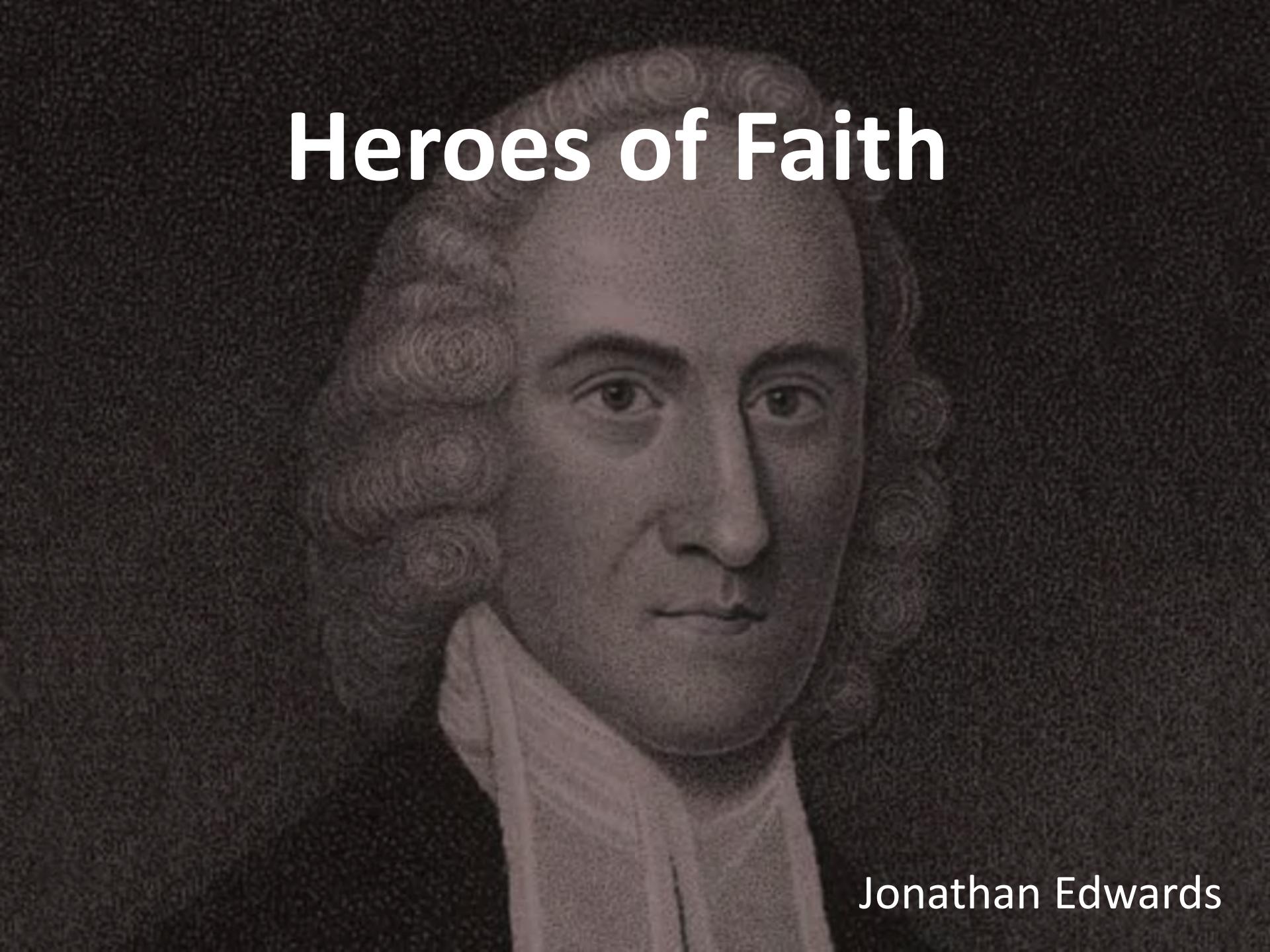




Heroes of the Faith

Heroes of Faith



Jonathan Edwards

Jonathan Edwards

1703 - 1758

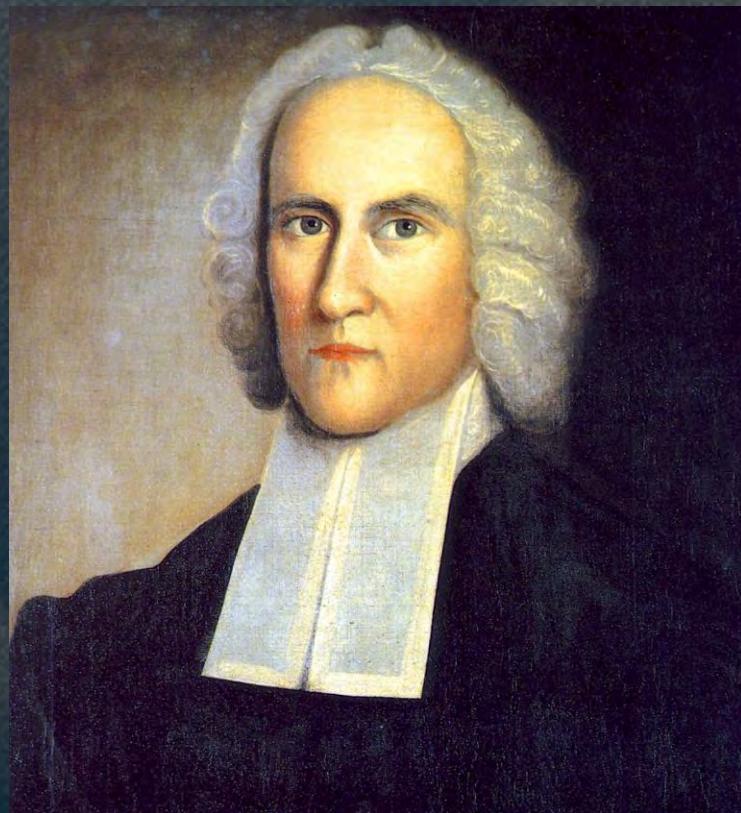
“No man is more relevant to the present condition of Christianity than Jonathan Edwards.”

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“I am tempted, perhaps foolishly, to compare the Puritans to the Alps, Luther and Calvin to the Himalayas, and Jonathan Edwards to Mount Everest.”

