

The Hymns Of Charles Wesley
“Arise, My Soul, Arise!”
Psalm 42:5

Introduction:

1. Tonight - We Are Going To:
 - Finish Looking At:
 - Some Of The Greatest Hymns Of Our Faith:
 - That Were Written By:
 - Charles Wesley!
 - Who - As We Already Learned:
 - Was The Brother Of:
 - John Wesley - Who Is Credited As:
 - The Main Founder & Organizer Of The Methodist Movement:
 - That Started In The Church Of England In The 1700's!
2. But - Before We Do:
 - I Want To Spend Some Time:
 - Learning About Someone Else:
 - Who Would Have Played:
 - A Significant Part In His:
 - Life & Ministry!
 - And - That Is His Wife!
 - We've All Probably Heard The Adage That:
 - Behind Every Great Man:
 - Is A Great Woman!
 - And - I'm Sure That Was The Case:
 - For The Two Hymnwriters:
 - That We've Looked At So Far:
 - In Our Series On “Amazing Grace!”
 - Though We Don't Know:
 - Hardly Anything About:
 - John Newton's Wife:
 - Except Her Name - Mary!
 - We Do Know Something About:
 - Charles Wesley's Wife:
 - Sarah Gwynne - Who For Some Reason:
 - Went Instead By “Sally!”
 - 3. Sally Was About 20 Years Younger:
 - Than Charles - And Was First Introduced To Him:
 - When He Was Already Well Known:
 - For His Preaching & Hymn-Writing:
 - Throughout England!
 - They Met When - In Her Early 20's:
 - Charles Stayed In Her Parent's Home:
 - On One Of His Evangelistic Trips In 1747!
 - Her Father:
 - Who Was A Well-To-Do Magistrate:
 - Was Committed To The Church Of England - So - When:
 - An Unlicensed Methodist Preacher Came Around - Howell Harris:
 - He Was Going To Arrest Him As He Was Preaching!
 - But - God Had Other Plans!
 - So That - Instead Of Arresting:
 - The Preacher - He Listened:
 - And Was Saved - By Grace Through Faith!
 - And - From Then On:
 - Was A Powerful Force:
 - For The Methodists:
 - Even Preaching Himself At Times!

4. So - When Charles Wesley Came To:
 - The Gwynne Home:
 - He Was With Friends!
 - And Even Though There Was Such:
 - An Age Difference Between Them:
 - They Were Both Attracted To Each Other:
 - With Christian Love!
 - In 1749 - Just Two Years After They Met:
 - They Were Married:
 - With His Brother John:
 - Officiating The Wedding!
 - One Of The Concerns:
 - Of Sally's Mother Was:
 - How Charles Would Be Able To Support Her Daughter:
 - As An Itinerant Preacher & Poet!
 - Well - To Help Get "Mom" On His Brother's Side:
 - John Wesley Pledged To Give Charles:
 - 100 Pounds A Year:
 - From The Sales Of His Books & Articles!
 - Which Was Actually:
 - Hardly Anything:
 - Compared To What Sally Would Have Been Used To!
5. But - Charles & Sally:
 - Truly Loved Each Other - And Loved:
 - Serving Together:
 - At Home & In Ministry!
 - Sally Herself:
 - Was An Accomplished Singer:
 - And Even Had The Opportunity:
 - When She Was Younger:
 - To Sing Before The King Of England!
 - She Was Able To Travel With Charles:
 - In The Early Years Of Their Marriage:
 - But Soon Remained At Home:
 - To Care For Their Children - And:
 - For Herself!
 - In 1749 - They Moved To Bristol:
 - Where - Sadly:
 - Five Of Their Children:
 - Died At Young Ages!
 - Three Other Children:
 - Lived To Adulthood:
 - Including Charles Jr., Samuel, And Sarah!
 - Then - In 1753 - She Suffered:
 - A Terrible Bout With Smallpox:
 - Which Left Her Disfigured To The Point:
 - Where Some Said - Made Her "Difficult To Recognize!"
 - But - She Was Recognized For:
 - Her Love For The Lord & Her Family:
 - And Her Musical Ability!
 - So Much So That:
 - Both Of Their Sons:
 - Went On To Have Careers In Music!
 - 6. Charles & Sally Were Married:
 - For Almost 40 Years:
 - And Sally Outlived Charles:
 - For Close To Another 35 Years:
 - And Died In 1822!

