

Quakerism 101
Unit B THE LIGHT WITHIN
January 24, 2010

Reading

Howard Brinton, Friends for 350 Years, Chapters 2-3 (pp 190-49 only)

Reflections

Please reflect on the following questions as you read and once you have read the reading.

What does the “Light Within” mean to you? How would you describe the working of the Light in your own life?

List some of the phrases used to denote the Light by Brinton. Which of these are most meaningful to you?

What does it mean to “mind the Light and dwell in it”... (Fox, Epistle 283, in Brinton p. 34, or <http://home.att.net/~qbible2/gfe/e274-285.htm#e283>) Try to put this phrase in your own words.

What is a “measure” (pp. 34-35)? How does a person's “measure” of the Light grow?

What does it mean to “answer that of God in everyone”? (pp. 36-37)? Try to describe this in your own words.

What is the relationship between the Light and the Bible (pp. 40-42)?

How can Friends avoid splintering into spiritual individualism and subjectivism (see for example, the middle of p. 42)?

What is wrong with using the word “spark” to refer to the “Light Within” (p. 27)?

Does the “Light Within” differ from conscience? (pp. 43-44)

Why should Friends be careful in their use of reason (pp.43-44)?

How is the Light universal (pp.45-48)?

Do you see problems in Friend's heavy use of the term “Light”? What dangers of racism and sexism lie in the equation of “light” with goodness and “darkness” with evil?

What are the limits of the metaphor of the “Light”?