



Did you know Charles Finney...

Charles Grandison Finney (1792-1875) was the greatest evangelist of his day. In his day there were scores of notable evangelists. But Finney stood head and shoulders above the rest in personal integrity, social activism, innovative spiritual influence and results. Finney estimated that 100,000 people were added to churches due to his revivals in upstate New York between 1825-32. As a young man he wanted to be a lawyer. But a profound conversion experience transformed him. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister. His brilliance as an extemporaneous speaker together with his natural ability to establish an emotional connection with an audience led him to become a traveling revivalist.

Under the provisions of the Plan of Union (1801) he worked with Presbyterian and Congregationalist churches. In 1835 he joined the faculty (and later became president) of Oberlin College. He is regarded as the Father of Modern Revivalism. His "New Measures" have become a success formula used by evangelists to the present day. They are, (1) Extemporaneous sermons directed to the emotions delivered in a confrontational style; (2) Use of soul-rousing music; (3) Use of an Altar Call at each meeting; (4) Use of lay prayer partners, both men and women to pray over respondents to the invitation; (5) Advance advertising; (6) Protracted meetings. Finney transformed the Theology and Culture of Revival. Jonathan Edwards saw revival solely as a "Surprising and Miraculous Work of God."

Finney saw revival as a technique, saying, "revival is not a miracle. It is a purely scientific result of the right use of the constituted means." Charles Finney also believed in Social Salvation. He opposed slavery and supported women's rights.

...was a Congregationalist?

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Call To Worship

L: We are keepers of the Way.

C: We come, aware of our place as 21st Century pilgrims.

L: May we bring to this worship hour and to our very lives, a commitment to refashion this world for Christ.

C: May we renew and cherish our life together, as God's free people.

Invocation (in unison)

Let Your holy presence be among us, O Lord, in this year of remembrance, that we, being made aware of the conviction and character of those before us, may enter into our inheritance, standing firm in the convictions for which they ventured to this new world freedom. Let our forebears' dedication to freedom and righteousness be their gift to us this day, and all our tomorrows. Amen

Contributed by Rev. Norm Erlendson

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard