

“On the Brink of Everything” — 48-04
PAUSE TO CONSIDER: REFLECTIONS ON SESSION #4

1. You might want to listen to Carrie Newcomer’s song, “Sanctuary” while you read my ramblings. Just click on the image.



2. I found an interesting webpage — <https://religionnews.com/2018/07/20/6-gifts-of-aging-with-quaker-writer-parker-palmer/> — in which Parker Palmer identifies six gifts of aging from a ‘quaker perspective’. It was uploaded to the site in July 2018. I also wanted to explore Dr. Palmer’s eleven years at Pendle Hill and his Pamphlet written in 1977 about his experience has been archived and is available to us. <https://ia903205.us.archive.org/12/items/a-place-called-community/A%20Place%20Called%20Community.pdf> .

In a quick search about Quakers, google says this: Quakers are members of a group with Christian roots that began in England in the 1650s. The formal title of the movement is **the Society of Friends or the Religious Society of Friends**. There are about 210,000 Quakers across the world. Jul 3, 2009

3. I have the book “On the Brink” both in text and as an audiotape. I relistened to Chapter Three Sunday morning and was reminded of the many images he creates for the listener in this chapter. Each of the essays included in Chapter Three gives us more insight into his influences. We can identify with his January retreat with our Lenten retreat.

3. Reference is often made in these chapters of the **Centre for Courage and Renewal**. You can visit this site by clicking on this link: <https://couragerenewal.org/wpccr/>.

I was wondering if you know that by hovering your arrow over any of these underlined links given, you will be taken directly to the site. As well by moving your arrow to an image and clicking, you can be directed to the site. Just wondering.

4. Housekeeping reminders: Consider your “Growing Edges.” Opportunities exist at St. David’s and through Calgary Alliance of the Common Good. <https://www.calgarycommongood.org> You might like to subscribe to CACG to receive their regular newsletter. Otherwise, click on the link found on sduc.ca/Ministries/adultspiritualdevelopment.

5. Jock wrote and recited this poem for us — written especially for Chapter III—

getting real

yearning for deeper than religious ideas
engaging life and stripping illusions
“either-or” compliments “both-and”
paradox and contradiction may lead to wholeness
hidden wholeness in broken world
mission not force but to give excuse and permissions
just knock on door, don't try the impossible
“hope” is true value, not the results
down is the way to well-being - less far to fall
silence, solitude. self-acceptance, reflection and regret.
mercy, love, compassion
divine discontent leads to growth
common sense and laughter
last - prepare for one's death

ch3 Getting Real

On the Brink of Everything, Parker J Palmer
jock mctavish 14 feb 21

6. Sally Hodges opened last night for us. She sang for us each line of the old hymn “God be in my head,” and asked us to think of the words before singing the next line. Here are the hymn as sung by the Bath Abbey Choirs in 2021:



Remember to click on the picture to start the video. Thank you so much for this opening, Sally.

7. Wayne reflected on 13 challenges that the chapter raised for him:
 - a. Faith and Reason are partners, not adversaries
 - b. Facing life as it is — a spiritual journey
 - c. Facing Hard Truths about ourselves — failure and catastrophe help us work our way to hopeful reality
 - d. Living authentically without a mask — he reviewed his experience at L'Arche, Calgary (<https://www.larche.ca/mission-and-vision?article=setting-our-course-for-the-next-50-years&id=498755>)
 - e. Vocation — community over classroom — Dr. Palmer's choice
 - f. Remembering lessons learned in our study of "The Book of Joy" about interfaith mystics
 - g. Thomas Merton's Idea of Paradox
 - h. The impact of Palmer's 11 years at Pendle Hill Quaker period (see item 1)
 - i. Finding Wholeness — Palmer's definition
 - j. Not depending on the hope of results
 - k. Learning from Henri Nouwen
 - l. Summarizing Thomas Merton - "The True Self is simply the self we were born to be." (Remember Fr. Richard Rohr's teaching on True Self.)
 - m. Considering the engines of creativity — the contradictions of life and the prospect of death
8. Check out OVERVIEW subpage on MINISTRIES/ADULTSPIRITUALDEVELOPMENT page if you wish to review many of our previous book studies.
9. From Chat: Deb wrote that the meditation book to which Dr. Palmer refers is entitled "A Year with Thomas Merton: Daily Meditations from his Journals."
10. Remember: No Class next Monday night. We will see you on February 28, 2022. Contact Joan if you are available to open/close in future sessions.
- **BiBle Study** on Thursday mornings on ZOOM at 10 a.m. is on I Corinthians. Chapters 5-7 and DK 374-375
- Amy's Wednesday Morning 10:00 a.m. is a very welcoming place to be Wednesday morning.
- CHAPTER FOUR FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2022

11. Some links you might like:

<https://couragerenewal.org/wpccr/parker/videos/>

On Being Project: <https://onbeing.org>

<https://www.newcomerpalmer.com/home>

sduc.ca

12. Remember to send me your faith words for each letter of the alphabet. SO FAR:

A	AFFIRMATION ACCEPTANCE APOSTLE ASPIRATIONS AMOS ABUNDANCE
B	BLESSED BIBLE BRIGHT BEAUTIFUL BOOKS BOUNTIFULNESS
C	COMMUNION COURAGE CREED COMMANDMENTS CARE
D	DIVINE DEATH DIVINITY DEVOTION DISCOVERY DEDICATION
E	ETERNAL EFFORT EPHEMERAL ENOUGH EXODUS ESTHER EZRA EZEKIEL
F	FAITH FORGIVENESS FINDING FIDELITY
G	GROWTH GOODNESS GROUPS GETHSEMANI GnosticISM GENESIS
H	HOPE HYMNS HOLINESS HOSEA
I	INFINITE IDOL IDLE INTROSPECTION IDEALISM ILLUSION
J	JESUS JOHN JUDAISM JEWISH JOSHUA JUDGES JUDITH JOSEPH JACOB JONAH JUSTICE
K	KINDNESS KINGDOM KALEIDOSCOPE KNOWLEDGE KARMA
L	LOVE LIGHT LESSNESS LUKE
M	MERCY MOTHER MUSIC MATTHEW MARK
N	NECESSARY NEW THINGS NOEL NATURE
O	OBEDIENT ORIGINAL OPENNESS ONUS
P	PRAYER PURPOSE PATIENCE PARTNERSHIPS
Q	QUESTION QUIET
R	REVERE RIGHTEOUS REFLECTION REALITY
S	SOUL SAFE SAVIOR SUSTENANCE SPIRITUALITY SAMUEL
T	TRUST TRUTH TRY TIMOTHY TITUS
U	UNKNOWN UNIVERSAL CHRIST UNIVERSE USEFUL
V	VAST VIRTUE VENERATION VULNERABILITY VALUE VALOR
W	WORSHIP WONDER WILLINGNESS WHOLENESS
X	X-FACTOR XANADU GREAT EXPECTATIONS
Y	YIELDING YEARNING YOUNG
Z	ZENITH ZEST ZOOM ZION

Thoughtfully yours, (have a happy Family Day)

Brenda

403 510 1993

P.S. Amy's reflection from Feb. 13, 2022 can be found on sdud.ca/sermons. It was a great one.