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

*Heroes
of the
Faith*



Jonathan Edwards

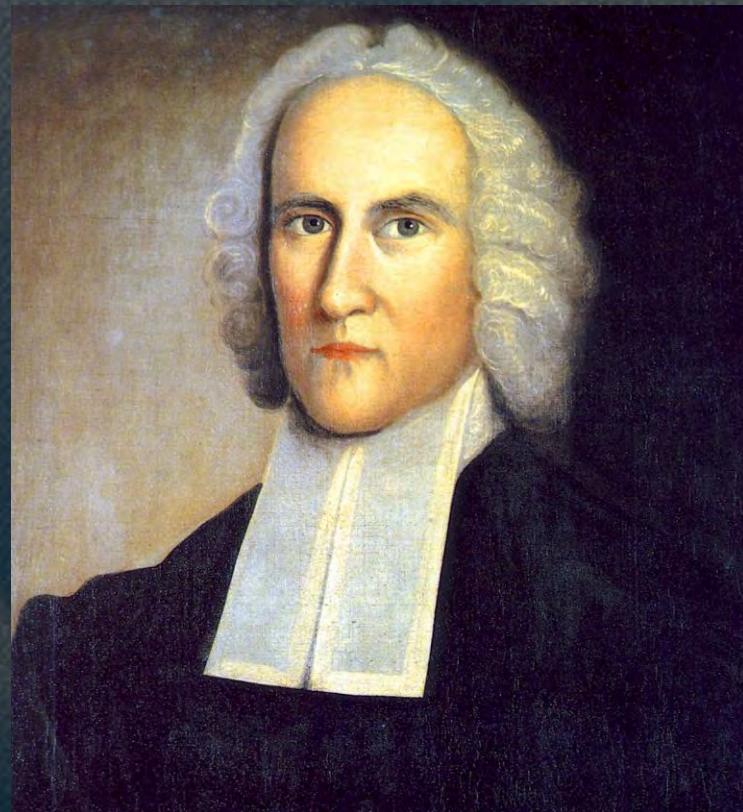
1703 - 1758

“Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758) is widely acknowledged to be America's most important and original philosophical theologian.”

Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy

“Mr. Edwards is a solid, excellent Christian...I think I have not seen his fellow in all New England’.

