

# Transformation

Liberation and wholeness



“The truth is that we are all hurt and need healing. There is a spiritual poverty among both rich and poor... If we are to be whole, we can no longer ignore the divisions created by idolising wealth, success and power.”

*Quaker faith & practice 29.13*

The Quaker way has tended to see transformation more in terms of building heaven on earth, than the hope of a spiritual dwelling place after death. This is about being liberated from the negative consequences of our ignorance and self-centredness. It is about being saved from our mistakes as a species. What are the key dimensions of this?

**Bondage:** we find ourselves dependent on social, economic and political systems and ideologies that lead us into a destructive relationship with each other, with other animals, and with the rest of the natural world.

**Liberation:** we need to break free of this dependence. The Spirit, acting as our Inward Teacher, can break these bonds, and release us from the powers of injustice and destruction. This is an experience of liberation.

## Ecological Reflection

What does transformation and liberation mean in the context of ecological crisis? If this vision is understood primarily in terms of right relationship, then individual liberation cannot be meaningfully separated from the well-being of the whole creation, understood as a complex system of interconnected and interdependent parts. If humanity is currently a disruptive and destructive presence within creation, then salvation involves our liberation from systems, ideologies and motivations that lead to violence, hatred, cruelty, injustice, oppression and destruction. These ideologies and systems make life hell on earth for so many humans, and other creatures, and destroy the very ecosystems that support life on this planet.



### Query

Are you aware of the impact of your way of living on the well-being of other humans, other animals and the rest of the natural world? Are you willing to join with others in attending to the Spirit, which has the power to liberate us from our dependence on systems of violence, injustice and destruction? What do you and your community feel led to do at this time?