

John Wesley's Questions for Self-Examination

1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
2. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
3. Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?
4. Can I be trusted?
5. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?
6. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
7. Did the Bible live in me today?
8. Do I give it time to speak to me everyday?
9. Am I enjoying prayer?
10. When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?
11. Do I pray about the money I spend?
12. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
13. Do I disobey God in anything?
14. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
15. Am I defeated in any part of my life?
16. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
17. How do I spend my spare time?
18. Am I proud?
19. Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?
20. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
21. Do I grumble or complain constantly?
22. Is Christ real to me?

A Season for Self-Examination



Lent 2021

Ideas for Observing Lent

During the Season of Lent you are encouraged to take up a daily Spiritual Discipline you do not normally practice that will help you to focus in on your spiritual life and grow in your relationship with Christ and your commitment to follow him as his disciple. Below are a few suggestions.

- ◆ **Practice Fasting.** Fasting is the practice of abstaining from something you value or enjoy such as eating meat, snacking between meals, partaking of a favorite food or beverage, making unnecessary purchases, watching television, surfing social media, using the car radio, etc. Fasting is not an end in itself but should always be accompanied by prayer as we deny ourselves something we enjoy in order to make more time for God.
- ◆ **Practice Self-Examination.** Set aside an intentional time each day to examine your own heart and consider where you have fallen short in your obedience to Christ. Use this devotional booklet to assist you with this practice.
- ◆ **Be an Intercessor.** Set aside intentional time for intercessory prayer each day as you lift the needs of others before our Lord.
- ◆ **Be an Encourager.** Take time each day to write a note of encouragement to someone or to make an encouraging phone call.
- ◆ **Worship.** Worship isn't just for Sunday. Spend time in worship each day, listening to worship music or watching an online or televised worship service.
- ◆ **Meditate on Scripture.** Spend time each day reading, meditating on, and praying Scripture. You may wish to keep a journal
- ◆ **Practice Centering Prayer.** Spend intentional time each day in silence, listening for God's voice as you release your own cares and worries into his waiting hands.
- ◆ **Take a Prayer Walk.** Take a prayerful walk everyday, praying for the people of your neighborhood, needs of the world, etc. A Prayer Labyrinth will be set up in the church gym from March 21-April 4 for your use.
- ◆ **Serve Someone.** Each day choose a small act of service to do for someone else without it being asked or expected of you. As you offer this act of service, pray for the person/people you are helping.
- ◆ **Focus on Social Justice.** Each day choose a social justice issue (racism, immigration, environment, etc.) to research and pray over. Consider how God may be calling you to work for social justice.

Saturday, April 3—Holy Saturday

Over the past 6 weeks we've considered each of these self-examination questions one at a time, but John Wesley asked himself all 22 of these questions at the end of each day. This discipline helped him to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ as he worked diligently to root sinful behaviors and attitudes out of his life and model his life after the teaching and example of Jesus. Wesley wasn't perfect—far from it! No one knew better than Wesley just how far from perfect he was; but John Wesley never gave up on his efforts to be as perfect in love as he could possibly be.

As you look back over the 22 questions listed on the back cover of this booklet, how have they helped you look more deeply at your life? Do you find yourself being more mindful of how you are living your Christian walk throughout the day? Has your time sitting with these questions prompted you to make any changes in your life? Which questions helped you to think about something you'd never given much thought to before? Which questions prompted you to recognize and repent of a sin you had previously overlooked? Which questions urged you to pursue a greater degree of faithfulness in your life?

You may or may not find it helpful to consider these questions every day as John Wesley did; but I urge you to keep this booklet handy and to look back over these questions from time to time throughout the year. Self-examination is an important spiritual discipline for those who desire to grow in faith and obedience. We can't follow Christ fully unless we repent of our sin, we can't repent of our sin unless we first recognize and confess our sin, and we will never recognize our sins in order to confess and repent of them unless we take the time and trouble to honestly look at our lives and see ourselves as God sees us, with all pretense stripped away.

