

*Who are the
Quakers?*

Beginnings



*George Fox at Swarthmoor Hall
by Robert Spence (1870-1964)*

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The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) was founded in northern England in the mid-seventeenth century when small groups of religious 'seekers' came together under the leadership of George Fox (1624-1691).

These 'seekers' were trying to find a more authentic form of Christianity other than that provided by the Church of England and other religious groups of the day. These 'seekers' believed that Christ speaks directly to everyone, and what was required for ministry and guidance was to listen to the still, small voice within.

Authorities disapproved of the Quakers, who called themselves 'Friends' and so passed a number of laws restricting Quaker meetings and practices. Many Friends spent years in prison, some dying from brutal prison conditions.

BACKGROUND IMAGE:

Brigflatts Meeting House. An example of an early Quaker place of worship.

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