George Whitfield

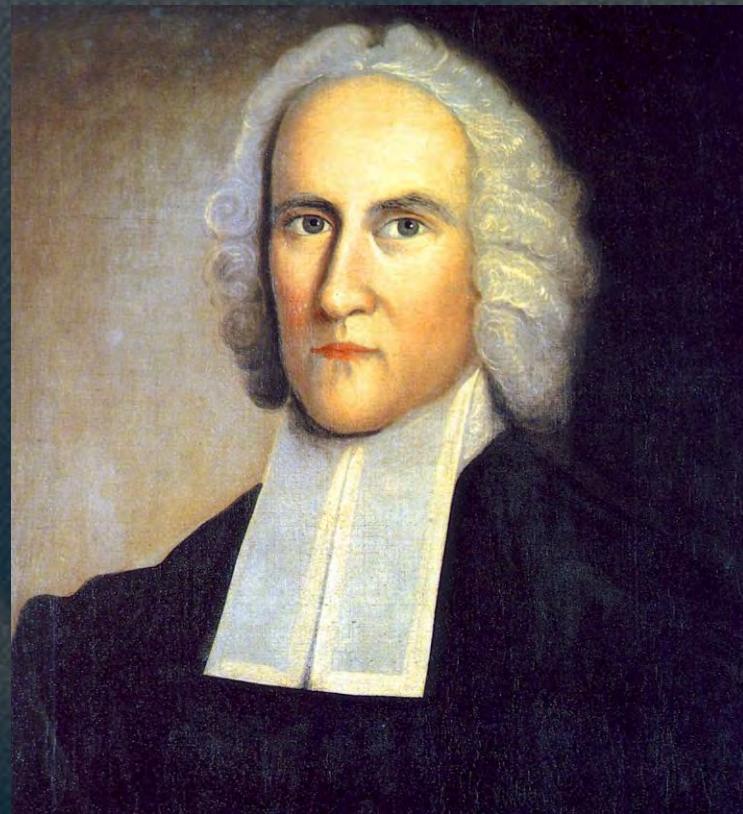


Jonathan Edwards

1703 - 1758

“That great man.”
John Wesley

**“Look at that wondrous shaking under
Jonathan Edwards.”**
Charles Haddon Spurgeon



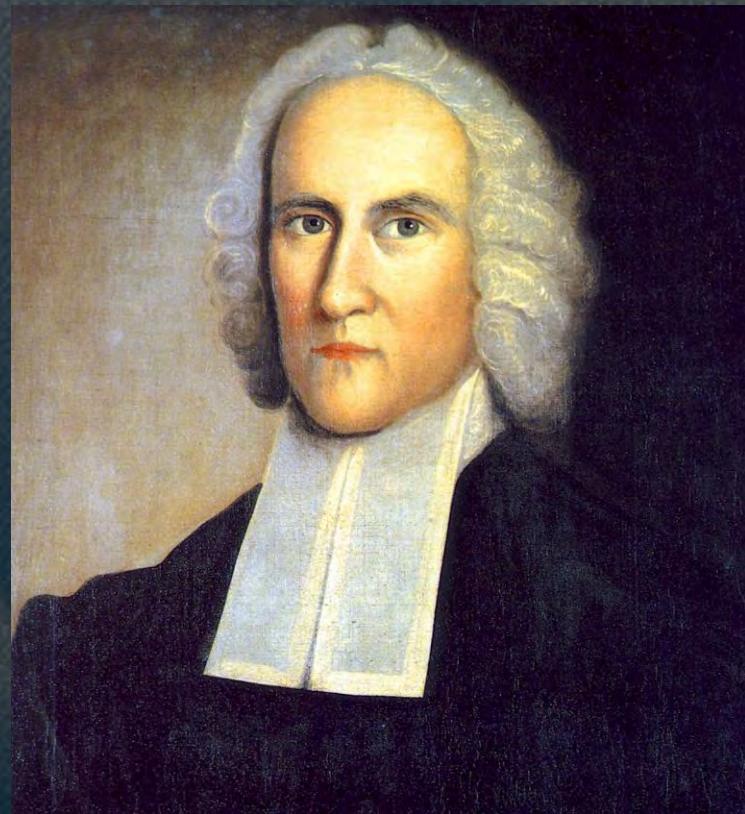
Jonathan Edwards

1703 - 1758

What the Bible says

“Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.”

Hebrews 13:7



Jonathan Edwards

1703 - 1758

Timeline

- 1703** Jonathan Edwards born in East Windsor, Connecticut
- 1716** Admitted to Yale and continues to study there for ministry
- 1726** Called to Northampton church as assistant minister to grandfather Solomon Stoddard.
- 1727** Marriage to Sarah Pierrepont
- 1729** Death of Solomon Stoddard
- 1734** Beginning of Great Awakening in Northampton
- 1740** George Whitefield briefly joins Edwards in revival preaching
- 1742** Writes *Some Thoughts Concerning the Present Revival of Religion*
- 1747** Death of David Brainerd at Edwards' home
- 1750** Dismissed from Northampton church
- 1751** Settles in Stockbridge as pastor to settlers and missionary to Indians
- 1754** Writes *Freedom of the Will*
- 1755** Writes *Nature of True Virtue*
- 1758** Dies of smallpox March 22