Thursday, April 1—Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday service tonight @ 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 2—Good Friday

Good Friday service tonight @ 7:00 p.m.

Following Christ isn't just about abiding by some set of moralistic rules or adhering to a set of religious beliefs; it is first and foremost a relationship! Jesus Christ is not some dead giant of the past whose life and teachings we admire, Jesus Christ is the living Lord of heaven and earth, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Jesus walks with us and talks with us, if we let him. He isn't just some being we appreciate from afar, but an active part of our lives. As you consider your walk with Christ, the ways in which you interact with Jesus throughout the day in your life of prayer as well as in the seemingly mundane decisions you make about how you spend your time and your money and your choice of language when you interact with others—is Christ real to you?

Is Christ real to me?

Walking Labyrinth available in church gym

Thursday from 8 a.m.—12 p.m. and 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Friday from 6 p.m. —8:30 p.m.

Introduction to the Practice of Self-Examination

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, in Mark 1:14 Jesus says, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news." The dictionary indicates that to repent is to "feel or express sincere regret or remorse about one's wrongdoing or sin." The repentance called for throughout the Bible is a summons to a personal, absolute and ultimate unconditional surrender to God. Though it includes sorrow and regret, it is more than that. In repenting, one makes a complete change of direction (180° turn) toward God. When we truly repent, we not only recognize what we are doing wrong and feel remorse; we also make a conscious decision to turn our backs on those sinful behaviors or attitudes.

John Wesley, one of the founders of the Methodist movement, engaged in a daily practice he called "self-examination." At the end of every day he considered 22 questions as he examined his thoughts, words and actions, searching them for areas where he had failed to be faithful in his commitment to Christ. He would then "grade" himself based on how well he thought he did or didn't do in his efforts to be a faithful Christian. Wesley was actually quite hard on himself and frequently gave himself failing grades, but his purpose was not to beat himself silly. Wesley sincerely desired to be transformed into the likeness of Christ and he knew that such transformation would never happen if he allowed sin to reign in his life unchecked. He examined himself, his thoughts, his words, his actions, his motives, and his use of time every day in the hopes that by doing so he would gradually root the sin out of his life, growing nearer and nearer to his goal of Christian perfection.

Throughout these 40 days of Lent, as well as the 6 Sundays in Lent, I encourage you to practice self-examination as you consider the same questions Wesley asked himself everyday. We will spend two days on each question, carefully searching our hearts and our lives for an honest answer to the question at hand in the hopes that by doing so we may recognize and repent of our sin and lead lives worthy of our calling in Jesus Christ.

May you have a blessed Lent!

—Pastor Shalimar

Wednesday, February 17—Ash Wednesday
Ash Wednesday service tonight @ 7:00 p.m.

We will begin our focus on Wesley's self-examination questions tomorrow. Today, as we prepare our hearts to begin this journey of self-examination, I invite you to spend time meditating on this passage from Psalm 51.

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
- 5 Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- 6 You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Tuesday, March 30
Wednesday, March 31

When God freed the Israelites from their years of slavery in Egypt and guided Moses to lead them through the desert, the people grumbled and complained constantly—against both God and Moses. Their grumbling and complaining only added to their misery and extended their years of wilderness wondering far beyond what was technically necessary. God's people complained about the prophets and plenty of people complained against Jesus. Even the early church was filled with grumbling and complaints as people from vastly different socio-economic backgrounds learned to live and worship together. Grumbling and complaining gets us nowhere! Multiple times throughout both the Old and New Testaments we are warned against the temptation to waste our time and energy complaining! How much energy do you expend in grumbling and complaining?

Do I grumble or complain constantly?

Walking Labyrinth available in church gym
Tuesday & Wednesday from 9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Sunday, March 28—Palm/Passion Sunday
Monday, March 29

Every time we pray the Lord's Prayer we ask God to "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." In Matthew 6 Jesus says that if we do not forgive others God will not forgive us. In Luke Jesus says, "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." In Colossians 3 we are told to "bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." The ability and willingness to forgive those who have wronged us is essential if we want to be forgiven ourselves! In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5, Jesus tells us that we should reconcile with one another—forgive one another—before bringing our gift to the altar. Do you struggle with forgiveness? Is there anyone in your life with whom you find it particularly difficult to treat with loving kindness? What steps do you need to take to begin mending those bridges?

**Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize,
hold a resentment toward or disregard?
If so, what am I doing about it?**

Thursday, February 18
Friday February 19

We all like it when people think well of us, but sometimes we give others the impression we are better than we really are—and sometimes we even manage to deceive *ourselves* into thinking we are better than we are! Hypocrisy is the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform. When we say one thing but do another, we are hypocrites. When we claim to be followers of Christ but engage in or support actions or policies that do not reflect the teaching and example of Christ, we are hypocrites. When we condemn other people for their sinful behaviors while knowingly and unapologetically persisting in our own sinful behaviors, we are hypocrites. When we point fingers at people on the "other side" while giving our own "side" a pass for the same behaviors, we are hypocrites. Wesley was constantly checking himself for any inconsistencies between his words and his actions, and we should too!

**Am I consciously or unconsciously creating
the impression that I am better than I really am?
In other words, am I a hypocrite?**

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Sunday from 8 a.m.—12 p.m.
Monday from 9 a.m. –12 p.m.

Saturday, February 20
Sunday, February 21

This one made the “Top Ten”: Thou shalt not bear false witness! Bearing false witness is lying and lying is a sin. We bear false witness whenever we speak or pass on words that are untrue, whether we know they are untrue or not! A lot of what is shared over social media violates this commandment as we have a tendency to share things we agree with without any concern as to whether or not the information contained therein is actually true. Exaggerating, representing something as being larger, better, or worse than it really is, is also a form of lying. In today’s age, even pictures and videos can be angled, cropped, and photo shopped until they are essentially lies. The prohibition against bearing false witness applies not only to those whom you know, but also to people you don’t know personally such as politicians, movie stars, sports giants, and other famous people. If you do not personally know it to be true, you should not be passing it on! Wesley was constantly on guard against the temptation to be less than honest in his words and actions, and we should be too!

**Am I honest in all my acts and words,
or do I exaggerate?**

Friday, March 26
Saturday, March 27

There are few things Jesus came down harder on than self-righteousness! People who lived openly sinful lives fared much better with Jesus than those who thought they had it all together and pretended to be better than they were while looking down on others. In Luke 18, Jesus makes it clear that the man who cried “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” went home justified while the man who smugly prayed “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all my income” was not justified. The minute we begin to think we are better than someone else we ought to stop and ask God to forgive us for our pride lest our self-righteousness bar us from entering heaven’s gates. All of us are totally dependent upon God’s grace and we would do well to remember that we, too, are sinners and that all sin is equal in God’s sight.

**Do I thank God that I am not as other people,
especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?**

Wednesday, March 24
Thursday, March 25

In Proverbs 16:18 it says, “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” Centuries ago, when the church identified what they called the “seven deadly sins” pride was at the top of the list. Pride is consciousness of one’s own dignity and a feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one’s own achievements. There is nothing wrong with feeling pride in an accomplishment—but when that pride grows to the point that one begins to feel completely self-sufficient, without any need for grace or God, we have crossed a line into idolatry, idolizing ourselves and our own abilities and accomplishments and giving them undue importance in our lives. In his book *Sinning Like a Christian*, Will Willimon writes of pride, “When we take too much credit for our lives and our achievements, when we come to look at our lives as products of our own striving rather than gifts, we are moving close to that idolatry in which the creature refuses to give due to the Creator.” Jesus urges us to be humble, recognizing our own complete dependence upon God and giving him the glory.

Am I proud?

