

Worship Sharing 11/8/22

Challenging times

Psalm 37

Do not fret because of evil men  
Or be envious of those who do wrong  
For like the grass they will wither  
Like the green plants they will soon die away

Trust in the Lord and do good;  
Dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture  
Delight yourself in the Lord  
And he will give you the desires of your heart

Commit your way to the Lord  
Trust in him and he will do this  
He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,  
The justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;  
Do not fret when men succeed in their ways,  
when they carry out their wicked plans....

“Art thou in darkness? mind it not, for if thou do it will fill thee more, but stand still and act not, and wait in patience till light arise out of darkness to lead thee.”

James Nayler, 1658

... do not strive about outward things; but dwell in the love of God, for that will unite you together and make you kind and gentle towards one another; and to seek one another's good and welfare, and to be helpful to one another, and to see that nothing is lacking among you, then all will be well.

George Fox 1676,

“Personal integrity is about living an integral life, integrating what is vital into a coherent whole and releasing the rest. It is to be the same in life as we are in words, not promising more than we can accomplish, not conforming to popular opinions we do not believe, not acquiring habits that are unhealthy and that don't contribute to a just and peaceful world. Living with integrity is to resist violating our own consciences in order to fit in with the crowd or to please someone important. Integrity is wholeness. To live an integral life is to “mind the oneness” as Fox urges. Early Quakers called themselves “Friends of Truth”. The Hebrew word for truth, amun, literally means “solid”, “consistent”. To befriend the Truth is to become consistent in word and deed with the truth we receive from the light in our consciences.”

Douglas Gwyn, 2014 “A Sustainable Life”

## Queries

How do these quotes speak to your condition?

Where are Friends finding their wellsprings of trust or hope in these times?

How do we stand aside from fretting and striving about outward things?