

## XVIII.III. DAVID BRAINERD: REACHING THE LOST NO MATTER THE COST - The Eighteenth Century (pt.3)

Two questions and answers:

### QUESTION 1. What is Church History?

**ANSWER.** Church history is the story of how Jesus has built his church for his own glory and his peoples' good. **Matthew 16:18** "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

### QUESTION 2. Why should we study Church History?

**ANSWER.** We should learn church history because it is the amazing story of Jesus conquering the nations through his Gospel. **Revelation 6:2** "[Christ] came out conquering, and to conquer."

---

## Q. ARE YOU READY FOR CHURCH HISTORY?!

Today we are going to look at the Eighteenth Century for the 3rd time. But before we do that let's remember what we learned last time.

**Q. Who can tell me the name of the person I taught you about last time?**

– **Everyone say, "Jonathan Edwards."**

**Q. Who can tell me something about Jonathan Edwards?**

## RECAP

*In the Eighteenth Century, God used Jonathan Edwards to teach and model many great things for the glory of Christ and the edification of the church.*

Who can tell me

## EIGHTEENTH CENTURY (pt.2) MEMORY VERSE.

– "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation" (**Colossians 1:15**).

## EIGHTEENTH CENTURY (pt.2) MEMORY QUOTE.

– "You contribute nothing to your salvation except the sin that made it necessary" (**Jonathan Edwards**).

Now, today I am going to teach you about the Eighteenth Century PART 3 (1,700-1,800).

What happened in the Eighteenth Century (1,700-1,800) that shows us how Christ built His church as He continued to conquer the nations?

## I. DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747).

**Everyone say, "David Brainerd."**

### HISTORY

- (i) David Brainerd was born April 20, 1718, in Haddam, Connecticut, a Puritan colony where his father, Hezekiah Brainerd, served as a justice and deacon, raising his family in a faith marked by discipline and devotion amid New England's rugged frontier.
- (ii) Brainerd's parents, Hezekiah and Dorothy (Hobart), nurtured him in a home of piety, but tragedy struck early—his father died when David was nine, and his mother when he was 14, shaping his somber outlook and deep yearning for God's presence.
  - **Everyone say, "BRAINERD'S PARENTS DIED WHEN HE WAS YOUNG."**
- (iii) As a youth, Brainerd grappled with spiritual despair, haunted by his sinfulness and God's holiness, yet he pursued godliness, often retreating to the woods to pray, wrestling with a Calvinist faith he both feared and craved.
  - **\*BRAINERD'S DIARY REVEALS THAT HE WAS TORMENTED BY HIS OWN SINS, YET FIXATED ON GOD'S GLORY.**
- (iv) In 1739, at age 21, Brainerd enrolled at Yale College in New Haven, immersing himself in theology and the revivalist fervor of the Great Awakening, though his frail health and intense zeal often left him exhausted.
- (v) In 1739, Brainerd experienced a profound conversion to Christ.
  - **BRAINERD:** *"My soul was so captivated and delighted with the excellency... of God, that I was even swallowed up in Him... I wondered that all the world did not see and comply with this way of salvation, entirely by the righteousness of Christ."* — **The Life and Diary of David Brainerd, p. 138**
  - **Everyone say, "BRAINERD BECAME A CHRISTIAN WHEN HE WAS 21."**
- (vi) Brainerd faced expulsion from Yale in 1741 for criticizing a tutor's lack of piety, a consequence of his fiery conviction, forcing him to abandon formal education and seek God's calling elsewhere, humbled yet resolute.  
**"He has no more grace than a chair." — DB 54678**
- (vii) In 1742, Brainerd was licensed to preach by a New Light Presbyterian group, beginning his ministry in Connecticut and Long Island, where his

passion for souls shone despite frequent bouts of illness and melancholy.

