

Worship Sharing 2/15/22

Inspiration

“Nothing, I believe, can really teach us the nature and meaning of inspiration but personal experience of it. That we may all have such experience if we will but attend to the divine influences in our own hearts, is the cardinal doctrine of Quakerism”.

Caroline Stephen, 1891

“This listening through life—even in a worship service that’s carefully planned and prepared – is what Friendly silence is about. This kind of silence doesn’t always require me to get away to a quiet place, like alone on a seashore or a silent retreat at a monastery. Rather it is carrying spiritual stillness in my soul as I move through life. The beauty of Quaker silence is that it can be practiced wherever we are... **Deep spiritual stillness, listening down to our souls is not dependent on silent surroundings. It’s about stillness inside us.**” J.

J. Brent Bill, 2016

“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.”

Paul Lacey, 1985

Queries

In what way do these quotes speak to your experience?

What is your experience of finding spiritual inspiration?

How has this listening transformed you?