Ninth Month: Witness, Integrity

For Friends the most important consideration is not the right action in itself but a right inward state out of which right action will arise. Given the right inward state right action is inevitable. Inward state and outward action are component parts of a single whole. *Howard Brinton, 1943*

I give myself this advice: Do not fear truth, let it be ever so contrary to inclination and feeling Never give up the search after it; and let me take courage, and try from the bottom of my heart to do that which I believe truth dictates. . . *Elizabeth Fry, 1799*

Advices from Faith and Practice

We are glad to tell in words as well as deeds the faith that is in us. We seek fellowship with others of our own faith and with all people, realizing the oneness of humanity under God. Our witness is characterized by humility and a willingness to learn from others so that differences can be transcended. In discussion, we must not allow the strength of our convictions to betray us into making misleading or contentious statements. The experiences of others, especially those in circumstances different from our own, help us to discover what is true for us and may help us sense real kinship. We are constantly reminded that Truth is greater than the knowledge any of us has of it. God did not put all the fruit on one branch.

Queries

- How do we keep to a single standard of truth in daily life? Do we avoid taking judicial and other oaths?
- How do our lives testify to our convictions as Friends? What are we doing to share our faith?
- What ways do we find to cooperate with people and groups with whom we share beliefs and concerns? Do we listen with love and respect to those with whom we disagree?
- Are we faithful in witnessing to Truth in our community and to the world?