Monday, February 22
Tuesday, February 23

Trust is important. We all need people in our lives we can trust. Trust is eroded when those we thought we could trust share our confidences with others. Most of us know what it is to have a confidence broken and how difficult it is to repair a relationship when a confidence has been violated. We are unlikely to trust those who have proved untrustworthy in the past. Sometimes we think it is okay to “confidentially” pass on to someone else what someone told us in confidence—but when you are tempted to do so you must ask yourself, “Would the person who confided in me want me to share this information with someone else?” Usually the answer is “No.” Passing along something that has been told you in confidence to someone else is a form of gossip and gossip is a sin. Wesley wanted to be the sort of person people could confide in with confidence, knowing that what they shared with him would go no farther. We should also strive to be trustworthy people with whom confidences are safe.

**Do I confidentially pass on to another
what was told to me in confidence?**

Walking Labyrinth available in church gym
Wednesday & Thursday from 9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Wednesday, February 24
Thursday, February 25

Again these next two days we are focused on the issue of trust. To be trustworthy is to be a person on whom others can rely. When we say we are going to do something, we do it. When we are told a secret, we keep it. When we make a commitment we follow through. The words and actions of a trustworthy person are honest and true. Trustworthy people do not lie, cheat, or steal. When you make a commitment, do you keep it? When someone shares a confidence with you do you hold it sacred? When someone asks you a question, do you respond with the truth? Are you the sort of person people feel safe coming to with a secret or entrusting with an important responsibility? Wesley wanted to people to be able to trust him; but even more importantly, Wesley wanted God to be able to trust him to do the work God had called him to do! We also should strive to be the kind of person trusted not only by our fellow human beings, but also by God!

Can I be trusted?

Monday, March 22
Tuesday, March 23

Every moment we draw breath on this earth is a gift from God. The time we have been given to live out our lives ought to be used wisely. John Wesley did not believe in wasting time. He made it his goal to be gainfully employed at all times, whether he was working his trade (preaching) or filling his free time with diversions. Wesley believed that in work or in play, we should strive to honor God with the time we have been given. As you consider the ways in which you chose to use your spare time, do the activities you choose honor God? Are there any spare-time activities you engage in that would cause others to question your commitment to Christ? Are you making the best use of the time on this earth God has given you?

How do I spend my spare time?

Walking Labyrinth available in church gym
Monday & Tuesday from 9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Saturday, March 20
Sunday, March 21

To be jealous is to envy another's achievements and advantages or to be fiercely protective of your own rights or possessions. To be impure is to engage in behaviors that are morally wrong. To be critical is to express adverse or disapproving comments or judgments. To be irritable is to have a tendency to be easily annoyed or angered. To be touchy is to be oversensitive, irritable, and overly delicate. To be distrustful is to be hesitant to trust or rely upon others to be truthful or to follow through with a promise. None of these attitudes are becoming to a Christian who seeks to model his or her own life after the example of Christ. Which of these undesirable qualities do you struggle with most in your life?

**Am I jealous, impure, critical,
irritable, touchy, or distrustful?**

Friday, February 26
Saturday, February 27

In the 10 Commandments God made it quite clear that we are to have no other gods before Him. When Jesus came he told us that we should not worry; yet, we often find ourselves putting other things before God in our lives and worrying about things that don't really matter. A "slave," as the word is used here, is a person who is excessively dependent upon or controlled by something. In this question, Wesley identifies four things to which people can become slaves—standards of dress, friends, work, and habits. Do you worry too much about the clothes you wear? Do your friends exercise undue control over the choices you make? Does your work consume you? Do you have any habits or addictions that have overtaken your life? Does your attachment to any of these things rank higher in importance in your life than your commitment to Christ? Unhealthy dependencies on such things are a type of bondage, vehicles through which Satan can influence us and draw us away from God. Every day Wesley examined himself to ensure that unhealthy attachments and habits did not creep into his life and draw him away from his relationship with Christ. We would be wise to do the same.

Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?

Walking Labyrinth available in church gym
Sunday from 8 a.m.—12 p.m.

