**John Wesley sermon: On Visiting the Sick (98)**

Compassionate God,

It is easy for me to think about my spirituality

in terms of the works of piety—

prayer, scripture, fellowship, and Eucharist.

But you shape love in my heart and life through exterior works of mercy

that are just as important to my spiritual growth.

Acts of compassion and justice conform my heart and life

to the mind and way of Christ.

As one of your beloved children, you invite me to:

feed the hungry, provide water to those who thirst,

offer hospitality to strangers,

clothe those who have little to wear,

visit the sick, and care for those in prison.

Whenever I do these things for the least among us,

I do them all for you, and you flood my heart with love. Amen.

Chilcote, More Praying in the Wesleyan Spirit, 27

**Charles Wesley hymn:**

Come, let us arise,

And press to the skies;

The summons obey,

My friend, my beloved, and hasten away!

The master of all

For our service doth call,

And deigns to approve

With smiles of acceptance our labor of love.

Then let us attend

Our heavenly friend,

In his members distressed,

With want, or affliction, or sickness oppressed;

The prisoner relieve,

The stranger receive,

Supply all their wants,

And spend and be spent in assisting God’s saints.

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