

A
Guide and Wall
of
Protection

Transcribed By Mother Rebecca
In The First Order At
The Church Of Philadelphia

**The United Society of Believers In
Christ's Second Appearing (The Shakers)**

1862

This book may be copied, quoted, shared, translated or reprinted in any form.

**Come and see us at
Zion's Center of Union in
the Kingdom of God on Earth:**



The Shakers of Sabbathday Lake "Chosen Land"

**707 Shaker Road
New Gloucester, Maine 04260
www.maineshakers.com**

Have you already read Father Joseph's Letter?

A GUIDE AND WALL OF PROTECTION

When souls set out in the way of God, their first work is to honestly confess all their sins to Almighty God, and tell His witnesses what they have done, word by word as the spirit of judgment brings it to their mind — just as they have committed them, without trying to hide or cover one sin. Seeing that God in His wisdom and great mercy has awakened us here in time, and called us to judgment that we may bring all our sins to judgment by honestly confessing every one; that there may be none to follow after us into the Spirit World to condemn us, and drive us from the presence of God, who in mercy has opened a door in time, that we may be able to glorify Him here on earth.

The order in which we are to move after we are set out: We are to put our hands to work and our hearts to God in solemn prayer, desiring Him to help us and give light into our soul, heart, and mind, that we may be able to search out all our sins, whether of word, deed, or thought, that we may bring them to the light which is placed in God's living witnesses here on earth, in whom Christ's Spirit dwells as the Judge of all the world. If we do this faithfully, we shall be able daily to be bringing our sins to light, until we have emptied the house. Then we shall be able to cleanse it, that the Kingdom of God may be set up where the Kingdom of Darkness has been. Then God can establish His Holy order in this temple. As the Apostle said when on earth, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of the living God? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy."

No one should come into meeting with any one sin that has been brought to their mind, until it has been honestly confessed and put away by repentance. All wrongs that have been committed must be righted, and the returns made to God's witnesses, before coming into meeting. If this be not done, your soul is not right in the sight of a pure and Holy

God, and you bring spirits that are displeasing to God, and afflicting to His children. And if these sins are not put away, the Lord will visit such, suddenly.

Speak the truth on all occasions, or hold your peace; and when you say you will do a thing, and you do it not, you should give your reasons why you did not perform your word, as soon as you can see the person to whom the promise was made, let them be who they may. Souls who set out in the way of God must always remember that God is a God of truth, and when they speak falsely, they are not in the way of God until they have put it away by confession and repentance, in the order that God has appointed. And this is to be done as soon as they well can, together with their acknowledgment to the one whom they have disappointed.

The way of God is a narrow way, and no soul can bring their own ways into the House of God. Souls who wish to keep the way of God must keep the orders, for they are a wall of protection around the soul, which Satan cannot get over. But if we break one order, we thereby open a gap, and he comes in. We should be obedient to those who, in love, are striving to lead us into all truth, and remember that it is the gift of God to us, for Salvation.

When we have an appointed time to confess our sins given to us, we ought to use it. And if we are hindered, we should ask a privilege, when we can come again, in order to keep the way of God. This is the way to make our openings and confessions to God's acceptance. And unless we open to God's acceptance, all the confessions we can make will do us no good. It is God that forgives sin, in and through His order. O, how beautiful is the order of God to an honest soul. And there is no honest soul, after they have once set out and are faithful, but what will find their sins come back to remembrance. So that two days will not pass, without sin of some kind being brought to their remembrance, until their whole inward house and temple is cleared. This God knows, and His witnesses — yea, and the soul knows, too. And if suddenly called into the Spirit

World, what a bundle of fuel will one sin make, to enflame that guilty soul, who had the opportunity to put it away in time.

When souls are called to judgment, they should be faithful in making an honest confession to Almighty God, and tell His witnesses what they have done, just exactly as they did it. In so doing, they are able to make their offering to God's acceptance, and then they can have faith in praying to God for a repenting spirit, and God will never withhold a repenting spirit from an honest soul. They should always be careful to obey the spirit of judgment in themselves, which is giving them light and power to search and cast out of their hearts all that is the enemy, that they may fully cleanse their heart and make it a fit temple for the Lord to dwell in, so that the Kingdom of God may be set up. In order to do this, they must pay all their just dues as soon as they can, and right all their wrongs, after the spirit of judgment has made them manifest to their understanding. If they neglect doing this as soon as lies in their power, they are grieving the Holy Spirit. And while they do this, they are out of the way of God, and are not in the path of self-denial, in which Christ and our Blessed Mother walked, that we might follow in their footsteps and be in peace with God — also that we may be able to love and pray for all souls, and that they may understand the orders and the teaching of the Spirit of Truth, that they may be able to know the way of truth, and to walk in it, in obedience to the leading and teaching of whomsoever it may please our Heavenly Parents to appoint — and when they counsel us, to do our duty, according to the Spirit of Truth and justice.

And when we promise them that we will do according to their counsel, we ought to fulfill it, inasmuch as we promise in the presence of God, and in the presence of the Spirit of Judgment, which God in His love and wisdom has revealed in us for Salvation — and in the presence of the Spirit that dwells in His witnesses, who are appointed to counsel us in love and mercy and meekness. If we tell them that we will do our duty, which the Spirit has in love made known to our understanding, we should not fail nor omit to do it. And if we should be hindered at the

time appointed, we should come and make it known, and then go and do it, as soon as in our power.

We ought to consider the goodness and kindness of our Heavenly Parents, calling us to judgment here in time, so that our sins may go before us, and not follow after to our condemnation. We have it in our power to put them all away here in time, and glorify God on the earth. For this is the end of our heavenly calling here, that we may be His living witnesses on earth, by bearing living Gospel fruit of Holiness, in obedience to the Law and Order of the Gospel. If we keep this, it will keep us, and be a wall of protection around us, wheresoever we may be.

Then that Scripture will be fulfilled in us, "He shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears, but with righteousness shall he judge, and plead with equity, for all the meek of the earth (Isaiah 11:3)." "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion, and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them (Isaiah 11:6)." To this height, will the simplicity of the Gospel of Christ's First and Second Appearing bring every true and faithful Believer that will stand firm and unshaken to the end.

Shaker Communities

THE PROPHECY

A Worldwide Kingdom of God and Zion of His Likeness on Earth (Daniel 2:44).

FOUNDER

Ann Lee, the Bride of Christ (1736-1784) of Manchester, England.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

Virgin Purity, Peace, Justice and Love

Expressed Through: Celibate Life, Complete Confession and Forsaking of all Sin,
Non Resistance, Community of Goods and Divine Order.

BELIEFS

Duality of the Deity, Father and Mother God (Power and Wisdom). The Mighty Dual Spirit, Creator of Life, Light, Truth and Love. Duality of the Christ Spirit, as manifested by Jesus Christ and Ann Lee, Immortal Life, Progress of the Soul, Faithfulness, Lawfulness, Equality of the Genders, Equality in Labor, Equality in Property, Temperance in all things, Justice and Kindness to all Living Beings.

GOVERNMENT

The Head of the Shaker Order is Christ.
Represented in a Dual Order of Leaders, Ministry Elders and Trustees.

COMMUNITY

Serious Minded and Competent individuals who vow to never deny the Father God, the Mother Wisdom, the Son Jesus Christ or the Daughter Ann Lee.

SHAKER MOTTO

Hands to work, and Hearts to God.—ANN LEE

Zion's Center Of Union

