

PRINCIPLES AND BELIEFS OF EARLY AND TRADITIONAL FRIENDS

A LOOK AT SOME CORE UNDERSTANDINGS

2017-10-21

A. Introduction

Henry Jason, Jr.,

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B. Beginnings. 1600's.

George Fox.

Reaction to religious hypocrisy. The Long Dark Night of the Apostasy.

Return to the original beliefs of the first Christians. Persecution.

Robert Barclay: the goal of true religion.

C. Derivation of the name "Quakers"/ "Friends". Originally: "Children of (the) Light."

D. "Inward/ Outward" understandings, dimensions (inner ~ outer, spiritual ~ material, etc.).

Non-literalist interpretations of scripture.

Seek, look for the spiritual meaning, beyond the literal meaning in scripture.

F. Why is there anything? Why is there a universe?

G. Hubble Space Telescope. Lightyear. Ultra-Deep Field Images.

H. The "Fear of God" = a profound awe and respect for God.

I. God, the Source, the Spirit, the "Current", the "Father", "the Alpha and the Omega".

J. The "Word of God" = God expressing himself.

As a "Seed" in us.

= "Son of God".

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- K. The "Word of God" is a "Light", a spiritual illuminator.
It first shows what is wrong with us.
It then can become a source of consolation and peace, if attended to.
- L. Jesus = a total expression of the Light.
His life, teachings, execution/crucifixion and resurrection. A model for us.
- M. The "Christ", Greek: Christos; Hebrew transliteration: Messiah, meaning: The Anointed One, the one who had the Spirit of God poured into him. He has a special function.
The word "Christ" is a title: Jesus Christ, or Christ Jesus.
"Lord" = Master, owner.
- N. The Spirit of Christ = A universal Light = The Inward Light of Christ is in everyone.
- O. How to access this power of God?
Answer: Repent, repentance. =Transform your mindset, transform your way of thinking.
Need a paradigm shift in consciousness.
Your big ego, your self-centeredness must go. Subdue your cravings, your addictions.
"Righteousness".
"Take up the Cross of Christ".
- P. Why "repent"?
To enter into the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of heaven = a timeless, divine state of awareness.
= To attain Life, Eternal Life. Immortality outside time and space.

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Q. Baptism, Greek: baptisma = Immersion.

An inward immersion into the things of God.

"Regeneration" = Being born again.

Renounce the "self"/ the ego.

R. "Immediate Revelation" = unmediated/direct revelation from God.

S. Spiritual communion with God.

The ultimate goal is spiritual union with God.

T. Silent Waiting Worship

No prescribed format, no rite, no ritual.

Eliminate the sounds and sights of the outside world.

Silence our thoughts.

"Waiting" - a.) wait for him, b.) wait on him.

Retirement, retire.

U. Resulting personal and group conduct, actions and behavior.

Righteousness.

Peace testimony, etc.

V. A spiritual community of like believers.