



# table talk

5/10/26

*“Let Me Introduce You...”*

***“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.” ~Charles W. Eliot***

I view most of the books in my library as treasures. I'm not much into digital, except when it helps my aging eyes see better! Student preachers have asked me through the years: where do you get your stories, your ideas, and all those quotes? My simple answer is: I read. So, every now and then I'd like to introduce you to some of my friends. I know this may sound spooky, but most of them are dead. But they are alive to me because of books.

Some of them are preachers. Some are generals, poets, presidents or politicians. All of them I met through the pages of a book.

From time to time, I'd like to share some life quotes, prayers and wisdom from truly great people.

Now, don't worry, I'm not going to give you a boring biography lesson. What I'd like to do is give a one paragraph bio, then share with you a few the most meaningful quotes and thoughts I have collected from them.

For example, let me introduce you to John Wesley (1703-1791), Revivalist in the Church of England and Father of the Methodist Church. He is also the Founder of the Circuit Rider Evangelists in America and England, theologian and author.

*“When I was young I was sure of everything. In a few years, having been mistaken a thousand times, I was not half so sure of most things as I was before. At present, I am hardly sure of anything but what God has revealed to me.”*

*“Reading Christians are growing Christians. When Christians cease to read, they cease to grow.”*

*“We should be rigorous in judging ourselves and gracious in judging others.”*

*“I have so much to do that I must take time to spend several hours in prayer before I am able to do it.”*

*“A poor wretch cries to me for alms. I look and see him covered with dirt and rags. But through these I see one that has an immortal spirit... I honor him for his Creator's sake.”*

*“Though I am always in haste, I am never in a hurry.”*

*“Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. In this way all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller difference.”*

John Wesley's Covenant Prayer: “I am no longer my own but Yours. Put me to what You will, place me with whom You will. Put me to doing; put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for You or set aside for You, praised for You or criticized for You. Let me be full; let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and fully surrender all things to Your glory and service. And now, O wonderful and Holy God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, You are mine, and I am Yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, Let it also be made in heaven.” Amen.

I love you,  
**Pastor Stephen**