

# The Spiritual Roots of Quaker Ways

## A Glossary of Terms

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**Antinomian** – a term of abuse used for individuals and groups who assert that direct inward divine guidance in Spirit has replaced all outward laws and constraints. It literally means ‘no law’ (see ‘endonomian’ below).

**Apocalypse** – The popular understanding of this word is usually associated with violent conflict and the destruction of the world. However, the word means to ‘unveil’ or to ‘reveal’. The apocalypse is about the revealing of God’s ultimate intentions for the creation. In the Book of Revelation this means the final defeat of evil and the establishment of a new creation and the New Jerusalem on earth.

**Carnal** – That which is created and temporary (including human culture and ideas) as opposed to the creator (God) who is spirit, uncreated and eternal.

**Charismatic** – A spirituality that emphasises the experience of the Holy Spirit as an empowering presence, often associated with strongly embodied responses (quaking), healings and miracles. Strongly associated with Pentecost (see below).

**Covenant** – A covenant is a relationship between God and humanity or God and the whole creation. It implies a range of mutual promises and obligations. The Bible describes several different covenants, culminating in the new covenant established because of the Incarnation (the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus).

**Discernment** – The practice of distinguishing between divine guidance and other motivations.

**Dualism** – This is the division of something conceptually into two opposed or contrasted aspects (e.g. spirit and matter, good and evil, light and darkness). Some religious dualism asserts a fundamental division between the spiritual and the physical.

**Endonomian** – A spirituality that asserts that direct inward divine guidance in Spirit has replaced all outward laws and constraints (see ‘antinomian’ above).

**Holiness** - A belief in the possibility of real transformation in this life, so that the divine will and nature is revealed in human lives (see ‘perfectionist’ below).

**Lamb’s War** – This is imagery drawn from the Book of Revelation in the New Testament. Christ is the slaughtered Lamb of God who def- eats all evil within the creation and establishes the New Jerusalem on earth.

**Mysticism** – A Spirituality that focuses on a direct and intimate inward experience of the divine, leading to the birth of God within.

**Perfectionist** - A belief in the possibility of real transformation in this life, so that the divine will and nature is revealed in human lives (see 'holiness' above).

**Pentecost** – Pentecost is the Jewish festival of Shavuoth. In chapter two of Acts, we read that the apostles are in Jerusalem during Pentecost when they experience an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Peter states that this is the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy that the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon all flesh (Joel 2:28-29).

**Primitivist** - A rejection of the perceived corruptions of Christianity, and a desire to return to the purity and simplicity of the early Church.

**Possession (of faith)** – a spirituality or religion based primarily on a direct inward experience of God's presence and guidance in Spirit.

**Profession (of Faith)** – a spirituality or religion based primarily on statements of core beliefs or faith in divine promises.

**Prophecy** – In the Abrahamic traditions, a prophet is someone through whom God communicates with humanity in words and actions.

**Quietism** – A spirituality that practices a radical passivity before God and a surrender of the human will to the divine will (see 'self-abnegation' below).

**Self-Abnegation** – A spirituality that focuses on the annihilation of the human will and its replacement with God's will (see 'quietism' above).

**Spiritualist** – a belief that humans can enjoy a direct relationship with God in Spirit without the need for any outward forms or material mediators.

**Spirituality** - The way human values, lifestyles, and practices reflect a particular understanding of the relationship between God, humanity, and the world.

**Temple** – A temple is the place where God dwells. In the old covenant God dwells primarily in the physical Temple in Jerusalem. In the new covenant, God dwells primarily in the human body and in a gathered community of human bodies.

**Testimony** – Outward visible actions in the world that have been prompted by the inward guidance of the divine Spirit.

**Theology** – This word literally means 'talk about God' and describes the exploration of spirituality, religion, and God in terms of experience, belief, and practice.

**Worship** – The communal practice of showing respect for and paying attention to that which is most important and worthy (God/Spirit).

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