

# New Life

Choosing a different path



“Yield yourself and all your outward concerns to God’s guidance, so that you may find ‘the evil weakening in you and the good raised up’.”

*Advices & Queries 9*

Being brought to a new life is about a change of mind, and a change of direction. When the Spirit reveals our flaws, we experience a change of mind, and a new perception. When we respond to this by following the guidance of our Inward Teacher, this leads to a change in direction, as we begin to live and act differently. We can turn away from the false spirit of greed, selfishness, cruelty, violence and destruction, and follow the way of love and truth instead. Our own efforts alone are not enough. We need both the empowerment of the Spirit, and the support and challenge of a community of discernment and mutual accountability.

## Ecological Reflection

In all sorts of ways, humans are not in right relationship with the rest of creation. We tend to be a disruptive and destructive presence within this complex system of interconnections and interdependence. Therefore, there is an urgent need for people to experience a change of mind, and to take a different path. The wisdom of Quaker spirituality suggests that this happens when we turn to the Spirit within us and attend to its guidance. There are no quick fixes, because the path of right relationship requires patience, persistence and humility. We need to turn away from the spirit of greed, violence and coercive power, and attend instead to the Spirit of love, peace, and truth. With this new perception and in this new way, we can see that all the other parts of creation are our neighbours, and we should love them as we love ourselves.

### Query

**Are you willing to submit yourself to the guidance of your Inward Teacher? Are you truly open to the possibility of a change of heart and mind? Will you join with others in discerning the path of love, peace and truth which leads to justice and right relationship? Where is this discernment leading you at this time?**