

Worship Sharing 2/9/21

The Spirituality of Silence

Chuck Fager, the long time author of “A Friendly Letter” brought forward a recent article in the New York Times about the “attention economy”. The concept is that in our time, our attention is the scarce resource that economic and political interests compete for, and accordingly has become our most precious asset. Mr. Fager relates this challenge to the Quaker Testimony to Simplicity. From the article he pulls the quote “Pay Attention to Where We Pay Attention”.

This speaks more to me about the spirituality of silence.

The article, FYI

[Opinion | Michael Goldhaber, the Cassandra of the Internet Age - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

Quotes

No clear impressions, either from above or from without, can be received by a mind turbid with excitement and agitated by a crowd of distractions. The stillness needed for the clear shining of light within is incompatible with hurry.

Caroline Stephen, “*Light Arising*”. 1834-1909

There is but little need to spend time with foolish diversions for time flies away so swiftly by itself; and, when once gone, is never to be recalled.

William Penn, “No Cross No Crown”, 1644-1718

True silence is the rest of the mind; and is to the spirit, what sleep is to the body, nourishment and refreshment.

William Penn, “Advice to His Children” 1644-1718

Queries

How does the Quaker practice of silence speak to your condition?

What practices do you find help you to carry that silence through daily living?

Does “paying attention to where we pay attention” seem to be a new expression of Quaker values relevant to this time?

