

Worship Sharing 5-9-23

“A Prophetic Spirituality”

Douglas Gwyn, “A Sustainable Life”, 2014

“What is it to “wait upon the Lord”? It is to put one’s entire at the disposal of the divine mind and will. It is a readiness to be God’s witness in word and action. These traits mark Quaker Worship as a *prophetic* spirituality. Today we often think of the “prophet” as someone who speaks out on difficult or controversial issues and who is prepared to face incomprehension, rejection, or worse for the message. There have been many such prophets in Quaker history. But more basically in Biblical tradition, the prophet is someone who develops a deep listening relationship with God, who waits to be called to service and who speaks or acts out of a message received from the divine. That is the essence of Quaker worship and ministry.”

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“A prophetic faith is grounded in a sense of peoplehood. A prophet stands and speaks among his or her people. The First Letter of Peter 2:9 addresses the early Christian community as “... a people for God’s possession..., who called you out of the darkness into his marvelous light”. To be a chosen people of God is not an elite status. It is a calling to a particular service to God, to articulate and demonstrate as a community through time what an individual cannot.”

“Likewise, to be drawn into Quaker Faith and Practice today is to respond at some deep level to a calling into peoplehood. Of course, participation in a Friends meeting should satisfy personal needs and desires. But that is not the real goal or meaning of faith and practice. It is the far greater venture of placing one’s own gifts insights and worth at the disposal of a group, which in turn places itself at the disposal of divine imponderable purposes in the world. It is the mystery – indeed the sacrament – of finding the best one has to offer individually raised to another level of worth and meaning when submitted to the processes of the community”

Queries

How does this concept off prophetic faith speak to your experience?

What is your sense of this “call to peoplehood”?

What is your experience of Friends Community and being “raised to another level of worth”?