

## Excerpts from George Fox's early epistles, 1651-2

### Key:

Blue - Paying attention to and waiting in ...

Green - Guidance from and obedience to ...

Pink - Being taught and transformed by ...

Red - Being brought into unity by ...

**Bold - the Light (by that and other names)**

### 4.

Mind **that which is pure in you** to guide you to God, out of Babylon, out of confusion;

But, dear friends, **mind the light of God in your consciences**, which will show you all deceit; dwelling in it, guides out of the many things into one spirit, which cannot lie, nor deceive. Those who are guided by it, are one, who have been made to drink into one spirit;

Mind **the light**, that all may be refreshed one in another, and all in one.

### 5.

To **that of God in you** both I speak, and do beseech you both for **the Lord's** sake, to turn within, and wait to hear **the voice of the Lord there**; and waiting there, and keeping close to the Lord, a discerning will grow

### 10.

Stand still in **that which is pure**, after you see yourselves; and then mercy comes in. After you see your thoughts, and the temptations, do not think, but submit; and then power comes. Stand still in **that which shows and discovers**; and there strength immediately comes. And stand still in **the light**, and submit to it, and the other will be hushed and gone; and then content comes. And when temptations and troubles appear, sink down in **that which is pure**, and all will be hushed, and fly away. Your strength is to stand still, after you see yourselves; whatever you see yourselves addicted to, temptations, corruption, uncleanness, etc. then you think you shall never overcome. And earthly reason will tell you, what you shall lose; pay no attention to that, but stand still in **the light** that shows them to you, and then strength comes from **the Lord**, and help contrary to your expectation. Then you grow up in peace, and no trouble shall move you.

### 11.

Wait to feed on the immortal food, and walk in the truth, and **God Almighty be among you!** And in it you will see him; all stand naked, bare, and uncovered before **the Lord**.

### 12.

If you love **the light**, and walk in it, you love **Christ**, and will all walk in unity together. And if you hate **the light**, you hate **Christ**. Here is your teacher, who love **the light**; here is your condemnation, who hate **the light**.

### 13.

Everyone wait upon **God** in your measure, who is the **true shepherd**, and leads his flock into the green pastures, and opens fresh springs daily; this you will see and experience. And mind **that which is pure** in one another, which joins you together; for nothing will join, or make fit, but **what is pure**; nor unite, nor build but **what is pure**.

Therefore everyone wait in **the measure that God has given you**; and none of you be hearers only, but doers of the word. And so, walk in **the truth**, and all of you be servants to it, and it will lead you out of the world.

To **that which is pure in you** I speak, which the presumptuous mind would veil, that **God alone** may be exalted, and all flesh shattered down.

### 15.

Oh! Wait all in **that which is pure**, to be fed alone by **God** with the eternal, living food!

And dwell in **that which is pure of God in you**, for fear that your thoughts get forth, and then evil thoughts get up, and surmising one against another, which arises out of the veiled mind, which darkens the pure discerning. But as you dwell in **that which is of God**, it guides you up out of the elementary life, and out of the mortal into the immortal, which is hidden from all the fleshly ones, where is peace and joy eternal to all who can witness the new birth.

### 16.

To all you, my dear friends, who have tasted of the immediate, working **power of the Lord**, and find an alteration in your minds, and see from where virtue comes, and strength, that renews the inward man, and refreshes you; which draws you in love to forsake the world, and that which has form and beauty in it to the eye of the world; and has turned your minds within, who see your houses foul, and corruptions strong, and the way narrow and straight, which leads to life eternal; to you all I say, wait upon **God in that which is pure**.

So, wait upon **God in that which is pure**, in your measure, and stand still in it everyone, to see your **Savior**, to make you free from that which the light discovers in you to be evil.

**17.**

Prize your time, and the love of **the Lord to your souls** above all things; and mind that light in you that shows you sin and evil. The light checks you, when you speak an evil word, and tells you that you should not be proud or unrestrained, nor fashion yourselves like the world; for the fashion of this world passes away. And if you hearken to that, it will keep you in humbleness of mind and lowliness of heart, and turn your minds within to wait upon **the Lord**, to be guided by it; and bring you to lay aside all sin and evil, and keep you faithful to **the Lord**; and bring you to wait on him for teaching, until an entrance is made to your souls, and refreshment comes to them from the presence of **the Lord**. There is your teacher, the light, obeying it; there is your condemnation, disobeying it. If you hearken to the light in you, it will not allow you to conform to the evil ways, customs, fashions, delights, and vanities of the

world; but lead you to purity, to holiness, to uprightness, even up to **the Lord**. Dear hearts, listen to it, to be guided by it.

**19.**

But the light within, which convinces you, will show you, when the mind goes forth; and show you the daily cross, which is to crucify that carnal mind; for the carnal mind minds carnal things; and the cross is to the will of man, for it shall never enter. Therefore do not give way to your wills, nor busy yourselves nor your minds with needless and careless words, or such things, for they will veil you, and draw your minds from **God**. But keep within.

For the measure is within, and the light of **God** is within, and the pearl is within you, which is hid; and the word of **God** is within you, and you are the temples of **God**; and **God** has said, he will dwell in you, and walk in you.

**20.**

But dwell in the pure light, which God has made manifest to you in your understanding; and turn your minds to him, and walk as children of the light, and of the day, and do not be drunken in anything, nor run to extremes in anything; but be moderate and patient. Wait for the presence of the great **God**, and our **Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**; and do not be so childish as to be tossed with men's words without life.

And if every particular of you does not know a principle within, which is of **God**, to guide you to wait upon **God**, you are still in your own knowledge, which is brutish and sensual. But all

waiting upon **God in that which is of God**, you are kept open to receive the teachings of **God**. And the pure wisdom and knowledge comes from above, which is to know **God**, and **Jesus Christ**, the way, which is hidden from the world; and to walk out of your own ways, and out of your own thoughts. And dwelling in that which is pure, up to God, it commands your own reason to keep silent, and to cast your own thoughts out; and dwelling in that which is pure, it discovers all this. So dwelling in the spirit, it keeps all your hearts to **God**.

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