

Worship Sharing

3/29/2022

Spiritual Simplicity

“Be no more than God hath made thee. Give over thine own willing; give over thine own running; give over thine own desiring to know or to be any thing, and sink down to the seed which God sows in the heart, and let that grow in thee, and be in thee, and breathe in thee, and act in thee, and thou shalt find by sweet experience that the Lord knows that, and loves and owns that, and will lead it to the inheritance of life, which is his portion.”

Issac Pennington, 1661

“For the forest, the shared purpose is life itself, existence; everything extraneous stripped away by its necessity. Perhaps the goal of the spiritual life is to strip away everything frivolous as well, to pare it all back to the necessity of connection with the other. If we worship in the sincere presence of that power that takes away our forever-unmet need of things superfluous, we enter the real ecology of the meeting, where all is web.”

James W. Hood, *The Ecology of Quaker Meeting*, 2018
(PHP #449)

“When we really want to hear, and be heard by, someone we love, we do not go rushing into noisy crowds. Silence is a form of intimacy. That’s how we experience it with our friends and lovers. As relationships grow deeper and more intimate, we spend more and more quiet time alone with our lover. We talk in low tones about the things that matter. We do not shout them to each other. We may shout about them to others, but quietness is the hallmark of love.”

J. Brent Bill, *Holy Silence: The Gift of Quaker Spirituality*
2005

Queries

How do these quotes speak to your experience?

Do you find spiritual deepening to be a process that strips away everything frivolous, where you give over your running and desiring?

Do you find silence to be a form of intimacy?