

# Spirit Movement Cards

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## **RICHARD ALLEN**

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Born a slave in 1760, Richard Allen bought his freedom (and his brother's freedom) in 1777. In 1784, he became one of the first Methodist preachers in America.

Most early Methodists believed in the abolition of slavery, but African Americans weren't treated as equals in many congregations. In 1786, while Allen was praying at Philadelphia's St. George Methodist Episcopal Church, a church leader told Allen that he had to get up and move to the area reserved for African Americans. Instead, Allen and all of the other African Americans got up and left the church altogether. In 1794, he formed Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. In 1816, Allen gathered other African-American Methodists and founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church, giving African-American Methodists a church where they could worship God in peace.

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## **PETER CARTWRIGHT**

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Peter Cartwright was a Methodist preacher in the early 1800s, during the Second Great Awakening, a time of great religious revival and growth in many Christian denominations. As a Methodist circuit rider for nearly 50 years, Cartwright traveled hundreds of miles each month by horseback to spread the gospel and start churches, usually in people's homes. During his ministry, 10,000 people came to Christ. But Cartwright sacrificed much and lived a life of poverty to spread the gospel. Once, he came home with just six cents in his pocket—and that was borrowed. Here's how he described the life of a circuit rider in his autobiography:

He went through storms of wind, hail, snow, and rain; climbed hills and mountains, traversed valleys, plunged through swamps, swam swollen streams, lay out all night, wet, weary, and hungry, held his horse by the bridle all night, or tied him to a limb, slept with his saddle blanket for a bed, his saddle or saddle-bags for his pillow, and his old big coat or blanket, if he had any, for a covering.

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## **JAMES LAWSON**

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In the late 1950s, James Lawson was a young black Methodist minister in Nashville, Tennessee. As the struggle for civil rights heated up, he began studying the nonviolent protest techniques that Martin Luther King, Jr., was using in Alabama. Lawson recruited black college students to protest segregation by sitting at whites-only lunch counters, where they were ignored, at best, or beaten, at worst. Thanks to the efforts of Lawson and others, the lunch counters and downtown stores were soon integrated.

Because of his involvement in the protests, Lawson was expelled from Vanderbilt University's Divinity School. Many of the school's faculty resigned in protest after Lawson's expulsion. The school later regretted its decision. Lawson received Vanderbilt Divinity School's first Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1996 and joined the faculty as a distinguished professor in 2007.

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## **AUSTIN GUTWEIN**

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In 2004, when he was nine years old, Austin Gutwein saw a video about children whose parents had died from AIDS. A basketball player, Austin decided to raise money on World AIDS Day by shooting one free throw for every child who would be orphaned by AIDS that day, a total of 2,057 children—so 2,057 free throws. Austin raised almost \$3,000, which was enough to sponsor eight children through World Vision.

Since then, Austin's project has grown into an organization called Hoops for Hope. It's the biggest basketball shoot-a-thon in the world and has raised more than \$1 million for AIDS orphans, money that has bought them food, clothing, and shelter—plus a new school and a medical testing facility—all because a nine-year-old boy heard the Holy Spirit calling his name.

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