

Epistle 283

by George Fox

George Fox encourages Friends to stand firm in their faith, maintain public testimony, and stir up faithfulness in others, even in times of trial.

Scripture: Matthew 6:20, Ephesians 6:11, Ephesians 6:13, 1 Thessalonians 1:4, 2 Timothy 1:6, Hebrews 2:7, 1 Peter 1:4, 2 Peter 3:1

Topics: "Faithfulness", "Encouragement"

Description

George Fox emphasizes the importance of standing firm in faith and wearing the whole armor of God to withstand trials and tribulations. He encourages believers to maintain their public testimonies and support one another, especially during difficult times, reminding them to keep their focus on heavenly treasures rather than earthly concerns. Fox expresses his desire for all to remain steadfast and faithful to the truth, despite personal struggles and weaknesses. He urges Friends to visit and encourage each other, ensuring that no one falters in their faith. His heartfelt message is a call to unity and perseverance in the face of adversity.

Transcript

Dear friends, now is the time for you to stand; therefore put on the whole armour of God [Eph 6:11,13], from the crown of the head unto the soles of your feet, that you may stand in the possession of life: and you that have been public men, and formerly did travel abroad, mind to keep up your testimony, both in the city and in the countries, that you may encourage Friends to keep up their meetings as usual thereaway; so that none faint in the time of trial; but that all may be encouraged, both small and great, to stand faithful to the Lord God, and his power, and truth; that their heads may not sink in the storms, but may be kept up above the waves.

So, go into your meeting places, as at other times: and keep up your public testimony, and visit Friends thereabouts, now in this time of storm; for there is your crown, in the universal power and spirit of God. So let your minds, and souls, and hearts, be kept above all outward and visible things. Few travel now the countries: it may be well to visit them, lest any should faint. Stir up one another in that which is good [2 Tim 1:6, 2 Pet 3:1], and to faithfulness in the truth, this day.

And let your minds be kept above all visible things; for God took care for man in the beginning, and set him above the works of his hands [Heb 2:7]: and therefore mind the heavenly treasure [Mat 6:20], that will never fade away [1 Pet 1:4]; and dwell in the seed, in which you may know your election [1Th 1:4]. It is

hard for me to give forth in writing what is before me, because of my bodily weakness; but I was desirous in some measure to ease my mind, desiring that you may stand fast, and faithful to truth. Of my travels and weakness it is like you have heard, and of my affliction, both by them that are without, and also by them that are within, which are hard to be uttered and spoken. My love is to all faithful Friends.

G. F.

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