

# March 31, 2019 ... Lent #4

## An Assurance of Grace

Jeremiah 29:11-13

Romans 8:15-17

Matthew 22:37-38

369 Blessed Assurance

Cathy Wilkins

367 He Touched Me

Joanne Luttrell

714 I Know Whom I Have Believed Pat Hebron

**VISION:** We are a functional family of God, where Jesus is Lord and people grow.

**MISSION:** Every layperson is called to carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20); every layperson is called to be missional.

*(¶126 of the 2016 Book of Discipline)*

There are two kinds of people in this world: people who need to become disciples and disciples who need to become disciple makers.



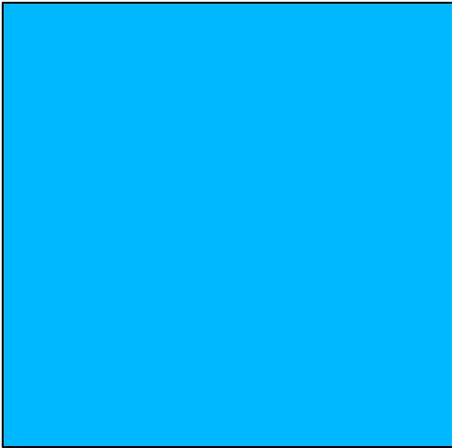
**Peace be with you.**  
AS THE FATHER HAS  
**SENT ME,**  
— EVEN SO I AM —  
**SENDING YOU.**

John 20:21, ESV

# THE SQUARE WHEEL

The traditional solution - efficiently  
manufactured at minimum cost.

Stable. Dependable.



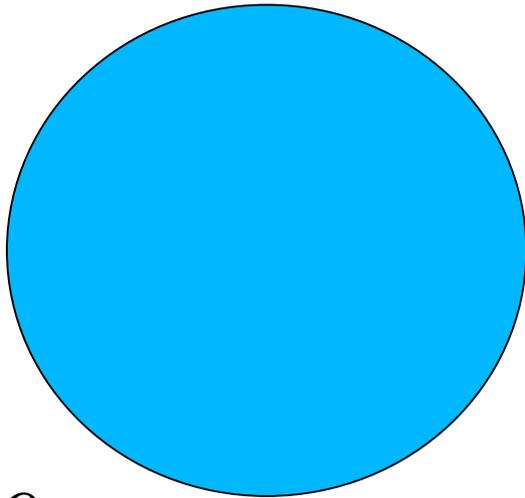
*“It works fine - you’re just  
not trying hard enough.”*

*“What we need is more commitment  
and a willingness to sacrifice.”*

*“Give till it hurts. No pain, no gain.”*

# THE ROUND WHEEL

A dangerous and untested innovation.



1989  
79,000

*“But we’ve never done  
it this way before.”*

*“Isn’t it dangerous  
to go this fast?”*

*“It’s not supposed  
to be easy.”*

**Natural Church Development (NCD)**



## One Minimum Factor

There is always one maximum score and one minimum score among 8 factors for natural growth.

