

The Next Six Day's Challenge

Getting Started

Thank you for joining us for our service today. We are glad that you are with us, and we want to assure that we are here to be of maximum service for you and your family. Our mission statement is simply this "*To form fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ by meeting people right where they are and helping them to connect, grow, serve, and become the person God created them to be.*" If you don't currently belong to a church family, we would like to invite you to consider joining our church family. Let me share with you how you can connect our church: 1.) Please complete the contact form attached to the bulletin and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. 2.) Download our phone app from either the iTunes &/or Google app store, the name of the App is "**MTOCharge**" 3.) Complete the contact form on our website at www.mtolivetcharge.org. 4.) Or, please come and say hello after our service today. I would truly love to meet you, pray with you, and answer any questions that you and/or your loved ones may have about our church and ministry.

Pax Jesu,
Pastor Harold Long and our entire Church Family

Digging Deeper

Wesleyan Quadrilateral

The phrase which has relatively recently come into use to describe the principal factors that John Wesley believed illuminate the core of the Christian faith for the believer. Wesley did not formulate the succinct statement now commonly referred to as the Wesley Quadrilateral. Building on the Anglican theological tradition, Wesley added a fourth emphasis, experience. The resulting four components or "sides" of the quadrilateral are (1) Scripture, (2) tradition, (3) reason, and (4) experience. For United Methodists, **Scripture** is considered the primary source and standard for Christian doctrine. **Tradition** is experience and the witness of development and growth of the faith through the past centuries and in many nations and cultures. **Experience** is the individual's understanding and appropriating of the faith in the light of his or her own life. Through **reason** the individual Christian brings to bear on the Christian faith discerning and cogent thought. These four elements taken together bring the individual Christian to a mature and fulfilling understanding of the Christian faith and the required response of worship and service.

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Memory Verse: Colossians 3:16 ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

(For Further Study)

Colossians 3:16-17, 2 Thessalonians 2:15, Luke 10:27, 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

Bringing it Home

John Wesley used four different sources in coming to theological conclusions. These sources were first referred to as the Wesleyan Quadrilateral in 1964 by theologian/scholar **Albert C. Outler** in a collection of Wesley's works edited by Outler entitled simply *John Wesley*. The four sources are:

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason
- Experience

Methodology

Scripture refers to the inspired and sufficient written word of God, the 66 canonical books of the Bible. Upon this foundation church **traditions** are adopted which agree with the biblical text, and those which are inconsistent are discarded. Next, **reason** is received as a gift intrinsic to the image of God. Finally, with Scripture, tradition and reason in place, human beings are prepared to **experience** the reality of God's love.

Reflection Questions

How can I start applying the Quadrilateral to my method of scripture study and discernment?

What are some ways I can introduce this methodology into my Sunday school class and/or small group bible study?

When am I going to go out and purchase my first or next book about Methodism, and continue growing my personal effectiveness and understanding of our heritage, faith, and history as a proud Christian Methodist?

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