

Worship Sharing 2-28-23

## Simplicity

“It may surprise some of us to hear that the first generation of Friends did not have a testimony for simplicity. They came upon a faith which cut to the root of the way they saw life, radically reorienting it. They saw that all they did must flow directly from what they experienced as true, and that if it did not, both the knowing and the doing became false. In order to keep the knowledge clear and the doing true, they stripped away anything which seemed to get in the way. They called those things superfluties, and it is this radical process of stripping for clear-seeing which we now term simplicity.”

Frances Irene Taber  
1985

“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 as children of the Living God.”

N. Carolina YM (conservative)

“Simplicity clears the springs of life and permits wholesome mirth and gladness to bubble up; it cleans the windows of life and lets joy radiate.”

- Philadelphia Yearly Meeting,  
*Faith and Practice*, 1955

## Queries

How do these quotes speak to your experience?

In what ways have you felt the power of simplicity in life?

In what ways can we “better clean the windows” of life?