

He saw the need in America for someone who would have the authority to conduct communion service, to baptize, perform marriages and so on for his people. Before the revolution he always said, "The Church of England is there. They have ordained ministers. They're the people to do it," and the ministers he sent over here who were ordained were ordained in the Church of England. He sent a good many preachers over here who were not ordained; in fact, among all his followers not over one-fourth were ordained and those who were were ordained in the Church of England, during most of his life. Mr.---? (Student) He was not a man who was looking for power, very definitely. Most people, power goes to their head. If you give them some power they get to where they've got to control everything, but that was not true of Wesley. Wesley was seeking for the advancement of the knowledge of the Bible and for the increase of the spiritual life of people, but he was not doing it as an advancement of the church. It was movement within the Episcopal Church, as he understood it, and when he preached to great crowds in the outdoors he wanted them to come to church, to the Episcopal church, but the bishops didn't approve of his method. They said, "That's not the way to preach. You have to preach in the church. You don't belong to preach out in the outdoors that way. That's too undignified for a minister," and they didn't like it. They didn't approve of his methods. They opposed him very bitterly in his early years, but though they opposed him he never opposed them. He always supported them. He'd never go into a town but he'd go and call on the Bishop and tell him what he was going to do but if the Bishop said, "Don't do it", he would say, "Well, I'm preaching the gospel, the Lord has called us to preach the gospel and there's nothing you can do to stop me," and there wasn't anything the man could do to stop him except to tell him not because of the type of government in the Church of England but he would still try to have his people go to the bishop's churches, but now the revolution came and all these thousands of people in America who were following Wesley's direction, his teaching, were now left stranded with nobody to baptize them or to perform the communion or to marry them, and so on, and something had to be done for these people. The great bulk of the ministers of the Church of England had gone back