

Reflections on Grace and Dew¹

A single sheet in Charles Wesley's hand drawing a comparison of grace and dew survives in Sugden Collection of Queen's College, the University of Melbourne. The purpose of the sheet is unclear. It is unlikely that it was an outline of a sermon. And while the metaphor of grace as dew appears in several of CW's hymns, none engage in such an extended comparison.

Grace Compared to Dew On Account of These Properties

1. Dew is something from heaven.
2. It comes from above to things below.
3. It gives life to herbs and plants, which lie hid under the earth, and brings them forth from the earth.
4. It falls thick and everywhere.
5. It covers or protects whatsoever it falls upon.
6. Though it seems on thing, yet is it diffused into various drops.
7. It seems joined to light, seeing all dew is of a light colour.
8. It sinks deep or penetrates into the lowest parts or bowels of [the] earth.
9. It revives and nourishes the earth in an imperceptible, and as it were spiritual, manner, without any hurt of hindrance thereof.

Charles Wesley

Source: holograph; University of Melbourne (Australia), Queen's College Library, Sugden Collection, WF3.

¹This document was produced by the Duke Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition under editorial direction of Randy L. Maddox, with the assistance of Aileen F. Maddox. Last updated: October 7, 2024.