- **(viii)** In 1743, Brainerd accepted a call from the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge to serve as a missionary to Native Americans, first among the Mahican Indians near Stockbridge, Massachusetts, embracing hardship for the gospel's sake.
- **(ix)** Brainerd struggled with loneliness and self-doubt, yet his diary reveals a heart ablaze for God, writing, "I longed to be a flame of fire, continually glowing in the divine service" (*The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*, p. 491), a prayer that defined his mission.
- **(x)** From 1744 to 1746, Brainerd ministered to the Delaware Indians in New Jersey, particularly at Crossweeksung, where his preaching sparked a revival, with dozens converted, baptized, and transformed by Christ's cross.
  - **BRAINERD:** *"I never got away from Jesus and Him crucified... and when my people were gripped by this great evangelical doctrine... I had no need to give them instructions about morality."* — ***The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*, p. 364**
- **(xi)** On October 9, 1744, Brainerd recorded a breakthrough among the Indians he had been preaching to, where God's Spirit moved powerfully. He called this moment the sweetest of his life.
  - **BRAINERD:** *"The power of God seemed to descend upon the assembly like a rushing mighty wind... numbers were bowed down under convictions."* — ***The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*, p. 280),**
- **(xii)** Brainerd's health deteriorated rapidly due to tuberculosis, worsened by relentless travel and exposure, yet he pressed on, preaching through pain and weakness, convinced that suffering was his path to glorify God.
  - **\*BRAINERD OFTEN COUGHED BLOOD, YET CONTINUED HIS COURSE DESPITE HAVING TUBERCULOSIS HIS ENTIRE ADULT LIFE. HE WAS DRIVEN BY LOVE FOR THE LOST.**
- **(xiii)** In 1746, too ill to continue fieldwork, Brainerd returned to New England, spending his final months in the homes of friends, including Jonathan Edwards in Northampton, where he dictated reflections that would inspire generations.
- **(xiv)** On October 9, 1747, David Brainerd died at age 29 in Edwards' home, his body frail but his spirit radiant, leaving a legacy of sacrifice and devotion that Jonathan Edwards later published as the first missionary biography.

**\*JONATHAN EDWARDS EDITED BRAINERD'S DIARY.**

**EDWARDS (1703–1758):** "Few men have so far imitated the life of Christ in love and suffering as Mr. Brainerd, whose heart was a flame of zeal for the salvation of the Indians, enduring hardships that would have broken lesser souls." — **Edwards, Jonathan. *The***

*Life and Diary of David Brainerd. Yale University Press, 1985.*

*Pg. 7.*

- (xv) Brainerd loved solitude with God, often rising before dawn to pray, pouring out his soul in his diary, which he kept meticulously, not for fame but to trace God's hand in his fleeting life.
- (xvi) Above all, David Brainerd loved Christ and His kingdom.
  - **BRAINERD:** "Oh, that I could dedicate my all to God. This is all the return I can make Him." — *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*, p. 242

*In the Eighteenth Century, God used David Brainerd to reach the lost and to model for the church great resolve to live for God's glory.*

## THEOLOGY

**I) Brainerd taught us that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.**

- **Everyone say, "Brainerd suffered constantly."**
  - **Acts 14:22 (Paul)** "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

*Despite great sufferings and fights with depression, Brainerd finished his course!*

- **Acts 20:24** "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

*You will suffer, brothers and sisters, yet if you keep your eyes on Christ and your knees bent in prayer, the Lord will sustain you and you will finish your course!*

**II) Brainerd pressed on despite great sufferings because of his Love for God.**

- **Everyone say, "Brainerd loved God."**
  - *Explanation.*
    - **Psalms 73:25** "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you."
    - **DAVID BRAINERD (1718-1747):**  
*"I longed to be a flame of fire continually glowing in the divine service and building up of Christ's kingdom to my last and*

*dying breath."*

— Brainerd, David. *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, Yale University Press, 1985. Pg. 491.

– **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):**

*"When you cease from labour, fill up your time in reading, meditation, and prayer: and while your hands are labouring, let your heart be employed, as much as possible, in divine thoughts."*

— Brainerd, David. *The Life of the Rev. David Brainerd*. 1818. Pg. 264.

