

Worship Sharing 6-6-23

Works of Spirit continued

“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

“The primary function of these local meetings, these vital cells of our Quaker movement, is spiritual refreshment and the sustaining of souls in the meeting for worship. This spiritual refreshment, I shall assume, is the central feature of a local Quaker community. I know that at the highest moment of worship self is entirely out of conscious focus, and there is no thought of refreshing or equipping or fortifying the soul. The worshipper is so entirely in love with God that he is not calculating about returns. He forgets himself, loses himself, in his outpouring and upreach of love and adoration. But that forgetting and that losing of self is precisely the way to health and refreshment and restoration. There is no way to find yourself until you discover how utterly to lose yourself.”

Rufus Jones, William Penn Lecture, 1941

“We typically call Quaker faith and practice our Quaker “Spirituality.” But Quaker faith and practice is both spiritual and material. It is what we do with our garbage as much as it is how we worship. It is how we interact with strangers as much as how we make decisions in unity. The way we befriend the light within us has implications for the way in which we befriend the needy in our community and befriend the creation. And those actions will in turn will affect our personal experience of the light within.”

Douglas Gwyn 2014

Queries

How do these quotes speak to your experience?

How does “losing yourself” work in your spiritual understanding?

In what ways have you sensed this new ordination?