- Though We Can't Know For Sure:
 - It Would Seem That:
 - Her Music Must Have Had Some Influence:
 - On Charles & Her Children!
 - Imagine What It Must Have Been Like:
 - For Charles To Write A New Hymn:
 - And Then - Take It To Sally:
 - To Get Her Ideas & To Hear Her Sing It For The First Time!
 - And Then - Teach It To The Children:
 - As A Family Choir!
 - What A Pleasing Sound:
 - That Must Have Been:
 - To The Lord!
7. Well - One Of Those Hymns:
- Might Have Been:
 - The One We Will Look At Tonight:
 - "Arise, My Soul, Arise!"
 - However - This Is Not:
 - The Title That Charles Applied:
 - To His Poem!
 - Instead - It Was Published In 1742:
 - In A Collection Titled:
 - "Hymns & Sacred Poems!"
 - And - The Words He Placed:
 - Just Above The Text Of His Hymn Was:
 - "Behold, The Man!"
 - Which Echoes The Words:
 - Of Pontius Pilate:
 - When Jesus Stood Before Him In Jerusalem!
8. But - He Applies Those Words:
- Here - To Get Us To "Behold" The Glorious Picture:
 - Of Christ - That He Paints For Us:
 - In This Hymn!
 - And - What A Glorious Picture:
 - It Is! Because Wesley Knew That:
 - Only Christ Would Help:
 - Our Soul's To "Arise" When:
 - They Are Cast Down!
 - Which Was The Need Of:
 - The Psalmist Who Wrote:
 - Psalm 42 - Where In Several Places:
 - He Asks The Haunting Question:
 - To Himself - "Why Art Thou Cast Down, O My Soul?"
 - Let's Read This Psalm Together:
 - Psalm 42:1-11!
9. Now - Even Though We Don't Know:
- All Of The Details Surrounding:
 - Wesley's Writing Of This Hymn:
 - He Does Seem To Echo The Answer:
 - That We Also Find In This Psalm:
 - Which Is Found In Both 42:5 & 11 - "Hope Thou In God!"
 - And - In The Hymn:
 - It Is Our Hope In Jesus:
 - The Son Of God:
 - Who Brings Us To God The Father:
 - That Causes Our Souls:
 - "To Arise!"
 - Let's Look At The Words:

- Of This Hymn More Closely!
 - 10. In The First To Lines Of The First Stanza:
 - “Arise, My Soul, Arise,
Shake Off Thy Guilty Fears!”
 - With These Initial Words:
 - Wesley Describes What All-Too-Often:
 - Keeps The Souls Of Christians:
 - “Cast Down!”
 - Our “Guilty Fears!”
 - Not So Much - Our “Guilt!”
 - Because - We Know That:
 - In Many Ways - We Still Feel Our Guilt:
 - Even As Believers!
 - But - Our Biggest Struggle Is With:
 - The “Fears” That Flow From Our “Guilt!”
 - Fears Of God’s Judgment & Justice:
 - Even In Light Of The Cross!
 - “Guilty Fear” Is Doubt!
 - Doubt In God’s Love & Mercy & Grace:
 - And In The Power Of Christ:
 - As Our Sacrifice & Substitute & Savior!
 - And - All Too Often:
 - These “Guilty Fears” Paralyze Us:
 - In Different Ways!
 - In Our Worship Of The Lord!
 - In Our Walk With The Lord!
 - In Our Witness For The Lord!
11. So - Wesley Seemed To Know Personally:
 - That There Are Times In A Christian’s Life:
 - Where They Need To:
 - Remind Themselves Of:
 - The Gospel!
 - With The Final Result Being:
 - What We Find In The Last Two Lines Of The Last Stanza:
 - “With Confidence I Now Draw Nigh,
And Father, Abba Father, Cry!”
 - This Is Certainly Where:
 - Wesley Wanted To Be:
 - In His Relationship With God!
 - And - This Is Where God Himself:
 - Wants All Of His Children To Be:
 - In Their Relationship With Him!
 - Including You!
 - This Reminds Us Of:
 - Of A Couple Of Verses!
 - First - Hebrews 4:16 - Where We Are Encouraged:
 - “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need!”
 - Second - Galatians 4:6 - Where Paul Says:
 - “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father!”
12. And So - All Through:
 - The Rest Of Wesley’s Hymn:
 - He Shows How Christ Himself:
 - Is The Way To Get:
 - From Your Doubts & “Guilty Fears!”
 - To A Holy Boldness:
 - In Which You Can “Draw Nigh” To God In Your Relationship With Him As

Your Heavenly Father!

