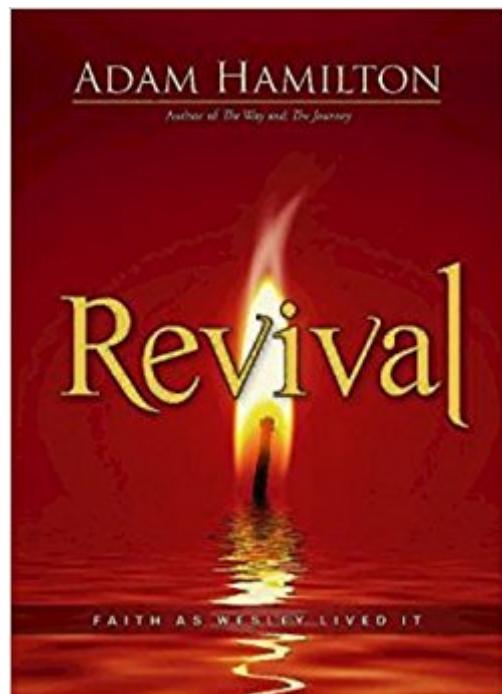


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# Revival: Faith As Wesley Lived It



## Synopsis

Wesley's message and his faith continue to speak to 21st-century Christians by 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*

## Book Information

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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

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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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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.

Adam Hamilton is senior pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, one of the fastest growing, most highly visible churches in the country. The Church Report named Hamilton's congregation the most influential mainline church in America, and he preached at the National Prayer Service as part of the presidential inauguration festivities in 2013 and was appointed to the President's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood

Partnerships. Hamilton is the best-selling and award-winning author of *Creed*, *Half Truths*, *The Call*, *The Journey*, *The Way*, *24 Hours That Changed the World*, *John*, *Revival*, *Not a Silent Night*, *Enough*, *When Christians Get It Wrong*, and *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White*, all published by Abingdon Press. Learn more about Adam Hamilton at [AdamHamilton.org](http://AdamHamilton.org).

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.

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.

Written authoritatively, the information is interesting to Methodists and others curious about how successful churches work. Successful churches are perceived personally relevant to those who seriously want to grow spiritually. I feel well informed about John and Charles Wesley's role and intent; and the impact they made thorough persistence through personal as well as the great religious and social difficulties of their era. The book may help nominal Christians to get more involved in their church's small groups to facilitate working together to make a difference. For me Adam Hamilton's book is a model for understanding the beneficial impact of small groups who intentionally take on a role of leadership in the areas their church needs clarity, alignment, focus and movement through actively involved lay leadership.

Our pastor is using this as a review of Wesley's life and preaching on the principles involved in his development. I too am a seminary graduate and enjoy the author's viewpoint on Wesley and what it can teach those who may have failed in their lives only to recover and do great things. It is a bit eerie to see that new candidates for ministry also go through some of the same doubts, only to come out on top when they allow the LORD to guide them into ministry. Wesley was not perfect, but he did what he could and finally turned to the LORD for the help he needed to do what the LORD

wanted him to do. We Christians should never forget that with the help of the Holy Spirit we can accomplish much more than on our own, but we must never think that it was only ourselves who have done the work. Wesley's 'strangely warmed heart' was the sign that needed to put himself in the hands of a caring Savior.

Adam Hamilton takes his readers on a journey to England to explore the life of John Wesley and the founding of the Methodist church. His story examines the conviction of worship ( and sometimes lack of) during John Wesley's life and how Wesley and his followers set about making true disciples of Christ. The importance of head and heart are emphasized. Passion to follow Christ (heart) but also study of the Bible ( head) is an integral part of Christianity for Methodists. This book also focus on the need to serve the poor, the sick, the imprisoned not to be saved but because of salvation we are called to walk as Christ walked. A good read for any Christian but of particular interest to those who practice the Methodist faith.

Our bible study is now using this book. All of us agree that this is the best book on John Wesley and Methodism we have read. Even as long time Methodists, we have learned much that we didn't know about Wesley. John Wesley's concept that captured my attention was that of becoming an "altogether Christian." I would recommend it for small group study or even reading and contemplating on one's own.

We read this as a group at church and did a study on it every week until it was completed. It was a very easy read and was nothing of what I thought it would be. I enjoyed reading about Wesley and how and where he lived. My heart broke for him as he lost his love but then soared when he found another in God!! I recommend this as a study for a group or an individual. We also used the dvd with it as well and it had many shots of the places where Wesley visited or lived or preached. This helped with picturing everything instead of just reading about it.

I really thought this book series was the best I've taught from author Adam Hamilton. My class enjoyed reading the book and watching the DVD. The DVD had a lot of information not contained in the book and it was great as always seeing the sites where Wesley lived and worked. The book also gave the class great direction in looking at what being a Methodist was about and it compared to today's ideas. The adult study guide was very well written and contained more than could be done in 90 minutes. After teaching a number of Hamilton's studies I am really glad he created this one. It

was by far his best.

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