Jonathan Edwards

Conversion

The first that I remember that ever I found anything of that sort of inward, sweet delight in God and divine things, that I have lived much in since, was on reading those words, 1 Timothy 1:17, "*Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory forever and ever, Amen.*"

As I read the words, there came into my soul, and was as it were diffused through it, a sense of the glory of the divine being; a new sense, quite different from anything I ever experienced before. Never any words of Scripture seemed to me as these words did. I thought with myself, how excellent a Being that was; and how happy I should be, if I might enjoy that God, and be wrapt up to God in heaven, and be as it were swallowed up in him. I kept saying, and as it were singing over these words of Scripture to myself; and went to prayer, to pray to God that I might enjoy him; and prayed in a manner quite different from what I used to do; with a new sort of affection.

Jonathan Edwards

Conversion

Not long after I first began to experience these things, ... as I was walking there, and looked up on the sky and clouds; there came into my mind, a sweet sense of the glorious majesty and grace of God, that I know not how to express. I seemed to see them both in a sweet conjunction: majesty and meekness joined together: it was a sweet and gentle, and holy majesty; and also a majestic meekness; an awful sweetness; a high, and great, and holy gentleness.

After this my sense of divine things gradually increased, and became more and more lively, and had more of that inward sweetness. The appearance of everything was altered: there seemed to be, as it were, a calm, sweet cast, or appearance of divine glory, in almost everything."

Jonathan Edwards

Spirituality

My mind was greatly fixed on divine things; I was almost perpetually in the contemplation of them. Spent most of my time in thinking of divine things, year after year. And used to spend abundance of my time, in walking alone in the woods, and solitary places, for meditation, soliloquy and prayer, and converse with God. And it was always my manner, at such times, to sing forth my contemplations. And was almost constantly in ejaculatory prayer, wherever I was. Prayer seemed to be natural to me; as the breath, by which the inward burnings of my heart had vent.

Jonathan Edwards

Taking Faith Seriously

Resolutions

- On the supposition, that there never was to be but one individual in the world, at any one time, who was properly a complete Christian, in all respects of a right stamp, having Christianity always shining in its true luster, and appearing excellent and lovely, from whatever part and under whatever character viewed: Resolved, to act just as I would do, if I strove with all my might to be that one, who should live in my time.
- Resolved, to live with all my might, while I do live.
- Resolved, to endeavour to obtain for myself as much happiness, in the other world, as I possibly can, with all the power; might, vigour, and vehemence, yea violence, I am capable of, or can bring myself to exert, in any way that can be thought of.

Jonathan Edwards

Taking Faith Seriously

Resolutions

- Resolved, never to do any manner of thing, whether in soul or body, less or more, but what tends to the glory of God.
- Resolved, never to lose one moment of time; but improve it the most profitable way I possibly can.
- Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if it were the last hour of my life.
- Resolved, to examine carefully, and constantly, what that one thing in me is, which causes me in the least to doubt of the love of God; and to direct all my forces against it.
- Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.

Jonathan Edwards

The Pursuit of Joy

Another part of God's fullness that he communicates is his **happiness**. This happiness consists in **enjoying and rejoicing in himself**; so does the creature's happiness. ... The happiness of the creature consists in rejoicing in God, by which also God is magnified and glorified."

In some sense, the most benevolent, generous person in the world seeks his own happiness in doing good to others, because **he places his happiness in their good**. His mind is so enlarged as to take them, as it were, into himself. Thus when they are happy, he feels it; he partakes with them and is happy in their happiness.

I do not suppose that it can be said of any that their love to their own happiness ... can be in too high a degree.

Jonathan Edwards

The Pursuit of Joy

“Enjoyment of him is our highest happiness, and is the only happiness with which our souls will be satisfied.”

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!”

Philippians 4:4

“It is a Christian duty, as you know, for everyone to be as happy as he can.”

C.S. Lewis

Jonathan Edwards

Revivalist

What is revival?

- A manifestation of God's presence such that there is great conviction of sin and many people are saved.

*"Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.
5 You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?"*

Isaiah 64:1-5

Jonathan Edwards

Revivalist

What is revival?

"Presently upon this, a great and earnest concern about the great things of religion and the eternal world became universal in all parts of the town, and among persons of all degrees and all ages; the noise amongst the dry bones waxed louder and louder. All other talk about spiritual and eternal things was soon thrown by; all the conversation in all companies and upon all occasions, was upon these things only, unless so much as was necessary for people, carrying on their ordinary secular business. Other discourse than of the things of religion would scarcely be tolerated in any company."

Jonathan Edwards

Revivalist

What is revival?