- So - What Is It About Jesus:
 - That Can Take A Soul:
 - That Is Cast Down With Fear & Doubt:
 - And Can Bring It & Bring You:
 - Once Again To The Lord:
 - With Fervency & Dependence?
 - Five Things:

1. First - The Surety Of Christ!

- As We Find In The First Stanza:
 - Arise, My Soul, Arise,
Shake Off Thy Guilty Fears,
The Bleeding Sacrifice
In My Behalf Appears;
Before The Throne My Surety Stands;
My Name Is Written On His Hands!
- Of Course - The Big Question Of This Stanza Is:
 - What Is A “Surety?”
 - And - What Does It Have To Do With:
 - Jesus And His Sacrifice:
 - For Me & My Sin?
 - A “Surety” Is An Old Way To:
 - Describe Someone Or Something:
 - That Serves As A Pledge:
 - For A Promise That Is Made!
 - **IE:** An Example Is - The Down Payment For A House - A Deposit - Earnest Money - Which Serves As A Pledge That If You Don't Keep Your Promise To Follow The Agreements - You Lose That Pledge!
 - Well Here - It Is Jesus Who Provides Himself As The Pledge:
 - For His Own Promises:
 - That He Made To All Who Believe In Him!
- This Is What We Find In:
 - Hebrews 7:22 About Jesus:
 - Who Was “Made a surety of a better testament!”
- Of Course - There Are Many:
 - “Exceeding Great And Precious Promises” In The Gospel!
 - Not The Least Of Which We Find:
 - In John 6:37 - “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out!”
- How Can We Know That:
 - Jesus Can & Will Keep This Promise?
 - Because - He Gave Himself:
 - As Our Pledge & Surety:
 - That He Would!
 - And - He Made That Pledge:
 - As “The Bleeding Sacrifice” Who:
 - Appears Before God The Father:
 - “In Your Behalf!”
- And - Jesus Can Keep His Promise:
 - Because Jesus Himself:
 - Is The Pledge!
 - And - This Ought To Cause The Soul:
 - Of Any True Believer:
 - To “Arise!”

* Second - Our Souls Can Arise - Because Of:

2. The Service Of Christ!

- As We Find In The Second Stanza:
 - He Ever Lives Above
 - For Me To Intercede,
 - His All-Redeeming Love,
 - His Precious Blood To Plead;
 - His Blood Atoned For All Our Race,
 - And Sprinkles Now The Throne Of Grace!
- Of Course - This Reminds Us Of The Service Of Jesus:
 - That We Find In Another Verse From Hebrews:
 - Hebrews 7:25 - "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them!"
 - So - This Is Another Reason Why:
 - As Christians - We Can:
 - Arise & Draw Nigh To God!
 - Because Jesus Himself:
 - Appears There:
 - Not Just With Us - But For Us!
 - Jesus "Intercedes" For His People:
 - For Ever - To "Plead" His Own "Precious Blood" On Your Behalf!
 - And - His Service In Heaven:
 - Depends On The Sacrifice He Made For Us:
 - On Earth!
- Now - There Is A Phrase In This Stanza:
 - That Is Often Changed In Hymnals Today:
 - And That Is Where Wesley Stated That:
 - "His Blood Atoned For All Our Race!"
 - Now - One Way To Take This Is:
 - That Wesley Saw Everyone In This World:
 - As Part Of One "Race!"
 - The Human Race!
 - And - This Would Align With His Understanding:
 - Of Acts 17:26 - Where - In One Of Paul's Message In Athens - He Says The Truth That
 - "[God] hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth!"
 - There Is Only One Race In This World:
 - The Human Race!
 - Made Up Of Different Tribes & Tongues & People & Nations!
 - And - This Was What Motivated:
 - Both Wesley Brothers:
 - To Share The Gospel With The Indians & To Fight Against The Slave Trade In Both England & The Americas!
 - But - Another Way To Take This Phrase:
 - Is To See In It Wesley's Understanding:
 - Of Salvation - And Of A Universal Atonement - In That:
 - Jesus' Blood "Atoned For" Everyone - And - All They Need To Do Is Accept It With Their Own Free Will In Order For It To Be Effective!
 - However - From Various Places In Scripture:
 - We Know That The Will That We Have As Sinners:
 - Is Utterly Defective & Deficient & Even Dead:
 - When It Comes To Spiritual Things!
 - And So - The Only Way:
 - Any Sinner Can Chose To Believe:
 - Is When God Himself Works In Us "Both To Will & To Do Of His Good Pleasure!" (Philippians 2:13)
 - And So - This Difference In Theology:
 - Has Caused Some To Change This Line From:
 - "His Blood Atoned For All Our Race!"
 - To - "His Blood Atoned For Every Race!"

- Which - I Don't Think:
 - Improves Much On What Wesley Wrote!
- Because - Even Though:
 - The Atonement Of Christ On The Cross:
 - Is Effective - Only For:
 - Those Who Believe!
 - At The Same Time:
 - The Power Of His Atonement Is Sufficient Enough For Everyone:
 - To Be Saved! Because His Blood Is Of Infinite Value!
- And - "Every Race" Introduces A Thought:
 - That Was Foreign To Wesley's Understanding Of The Brotherhood Of All Mankind!
No Matter What Color Or Complexion Of Skin They Had!
- Though I May Not Entirely Agree:
 - With Wesley's Theology:
 - I Can Still Agree & Sing:
 - This Line As He Originally Wrote It!

