

Simplicity

Life is meant to be lived from a Center, a divine Center... a life of unhurried peace and power. It is simple. It is serene. It takes no time, but it occupies all our time.

Thomas R. Kelly, *Testament of Devotion*, 1941

Live simply that others might simply live.

Elizabeth Seaton

Frugality is one of the most beautiful and joyful words in the English language, and yet one that we are culturally cut off from understanding and enjoying. The consumption society has made us feel that happiness lies in having things, and has failed to teach us the happiness of not having things.

Elise Boulding

The ability to simplify means to eliminate the unnecessary so that the necessary may speak.

Hans Hofmann

Simplicity is making the journey of this life with just baggage enough.

Anonymous

To poke a wood fire is more solid enjoyment than almost anything else in the world.

Charles Dudley Warner

God is always visible
the moment
the inner eye
is clear.

Rufus M. Jones

Eliminate physical clutter. More importantly, eliminate spiritual clutter.

D.H. Mondfleur

Besides the noble art of getting things done, there is the noble art of leaving things undone. The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of non-essentials.

Lin Yutang

Be content with what you have, rejoice in the way things are. When you realize there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you.

Lao Tzu

The sculptor produces the beautiful statue by chipping away such parts of the marble block as are not needed - it is a process of elimination.

Elbert Hubbard

May we look upon our Treasures, and the furniture of our Houses, and the Garments in which we array ourselves, and try whether the seeds of war have any nourishment in these possessions or not.

John Woolman

Use what you need. Need what you use.
Arthur Fink

“Simplicity, beauty, and happiness go together if they are a byproduct of a concern for something more important than ourselves.”

- * Do I center my life in an awareness of God’s presence so that all things take their rightful place?
- * Do I live simply, and promote the right sharing of the world’s bounty?
- * Do I keep my life uncluttered with things and activities, avoiding commitments beyond my strength and light?
- * How do I maintain simplicity, moderation, and honesty in my speech, my manner of living, and my daily work?
- * Do I recognize when I have enough?

Elise Boulding, My Part in the Quaker Adventure

Geese appear high over us,
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,
as in love or sleep, holds
them to their way, clear
in the ancient faith: what we need
is here. And we pray, not
for new earth or heaven, but to be
quiet in heart, and in eye,
clear. What we need is here.
Wendell Berry

Integrity for me means my outward actions line up like a plumb line to God who is present in my deepest Center.
Jan Hoffman

Simplification comes when we “center down,”
When life is lived with singleness of eye,
From a holy Center
Where the breath and stillness of Eternity
Are heavy upon us and
We are wholly yielded to God.
Some of you know this holy,
Recreating Center of eternal peace and joy
And live in it day and night.
Some of you may see it over the margin and
Wistfully long
To slip into that amazing Center
Where the soul is at home with God.
Be very faithful to that wistful longing.
It is the Eternal Goodness calling you to return Home.
Thomas R. Kelly
gbs, 11/08