*Make it your prayer to love God more than you currently do, and keep praying that your entire life!*

### III) Brainerd pressed on despite great sufferings because of his **Love for the Lost**.

– **Everyone say**, "Brainerd loved the lost."

– *Explanation.*

– **1 Corinthians 9:22**

*"I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some."*

– **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):**

*"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."*

— Brainerd, David. *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, Yale University Press, 1985. Pg. 242.

*If you and I do not tell lost people the gospel, we should not expect that they will ever be saved! But if we do, we should expect that God will save many! **Q.** What if you had never heard the gospel? Would you want someone to come and tell you?*

### IV) Brainerd was used by God even after his death.

– **Everyone say**, "Brainerd was used by God after his death."

– *Explanation.*

– **Hebrews 11:4** "Through his faith, though he died, he still speaks."

– **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):**

*"There is a God in heaven who overrules all things for the best; and this is the comfort of my soul."*

— Brainerd, David. *The Works of President Edwards*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, 1807. Pg. 491.

- *Even though he died young, being only 29 years old, God used Brainerd's life and diary to inspire many future missionaries to take the gospel to the unreached in order to win souls!*
- Only 8 Years as a Christian.
- Only 4 Years as a Missionary.
- Kicked out of college and did not get to become a pastor.
  - Two colleges were founded, at least in part, due to the influence of David Brainerd's life and death. Princeton University (Presbyterians) and Dartmouth College (Congregationalists). Both of these colleges trained calvinist pastors to minister to Christ's people.
  - Additionally, the Modern Missions Movement may never have taken off without David Brainerd's example.

*If you will trust in Christ and submit to His providence, laboring to do your duty, God may just use you both in your life and long after your death for His glory!*

## RECAP

*In the Eighteenth Century, God used David Brainerd to reach the lost and to model for the church great resolve to live for God's glory.*

## EIGHTEENTH CENTURY (pt.3) MEMORY VERSE.

- "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some" **(1 Corinthians 9:22).**

## EIGHTEENTH CENTURY (pt.3) MEMORY QUOTE.

- *"There is a God in heaven who overrules all things for the best; and this is the comfort of my soul" (David Brainerd).*

## QUOTES ABOUT DAVID BRAINERD

- **Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758):** "Few men have so far imitated the life of Christ in love and suffering as Mr. Brainerd, whose heart was a flame of zeal for the salvation of the Indians, enduring hardships that would have broken lesser souls." — **Edwards, Jonathan. *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*. Yale University Press, 1985. Pg. 7.**
- **John Wesley (1703–1791):** "Let every preacher read carefully over the life of David Brainerd, and let them see in him a pattern of self-denial,

prayer, and devotion to God's work among the heathen." — **Wesley, John.** *The Works of John Wesley*. Vol. 8. 1872. Pg. 342.

- **William Carey (1761–1834):** "Brainerd's journal kindled in me a fire to go to the uttermost parts of the earth; his sacrifice showed me that no cost is too great for the gospel's advance." — **Carey, William.** *Letters of William Carey*. 1793–1814. Cited in *William Carey: Obligated to Go* by Janet and Geoff Benge, 1998. Pg. 45.
- **Henry Martyn (1781–1812):** "Oh, to live as Brainerd lived, spending and being spent for Christ! His diary humbles me and stirs my soul to press on in mission, whatever the cost." — **Martyn, Henry.** *Journals and Letters of Henry Martyn*. 1837. Pg. 123.
- **Robert Murray M'Cheyne (1813–1843):** "Brainerd's life teaches us that true holiness is found in giving all to God, even when the body fails and the heart is heavy—his prayers still echo in eternity." — **M'Cheyne, Robert.** *Memoir and Remains of Robert Murray M'Cheyne*. 1844. Pg. 89.
- **Jim Elliot (1927–1956):** "Brainerd's passion for souls and his willingness to die to self make me ashamed of my own ease; he ran his race with no regard for comfort, and I long to follow." — **Elliot, Jim.** *The Journals of Jim Elliot*. 1978. Pg. 174.
- **A.J. Gordon (1836–1895):** "The life of David Brainerd stands as a rebuke to half-hearted service; his devotion to Christ and the lost calls every minister to examine his own heart." — **Gordon, A.J.** *The Holy Spirit in Missions*. 1893. Pg. 56.
- **Francis Asbury (1745–1816):** "Brainerd's example urges us to ride forth with the gospel, to care not for our lives, but to spend them for the souls of men, as he did among the Indians." — **Asbury, Francis.** *The Journal and Letters of Francis Asbury*. 1958. Pg. 231.
- **Thomas Coke (1747–1814):** "In Brainerd we see a man who counted all things loss for Christ; his diary is a trumpet call to forsake ease and preach to the perishing." — **Coke, Thomas.** *The Letters of Dr. Thomas Coke*. 2013. Pg. 98.
- **Ion Keith Falconer (1856–1887):** "Brainerd's unrelenting pursuit of God's glory, even in sickness and solitude, sets a standard for every missionary to emulate or weep." — **Falconer, Ion Keith.** *Memoirs of Ion Keith Falconer*. 1888. Pg. 67.

