

12th Answer. We believe Friends are careful, as far as practicable, to place their children, for tuition, under suitable teachers in membership with us. A school under the care of Ruthanne Monthly Meeting is in successful operation.

In the course of our deliberations upon the state of our Religious Society, several important subjects were impressively brought before us. In connection with the great duty of Worship, we were reminded of that which is really meant by "waiting upon God." It is not a vacant stillness, or indolent musing, or in thoughts wandering upon earthly things. According to the true significance of the word, as used in Holy Scriptures, it is the gathering together of the thoughts, the desires and the affections, in holy collectiveness before God, and the earnest stretching out of them in reverential longing, prayer or thanksgiving towards Him, the glorious object of adoration and love. He is not to be approached as an unknown and untold God, but as the same glorious and mighty Jehovah, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, and hath in the last and everlasting dispensation of his grace, spoken unto us by His Son.

The Worship which we profess is not a formal, but a real Worship; not in our own name, or in looking to our fellow man, or to any outward sight or service, but in and through the sacrifice and mediation of the Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest and Intercessor. Through Him alone we have access, by one spirit, unto the Father. The broken and contrite heart, in humiliation and self-distrust, is taught to draw nigh unto God, looking to that precious Saviour, whom God has appointed to be the propitiation through faith in His blood. In thus drawing nigh, there is the worship of God in the spirit: the worship of unfeigned faith and love and praise. Weaned from all confidence in the flesh, upraising in Jesus Christ, we are taught to gaze in God, through Him, our Lord and Redeemer, by whom we have now

secured the atonement. Let none stand upon the outside, under any plea of unworthiness or inability. Therefore, doth the Lord wait that He may be gracious unto you. It is the spirit that quickeneth. He convicts even the world of sin. He testifies of Jesus. It is he who humbles the sinner, and draws him in contrition to the foot of the cross, sealing upon the hearts of those that receive him the assurance of pardon and peace through the blood of the Lamb. One with the Father, and the Son, the work of the Spirit, can never be divorced from that revelation which God has made of himself in Jesus Christ and him crucified. The Worship which we profess is not for Ministers and Elders only, or for any other particular class amongst us, but for all - and in proportion as each member of the congregation with earnestness and sincerity yields himself up to the work of the Holy Spirit, in that proportion will he be taught the nature of this Worship and made to experience the reality and truth. A mere formal silence without Christ, what is it but the silence of death? But when he is received in living faith, he is known in a blessed experience to present the worshippers with acceptance unto the Father, washed in his precious blood. He hath opened the door of access unto the inner sanctuary, and it is their privilege and joy to know that none other is needed to open that door. May our faith be exercised in the immediate work and teachings of the Holy Spirit, remembering the Saviour's Declaration, "He shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you."

But let none think that because their meetings have been usually held in silence, therefore they are to go on from meeting to meeting never expecting anything else. Our testimony is not simply to silence, but to spiritual worship. The true worshipper is he who is resigned to every intimation of the divine will; not prejudging the counsels of his Lord, nor allowing any habits or fears of his own to bring himself under a bondage wherein the word of the Lord can ^{neither} have free course nor be glorified.