

Epistle 63

by George Fox

The sermon emphasizes the importance of taking heed to the measure of life in us, being guided up to the living God, and following the light of Christ to receive wisdom, unity, and condemnation for those who do not come to the light.

Scripture: Isaiah 42:6, Malachi 2:5, John 1:9, John 3:19-21, John 14:6, Acts 3:22, 2 Corinthians 4:6, 1 Peter 2:25, 2 Peter 1:21, 2 Peter 2:17

Topics: "Unity in Christ", "Guidance by God's Light"

Description

George Fox emphasizes the importance of being guided by the life and light of God, urging believers to remain connected to the source of life to avoid darkness and strife. He encourages the faithful to cultivate patience, righteousness, and brotherly kindness, while warning against divisions and strife that arise from the flesh. Fox calls for a collective awakening to the righteousness of Christ, who is the way to the Father, and stresses the necessity of waiting in the light to receive wisdom and unity. He highlights the covenant of life and peace offered through Christ, urging all to witness and embody this divine gift. Ultimately, he reminds the congregation to remain humble and receptive to God's guidance, ensuring they are preserved from worldly influences.

Transcript

Friends every where, to the measure of the life of God in you all take heed, that with it your minds may be guided up to the living God, from whence light and life come, and virtue, and strength, and nourishment; so that with the life ye may be kept from that which veils, and clouds, and darkens, where the mist of darkness [2 Pet 2:17] cometh over you. Wherefore to the measure of light take heed, that with it all your minds may be guided up to the Father of life, from whence life cometh; that the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus [2 Cor 4:6], ye may all come to enjoy.

So that in peace, patience, righteousness, and temperance, and godliness ye may be kept, and all grow up in brotherly kindness [2 Pet 1:6f], and be kept from that which causeth strife, and sects, and divisions [1 Cor 3:3]; so that nothing may rule, but the light of God among you. To that which is pure and lowly, take heed, that mastery and strife may be thrown down, and the evil eye, and the eye that is out from the life of God, may be known and plucked out [Mat 5:29]; so that the light of the glorious gospel may shine, and that ye may all know it.

And so, all awake to the righteousness of Christ, the righteousness of God, whom man was departed from, Christ the righteousness of God, who 'enlighteneth every one, that cometh into the world [John 1:9], that all men through him might believe [John 1:7].' So, all having a light from Christ Jesus, the righteousness of God, he is the way to the Father [John 14:6], whom God gave for a covenant of light [Isa 42:6], life, and peace. Therefore every one in your measures wait, that ye may see him, and come to witness the covenant of life and peace [Mal 2:5] with God, receiving his gift, Christ Jesus, the son and mediator.

So this I warn you all in the presence of the living God, to wait every one in the measure of light and of life, that ye may all come to witness the seal of the covenant, and be led and kept with that which will keep you spotless, and clean, and holy, and righteous, where power is received from him, who hath given you a light; so that in the light ye may all have unity, and in it be kept, and all that which is contrary to it, with it may be condemned. And in this covenant of light and life, (the gift of God,) know one another, and him by whom the world was made, who was before the world was; who is now again manifested, (Glory and honour for ever be unto the Lord!)

That the crown, that is immortal, ye may all come to see and receive, and your own crowns lay down at the feet of Jesus [Rev 4:10]. And so, his light being come to, all your own works are ceased from, and your own thoughts; which if ye follow them, they will lead you into error. Therefore wait in the light which comes from him by whom the world was made, to receive wisdom from him, that in it and with it ye may be preserved from the world, and out of the world, to him by whom the world was made; and that wisdom may be justified of her children [Mat 11:19], and ye kept all low in the fear of God, from all strife and deceit, and dissention, and pollution, and hypocrisy, and dissimulation, single with the measure of light which comes from the Father of life.

Every one to feel with the life of God, the arm of the Lord God not to be shortened; but to reach to every one of you all, and to carry you all in his arm, and gently to lead them that are with young [Isa 40:11]. So feeling the presence of the Lord God with you, ye receive virtue into your souls from the living God, who nourisheth his own living plant and plants. So the Lord God Almighty preserve you in the light, which shows to every one their evil deeds, and reproveth for them [John 3:19f]; this is the true light, which if ye come to it, and love it, ye come to Christ, and love him by whom the world was made; and it will let you see the chief shepherd and bishop of your souls, and how ye have gone astray [1 Pet 2:25], like sheep without a shepherd.

For it is that which restores you to Christ, the bishop of your souls, who is the prophet that must be heard [Acts 3:22]. And all who will not come to the light, which cometh from Jesus Christ, but hate it because their deeds are evil, they do know that the light will reprove them. Therefore this is their condemnation [John 3:19f], the light which is your teacher; who come to it, and receive it, ye receive Christ, and he giveth the power to become to the sons of God [John 1:12]; which many do witness, blessed be the name of the Lord.

Therefore wait every one in your measure, to know the scripture fulfilled in you, which came not by the will of man [2 Pet 1:21], but was learned of God; which is for the perfecting of the man of God through faith in Christ Jesus, and is to be read and to be fulfilled, and to be practised, which was given forth from the spirit. Therefore every one wait in the measure of the spirit, to learn of him, as they did who gave it forth.

G. F.

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