Sunday, February 28
Monday, March 1

To be self-conscious is to feel undue awareness of oneself, one's appearance, or one's actions. To be self-pitying is to experience excessive, self-absorbed unhappiness over one's own troubles. To be self-justifying is to justify or excuse oneself or one's actions. All three of these qualities pull our attention away from God and others as we focus inward on our own appearance, actions, feelings, troubles, and innocence. Worrying too much about what others think, wallowing in self-pity over our troubles, and convincing ourselves that our sinful actions are not really all that sinful are not attitudes and behaviors that help us grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ and our love for God and neighbor. Wesley checked himself each day to ensure that he had not spent too much time focused inwardly in unhealthy ways to the neglect of his responsibility to God and neighbor.

Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?

Thursday, March 18
Friday, March 19

In this context, to be “defeated in any part of [your] life” is to feel demoralized and overcome by adversity. When we feel defeated we are disheartened and lose confidence and hope. This may be because of some sin we have allowed to overcome us, a sin we feel powerless to defeat; or it may be because of a set of circumstances entirely outside our control that has caused us to lose hope and give up on our zest for life. When we feel defeated we tend to lose sight of our own value and the fact that we are precious in God’s sight—dearly loved and gifted with life and purpose. We also tend to lose our sense of trust in God’s will, God’s greater purpose, and the ability of God to bring good out of any circumstance, no matter how undesirable or painful that circumstance might be. When we feel defeated we need to recognize our feelings of defeat and any way in which those feelings lead us to withdraw from our trust in and obedience to God’s greater purpose for our life.

Am I defeated in any part of my life?

Tuesday, March 16
Wednesday, March 17

Sometimes we know something is wrong, and we do it anyway! There are many reasons for this. Sometimes we persist in our sin because we enjoy the sinful behavior in which we are engaging or because persisting in it brings us some earthy benefit. Sometimes we've dug ourselves in so deep we don't know how to get out. Sometimes there are other people involved in wrongdoing with us—friends, colleagues, even enemies—who make it easier for us to override our conscience. Is there anything in your life you keep on doing even though you know it is wrong, even though your conscience is a bit (or a lot) uneasy?

**Do I insist upon doing something
about which my conscience is uneasy?**

Tuesday, March 2
Wednesday, March 3

You may have heard the old saying, “You may be the only Bible some people read.” When people know you profess to be a Christian, they look to you to show them what that means. Whether you realize it or not, unbelievers all around you are depending upon you to show them who Jesus is through the way you live your life, through the words and actions they witness as they watch you! The Bible tells us how we should live; and when we live the way the Bible tells us to we show others what the Bible says. When Wesley asks “Did the Bible live in me today?” he is asking himself whether his life, as lived that day, reflected the life of Christ—whether his words and actions were consistent with the teachings of Holy Scripture. At the end of each day, when you consider your words and actions, what did those around you read in your life? How distorted was the picture of Christ you gave to unbelievers who know you to be a Christian?

Did the Bible live in me today?

Thursday, March 4
Friday, March 5

The Bible doesn't do us much good if we leave it sitting on a shelf collecting dust! In order to follow Christ we need to know who Christ is, and in order to know who Christ is we need to read about his life and in order to read about his life we have to take our Bible off the self (or open up the Bible app on our device) and use it! Attending worship and listening to the scripture as it is read and proclaimed during the Sunday service is important—but if you really want to grow in your faith you've got to take it up a notch and study the Scriptures on your own at home and in Bible Study groups throughout the week. God does some pretty amazing work in our hearts and our lives when we immerse ourselves in his Word, taking time throughout the week to read, study, and meditate on the Scriptures. Even reading just one verse in the morning and thinking about it throughout the day will yield better spiritual growth than hearing the Scriptures read during worship only one day a week. Wesley emphasized the importance of spending time in Scripture every day. He expected it of himself and he expected it of everyone who wanted to grow in their relationship with Christ through the Methodist societies. He would expect it of us as well.

Do I give [the Bible] time to speak to me everyday?