"There was scarcely a single person in the town, either old or young, that was left unconcerned about the great things of the eternal world. Those that were wont to be the vainest and loosest, and those that had been most disposed to think and speak slightly of vital and experimental religion, were now generally subject to great awakenings. And the work of conversion was carried on in a most astonishing manner, and increased more and more; souls did as it were come by flocks to Jesus Christ. From day to day, for many months together, might be seen evident instances of sinners brought out of darkness into marvellous light, and delivered out of an horrible pit, and from the miry clay, and set upon a rock with a new song of praise to God in their mouths."

Jonathan Edwards

Revivalist

What is revival?

"The town seemed to be full of the presence of God: it never was so full of love, nor so full of joy; and yet so full of distress, as it was then. There were remarkable tokens of God's presence in almost every house. It was a time of joy in families on the account of salvation's being brought unto them; parents rejoicing over their children as newborn, and husbands over their wives, and wives over their husbands. The goings of God were then seen in his sanctuary [Psalms 68:24], God's day was a delight, and his tabernacles were amiable [Psalms 84:1]. Our public assemblies were then beautiful; the congregation was alive in God's service, everyone earnestly intent on the public worship, every hearer eager to drink in the words of the minister as they came from his mouth; the assembly in general were, from time to time, in tears while the Word was preached; some weeping with sorrow and distress, others with joy and love, others with pity and concern for the souls of their neighbours."

Jonathan Edwards

Revivalist

What is revival?

"A loose, careless person could scarcely find a companion in the whole neighbourhood; and if there was anyone that seemed to remain senseless or unconcerned, it would be spoken of as a strange thing."

Physical Manifestations

"It was a very frequent thing to see an house full of outcries, faintings, convulsions and such like, both with distress, and also with admiration and joy. It was not the manner here to hold meetings all night, as in some places, nor was it common to continue 'em till very late in the night: but it was pretty often, so that there were some that were so affected, and their bodies so overcome, that they could not go home, but were obliged to stay all night at the house where they were."

Jonathan Edwards

Revivalist

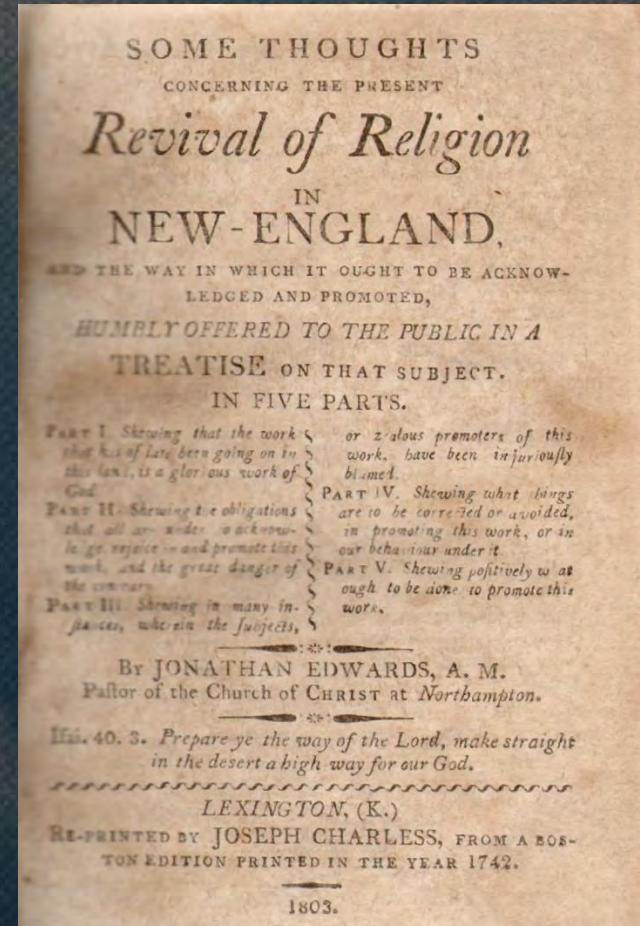
Defending Revival

"Now if such things are enthusiasm, and the fruits of a distempered brain, let my brain be evermore possessed of that happy distemper! If this be distraction, I pray God that the world of mankind may be all seized with this benign, meek, beneficent, beatifical, glorious distraction!"

With pitfalls

Those "living on experiences and not on Christ", are "more abominable in the sight of God than the gross immoralities of those who make no pretence of religion."

