

Worship Sharing • SEYM 2009 Gathering

Hope & Struggle

THURSDAY

Quotes

"Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (RSV)"

"The Lord our God is one Lord;
and you shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your might."

All your soul
is the Lord our God
with all your might
you shall love your soul
and the Lord your God
is all your heart
and the one Lord is love:
your God
your heart
your soul
your might

- Wendy Clarissa Geiger, 1981

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

- Philippians 4:4-7 (New Revised Standard Version)

Queries

When have I expressed or experienced gentleness toward myself or others of the Earth community?

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FRIDAY

Quotes

"On the far side of despair...lies hope." - Elise Boulding

"For we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death so that we would rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead."

- 2 Corinthians 1:8-9 (NRSV)

"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies."

- 2 Corinthians 4:8 (RSV)

Queries

What brings me out of despair?

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SATURDAY

Quotes

"Quakers believe that there is that of God in every person. We cannot prove this, but we do know that when we act as if it were true, our trust is justified."

- poster from Quaker Home Service, London

"Do we know the hearts of our strangers?"

- centerfold poster of a 1974 "Friends Journal" picturing a despairing Pakistani man's face

"...Love your enemies...."

- Christ Jesus, Matthew 5:44 (RSV)

Queries

How do I tend to my own convictions and share my convictions with others who fundamentally disagree with me without turning others off?

In what ways have I broadened others' minds? How has my mind been broadened by others?