

Susanna Wesley

Mother that Changed the World



Susanna Wesley, the famous John Wesley’s mother, lived just long enough to see the fruits of her labors. Two months before she died in July 1742, John preached a series of revival messages in their home town of Epworth, England, to the biggest crowds that area had ever seen. Hundreds came to Christ.

With his brother Charles, he has impacted generations for Christ.

But hers was a life of suffering. In 19 years, she gave birth to nineteen children, nine of whom died as infants. Finances were always a problem. Once, after a minor disagreement, her often tyrannical husband, Samuel, abandoned her and their children for an entire year.

But Susanna met her trials with the faith in God that she had learned as a child. She was the youngest of twenty five, born in 1669 to the family of Dr. Samuel Annesley, a well-known, powerful minister.

She wrote: “I will tell you what rule I observed when I was young, and too much addicted to childish diversions. . .never to spend more time in mere recreation in one day than I spent in private religious devotions.”

She was as pretty and captivating on the outside as she was in her heart. She was committed to caring for her family the best possible. She held day school for her children, and her purpose was “the saving of their souls.” Each day before class, she set aside an hour for herself for Scripture reading and prayer, then led them in singing Psalms.

She trained them to obey. Each had separate responsibilities. She scheduled a private appointment with each once a week for encouragement.

Twice their home was destroyed by fire and God saved them from the flames. In the second fire, John was only five and was trapped upstairs. No one could

reach him, they prayed, and John appeared at the window just in time to be grabbed before the roof caved in.

Shortly before she went to be with the Lord at seventy-three she admitted that for years she struggled with doubt and confusion about her salvation, but finally had complete peace.

She wrote, "When I had forgotten God, yet I then found He had not forgotten me. Even then He did by His Spirit apply the merits of the great atonement to my soul, by telling me that Christ died for me."

During her final illness, she said: "Children, as soon as I am released, sing a Psalm of praise to God." . . .

Her marker reads: "A Christian here her flesh laid down, the cross exchanging for a crown.

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