

# **The inward and spiritual warfare, and the false pretence of it. And a distinction between the true liberty and the false.**

By George Fox

There are many people who profess the apostle's words, concerning his inward warring and warfare, yet do not own the spirit that God pours forth upon all flesh; nor believe that Christ enlightens everyone that comes into the world, with the light of life; nor believe that the grace of God which brings salvation has appeared unto all men, and to be sufficient to teach them, and bring their salvation; though God said to Paul, 'his grace was sufficient for him' when he was in his troubles and temptations.

Now all you that do talk of Paul's inward warfare, and do not believe in the light of Christ, you cannot see his inward warfare, for whatever makes manifest is light, and the light of Christ which shines in the heart, gives the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus, through whom they overcome the devil and his works, and he makes them more than conquerors. For Christ said, 'those who believe in the light, do become the children of light, and are born of God,' and pass from the death in Adam, to the life in Christ; in whom they overcome the world. Now you that do not believe in the light, you say there is no overcoming while you are on this side the grave. You are not in the spiritual warfare, nor in the true belief which does overcome, nor in the true faith which is the victory; and how can you be in the spiritual warfare, which do not come to the spirit of God, nor the spirit of grace, which should teach you to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly and righteously, which God said is sufficient, and will bring you salvation?

But if you do pretend a warfare, without the light of Christ, and his faith and spirit of grace, which brings salvation, and overcomes, and is the victory; then you may war all your lifetime until you go to the grave in your own wills, and not overcome, nor have the victory; and that is the blind man's war and warfare, without the light of Christ, and faith which is the victory, and the spirit of grace, which brings salvation to all the believers in Christ.

And Joel said, 'that in the last days, God would pour out of his spirit upon all flesh.' And the apostles showed the fulfilling of Joel's prophecy, in Acts 2:16:18, when they preached Christ in his new testament, and new covenant to the Jews, how that the saying of Joel was come to pass, how that 'God would pour out of his spirit upon all flesh, and his sons and his daughters should prophesy, and his handmaids and servants should prophesy, and have visions, and old men should dream dreams.' Now this was the fruit of the spirit of God in sons and daughters, handmaids, and servants, and old men, to have their spiritual visions, dreams, and prophecies. And now what is the matter, that sons, daughters, handmaids, servants, and old men have not prophecies, visions, and dreams now in Christendom, as they had in the apostles' days? Is it not because they are erred from the spirit that God pours upon them, and so have not the spiritual dreams, visions, and prophecies; and all those who are erred from the spirit that God pours upon them, they cannot serve and worship God in the spirit, neither can they have unity with one another, nor fellowship in the spirit; and that is the cause that so many in Christendom are in heaps one against another, being erred from the spirit of God, so from the spiritual union and communion.

Now the means how all people may come to serve and worship God in the spirit, and come into fellowship and communion in the spirit, and come to spiritual dreams, visions, and prophecies, is to come to the spirit of God in their own hearts, that he pours upon them, young and old, sons and daughters, servants and handmaids, that in and with the manifestation of the spirit, daughters, servants, young men and old, may profit in their heavenly visions, dreams, and prophecies, and so all to drink into one spirit, being baptized all with one spirit, into one body; so in the spiritual communion, unity, and fellowship in the spirit of God. In the same spirit you will all serve and worship the eternal infinite everlasting God that made you, in his new covenant, and new testament. 'Behold, the days come,' said the Lord, 'that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers, in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt,' Jer 31:31-32. Now here you may see the new covenant is not according to the old, with their priests, whose lips were to preserve people's knowledge, and circumcise the males outwardly, who had their outward Jerusalem, and outward temple worship, and had their outward law given to them in tables of stone, and the priest had a pulpit to read it in; and he had his tenths, and offered offerings and sacrifices; and had their holy days, and Sabbath days, and their outward sacrifices, and outward altars, lights, and lamps; but the Lord said, the new covenant that he would make should not be according to the old, for in the new covenant circumcision is of the spirit, not according to the flesh, and such worship God in the spirit, and truth, and their bodies are the temples of the holy spirit of God, and Christ is the one offering for sins, once for all, and his blood cleanses from all sin, and God writes his law in

their hearts, and puts it in their minds that all may read the law in their hearts and minds, and know the Lord. Heb 8.

