Seventh Month: Peace, Be Not Afraid

Advices from *FAITH AND PRACICE* 1993 (Peace) and 2018 (Be Not Afraid)

Peace is the state in which we are in accord with God, the earth, others and ourselves. We know that true, lasting peace among us can finally be attained only through unity in the life of the Spirit. We work to create the conditions of peace, such as freedom, justice, cooperation and the right sharing of the world's resources.

As we work for peace in the world, we search out the seeds of war in ourselves and in our way of life. We refuse to join in actions which lead to destruction and death. We seek ways to cooperate to save life and strengthen the bonds of unity among all people.

Peacemaking requires courage, which is a fundamental act of faith. It takes courage to reach out to those who are creating fear *and* to those who are controlled by fear. We work to restore harmony through peacemaking and reconciliation based in love.

Queries

- Do we recognize that we are capable of both violence and peace? How do we build bridges that lead us to face and resolve conflict?
- How are we instruments of reconciliation and love?
- How do we communicate to others the spiritual foundation of our peace testimony?
- How can we nourish peace within ourselves, our families, and our Meetings? Do we speak our truths together and not censor ourselves out of fear of giving offense? Are our truths and communications spoken with peace and kindness?
- How does fear influence our lives? How do we let go of our fears, trusting the Spirit, so that we can restore peace in our Meetings and communities?
- What would we do, as individuals and as a community, if we were not afraid?

Quotes from Friends

We utterly deny all outward wars and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretense whatsoever; this is our testimony to the whole world…. The Spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as evil, and again to move unto it; and we certainly know, and testify to the world, that the Spirit of Christ, which leads us into all truth, will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the Kingdom of Christ nor the kingdoms of this world…. Therefore, we cannot learn war any more.

Society of Friends, Declaration to Charles II in 1660

A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil that good may come of it…. Let us then try what love will do.

William Penn, 1693

If only we did delight to do no evil, to forgive rather than retaliate, to bring into God's light those emotions, attitudes and prejudices in ourselves which lie at the root of destructive conflict, so that we could acknowledge our need for forgiveness and grace. That's how we would bring justice and peace to the world.

Anne-Marie Zilliacus, 2001

It is very important to distinguish between fear and courage. Fear is sending the world toward war. Maintaining peace takes courage. Fear drives people apart. It takes courage to come together with respect while recognizing our differences… This is what diversity and community and love are all about.

Bonnie Tinker, 2002