

Quakerism 101

Rufus Jones

The term “Inner Light” is older than Quakerism, and the idea which is thus named was not new when George Fox began to preach it. But this idea received a meaning and an emphasis from the Quakers which make it their own peculiar principle and their distinct contribution to religious thought.

The Inner Light is the doctrine that there is something Divine, “something of God” in the human soul.

Five words are used indiscriminately to name this Divine something: “The Light,” “The Seed,” “Christ within,” “The Spirit,” “That of God in you.”

Margaret Fell

Friends, let the Eternal Light search you, and try you, it will rip you up, lay you open, provoke one another to Love.

George Fox

...be patterns, be examples in all your countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people and to them: then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one...

(old story)

A newcomer to meeting, after a period of silence, asked their neighbor, “When does the service begin?” The Quaker whispered: “The service begins when the meeting ends.”

Bayard Rustin

For eight years I have believed war to be impractical and a denial of our Hebrew-Christian tradition. The social teachings of Jesus are: (1) respect for personality; (2) service the “sumum bonum”; (3) overcoming evil with good; and (4) the brotherhood of man. Those principles as I see it are violated by participation in war.

Diane Randall

I regularly hear Friends (Quakers) describe the blessing of having conversations with strangers with whom they disagree politically and then finding common ground. Human beings being human with one another. This is establishing kinder ground to open space for truth.

Is This What Quakers Believe?

- That of God in Everyone
- Waiting Worship
- We are All Ministers
- Inward Transformation, Outward Testimonies
- The Bible
- The Afterlife
- Christ
- Continuing Revelation
- Theological Diversity among Friends
- A Living Faith



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyTP512bEQk>

The Prophet Mohammed

There are as many paths to God as there are human breaths.

What do YOU believe?

Modern Quakers hold a wide range of beliefs: from non-theism to traditional Christianity, from Buddhism to New Age philosophies, from religious belief to sceptical humanism. That creates a real tension in the Society of Friends since there is no creed or doctrine defining what it is to be a Quaker. What kind of Quaker are you?