

Worship Sharing 3/23

Tenderness

“Friends come back from their worship with a new sense of ordination, but not the ordination of human hands. Something has happened in the stillness that makes the heart more tender, more sensitive, more shocked by evil, more dedicated to ideals of life, and more eager to push back the skirts of darkness and to widen the area of light and love.”

Rufus Jones, 1863-1948

“Inner silence, calming the agitations of our hearts and minds, letting go of all that is stubborn and grasping, is essentially an expression of the love of truth. To be dispassionate, not to let one’s own needs or prejudices or emotions color one’s actions, is essentially to put truth before everything else. To love truth in this way is to love God, who is Truth. Thus the practice of inner silence is the same as the love of God.”

Dan Seeger, 2002

“Our testimonies arise from our way of worship. Our way of worship evokes from deep within us at once an affirmation and a celebration, an affirmation of the reality of that Light which illumines the spiritual longing of humanity, and a celebration of the continual resurrection within us of the springs of hope and love, a sense that each of us is, if we will, a channel for a power that is both within and beyond us.”

Lorna Marsden, 1986

Queries

How do these quotes speak to your condition?

Have you found the experience of waiting worship in the manner of Friends to be an opening, “that makes the heart more tender”? What has been your experience?

In what ways has Friends practice helped you “put truth before everything else”?