

Worship Sharing • Tuesday, October 6, 2020

Leading and Being Led

Pendle Hill Pamphlet #264 , *Paul Lacey, 1985*

“Leading and Being Led: the words are simple enough. But for Quakers they have their most profound resonance as defining religious experience. Friends speak variously of being drawn to an action, feeling under the weight of a concern, being called or led to act in specific ways. We speak of being open to the leadings of the Light, being taught by the Inward Christ. Extraordinary claims lie embedded in those phrases. They say that it is not only possible but essential to our nature for human beings to hear and obey the voice of God; that we can directly, daily, in what we do, the jobs we hold, the very words we say; and that our obedience may draw us to become leaders in all spheres of human life – in the professions, arts, and sciences, but also discovering the ethical, political, social, and economic consequences of following the will of God.”

“At the moment of greatest emptiness or greatest need, God begins to turn all those separate openings to good account. One learns, directly or through the mediation of others, that there is an answering to the human condition, if only one will trust it, and, in this leading to the truth, one may find one's greatest gifts enhanced and focused.”

“A leading does not come to us simply so we may have one. Eventually its inwardness takes outward form and affects the rest of the human community.”

“For Friends the most important consideration is not the right action, but a right inward state out of which right action will arise. Given the right inward state, right action is inevitable. Inward state and outward action are parts of a single whole”.

--- *Howard Brinton 1943*

Queries

What has been your experience of Leadings and/or Being Led?

Do you find experiences of Leadings and/or Being Led in daily life?

What has helped you discern the difference between a leading of the Spirit and your personal desires or preferences?