*Strengthening the weakest link, however, strengthens the entire chain.*



One Minimum Factor

# Passionate Spirituality

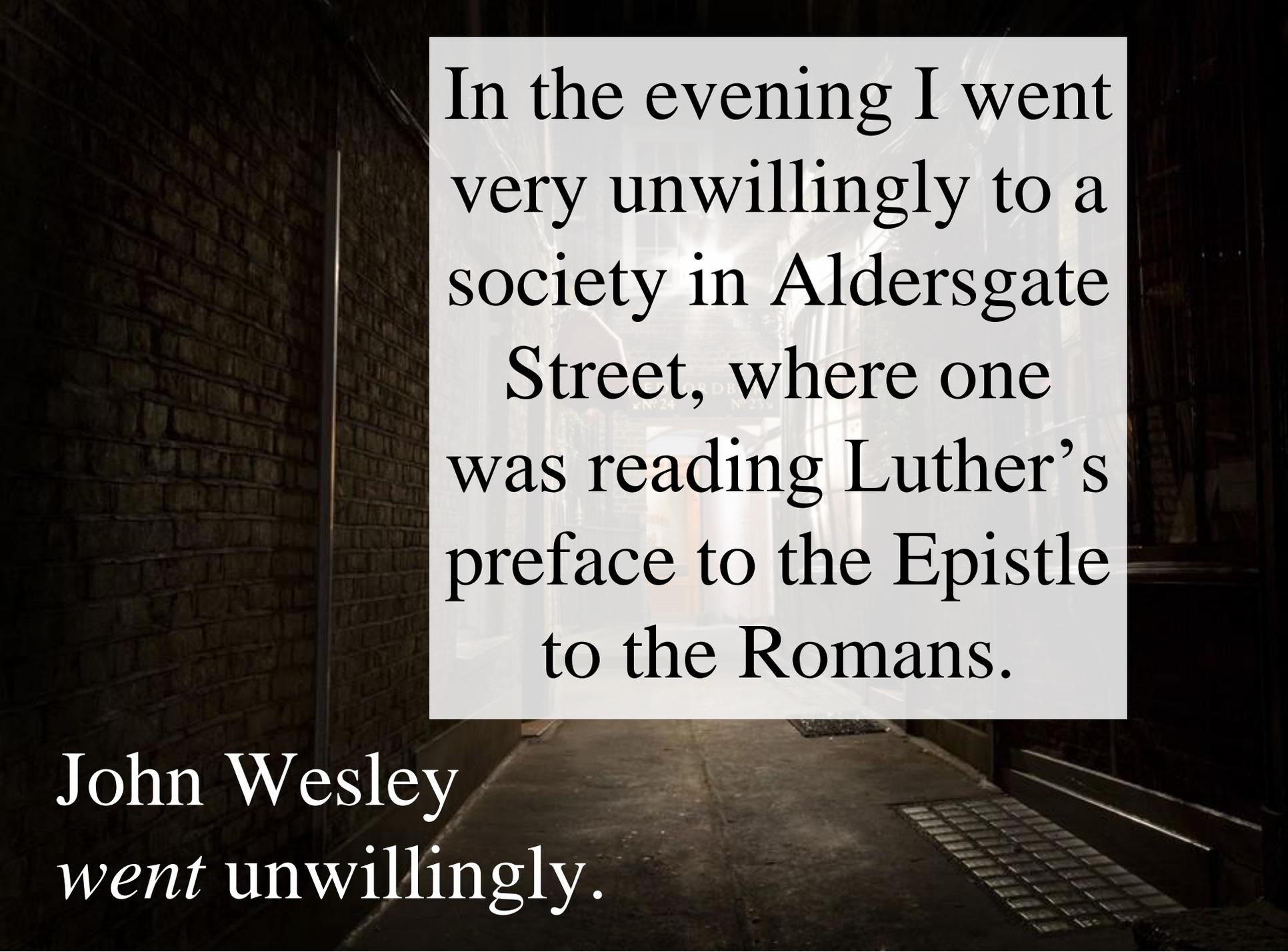
*Raising the  
Minimum Factor  
increases the capacity  
of the church to grow.*

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

13 You will seek me and find me

*when you seek me  
with all your heart.*



A dark, narrow alleyway with a brick wall on the left and a metal grate on the ground. The scene is dimly lit, with a light source from the right casting a glow on the wall and the ground. A white text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

In the evening I went  
very unwillingly to a  
society in Aldersgate  
Street, where one  
was reading Luther's  
preface to the Epistle  
to the Romans.

John Wesley  
*went* unwillingly.

About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I *felt* my heart strangely warmed.



*I felt* I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.

John Wesley  
*felt* something.



Romans 8:15 ... but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” **16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,** 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.



# NCD Profile (8 Natural Church Growth Factors)

43 **Passionate Spirituality**

46 Functional Structures

50 Inspiring Worship Service

52 Empowering Leadership

57 Gift-oriented Ministry

58 Holistic Small Groups

61 Need-oriented Evangelism

66 **Loving Relationships**



## Natural Church Development (NCD)

Mat 22:37 And Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God

with all your heart,

and with all your soul,

and with all your mind.

38 This is the great and first commandment.

