

John Wesley's Practice of Giving

Before John Wesley became the founder of the Methodist Church, he was a teacher at Oxford University back in the 1700's. When he began his career, he was paid 30 pounds per year - in those days a lot of money. His living expenses were 28 pounds - so he gave 2 pounds away.

The next year his income doubled - but he still managed to live on 28 pounds - so he gave away 32 pounds. The third year he earned 90 pounds - lived on 28 - and gave away 62. The fourth year he earned 120 pounds - lived on 28 - and gave away 92. One year his income was a little over 1,400 pounds - he lived on 30 and gave away nearly all of the 1,400 pounds.

Wesley felt that with increasing income, what should rise is not the Christian's standard of living but the standard of giving. Increasing our standard of giving.

John Wesley taught the early Methodists to earn all they can, and save all they can, and give all they can. How might we place our trust in God in such a way that we can practice such radical generosity? How might this constitute a breakthrough?