

the life of smith wigglesworth

The life of Smith Wigglesworth is a remarkable story of faith, healing, and spiritual revival. Born on June 8, 1859, in Menston, Yorkshire, England, Wigglesworth became one of the most influential Pentecostal evangelists of the early 20th century. His life journey from a humble plumber to a renowned preacher and healer is a testament to his unwavering faith and dedication to God. This article delves into the various aspects of Wigglesworth's life, including his early years, spiritual awakening, ministry, and lasting legacy.

Early Life and Background

Smith Wigglesworth was born into a working-class family as the son of a farmer. His father, John Wigglesworth, was a devout Methodist, and his mother, Elizabeth, was a woman of deep faith. His upbringing in a Christian household laid the groundwork for his future spiritual journey.

- Childhood:
 - Smith was the only son among his five siblings.
 - He had little formal education and started working at a young age.
 - By the age of seven, he was already contributing to the family income by working as a plumber's apprentice.
- Religious Influence:
 - The family attended the local Methodist Church, where Smith was introduced to Christian teachings.
 - Despite his early exposure to religion, he did not truly embrace his faith until later in life.

Spiritual Awakening

Wigglesworth's spiritual transformation began in his early adulthood. At the age of 18, he had a profound encounter with God that ignited his passion for evangelism.

- Baptism in the Holy Spirit:
 - In 1907, after attending a meeting conducted by a Pentecostal preacher, Wigglesworth experienced what he described as a baptism in the Holy Spirit.
 - This event propelled him into a life of fervent prayer and a commitment to healing ministry.
- Marriage and Family:
 - In 1882, Smith married a woman named Mary Jane, who played an essential role in his spiritual development.
 - Mary was deeply committed to the Pentecostal faith and encouraged Smith to seek a closer relationship with God.
 - Following her death in 1911, Smith experienced profound grief but continued to pursue his ministry with renewed vigor.

Ministry and Evangelistic Work

Wigglesworth's ministry was characterized by his powerful preaching, healing services, and faith-based teachings. His approach attracted thousands of people from different backgrounds.

Healing Ministry

Smith Wigglesworth became widely known for his healing ministry, where he claimed that faith in Jesus could heal physical ailments. His methods were unconventional, often involving prayer, laying on of hands, and even striking the afflicted.

- Notable Healings:
 - He reportedly healed a wide range of ailments, including cancer, tuberculosis, and paralysis.
 - Many of his followers documented miraculous healings that occurred during his meetings.
- Belief in Faith:
 - Wigglesworth emphasized that faith was the key to receiving healing. He often stated, "Faith is an act," encouraging believers to take action based on their faith.
 - He taught that healing was part of the atonement, meaning that it was available to all who believed in Jesus Christ.

Preaching Style

Wigglesworth's preaching style was passionate and direct. He was known for his fiery sermons that often included personal testimonies and powerful illustrations of God's faithfulness.

- Traveling Evangelist:
 - He traveled extensively throughout the United Kingdom, the United States, and other countries, preaching at churches, conferences, and conventions.
 - His ministry gained traction, especially during the Pentecostal revival of the early 1900s.
- Key Themes:
 - His messages often focused on the power of the Holy Spirit, the importance of living a holy life, and the necessity of faith in the believer's life.
 - Wigglesworth frequently challenged his audience to deepen their relationship with God and to live out their faith actively.

Legacy and Influence

Smith Wigglesworth's impact on the Pentecostal movement and the broader Christian community continues to be felt today. His teachings and experiences have inspired countless individuals and ministries.

Literary Contributions

Wigglesworth authored several books and articles that encapsulate his beliefs and teachings. Some notable works include:

1. "A Faith That Works" - This book outlines Wigglesworth's understanding of faith and its practical implications in daily life.
2. "Smith Wigglesworth on Healing" - A collection of his teachings on healing, showcasing his experiences and insights.
3. "Ever Increasing Faith" - This work emphasizes the importance of growing in faith and trusting God in all circumstances.

Influence on Pentecostalism

Wigglesworth played a crucial role in shaping the Pentecostal movement during the early 20th century. His emphasis on healing, the Holy Spirit, and the need for a personal relationship with Christ resonated with many believers.

- Promotion of Divine Healing:
 - He was one of the early proponents of divine healing within the Pentecostal movement, encouraging churches to embrace healing as a core practice.
- Mentoring Future Leaders:
 - Many prominent Pentecostal leaders and evangelists were influenced by Wigglesworth's teachings and practices.
 - His legacy can be seen in various Pentecostal and Charismatic movements that continue to prioritize healing and faith today.

Final Years and Death

In his later years, Wigglesworth continued to travel and preach, even as his health began to decline. He remained a sought-after speaker and was known for his unwavering faith even in the face of personal challenges.

- Death:
 - Smith Wigglesworth passed away on March 12, 1947, at the age of 87.
 - His funeral drew thousands of mourners who came to pay their respects and honor his life and ministry.

Conclusion

The life of Smith Wigglesworth is a powerful testament to the impact of faith and the transformative power of God. Through his dedication to prayer, healing, and evangelism, he left an indelible mark on Christianity and inspired countless individuals to pursue a deeper relationship with God. His

legacy lives on through the many who continue to seek healing and empowerment through faith, embodying the principles he passionately preached throughout his remarkable life.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Smith Wigglesworth?

Smith Wigglesworth was a British evangelist and faith healer known for his powerful preaching and healing ministry during the early 20th century. He played a significant role in the Pentecostal movement.

What were the key beliefs of Smith Wigglesworth?

Wigglesworth strongly believed in the power of faith, divine healing, and the work of the Holy Spirit. He emphasized the importance of living a life of holiness and trust in God for miracles.

How did Smith Wigglesworth contribute to the Pentecostal movement?

Wigglesworth's passionate preaching and miraculous healings inspired many and helped to spread Pentecostal beliefs across the world. His ministry attracted large crowds and influenced countless individuals and churches.

What are some notable miracles attributed to Smith Wigglesworth?

Wigglesworth is reported to have performed numerous miracles, including raising the dead, healing various diseases, and delivering people from demonic possession, all of which he attributed to his unwavering faith in God.

What is the legacy of Smith Wigglesworth today?

Wigglesworth's legacy continues through various Pentecostal and charismatic movements, and his teachings are still widely read and respected. Many consider him a pioneer of faith healing and a significant figure in Christian revival history.

When did Smith Wigglesworth live and serve in ministry?

Smith Wigglesworth was born on June 8, 1859, and served in ministry primarily from the early 1900s until his death on March 12, 1947. His active ministry years saw significant growth in the Pentecostal movement.

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