

From Pastor Ed: The 21 Day Wesley Challenge

This is day 21! You made it!

OT (Over Time) session follows worship tomorrow!

Day Twenty-One Question Twenty-One

When did I last speak to someone about my faith?

Matthew 28:19-20

When John Wesley challenges us with the question, “When did I last speak to someone about my faith?” he is directly encouraging us to take up the challenge Jesus gave his disciples in Acts 1:8ff, to be his witnesses or storytellers. In Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:46-49, and John 20:21-22, we also read that Jesus challenged his followers to continue the mission and message of God’s work. To respond faithfully to Wesley’s question is to live a life of going, obeying and listening to the Holy Spirit, realizing that each one of us is sent into the world to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

- When did you last speak to someone about your faith? Do you show your faith more through your words or deeds? How can you balance both of those sides of the gospel “coin” in your day-to-day life? Think through your story of personal transformation. How has your faith in God changed your life and made you a better person, who has a better effect on the lives of others? Spend some time writing your story down.

Prayer: God, you sent Jesus to show us the way. I pray that I would profess my trust in the saving grace of the gospel with courage and direction from the Holy Spirit, helping you draw my family and friends to your transforming love. Amen.

Day 2 devotional 21: (thanks to Pastor Ed)

1 Peter 3:15b-16

“...Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and reverence.”

We often make witnessing about our faith entirely too hard! Many of us think the task of witnessing is convincing someone that they need saved, and that they must turn their lives over to Jesus. That’s a pretty daunting task! Especially when we don’t think we are theologically up to the task!

However, many of the 21 questions Wesley asks have to do with forming Christian character. The more we focus on working through these questions in a small group the more we will find Christian Character forming in us.

This will not go unnoticed by the non-Christians in our life. They will see that we have become less critical, less judgmental, more compassionate, etc. They may see such a difference in us that they will take us aside and ask something like, “What’s changed in you?” or “I really notice a difference in how you relate to people, has something happened?”

These questions provide opportunities where we share our faith. We may answer the previous questions with something like this, “Thanks for noticing. I came to realize just how critical my words and actions had become toward others, and now I’ve been asking God to give the power to change. I still have a ways to go, but I believe that God will keep doing this work in me. You know what? I feel better than I ever have.”

Sharing our faith is nothing more than sharing what God has done for us. Don’t worry about having the “right” words as God will give you the words to speak.