Sat – "The One who called you is holy"** | Read 1 Peter 1:13-16

An inner hunger for holiness was a guiding light that illuminated all of John Wesley's life and teaching. The Greek word Peter uses for **holiness** is *hagios*, the root meaning 'different.' For example, the Temple was *hagios* because it was different than other buildings. A Christian is *hagios* because we are asked to live life according to different principles. How does your heart respond to Peter's stirring call to be holy?

**October 4 | Sun – Crisis of Faith** | Read Romans 4:3-5; 5:1-2b



Hastings United Methodist Church | *Adventure by the Park*