

Worship Sharing 1/26/21

Simplicity

While early Friends adopted plainness of speech and attire as a protest to inequality, the testimony to simplicity has long addressed a deeper spiritual condition:

“Simplicity is the name we give to our effort to free ourselves to give full attention to God’s still, small voice: the sum of our efforts to subtract from our lives everything that competes with God for our attention and clear hearing.”

~ Lloyd Lee Wilson, 1947

“The discovery of God lies in the daily and the ordinary, not the spectacular and the heroic. If we cannot find God in the routines of home and shop, then we cannot find Him at all.”

Richard J. Foster

“Simplicity does not mean drabness or narrowness but is essentially positive, being the capacity for selectivity in one who holds attention on the goal. Thus simplicity is an appreciation of all that is helpful towards living as children of the Living God.”

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (conservative)

Queries

How do these quotes speak to your condition?

How might you find the restatement of simplicity as an affirmation “of all that is helpful towards living as children of the Living God.” helpful to your Quaker practice?

How can the practice of this simplicity help you discover God in the daily and the ordinary?

