

## Continuing Revelation

“Continuing revelation,” is the idea that Divine truth is still being revealed to people today. The book *The Quaker Way*, states: “God is always revealing new truths to us or showing us truth in a new way. Truth cannot be explained forever in the same set of words.” While continuing revelation is not a belief that is unique to the Religious Society of Friends, Friends do have a particular way of engaging with this belief. Among Christians, Quakers and others who believe in continuing revelation are different from those who read the Bible as the last Word of God.

Before becoming known as the Religious Society of Friends, what is now Quaker practice began out of a movement called The Seekers, and Friends of Truth was an early name for those who worshiped in the manner of Friends. Early Friends sought the Truth as it was being revealed to them directly and unmediated by clergy, but they sought to test and share that Truth in community through discernment and spiritual companionship. Continuing revelation can seem like a solitary endeavor, but within Quaker practice it is a deeply communal undertaking.

Framed in this way, we can feel the Living Spirit at work in all the activities of our Meeting. Silent worship is a dedicated time when we are able to devote ourselves to listening to the Truth that is being revealed to us, either through vocal ministry or our own communion with Spirit. Our committees are tasked with seeking Truth around specific issues or concerns, which are brought back to Meeting for Business to be discerned by the body as a whole. Outside of Meeting, too, we expect to be led by Divine guidance in our actions in the world.

### Queries

- Early Friends expected revelation and guidance. Is that your experience of Meeting for Worship?
- Is there something that has been coming up for you in Meeting more than once? How does that feel (in your body, in your mind,) and where is it leading you?
- Is there a value or belief that has evolved and/or changed within your own life experience?
- Although Quakers have accepted a set of testimonies (SPICES,) \* continuing revelation suggests that these shouldn’t be accepted as immortal. Do these testimonies still speak to you? Is anything missing?

\* SPICES: Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, Stewardship