



5 Starter Facts About The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

1. The Religious Society of Friends was founded in 17th century England by George Fox. He and other early followers, or Friends, were persecuted and jailed for their beliefs. Some Quakers consider themselves Christians. Today, there are over 300,000 Quakers around the world.
2. William Penn founded the state of Pennsylvania with the intentions of it being a haven for religious outcasts like himself, an active Quaker.
3. At the time of the Society's founding, Quaker beliefs were considered radical: rejection of elaborate religious ceremonies, lack of official clergy, spiritual equality for men and women, and most notably the presence of God in everyone.
4. Quakers most distinct principle is Inner Light, the direct awareness of God within oneself. Most believe it goes beyond simply being a mystical experience and should result in working for the good of others.
5. Quakers practice pacifism and played a key role in both the abolition and women's rights movements.

Learn more at:

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/>

These five points are not meant to be comprehensive or authoritative. We hope they encourage you to explore this spirituality more deeply and seek out members of this community to learn about their beliefs in action. In understanding our differences we will better understand our common humanity.

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