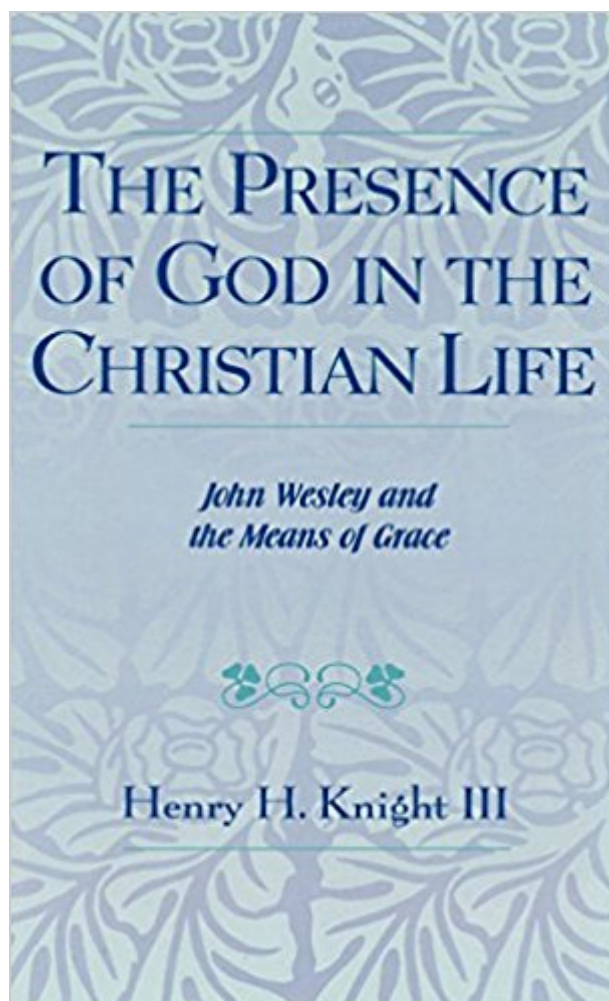


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# The Presence Of God In The Christian Life



## Synopsis

While the most standard treatments of John Wesley's theology focus their attention on his distinctive 'way of salvation', they fail to provide a thorough examination of Wesley's 'means of grace.' This book offers the first detailed discussion of the means of grace as the liturgical, communal, and devotional context within which growth in the Christian life actually occurred. Knight shows how the means of grace together form an interrelated pattern that enables a growing relationship with God.

## Book Information

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...illuminates the shape of Wesley's thought... (Don E. Saliers, Emory University)...careful and balanced... (Rex D. Matthews, Candler School Of Philosophy)...well worth publishing... Knight draws together several streams of recent scholarship to highlight the dynamic and relational nature of both grace and holiness in Wesley's theology...a very significant contribution to Wesley studies. More importantly, it is a contribution to the larger Christian community as we seek to understand the nature and nurture of Christian life. (Methodist History)...a most valuable study of Wesley's spirituality, freeing it from some misunderstandings and abuses and valuable not least in its examination of Wesley's sacramental theology... (Methodist Recorder)...well-produced...marvelously comprehensive in that they avoid both formalism and enthusiasm...Knight has read Wesley with thoroughness...A valuable piece of work. (Gordon F. Wakefield)It is a must for anyone pursuing scholarly work on John Wesley's theology, and will be of real interest to anyone else who want to

learn more about Wesley. It is one of those relatively rare books that is both profound and very readable and understandable. (E. Dale Dunlap)...quite original...an interesting and often stimulating approach to Wesley's theology and system of piety which deserves careful reading... (Proceedings Of The Wesley Historical Society)With critically appreciative treatments of John Wesley's understanding of both baptism and the Lord's Supper, Dr. Knight has given a very fine appraisal of Wesley's understanding of the means of grace. The work is fully and carefully documented and there is much evidence of close acquaintance with both earlier and contemporary works on Wesley's theology. ...this new work is the first to attempt a systematic treatment of all the means of grace that John Wesley practised personally and encouraged his converts to do likewise. In spite of the danger of using a much over-worked cliché, Dr. Knight's study is an original (and very welcome) contribution to Wesley study. (The Evangelical Quarterly)

Henry H. Knight III is Donald and Pearl Wright Professor of Wesleyan Studies at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri. He has served as a pastor in the United Methodist Church and has published several books and articles on Wesley's theology.

There are many great books that teach us the theology and practice of the Wesleyan movement. This book must be considered near the top of any student's list. Henry Knight is a fantastic scholar well-read in the diverse arena of Christian theology. He writes with great humility, faith, and passion. This book is not a "popular theology" book intended for mass consumption. Yet, it is written clearly enough, and simply enough, that anyone can read and understand it. I highly recommend this book to everyone I meet. Knight publishes this work as a result of his dissertation. He unifies Wesley's theology with his practice. This book shows us what Wesley means by all the technical Christian codewords: salvation, justification, sanctification, grace, and many others. This book is not a systematic word study. Rather, it is a practice in plain speaking. Knight roots us in the contextual surroundings of Wesley's life. Wesley stood between the antinomians and proponents of works-righteousness. He drew a picture of God's graceful activity in the human life that stops short of nothing less than our complete renewal in the image of God. In this book, Knight shows us the journey of holiness. He expounds on the real things we can do that help us know God more fully, experience divine grace more deeply, and live a life more faithfully. Knight enlivens the means of grace, not as obligatory acts, but as vehicles by which we can be transformed by God's love. Through faithful practice of these disciplines, according to Wesley, we can live in such a way that God's love governs all our actions and all our thoughts. I can only imagine what the world would be

like if each of us, myself included, took seriously the opportunity to engage The Presence of God in the Christian Life.

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