

#10 of 12 - 5 & 10 on the 15th

(a monthly series on impactful Christians who poured out (5) their lives in Christ's strength and power (10) sent out around the 15th of each month)

"A Life of Steadfast Light: The Legacy of Charles Simeon"

Scripture that Characterized His Life:

"...always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."
– 1 Corinthians 15:58

Intro Refrain

This is the tenth in a monthly series this year entitled *Victorious Christians You Should Know* from Warren Wiersbe's book by this title, introducing you each month to one amazing Christian from the past.

Church history is so important! It's both encouraging and inspiring to hear how Christians have sought the Lord, lived for Him, been sustained by Him to accomplish great things in the Kingdom of God, and then die and pass into eternal life. We are the church in our time! We must both take up the cause of Christ in our day and also live for Jesus with dedication and passion – laying down our lives so that the life of Christ might be lived in us and through us. I hope these short sketches inspire you to read more about each of these Christians and to go out, asking Holy Spirit, to help you live a more earnest and uncompromising Christian life.

"A Life of Steadfast Light: The Legacy of Charles Simeon"

A Charles Simeon quote that Characterized His Life:

"My endeavor is to bring out of Scripture what is there, and not to trust in what I think might be there."
– Charles Simeon

Charles Simeon (1759–1836) was a faithful pastor, expository preacher, and champion of evangelical ministry in the Church of England. Though he faced intense opposition early in his ministry, his steadfastness, humility, and commitment to the gospel left an enduring legacy in British evangelicalism and beyond.

Early Life and Conversion

Born in Reading, England, on September 24, 1759, Charles Simeon came from a well-off family and entered King's College, Cambridge, at age 19. At the time, he had no real interest in spiritual matters, but a requirement to take communion during his first term stirred a crisis in his soul.

He began reading deeply about the atonement of Christ and, through the writings of Henry Scougal and others, came to a saving faith in Jesus. He later described his conversion as being flooded with peace and joy as he realized the sufficiency of Christ's finished work on the cross.

Endurance in Ministry

Just a few years after his conversion, Simeon was appointed pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Cambridge in 1782. He was only 23 years old. The congregation didn't want him. For years they rejected his leadership – refusing to attend services, locking their pews, and openly opposing his preaching. Students threw bricks through the church windows and mocked him in public.

But Simeon stayed. For over 50 years, he remained the pastor of Holy Trinity, preaching Christ, discipling young men, and faithfully opening the Word of God. “If I should preach Christ,” he once wrote, “and my own parishioners do not want to hear it, I will go elsewhere and preach Christ – and if I am kicked out of that, I will go on and preach Christ.”

Eventually, the church warmed to him. His endurance softened hearts, and by the end of his ministry, the sanctuary was packed with worshipers and future ministers trained under his care.

Preaching and Training the Next Generation

Simeon was a pioneer of systematic expository preaching. He worked through Scripture passage by passage, allowing the Word to speak for itself. His style emphasized clarity, doctrinal soundness, and practical application.

In 1833, he published *Horae Homileticae* – a massive 21-volume set of sermon outlines covering nearly the entire Bible. These volumes were not just for his own use but designed to train others in faithful preaching. His goal was never personal glory but the spreading of the gospel.

He also mentored and supported hundreds of young pastors and missionaries, many of whom went out through the Church Missionary Society and other evangelical efforts. His Cambridge residence became a hub of prayer, encouragement, and training.

Legacy and Final Days

Though never widely known in his own time, Charles Simeon’s quiet, faithful ministry rippled outward through the lives he touched. He remained in the pulpit until just weeks before his death in 1836, having preached and labored in the same church for 54 years. His final days were marked by peace and expectancy, rejoicing in the glory that awaited him.

He once wrote,

“To live as entirely for God as possible, to give Him the whole of my heart, and the whole of my time, and the whole of my energies – this is my goal.”

His example is a shining encouragement to endure hardship, to preach the Word faithfully, and to trust God with the fruit.

Selected Scriptures and Quotes:

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.” – Psalm 126:5

“Preach the Word... in season and out of season.” – 2 Timothy 4:2

“Humility is the grace which, when you think you have it, you have lost it.” – Charles Simeon

“Self-abhorrence and self-complacency can never stand together.” – Charles Simeon

“I am so persuaded that nothing but prayer can save the Church, that I spend two hours every morning in prayer.” – Charles Simeon