## **QUOTES BY DAVID BRAINERD**

- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "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." — **Brainerd, David.** *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, Yale University



**Press, 1985. Pg. 242.**

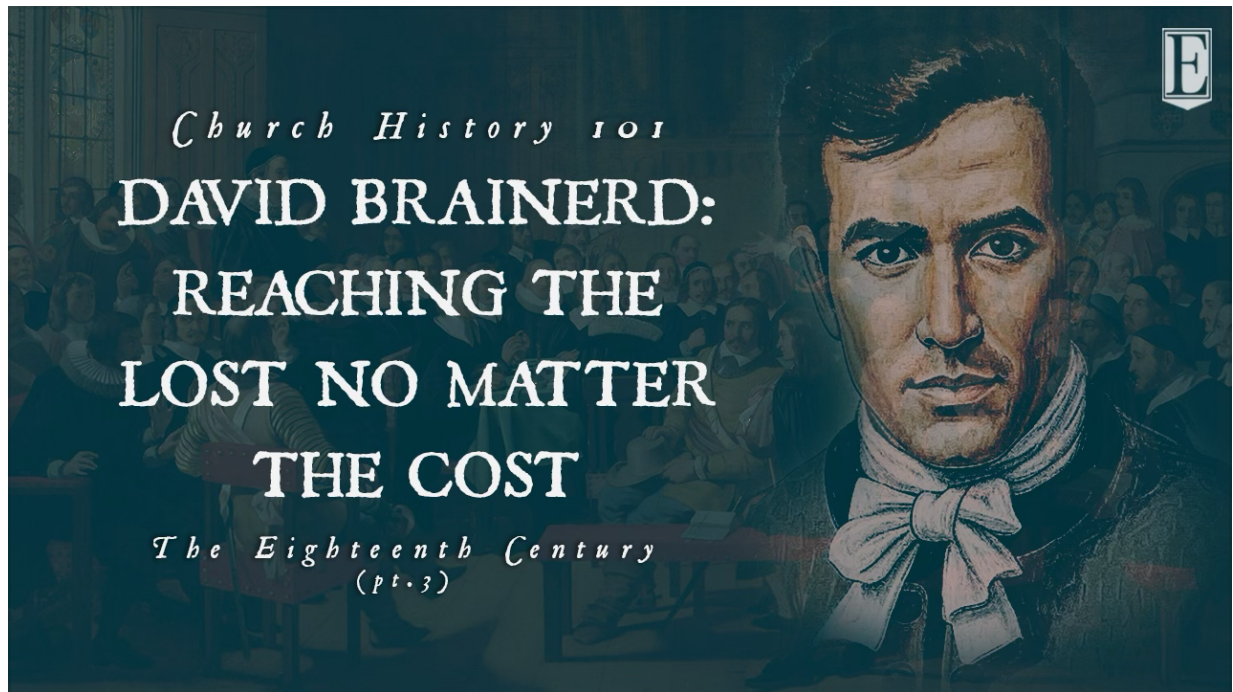
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "It is sweet to be nothing and less than nothing that Christ may be all in all." — **Brainerd, David. *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, Yale University Press, 1985. Pg. 302.**
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "Oh, how precious is time, and how it pains me to see it slide away, while I do so little to any good purpose." — **Brainerd, David. *Memoirs of Rev. David Brainerd*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, S. Converse, 1822. Pg. 123.**
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "Give yourself to prayer, to reading and meditation on divine truths: strive to penetrate to the bottom of them and never be content with a superficial knowledge." — **Brainerd, David. *The Works of President Edwards*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, 1807. Pg. 491.**
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "I love to live on the brink of eternity." — **Brainerd, David. *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, Yale University Press, 1985. Pg. 264.**
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "If you hope for happiness in the world, hope for it from God, and not from the world." — **Brainerd, David. *The Life of the Rev. David Brainerd*. Edited by Ebenezer Pemberton, 1765. Pg. 123.**
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "As long as I see anything to be done for God, life is worth having; but O how vain and unworthy it is to live for any lower end!" — **Brainerd, David. *Memoirs of Rev. David Brainerd*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, S. Converse, 1822. Pg. 364.**
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "Oh! One hour with God infinitely exceeds all the pleasures and delights of this lower world." — **Brainerd, David. *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, Yale University Press, 1985. Pg. 275.**
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "We are a long time in learning that all our strength and salvation is in God." — **Brainerd, David. *The Life of the Rev. David Brainerd*. Edited by Ebenezer Pemberton, 1765. Pg. 242.**
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "No amount of scholastic attainment, of able and profound exposition of brilliant and stirring eloquence can atone for the absence of a deep impassioned sympathetic love for human souls." — **Brainerd, David. *Mr. Brainerd's Remains, consisting of Letters and Other Papers*. 1748. Pg. 89.**
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "When you cease from labour, fill up your time in reading, meditation, and prayer: and while your hands are labouring, let your heart be employed, as much as possible, in divine thoughts." — **Brainerd, David. *The Life of the Rev. David Brainerd*. 1818. Pg. 264.**
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "I longed to be a flame of fire continually glowing in the divine service and building up of Christ's



