

A man with a beard is shown in a dimly lit room, reading a book. A single candle provides the light, casting a warm glow on his face and the pages. The background is dark, with some bookshelves visible.

SOME FRUITS OF SOLITUDE

By Geoff Serpell

This was the title of a book penned by a Quaker, William Penn, who was born in 1644 in London.

He was a scholar at Oxford University, an English writer, religious thinker, and influential Quaker who founded the Province of Pennsylvania, in the USA.

Once prisoned in the Tower of London for his views, he had amicable relations and successful treaties with the Lenape Native Americans.

Quakers were relatively strict Christians in the 17th Century, believing all men were equal under God.

He believed that the *“God who made the world did not dwell in temples made with hands”*.

Reflection:

From his book, *‘Some fruits of Solitude’*, it suggests that we:

Think twice before speaking once, & you will speak twice as well.

Rarely promise, but always deliver.

Do good with what you have, or it will do you no good.

Love is the hardest lesson. For that reason, we should try hardest to learn it.

He supported the rights of the individual upon which modern democracies were later founded.

A man of deep religious conviction, he exhorted believers to the spirit of Primitive Christianity.

He wrote about how *“the Lord visited me and gave me divine impressions of Himself”*.

He received plenty of opposition to his writings as a Quaker from both the Catholic and the Anglican churches, however, he expressly confessed he believed in the Holy Three and the divinity of Christ.