

Worship Sharing 3-14-23

Leading and Being Led - Paul Lacey php #264

“To be led by the Inward Teacher is to find fellowship with others and a calling for oneself. It is to serve one another and thereby become “not servants but Friends”. Leading comes to and through the fellowship of the gathered meeting; it is not only available to the individual seeker, the religious genius or the spiritual adept. We share in it and mediate it to one another”

“ Because the spirit is self-consistent and its fruits bring the community to peace, a number of *concerns* and *testimonies* arise to address areas of human activity in which it is to be expected that God will always seek to lead people into obedience. These Quaker testimonies which arise from the nature of the Light of Christ, says Howard Brinton; are Community, Harmony, Equality, and Simplicity.”

“His example is instructive and inspiring, but “be like Woolman” may not be helpful advice to those of us still struggling to be *ourselves* with integrity. Perhaps more appropriate advice for us is to “be like members of Woolman’s meeting”: help each other to be faithful to leadings, learn with and from one another how to listen and probe and wait, hear one another’s confusions and short comings, persist in expecting the best from one another, practice speaking the truth in love.”

“Like Fox, our sight will come to us as we go. We will be able to see the way only as it opens. The consequences will be out of our hands and perhaps will never seem to have borne fruit, but that will not matter because we will know that we did what we were called to do --- to follow our lead.”

Queries:

How do these quotes speak to your experience of leadings?

How do you discern whether something you feel is a leading?

How has unity in community worked in your testing of leadings?