kingdom to my last and dying breath." — Brainerd, David. *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, Yale University Press, 1985. Pg. 491.

- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "The whole world appears to me like a huge vacuum, a vast empty space, whence nothing desirable, or at least satisfactory, can possibly be derived." — Brainerd, David. *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, Yale University Press, 1985. Pg. 302.
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "My soul longs to feel itself more of a pilgrim and stranger here below; that nothing may divert me from pressing through the lonely desert, till I arrive at my Father's house." — Brainerd, David. *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, Yale University Press, 1985. Pg. 275.
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "Oh that I could dedicate my all to God. This is all the return I can make Him." — Brainerd, David. *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, Yale University Press, 1985. Pg. 242.
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "There is a God in heaven who overrules all things for the best; and this is the comfort of my soul." — Brainerd, David. *The Works of President Edwards*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, 1807. Pg. 491.
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "Oh, the closest walk with God is the sweetest heaven that can be enjoyed on earth!" — Brainerd, David. *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, Yale University Press, 1985. Pg. 275.
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "I never got away from Jesus and him crucified. When my people were gripped by this great evangelical doctrine of Christ and him crucified, I had no need to give them instructions about morality." — Brainerd, David. *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, Yale University Press, 1985. Pg. 364.
- **DAVID BRAINERD (1718–1747):** "Could not but think, as I have often remarked to others, that much more of true religion consists in deep humility, brokenness of heart, and an abasing sense of barrenness and want of grace and holiness than most who are called Christians imagine." — Brainerd, David. *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*. Edited by Jonathan Edwards, Yale University Press, 1985. Pg. 302.

