

## **Doctrine of the Higher Life Movement**

1. The Higher Life movement was a movement devoted to Christian holiness in England.
2. Its name comes from a book by William Boardman, entitled *The Higher Christian Life*, which was published in 1858.
3. The movement is sometimes referred to as the Keswick movement, because it was promoted at conventions in Keswick, England. The yearly conferences continue to this day.

### ***Special Note.***

Keswick Ministries  
 Keswick Convention Centre  
 Skiddaw Street  
 Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4BY  
 United Kingdom

4. The main idea of the Higher Life movement is that the Christian should move on from an initial conversion experience to experience a second work of God in his life.
5. This work of God is called “entire sanctification,” “the second blessing,” “the second touch,” “being filled with the Holy Spirit,” and various other terms.
6. Higher Life teachers promote the idea that Christians who have received this blessing from God can live a more holy, that is less sinful or even a sinless, life.
7. The Keswick approach seeks to provide a mediating and biblically balanced solution to the problem of a subnormal Christian experience.
8. The “official” Keswick teaching has been that every believer in this life is left with the natural proclivity to sin and will continue to sin without the countervailing influence of the Holy Spirit.
9. The Keswick Convention began in 1875 as a focal point for the Higher Life movement in the United Kingdom.
10. It was founded by an Anglican, Canon T. D. Harford-Battersby, and a Quaker, Robert Wilson. They held the first Keswick Convention in a tent on the lawn of St John's vicarage, Keswick, beginning with a prayer meeting on the evening of Monday, 28 June.
11. During the conference, which continued till Friday morning, over 400 people attended uniting under the banner of "All One in Christ Jesus". This is still the convention's guiding concept.

12. Robert Pearsall Smith (1827–1898) was a lay leader in the Holiness movement in the United States and the Higher Life movement in England and in America. His book *Holiness Through Faith* (1870) is one of the foundational works of the Holiness movement. He was also a businessman in the Philadelphia area, publishing maps and managing a glass factory.
13. Roberts's wife, Hannah Tatum Whitall Smith (February 7, 1832 – May 1, 1911), was also an influential lay speaker and author in the Holiness movement in the United States and the Higher Life movement in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. She is the author to the bestselling work, *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*.