And the old covenant commanded them to take oaths, and swear, but in the new covenant Christ said, 'Swear not at all.' And in the old covenant the priests took tithes; but in the new covenant Christ said, 'Freely you have received, freely give.' And in the old covenant, they stood up to bless the obedient, and curse the disobedient; but in the new covenant it is said, bless, and curse not. In the old covenant they were to love their neighbors, and hate their enemy; but in the new covenant it is said, love your enemies. Here you may see the new covenant, that God had not made it according to the old, and we are in the days of the new covenant and new testament.

The apostle exhorted the christians to look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of their faith; for he said, 'Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever.' Heb 12:2,13:8.

Now Jesus Christ is the rock of ages, and the foundation of many generations. So then in every age and generation, all the true christians forever must look unto Jesus, who is the author and beginner, and finisher of their faith.

And now here it is clear, that the apostles and disciples of Jesus Christ, in all their councils and meetings, they did not make faiths for the true christians in the first primitive times; but told them look unto Jesus the author and finisher of their faith. And all true christians must observe the apostles' teaching and exhortation, in every age and generation forever. For Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command, and so lost the image of God in righteousness and holiness, and so forsook God's teaching, and the liberty God had placed them in, and followed the serpent's teaching, who led them into a false liberty, which brought death, corruption, and destruction.

God gave the Jews his righteous, just, holy, and good law, and gave them his good spirit to instruct them; but they rebelled against his spirit, and turned from God and his law, and were led by the evil spirit, the serpent, into a false liberty, which led many of them into captivity, death, and destruction.

And God pouring out of his spirit upon all flesh in his new testament and new covenant, by which spirit all may know God, and Christ; but all christians that are gone from the spirit, they are gone out of unity and fellowship, and true worship, into confusion, and into false liberty in the flesh; for the spirit that God pours upon all mankind, is the only means to bring all into unity, and to serve and worship God in his spirit and truth, if they believe and obey it; and Christ, enlightens everyone that comes into the world with his true light, which is the life in himself, that all might believe in the light, and come to have life in Christ.

But those who hate the true light, which is the life in Christ, and love the darkness more than the light, because their deeds are evil, and will not come to it, because it will reprove them; this light does condemn them, and their evil deeds, in their darkness and false liberty, and false worship; seeing they will not receive, nor hearken to the reproofs of the light of Christ, and turn and have life in him, therefore they are condemned by the true light of Christ.

And Christ tells his disciples to go preach the gospel, namely, of life and salvation to, or in every creature under heaven. Now the gospel, the apostle said, is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believes. So now everyone that does not believe and receive his gospel, and those who receive it, and after disobey it, all such go into, and are in a false liberty of death, and destruction, from life and salvation, and peace with God; and upon such, judgment comes from God, according to the gospel. And the grace of God which brings salvation, has appeared unto all men; and if all men do not receive this spirit of grace, and walk in it, which will teach them to deny ungodliness, and worldly lusts, and to live soberly and godly, and will bring their salvation, and bring them into favour with God, but turn the grace of God into wantonness, and walk despitefully against the spirit of grace, such go out of favour with God, and from the grace which is sufficient to teach them, and bring their salvation; and such go into a false liberty, into death and destruction, turning the grace of God into wantonness, and walking despitefully against the spirit of grace, which is sufficient to teach them, and bring their salvation, if they obey it, and walk in it: and such are condemned with the light and spirit of God, and such lie under condemnation that do not walk in it, and obey it.

But all those who walk in the light, and in the spirit of grace, and in the gospel, and obey it, such know their true liberty in the spirit, and gospel, and in Christ Jesus, and stand fast in that liberty, in which Christ has made them free from the yoke of slavery, from the devil, and the world, that lies in wickedness. And the Lord preserve all his people in Christ Jesus, in whom true liberty is, in whom they have life, and peace with God. Amen.

***George Fox***