## IMAGE



## David Brainerd: Reaching the Lost No Matter the Cost

In the annals of Christian history, few figures embody the fervor, sacrifice, and enduring influence of David Brainerd (1718–1747), a man whose brief life burned brightly for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Born in the rugged Puritan colony of Haddam, Connecticut, on April 20, 1718, Brainerd emerged from a world shaped by discipline, devotion, and the stark realities of New England's frontier. His father, Hezekiah Brainerd, a justice and deacon, and his mother, Dorothy Hobart, raised their son in a home steeped in piety, where the fear of God and the pursuit of holiness were paramount. Yet, tragedy marked Brainerd's early years: his father died when he was nine, and his mother followed when he was fourteen, leaving the young David with a somber disposition and a soul that yearned for divine presence amidst life's fleeting uncertainties.

Brainerd's youth was a crucible of spiritual struggle, as he wrestled with the weight of his sinfulness and the awesome holiness of God. His diary, a testament to his inner life, reveals a heart tormented by its own failings yet captivated by the glory of the Almighty. Often retreating to the solitude of the woods, Brainerd poured out his soul in prayer, grappling with a Calvinist faith that both convicted and compelled him. This relentless pursuit of godliness defined his character, forging a resolve that would later sustain him through unimaginable hardships.

In 1739, at the age of twenty-one, Brainerd enrolled at Yale College in New Haven, immersing himself in theological study amid the revivalist fervor of the Great Awakening. The intellectual and spiritual currents of this movement, led by luminaries such as Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield, stirred Brainerd's soul, though his frail health and intense zeal frequently left him physically and emotionally depleted. That same year, Brainerd experienced a profound

conversion to Christ, a moment he described with rapturous clarity: "My soul was so captivated and delighted with the excellency... of God, that I was even swallowed up in Him... I wondered that all the world did not see and comply with this way of salvation, entirely by the righteousness of Christ" (*The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*, p. 138). This encounter with divine grace transformed Brainerd, anchoring his life to the cause of Christ and setting the course for his future labors.

Yet, Brainerd's time at Yale was not without conflict. In 1741, his fiery conviction led him to criticize a tutor's lack of piety, famously remarking, "He has no more grace than a chair" (DB 54678). This indiscretion, born of his uncompromising zeal, resulted in his expulsion from Yale, shattering his hopes of formal education and ordained ministry. Humbled but undeterred, Brainerd sought God's calling elsewhere, trusting that divine providence would guide his path. In 1742, he was licensed to preach by a New Light Presbyterian group, embarking on a ministry in Connecticut and Long Island. Despite frequent bouts of illness and melancholy, his passion for souls shone brightly, illuminating his sermons with an urgency that reflected his own encounter with eternity.

In 1743, Brainerd accepted a call from the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge to serve as a missionary to Native Americans, beginning with the Mahican Indians near Stockbridge, Massachusetts. This decision thrust him into a life of hardship, as he embraced the privations of frontier mission work for the sake of the gospel. Loneliness and self-doubt plagued him, yet his diary reveals a heart ablaze for God: "I longed to be a flame of fire, continually glowing in the divine service" (*The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*, p. 491). This prayer, penned in the solitude of his wilderness retreats, encapsulated the driving force of his mission—a relentless desire to glorify God and advance His kingdom.

From 1744 to 1746, Brainerd ministered to the Delaware Indians in New Jersey, particularly at Crossweeksung, where his preaching sparked a remarkable revival. Dozens of Native Americans were converted, baptized, and transformed by the message of Christ's cross. Brainerd's approach was strikingly Christocentric, as he noted: "I never got away from Jesus and Him crucified... and when my people were gripped by this great evangelical doctrine... I had no need to give instructions about morality" (*The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*, p. 364). On October 9, 1744, he recorded a breakthrough moment when God's Spirit descended upon his assembly "like a rushing mighty wind," bowing dozens under the weight of divine conviction (*The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*, p. 280). Brainerd called this the sweetest moment of his life, a testament to the power of God to transform hearts through the simple proclamation of the gospel.

