

“The Spiritual Heroes of the Faith”
Heb. 12:1 (1700-2012)
March 25, 2012

1. Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

2. John and Charles Wesley (1702-1791)

3. George Whitefield (1714-1770)

4. John Newton (1725-1807)

5. William Carey (1761-1834)

6. Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)

7. D.L. Moody (1837-1899)

8. James Hudson Taylor (1832-1905)

9. A.W. Tozer (1892-1963)

10. Billy Graham (1918-)

11. And Today...

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion
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1. Have you ever read a biography of a spiritual hero? Share with one another the impact it had on your life. Isaac Watts is the founder of modern hymnology. What do you think about his dad's comment to him, when Isaac was criticizing the music of the church? ("If you don't like it, write something better.") During his life he wrote 750 hymns. Respond to his observation on worship – *"To see the dull indifference, the negligent and thoughtless air that sits upon the faces of a whole assembly while the psalm is upon their lips, might even tempt a charitable observer to suspect the fervency of their inward religion."*
2. John and Charles Wesley were brothers that traveled throughout England and America to preach the gospel. The Methodist denomination was built on their ministry. They strongly encouraged small group accountability. Share the value of such a group experience in your life. (James 5:16) Discuss John's philosophy of ministry – *"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can."*
3. George Whitefield was a very dramatic, passionate, emotional storyteller that mainly preached outdoors all across America. At the end of his sermon, he would always give an invitation – *"Come poor, lost, undone sinner, just as you are to Christ."* (Matt. 11:28) Share a time when you responded to an invitation at the end of a service.
4. The story of John Newton is a story of God's amazing grace. Discuss what it might have been like to be on a "slave trade" ship. If the grace of God can transform such a man, what has the "grace of God" meant in your life? (Titus 2:11)
5. William Carey was once told – *"When God pleases to convert the heathen He will do it without your aid or mine."* What is the Biblical response to such a statement? (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8) William once said, *"Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God."* Does this describe your approach to serving the Lord? (Read Jer. 32:17-19 and discuss its application in your life.)
6. Charles Spurgeon began preaching at age 19, never graduated from college and yet he wrote 135 books and had 3500 sermons published. He claimed his power was found in his "power room." (A room full of people that prayed during his sermons in the basement.) Discuss the priority of prayer in your life and in our church. (Phil. 4:6; Eph. 6:18)
7. When D.L. Moody tried to become a member of a church he was turned down because of his inadequate answers. Discuss the value of good teaching combined with grace and forgiveness for people in the membership process of a church. He learned the lesson the hard way when he did not give an invitation one Sunday night service and that night there was the great Chicago fire with many lives lost. Discuss how to maintain an urgency in our spirit concerning sharing Christ with people.

8. James Hudson Taylor believed that “God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supply.” Share a time when God provided for you to do His work. (Phil. 4:19) His spiritual “secret” that he had to learn the hard way is based on Eph. 5:18. What have you learned in your life concerning the power to do ministry for the Lord?

9. Discuss the impact of the ministry of Billy Graham in your life. Thank the Lord for those that shared the gospel with you and brought you to Christ.