

Worship Sharing 4-9-24

Finding the Quaker Path

“The journey begins with longing, a desire for greater intimacy with God. This longing is experienced in many different ways, often as a heartfelt yearning for connection with God, or the need to be obedient to the divine will. Sometimes it manifests as dissatisfaction with the religious beliefs or practices in which one has been raised, or in dissatisfaction with the ways of the world. More generally, one might simply feel a longing for the way of truth or love.”

Longing eventually causes **Seeking**. Initially, most seeking is outward, and may involve attending lectures, reading spiritual books, discussing scripture or matters of religion, joining a new church or spiritual community, and taking up various practices. Seeking may lead to new understanding and to growth in faith, but innate spiritual longing cannot ultimately be fulfilled through outward means.

Turning Within is an essential element of the Quaker spiritual journey. At some point, the seeker discovers that God—Christ, the Light, the Holy Spirit—has been dwelling inside all along, inwardly present in a quiet and humble way that was often easy to dismiss or ignore.

— Marcelle Martin, 2012

[*Ten Elements of the Quaker Spiritual Journey*](#)

Queries

How does this description of finding the Quaker path speak to your experience?

Does this language invite a deeper exploration of the Quaker path?