

Epistle 215

by George Fox

The sermon emphasizes the importance of living a life that reflects the power of God, being faithful and valiant for the truth, and overcoming evil with good.

Scripture: John 15:8

Topics: "Faith And Works", "Spiritual Growth"

Description

George Fox preaches about the importance of being grafted into the vine of faith to bear fruit that glorifies God, urging believers to be wise, harmless, and faithful for the truth while showing love and tenderness to one another. He emphasizes dwelling in the power of God to know the everlasting kingdom and become heirs of it, living in truth to overcome the corrupting influences of the world. Fox encourages facing sufferings with courage, fearing God above all else, and letting patience and grace guide interactions to edify and season the earth with goodness.

Transcript

Dear friends and brethren, amongst whom the vine is manifest, and who are (by faith) grafting into it [Rom 11:23], through and in which ye may bear fruit to glorify God [John 15:8]; be wise in all things, and harmless [Mat 10:16], that your lives, conversations, and innocency may preach, and reach to the hearts of all your opposers and persecutors. And be faithful and valiant for the truth upon the earth [Jer 9:3], and tender to one another in all convenient outward things, for that is the least love.

And dwell in that which redeems you from the earth [Rev 14:3], the power of God, in which ye may know the kingdom which is everlasting, and come to be heirs of that [James 2:5]; that ye may sit down in your own possession, knowing the seed of God, which was before the seed of the serpent was, knowing the birth born of the spirit, which was before the birth born of the flesh was. And so live in the truth, by which ye may see over that which stains, corrupts, cankers, loads, and burdens the creation; by which power of God and truth ye may answer the spirit of God in all, which the wicked grieve [Eph 4:30], vex [Isa 63:10], and quench [1 Th 5:19] by their ungodly lusts [Jude 1:8], and filthy conversation [2 Pet 2:7], and unsavoury words.

Fear not sufferings, which bring to wear the crown [Rev 2:10]. Fear not him that can kill the body only, but cannot hurt the soul [Mat 10:28]; for that that is immortal goes over him. Fear God, and fear not him that can spoil the goods [Heb 10:34]; for the earth is the Lord's and the fulness of it [Psa 24:1]. But mind God's power, and let your patience be perfect [James 1:4], and all your words seasoned with grace [Col 4:6], that

they may edify; by which ye may season the earth [Mat 5:13], your hearts being established in the same [Heb 13:9], over all the unsavoury words and talkers, and live in the truth above them. And let your backs and cheeks be ready to the smiters [Isa 50:6]; that ye may overcome the evil with the good, and may heap coals of fire upon their heads [Rom 12:20f].

For it is the good that overcomes the evil, and the lamb that hath the victory [Rev 17:14]; the rough goat must not [Dan 8:21,25]. So let your moderation be known unto all men [Phil 4:5], honouring all men [1 Pet 2:17], that is, having them all in esteem; that ye may set them in the way of salvation and life. That the power of God may come over them, that your meekness and gentleness may prevail over the rough, and in boldness in the unalterable, holy way, you may be preserved; which is the new and living way [Heb 10:20], which is the light and life, which brings into covenant with God, in which there is peace.

In which the Lord God Almighty give you dominion, and preserve you by his power, into the endless life [Heb 7:16], where ye all may know happiness and peace in the pasture of life, where all the sheep and lambs feed [Ezek 34:14]; in that the Lord God Almighty preserve you!

G. F.

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