

# Convincement

Imperfect but loved



“Be honest with yourself. What unpalatable truths might you be evading? When you recognise your shortcomings, do not let that discourage you. In worship together we can find the assurance of God’s love and the strength to go on with renewed courage.”

*Advices & Queries 11*

Convincement is an experience of being made aware of our flaws and limitations, and then being consoled by the Spirit of love and truth. We must face up to the influence of a false spirit of greed, selfishness, cruelty, violence and destruction in our lives that wreaks havoc in the world. However, we can also be comforted by an experience of love and forgiveness. Everyone has flaws and limitations, and we are all caught up in the exploitation of the natural world that causes suffering to our fellow creatures. At the same time, we are not helpless. Positive change is possible, and we are all worthy of love, and have a valuable part to play.

## Ecological Reflection

We are all born into a world that is organised in a way that makes it easier to go along with what is destructive and unjust, than to do what is right. This does not imply that we are evil, but it does mean that we are implicated in systems and practices that oppress other people, cause suffering to animals, and destroy the ecological systems that support life itself. Quaker spirituality teaches us that, if we are willing to face up to the truth, and accept our part in it, the healing power of the Spirit will comfort us, and guide us to a more healthy and harmonious way.

### Query

**Are you willing to accept your flaws and limitations, while at the same time, embracing the possibility of positive change? Can you feel the Spirit of love and truth upholding and guiding you? Where is this Spirit leading you at this time?**