Heroes
of the
Faith



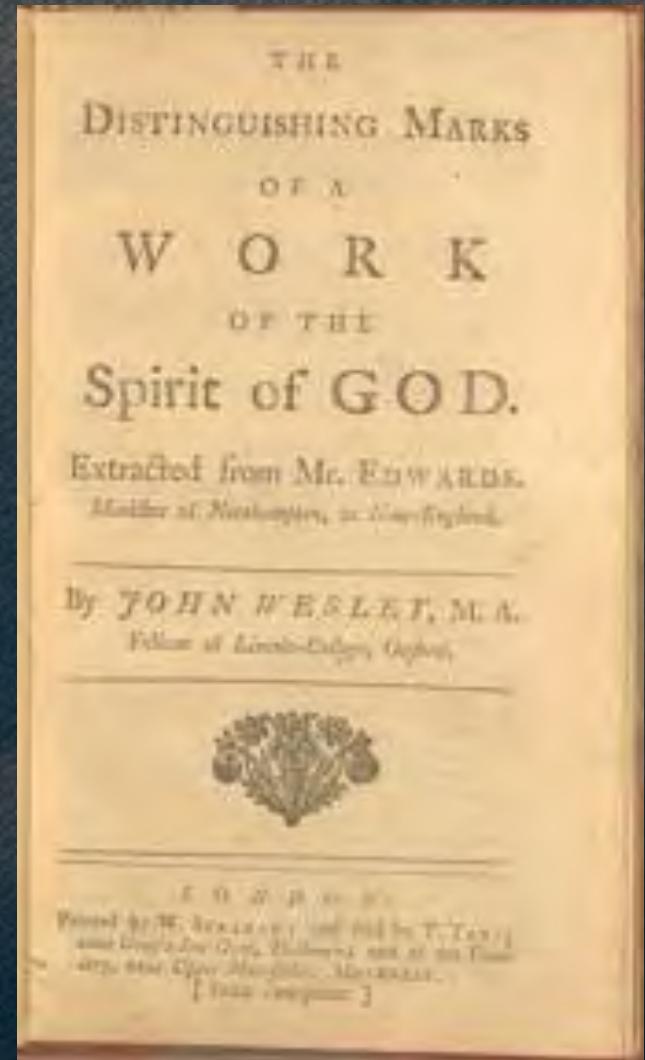
Jonathan Edwards

Revivalist

Defending Revival

- Does it promote worship of Jesus?
- Does it work against sin?
- Does it promote a greater regard for the Bible?
- Does it draw people to truth?
- Does it encourage love of God and man?

Heroes
of the
Faith



Jonathan Edwards

Preacher

"We went over to Enfield where we met dear Mr. Edwards of Northampton who preached a most awakening sermon from these words, Deuteronomy 32:35, and before the sermon was done there was a great moaning and crying went out through ye whole House.... 'What shall I do to be saved,' 'Oh, I am going to Hell,' 'Oh, what shall I do for Christ,' and so forth. So yet ye minister was obliged to desist, ye shrieks and cry were piercing and amazing."

"After some time of waiting the Congregation were still, so yet a prayer was made by Mr. W. and after that we descended from the pulpit and discoursed with the people, some in one place and some in another, and amazing and astonishing ye power of God was seen, and several souls were hopefully wrought upon that night, and oh ye cheerfulness and pleasantness of their countenances."

*Heroes
of the
Faith*

S I N N E R S

In the Hands of an

Angry GOD.

A S E R M O N

Preached at *Enfield, July 8th 1741.*

At a Time of great Awakenings; and attended with
remarkable Impressions on many of the Hearers.

By *Jonathan Edwards, A.M.*

Jonathan Edwards

Preacher

Matthew 16:17

There is such a thing as a spiritual and divine light, immediately imparted to the soul by God, of a different nature from any that is obtained by natural means.

Psalm 46:10

The Sole Consideration that God is God is sufficient to still all objections to his sovereignty.

