

Wesley And Wigglesworth On The Fruits Of Regeneration

John Wesley

John Wesley, the great old evangelist and founder of the Methodists taught many fine things about being born again or becoming new creations in Christ. He said: *“In that instant we are born again, born from above, born of the spirit: there is a real as well as a relative change. We are inwardly renewed by the power of God. We feel ‘the love of God shed abroad in our heart, by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us,’ producing love to all mankind, and more especially to the children of God; expelling the love of the world, the love of pleasure, of ease, of honor, of money; together with pride, anger, self-will, and every other evil temper; in a word, changing the earthly, sensual, devilish mind, into ‘the mind which was in Christ Jesus’.”*¹ Wesley also said that true Christianity is *“the love of God and our neighbour; the image of God stamped on the heart; the life of God in the soul of man; the mind that was in Christ, enabling us to walk as Christ also walked.”*²

Smith Wigglesworth

Smith Wigglesworth said, *“I simply repeat what the Spirit of God has told us here, that this ministration of death, written and engraved in stones is DONE AWAY. The man who becomes a living epistle of Christ, written with the Spirit of the living God, has ceased to be an adulterer, or a murderer or a covetous man; the will of God is his delight. I love to do the will of God; there is no irksomeness to it: it is no trial to pray; no trouble to read the Word of God; it is not a hard thing to go to the place of worship. With the psalmist you say, ‘I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord’ ...It is written of Christ, ‘Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness’. And in this new life in the Spirit, in this new covenant life, you love the things that are right and pure and holy, and shudder at all things that are wrong. Jesus was able to say, ‘The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me’, and the moment we are filled with the Spirit of God we are brought into like wonderful condition, and, as we continue to be filled with the Spirit, the enemy cannot have an inch of territory in us...I don’t want to boast. If I glory in anything, it is only in the Lord who has been so gracious to me. But I remember one time stepping out of a railway car to wash my hands . I had a season of prayer, and the Lord just filled me to overflowing with His love. I was going to a convention in Ireland, and I could not get there fast enough. As I returned, I believe that the Spirit of the Lord was so heavily upon me that my face must have shone. (No man can tell himself when the Spirit transforms his very countenance.) There were two clerical men sitting together, and as I got into the carriage again, one of them cried out, ‘You convince me of sin.’ Within three minutes everyone in the car was crying to God for salvation. This thing has happened many times in my life. It is this ministration of the Spirit that Paul speaks of, this filling of the Spirit that will make your life effective so that even the people in the stores where you trade will want to leave your presence because they are brought under conviction...”*³

¹ Al Bryant (Compiler), “The John Wesley Reader”, Word Books, Waco, Texas, 1983, page 198.

² John Wesley, “The Journal of the Rev. John Wesley” V, The Epworth Press, London, 1914, page 284.

³ Smith Wigglesworth, “Ever Increasing Faith”, Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, 1971, pages 98-100.

