



Quaker Universalist Voice
**A Poem: Gender and
Biblical Language**
by J.M. Spears

“Father” sounds the bias.
“Parent” rings too bland.
“Mother” is not divine enough.
We, quandried, are left to stand.

The language should not matter.
Let the Gospel ring through all,
But, words still bear the burden
Of that life-transforming call.

What was then the hearer’s language
Is not now heard as once.
From Greek into Latin spread,
Then out through varied tongues.

“Sake” and “Saith” Now are seldom heard.
For children, these words are foreign.
Language must meet them low and straight,
Translated directly for them.

“Brother”, yes for Jesus.
But, the “Christ” not “he” can bear.
Since “she” and “he” are equal,
Scales from new eyes do tear.

Doesn’t matter which sex the paralytic?
If not, then why the fuss?
Put it down as “him” or “her”,
Or neither. It is to truth we trust.

We translate the words to communicate
To people here and now.
It takes both sweat and patient faith
To hear what the words allow.