Sunday, March 14
Monday, March 15

This question is pretty open and all encompassing. As Wesley examined his life he wanted to make sure he didn't overlook anything or leave anything out! Do you disobey God in anything—anything at all! Have you kept all ten commandments given to Moses: have no other gods before God, don't make or worship any idols, don't misuse God's name, remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy, honor your father and mother, don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't bear false witness, and don't covet what's not yours? Have you kept the two greatest commandments given to us by Jesus himself—loving the Lord your God with all your heart mind soul and strength and loving your neighbor as yourself? Have you steered clear of behaviors and attitudes that are not becoming to one who claims to be a follower of Jesus Christ? If you have felt God pressing upon you to do something specific, have you done it or have you tried to sidestep or avoid doing whatever it is God has called you to do? Have you been obedient, or have you disobeyed God in any way over the course of your day?

Do I disobey God in anything?

Friday, March 12
Saturday, March 13

Wesley was very concerned that Christians not trifle away the time we have been given as though our days and what we do with them is of little importance. We each have a limited number of days on this earth and a responsibility to make the best use of the days we have been given. Rhythms of sleeping and waking are important for our holistic health, as are times of Sabbath rest. What time we go to bed and what time we get up is not as important as ensuring that we find a healthy rhythm which both allows time for adequate sleep and makes good use of our waking hours. While some of us may enjoy spending a lazy day in bed, Wesley did not believe a healthy person should waste their waking hours lying about doing nothing. Wesley also discouraged the practice of staying up through all hours of the night working and did not at all believe such obsessive work honored God. If we are going to be our best for God, we must allow ourselves adequate time to sleep *and* make good use of our waking hours.

Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?

Saturday, March 6
Sunday, March 7

Prayer is so important to our spiritual lives because it is through prayer that we connect with God. Prayer is meant to be a conversation. In prayer we both listen for God's voice speaking into our lives and speak to God, bringing before him our words of adoration and thanksgiving, our petitions, our intercessions, our joys and laments. Unfortunately, when we don't feel a close connection with God in prayer, prayer can begin to feel more like a duty than a conversation with a beloved friend. When examining his own prayer life, Wesley didn't just ask himself if he had spent time in prayer—he asked himself if he was *enjoying* prayer—if he was taking pleasure and delight in this time spent in conversation and communion with God. As God's beloved children, we should *enjoy* the time we spend with our Father in prayer. The more we grow in our relationship with Christ, the more we will treasure and look forward to this time spent in conversation with our Father.

Am I enjoying prayer?

Monday, March 8
Tuesday, March 9

As followers of Jesus we have a responsibility to share our faith with others and invite them to join us on this journey of faith—to repent of their sin, accept Christ as their Savior, and serve Him as their Lord. Sometimes we get this idea that our faith is a private matter; but if our faith is real, if we truly believe Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior of the world, we should be impelled to share that message with as many people as we can! Often, the first step to leading someone else to Christ is being willing to share freely about our own faith journey—including our doubts and mistakes and the ways in which God has continued to work in and through us despite our many failings. Sharing our faith should not be hard and scary but as natural as telling someone about our day; in fact, if our faith is fully integrated into our lives, it will be impossible to tell someone about our day without in some way talking about our faith! Wesley was intentional about ensuring that he was sharing his faith with others on a regular basis.

**When did I last speak to someone else
about my faith?**

Wednesday, March 10
Thursday, March 11

Scripture tells us that the love of money is the root of all evil, and there is nothing in our world that inspires idolatry more than the love of money! We have a tendency to be selfish with our money—not wanting others to know how much we make, feeling that it is our own business how much we spend and what we choose to spend our money on. All that may or may not be other peoples' business, but it is all God's business! How we spend our money says a lot about what we truly value in life and where we place our priorities. Besides, after we've surrendered our lives to Christ, the money we have ALL belongs to God—the portion we place in the church offering plate and the rest of it as well! How we use our money matters. John Wesley urged Christians to earn all they can so they can save all they can so they can give all they can. Wesley did not believe in being wasteful or irresponsible with his resources. As far as Wesley was concerned, the ultimate goal in earning and saving was extravagant generosity—to have handled money so well and so responsibly that we are able to give freely out of what we have for the good of God's kingdom. He prayed about every penny he spent, that every penny spent might honor God in some way. Do you?

Do I pray about the money I spend?