

Recently we talked about holy obedience and how it comes out of living in relationship with God
I shared my story of realizing that God really did love me as I am and that I'm enough
I challenged you to write out your own God story of how God has unfolded in your life
One of you did in response to my message

This is important as a foundation for holy obedience
Rufus Jones and Paul Anderson say (Book of Miracles, xxv)...
Rather than seeing Fox as a prophetic voice speaking out against societal ills and injustice
or as a charismatic challenger of institutionalized religion
or as a visionary who had special access to divine leadings
one must see the ministry of George Fox
as growing out of transforming encounter with the Power and Presence of God

Thomas Kelly suggests one may enter into holy obedience is through a profound mystical experience
Others struggle like Jacob in scripture who wrestled with God all night
But for everyone, Kelly simply says to begin now to obey the Leadings as they come to you
Live in the present moment and open yourself to God and relax

In his book *Let Your Life Speak* Parker Palmer talks about the Quaker phrase to let your life speak
He always understood it as a mandate to make your life count, like Martin Luther King or heroes
But he came to see that it really meant that he was to allow the life within to speak
That every person has a voice that is meant to speak out and he needed to allow it
He talks about young children having a unique voice that needs to be nurtured
Allowing your unique voice to come forth is to find your calling
We can't do every good idea—so what is it that is mine to do?

Frederick Buechner says *"The place God calls you to
is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."*
Again, it is not just meeting the need that we are called to be about
But it is doing it in a way that gives us deep gladness

What is it that gives you great joy? Pay attention to that because that is part of your calling
Many of us heard about the person called to do the thing they feared most
BUT only if it is transformed and becomes the very thing that gives you joy

David and Karen Mains tell the story of the struggling juggler who is really a clown
He struggles to stifle the clown so he will fit in the troupe, but misses his real calling/purpose
But clowns are rare and he learns that he must free himself to do the things others cannot do

Early Quakers taught us that there was no limit to what we can do
They were not limited by what is reasonable or possible
Outlandish things were accomplished as they were faithful to follow their Leadings

For me, I thought God would show me the career path I was to follow as I walked in greater connection
But to my surprise, my instructions were not about what I was to do in my future
Rather I was simply to walk with God, step by step and God would Lead me
Yes, that ultimately meant that I became a pastor, but that was not my primary call

When God called Moses, his qualifications (which he said he didn't have) were not that important
Instead God asked, "what is in your hand"—God used his staff
It was an invitation to trust God to use him and that God would lead him

God told Abraham to leave and go to a land where I will show you
Jesus said, "follow me"
Jesus said, "my sheep know my voice"—this is how we follow—by listening to God's Leadings

Frank Tillapaugh said *"For God's will to be done on Earth as it is in Heaven,
we need an army of moms, backpackers and artists
serving with the same sense of calling possessed by the clergy."*

George Fox said, *"the power of the Lord is over all"*—his most frequent phrase
It's true—we live in the power of the Lord
Quakers got our name because we trembled in the power of the Lord
We sometimes forget it is still true and this same power of the Lord is over everyone

Ministry is our collective face to the world
It isn't our building or the thing we call church
Rather it is us being faithful God people everywhere as ministers of North Seattle Friends Church

Our work as a church is to notice, liberate, and empower each other to live into the ministry callings
To name the gifts, callings, Leadings and ministries rising among us

As we go, we accompany each other... but that's next week with Blessed Community

Those of us gathered as North Seattle Friends Church have a unique set of gifts and callings
As we live in holy obedience, we live out these callings
They are both everyday little acts of goodness and big deal callings to change the world
These callings are uniquely ours to do