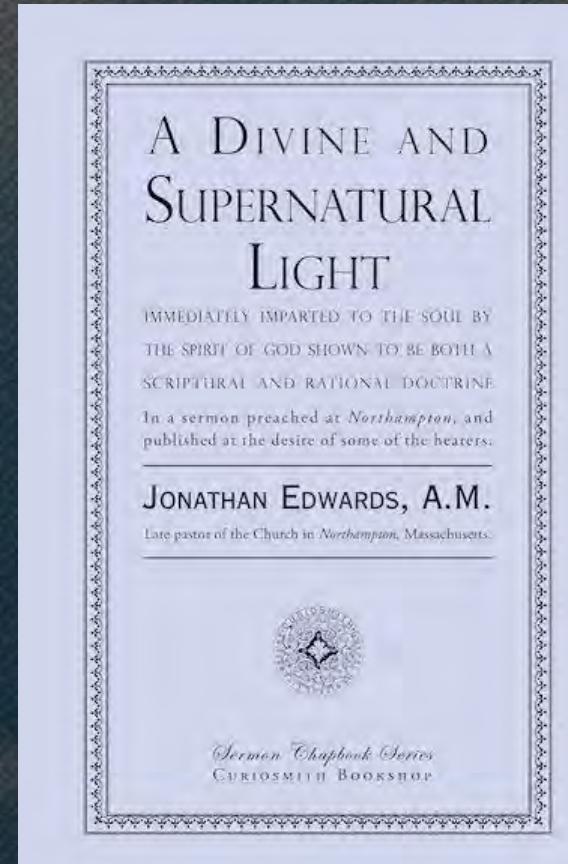
Revelation 7:1-3

In the time of public commotions and calamities, God will take thorough and effectual care that his servants shall be safe.

1 Corinthians 13:8-10

Heaven is a world of love.

*Heroes
of the
Faith*



Jonathan Edwards

The Last of the Mohican Missionaries

David Brainerd – a passion for the lost

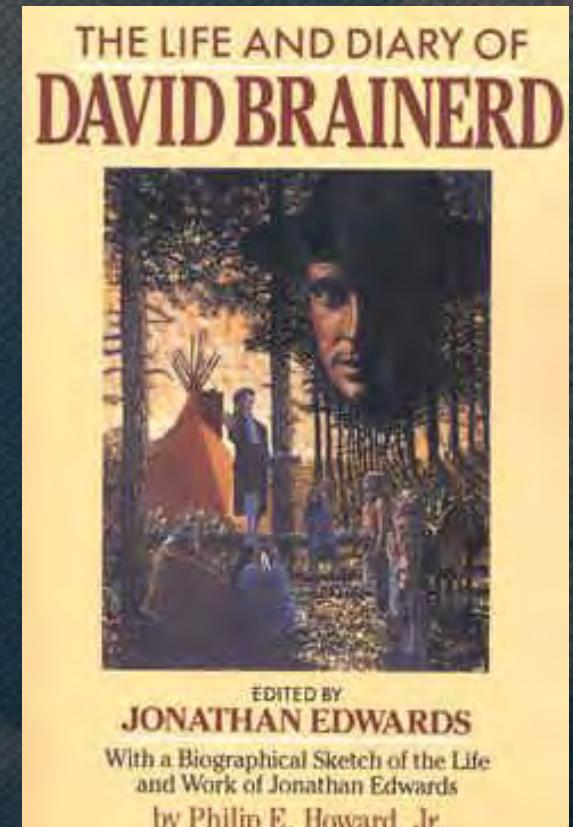
"Here am I, send me; send me to the ends of the earth; send me to the rough, the savage lost of the wilderness; send me from all that is called comfort on earth; send me even to death itself, if it be but in your service, and to promote your kingdom."

"Let me forget the world and be swallowed up in the desire to glorify God."

"I care not where I go, or how I live, or what I endure so that I may save souls. When I sleep I dream of them; when I awake they are first in my thoughts."

"All my desire was the conversion of the heathen... I declare, now I am dying, I would not have spent my life otherwise for the whole world."

