

Workings of the Spirit of God Within (George Fox's "Offices of Christ")

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Australia Yearly Meeting

Anointing = Messiah or Christ

The anointing which you received from him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth ... (1 John 2:27 KJV)

For 'tis that Spiritual Anointing that the Apostle John speaks of, which those that have received it (and in whom it abides) needs not that any Man teach them, but as the same Anointing teacheth them all things...
(Elizabeth Bathurst, 1679, aged 24)

First Generation Quaker Spiritual Teachings

1. **Spirit of God born into every person – Inward Light**
 - no matter nation, age, gender or class.
 - and born into all creation

2. **This Spirit has two abilities**
 - show what to do, and what to refrain from doing
 - enable us to do it - to live in Truth

3. **Spirit of God (Christ) - other names in other cultures**
 - perfectly manifest in Jesus of Nazareth
 - named after 40 CE as the anointing “Christ”
 - light in our consciences, anointing, grace, Word, stop in our mind, ...
 - George Fox: “Jesus has come to teach people himself”
 - Jesus is my guide and ruler

Offices of Christ - Bishop

“The Lord opened me, that I saw through all these troubles and temptations. My living faith was raised, that I saw all was done by Christ the life, and my belief was in him.

And when at any time my condition was veiled, my secret belief was stayed firm, and hope underneath held me, as an anchor at the bottom of the sea, and anchored my immortal soul to its Bishop, causing it to swim above the sea, the world where all the raging waves, foul weather, tempests, and temptations are.”

(George Fox, aged 23, 1647)

Shepherd

“All that feel the life, and power, ...
and so are come to feed upon the heavenly and spiritual things,
which Christ your shepherd directs you to,
according to your capacity, age, and growth;
and so to know him that God has sent to feed you,
above all the feeders that men have sent.”

(George Fox, aged 53, 1675)

Prophet

“That which shows you ungodliness and worldly lusts, should and would be your teacher, if you would hearken to it; for the saints of old witnessed the grace of God [Christ] to be their teacher, which taught them to live soberly and godly in this present world your teacher is within you; look not forth: it will teach you, both lying in bed and going abroad, to shun all occasion of sin and evil.’

(George Fox, 1652, aged 28, writing to the people of Ulverstone)

... instructing “people in things that belong to their everlasting *peace*”

(Samuel Waldenfeld, 1694)

Ruler, King, Lord, Master, Guide (Inward Authority)

“we are called to live under the guidance of the Spirit?”

“... King, Lord and lawgiver to those that are under His government and is supreme head and judge in the consciences ... The light is arising out of obscurity and shining secretly in the hearts of people. Now all people that come to be guided by this law, which is light – Coming into this light, covenant, and spirit, which God puts in the inward parts, here all people meet together, Jews and Gentiles, barbarian, Scythian, bond and free, in the unity of the spirit which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, in which they come to be all one in Christ.” (Margaret Fell, 1660, aged 46)

Ruler as 'Protector'

Quakers experienced legal *Praemunire* (1353) to maintain the independence of the crown against all pretensions against it – property forfeited and being 'out of the King's protection'

“for the Lord is King in his saints, He guards them, and gives them his mighty power ... in His kingdom of glory and eternal rest, where they find joy, and peace, and rest eternal.” (George Fox, 1653; Revelation 15:3)

Priest

But you are a chosen people (KJV 'a peculiar people'), a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God.... 1 Peter (2:9 NIV)

... be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone; ; whereby in them ye may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you: then to the Lord God you shall be a sweet savour, and a blessing. (George Fox, aged 30, 1654)

Redeemer, Saviour, Physician, Healer

“Now I was come up in the Spirit through the flaming sword into the paradise of God. All things were new, and all the creation gave another smell unto me than before, beyond what words can utter. I knew nothing but pureness, and innocency, and righteousness ...” (George Fox, 1648)

Offices of the Spirit of God (Christ)

Bishop	watch over and stabilise	→ hope
Shepherd	lead into spiritual pastures	→ gratitude
Prophet	teach righteousness	→ peace
Ruler	give clear directions	→ courage & unity
Priest	sanctify words and actions	→ compassion
Saviour	restore Life and innocence	→ humility & trust

**Allowing the Spirit of God (Christ) to work these ways within us,
we are gradually given the attributes of Christ**

- **Patience**
- **Kindness**
- **Compassion**
- **Self Control (Temperance)**
- **Truthfulness (Integrity)**
- **Love**

Much peace,
David