* Third - Our Souls Can Arise - Because Of:

3. *The Sacrifice Of Christ!*

- As We Find In The Third Stanza:
 - Five Bleeding Wounds He Bears,
Received On Calvary;
They Pour Effectual Prayers,
They Strongly Speak For Me;
Forgive Him, O Forgive They Cry,
Nor Let That Ransomed Sinner Die!
- What A Beautiful Way:
 - To Remind Us Of The Suffering & Sacrifice:
 - Jesus Went Through:
 - On Our Behalf - For Our Sins!
 - "Five Bleeding Wounds!"
 - What Five?
 - His Head!
 - His Two Hands!
 - His Two Feet!
 - This Is Captured By Isaac Watts As Well:
 - See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- But - What About:
 - The Wound To Jesus' Side?
 - Not Suffered While He Was Living:
 - But After His Death:
 - To Prove His Death!
- But - These Wounds Of Jesus:
 - Speak Up For Us:
 - In The Presence Of God The Father!
- To Show That:
- Every Sin Debt Was Paid For In Full By Christ!

* Fourth - Our Souls Can Arise - Because Of:

4. *The Sufficiency Of Jesus!*

- As We Find In The Fourth Stanza:
 - The Father Hears Him Pray,
His Dear Anointed One,
He Cannot Turn Away
The Presence Of His Son:

- His Spirit Answers To The Blood,
And Tells Me, I Am Born Of God!
- In These Lines - Wesley Reveals:
 - God The Father's Answer:
 - The Prayers Of His Son:
 - Through The Ministry Of:
 - The Holy Spirit!
 - So - We Can See The Trinity:
 - At Work Here:
 - Because All That Jesus Did For Us:
 - He Did Both Fully & Finally!
- And - Its All Because:
 - The Blood Of Jesus Christ:
 - Is Sufficient To:
 - "Cleanse Us From All Sin!" (1 John 1:7)
 - Did You Notice That:
 - In Each Stanza:
 - The Blood Of Jesus:
 - Is Not Only Mentioned:
 - It Is Instrumental!
 - His Blood Is Absolutely Necessary For:
 - His Sacrifice!
 - His Service!
 - And - For Being Our Surety!
 - In The First Stanza:
 - He Is "The Bleeding Sacrifice!"
 - In The Second Stanza:
 - It Is His Precious Blood:
 - That Pleads & Atones & Is Sprinkled:
 - For Us!
 - In The Third Stanza:
 - His Five Wounds:
 - Are Bleeding Wounds!
 - And Here - In The Fourth:
 - The Spirit Answers To:
 - The Blood!
 - We Must Never Get Over:
 - The Power Of Christ:
 - And His Precious Blood!
 - That He Shed For Us:
 - "As of a lamb without blemish and without spot!"
 - And This Leads Us To The:

* Fifth Reason - Our Souls Can Arise - Because Of:

5. *The Solution Of Jesus!*

- As We Find In The Fifth Stanza:
 - My God Is Reconciled,
His Pardoning Voice I Hear,
He Owns Me For His Child,
I Can No Longer Fear;
With Confidence I Now Draw Nigh,
And Father, Abba Father, Cry!
- So - Finally:
 - The Soul That Is Cast Down:
 - Because Of All Those Unfounded Fears & Doubts:
 - Can "Arise" - Because:
 - Jesus Is The Solution:
 - To Them All!

- Because Of Jesus:
 - There Is Peace:
 - With God!
 - “My God Is Reconciled!”
- Because Of Jesus:
 - There Is Pardon:
 - From God!
 - “His Pardoning Voice I Hear!”
- Because Of Jesus:
 - There Is Possession:
 - By God!
 - “He Owns Me For His Child!”
- And - Because Of Jesus:
 - There Is Power:
 - With God!
 - “I Can No Longer Fear!”

Conclusion:

1. So - If & When Your Soul:
 - Gets “Cast Down” - Meditate On:
 - Psalms Like:
 - Psalm 42! And:
 - Hymns Like:
 - This Hymn!
 - And - Remind Yourself:
 - Of The Gospel - And All:
 - That Jesus Did For You & Means To You!
 - So That You Might Sing:
 - With Charles & Sally Wesley:
 - With Confidence I Now Draw Nigh,
And Father, Abba Father, Cry!
 - Pray!
2. Tune - Written In 1782:
 - By An American:
 - Lewis Edson - That Is Also Often Used:
 - For Another One Of Wesley’s Hymns:
 - The Jubilee! (1750)