*Heroes
of the
Faith*



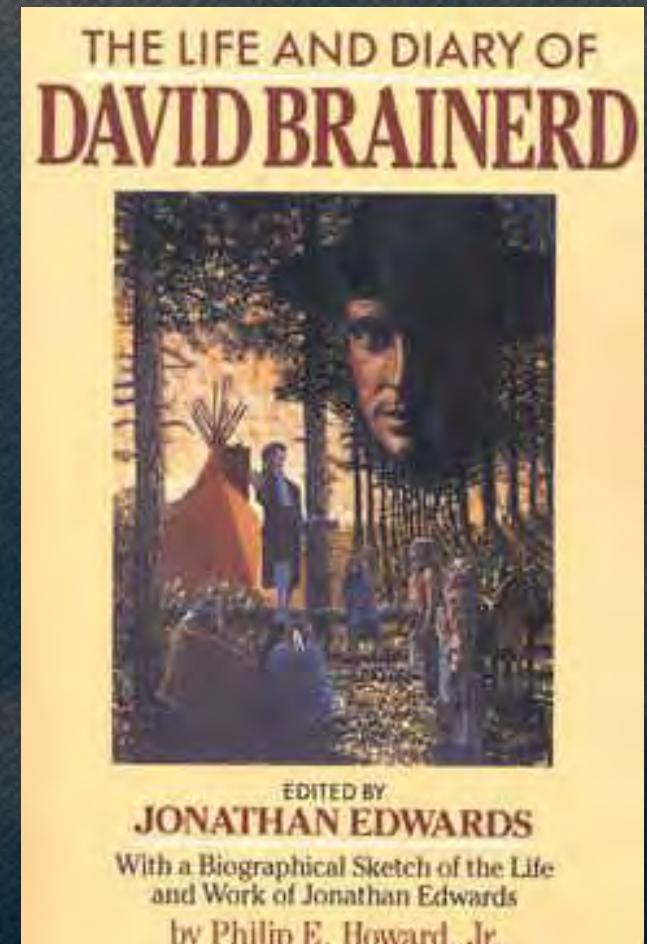
Jonathan Edwards

The Last of the Mohican Missionaries

David Brainerd – a lasting influence

William Carey
Thomas Coke
Henry Martyn
Robert Morrison
Samuel Mills
Fredrick Schwartz
Robert M'Cheyne
David Livingstone
Hudson Taylor
Andrew Murray
Jim Elliot

*Heroes
of the
Faith*



Jonathan Edwards

Father

The most successful father of all time?

Max Jakes Descendants

7 murderers
60 thieves
50 women of debauchery
130 other convicts
310 paupers (with over 2,300 years lived in poorhouses) 400 who were physically wrecked by indulgent living.

It was estimated that Max Juke's descendants cost the state more than \$1,250,000.

Jonathan Edwards Descendants

13 college presidents
65 professors
100 lawyers
30 judges
80 public office holders
3 U.S. Senators
3 mayors of large cities
3 governors of states
1 U.S. Vice-President
1 controller of U.S. Treasury
100 missionaries

Wrote 135 books and edited 18 journals & periodicals.

Jonathan Edwards

Author

Who dares – reads!

“My advice to you is: Read Jonathan Edwards. Stop going to so many meetings; stop craving for the various forms of entertainment which are so popular in evangelical circles at the present time. Learn to stay at home. Learn to read again, and do not merely read the exciting stories of certain modern people. Go back to something solid and deep and real.

“Are we losing the art of reading? Revivals have often started as the result of people reading volumes such as these two volumes of Edwards’ works. So read this man. Decide to do so. Read his sermons; read his practical treatises, and then go on to the great discourses on theological subjects.”

D.M. Lloyd-Jones

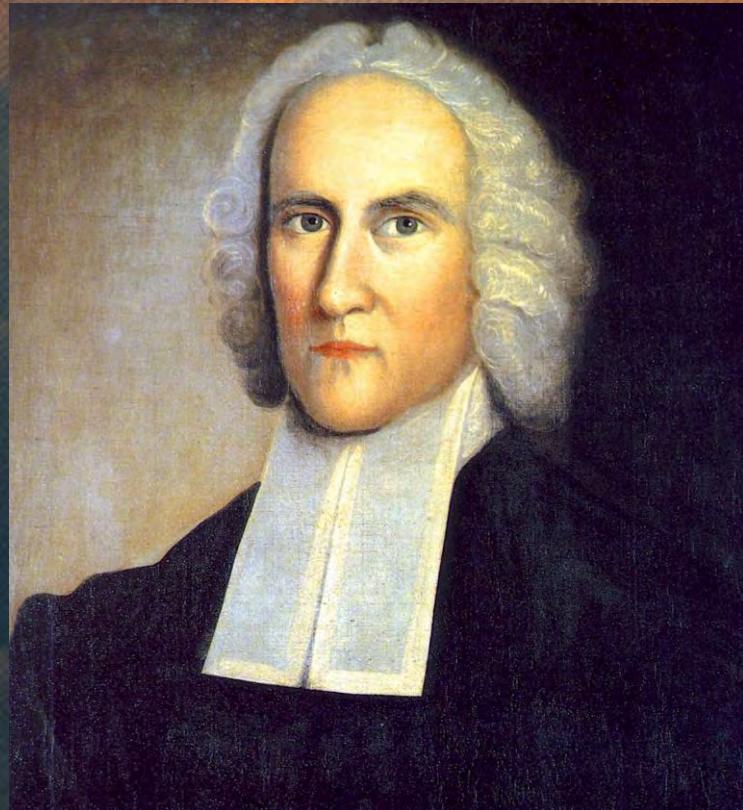
*Heroes
of the
Faith*

Jonathan Edwards

Christian

*“O LORD, I have heard the report of you,
and your work, O LORD, do I fear.
In the midst of the years **revive it**;
in the midst of the years make it known;
in wrath remember mercy.”*

Habakkuk 3:1



Jonathan Edwards

*“Remember your leaders,
those who spoke to you the
word of God. Consider the
outcome of their way of life,
and imitate their faith.”*

Hebrews 13:7

*Heroes
of the
Faith*