Yet, Brainerd's physical frame could not sustain the rigors of his calling. Tuberculosis, a constant companion throughout his adult life, ravaged his body, worsened by relentless travel and exposure to the elements. He often coughed blood, yet pressed on, driven by an unyielding love for the lost and a conviction that suffering was his appointed path to glorify God. In 1746, too ill to continue fieldwork, Brainerd returned to New England, spending his final months in the

homes of friends, including that of Jonathan Edwards in Northampton. There, he dictated reflections that would resonate across generations, pouring out his soul in words that captured his unwavering devotion.

On October 9, 1747, at the age of twenty-nine, David Brainerd died in Edwards' home, his body frail but his spirit radiant. His life, though brief, left an indelible mark on the church and the world. Jonathan Edwards, recognizing the profound significance of Brainerd's example, edited and published his diary as the first missionary biography, declaring: "Few men have so far imitated the life of Christ in love and suffering as Mr. Brainerd, whose heart was a flame of zeal for the salvation of the Indians, enduring hardships that would have broken lesser souls" (The Life and Diary of David Brainerd, p. 7). Brainerd's diary, meticulously kept not for fame but to trace God's hand in his fleeting life, became a beacon of inspiration, igniting the hearts of countless believers and missionaries.

The theological legacy of David Brainerd is as profound as his historical impact. **First, Brainerd taught by his example that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God**, echoing the words of the Apostle Paul in Acts 14:22. Despite constant suffering and battles with depression, Brainerd finished his course, embodying the resolve of Acts 20:24: "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." His life stands as a clarion call to believers, assuring them that, though they will suffer, fixing their eyes on Christ and bending their knees in prayer will sustain them to the end.

**Second, Brainerd's perseverance was fueled by his love for God.** As he wrote, "I longed to be a flame of fire continually glowing in the divine service and building up of Christ's kingdom to my last and dying breath" (The Life and Diary of David Brainerd, p. 491). This love, rooted in the psalmist's cry, "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you" (Psalm 73:25), drove Brainerd to fill his days with reading, meditation, and prayer, even amidst labor. His example challenges believers to cultivate a deeper love for God, making it their lifelong prayer to burn ever brighter for His glory.

**Third, Brainerd's love for the lost propelled him to endure unimaginable hardships.** He declared, "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" (The Life and Diary of David Brainerd, p. 242). This passion aligns with Paul's mission in 1 Corinthians 9:22: "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some." Brainerd's life poses a sobering question to every believer: If no one shares the gospel with the lost, how will they be saved? Yet, it also offers hope, affirming that faithful proclamation will bear fruit, as God works through His people to redeem many.

**Finally, Brainerd's influence extended far beyond his earthly life**, fulfilling the truth of Hebrews 11:4: "Through his faith, though he died, he still speaks." Despite only eight years as a Christian and four as a missionary, and despite being expelled from Yale and never becoming a pastor, Brainerd's legacy inspired the

founding of two colleges—Princeton University and Dartmouth College—which trained Calvinist pastors to minister to Christ's people. Moreover, his example catalyzed the Modern Missions Movement, emboldening countless missionaries to take the gospel to the unreached. Brainerd's trust in divine providence, expressed in his words, "There is a God in heaven who overrules all things for the best; and this is the comfort of my soul" (The Works of President Edwards, p. 491), continues to inspire believers to labor faithfully, trusting that God may use them both in life and long after death for His glory.

In the eighteenth century, God used David Brainerd to reach the lost and to model for the church an unwavering resolve to live for His glory. His life, though marked by suffering and brevity, was a flame of zeal that illuminated the path of devotion, sacrifice, and love for Christ and His kingdom. Let us, therefore, heed the memory verse of that era, "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22), and cling to Brainerd's enduring conviction: "There is a God in heaven who overrules all things for the best; and this is the comfort of my soul." May his example stir our hearts to burn brightly for God, to love the lost, and to trust in His sovereign hand, that we, too, may finish our course and glorify Him forever.