

Worship Sharing 1-31-23

Testimony

“True godliness don’t turn men out of the world, but enables them better to live in it and excites their endeavors to mend it; not hide their candle under a bushel, but set it upon a table in a candlestick.”

William Penn 1668

“What was perhaps most characteristic of early Friends was that they thought of their testimony not in terms of words or propositions, but in terms of what they did, the way they lived their lives. ... Testimony for them was to ‘do truth.’ What we now call ‘the testimonies’ were early Friends’ actions in the world, bearing witness to the truth they had experienced. Their testimony was an outward and visible manifestation of an inward transformation. This truth affected all aspects of their lives.”

Thomas Gates, 2015

“We are called to that obedience which freely gives up self, possessions, life, beliefs, in following that vision, that greater love in which alone is life and peace. This does not mean that we lie down like doormats to be trampled on, or that we give up our freedom or our grasp of truth—it means that we join ourselves to the risk of creation, to the venture of authentic human being, that we “stand in the Light,” reveal that measure of truth that is known to us... that we face the pain of the world, and match it with forgiveness.”

Janet Scott, *What Canst Thou Say*, 1980

Queries

How do these quotes speak to your experience?

In what ways does the concept of Testimony move us today?

Does this description of Testimony stretch too far?