

PARKER J. PALMER

Author of Let Your Life Speak

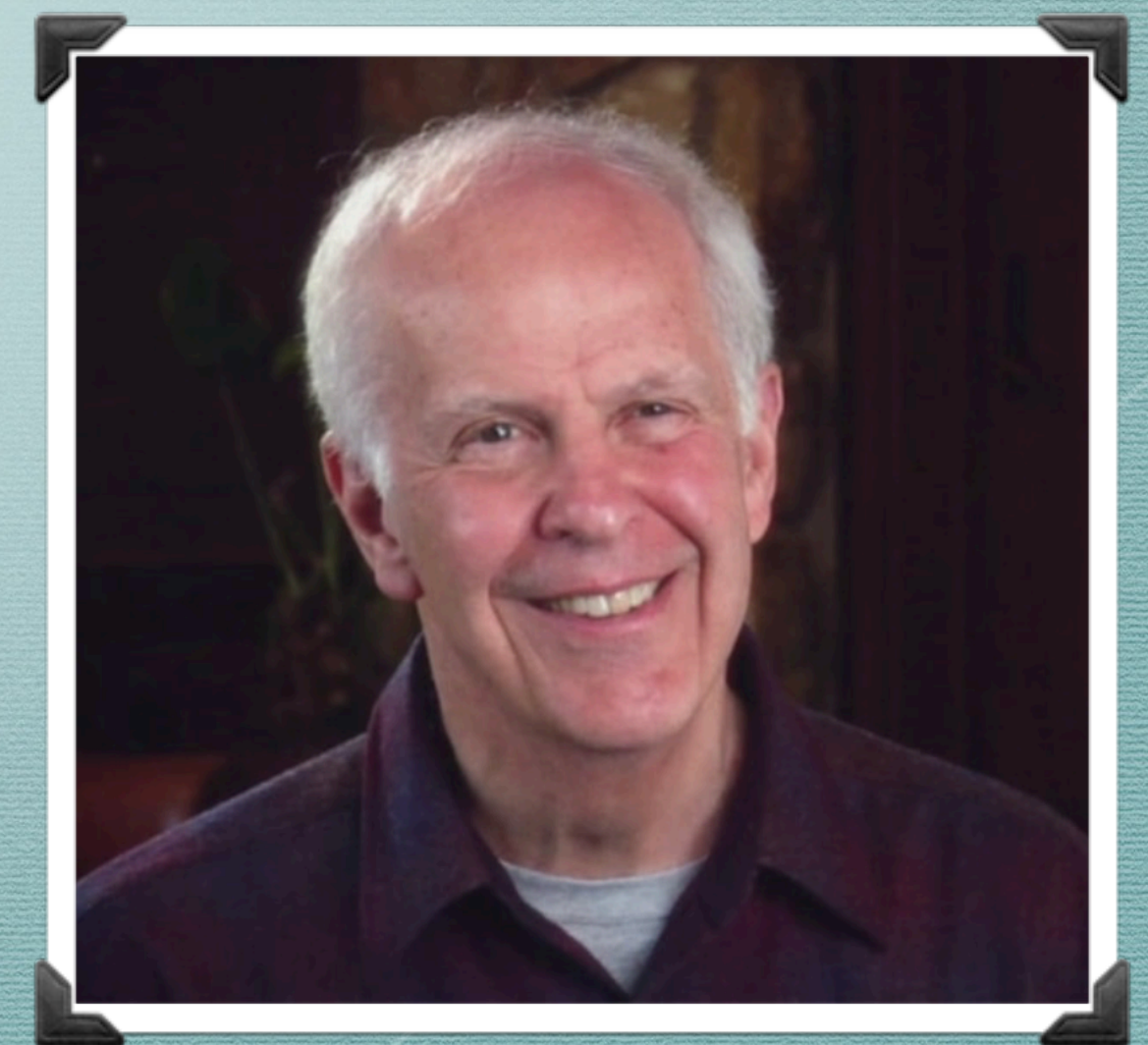
ON the BRINK
of EVERYTHING

Grace, Gravity & Getting Old

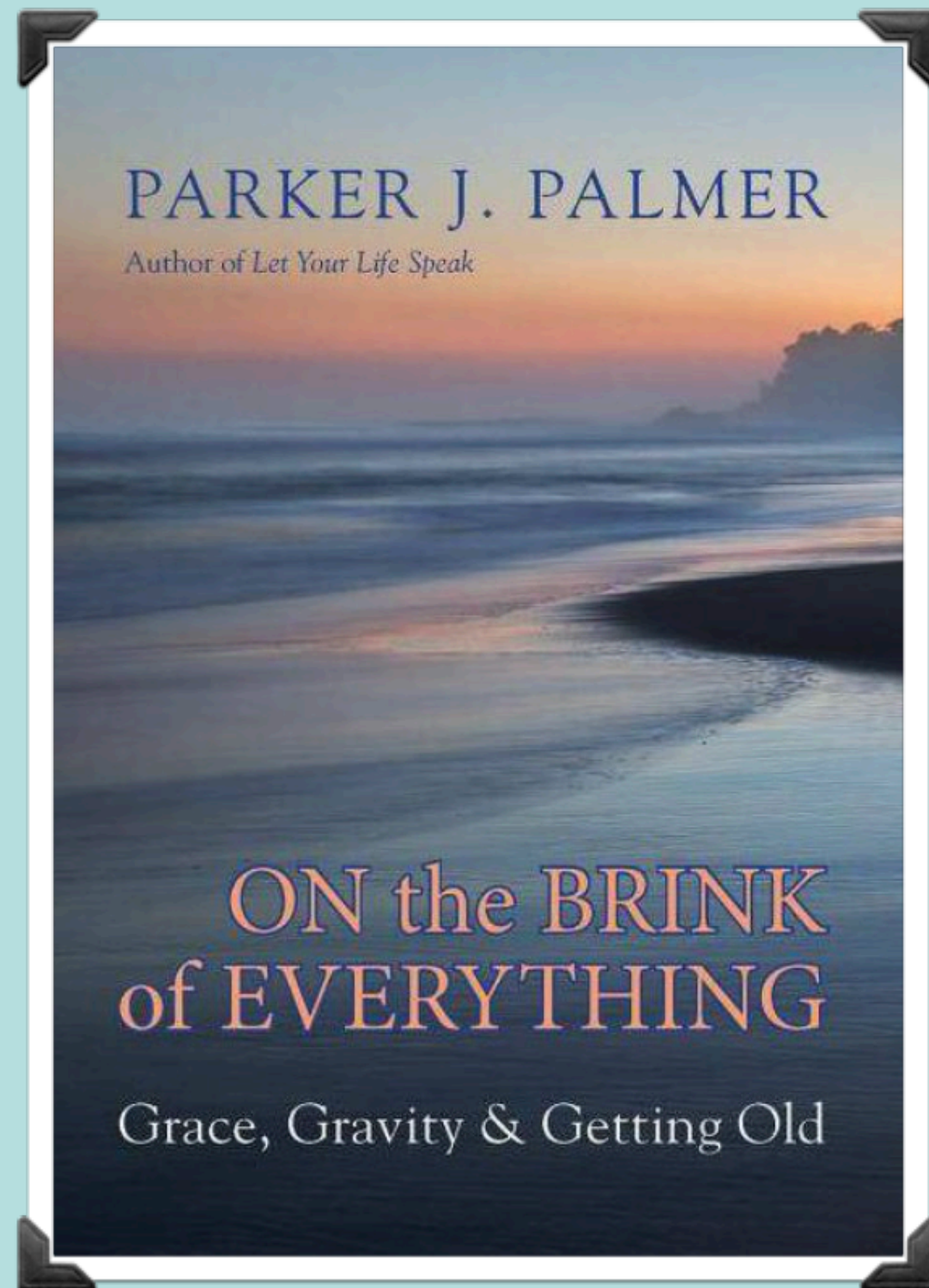
On the Brink of
Everything: Grace,
Gravity & Getting Old

Monday Night Book
Study at St. David's
United Church —

48 - 04



"We need to reframe aging as a passage of discovery and engagement. Not decline and inaction" (p.8)



Monday Night Book Study

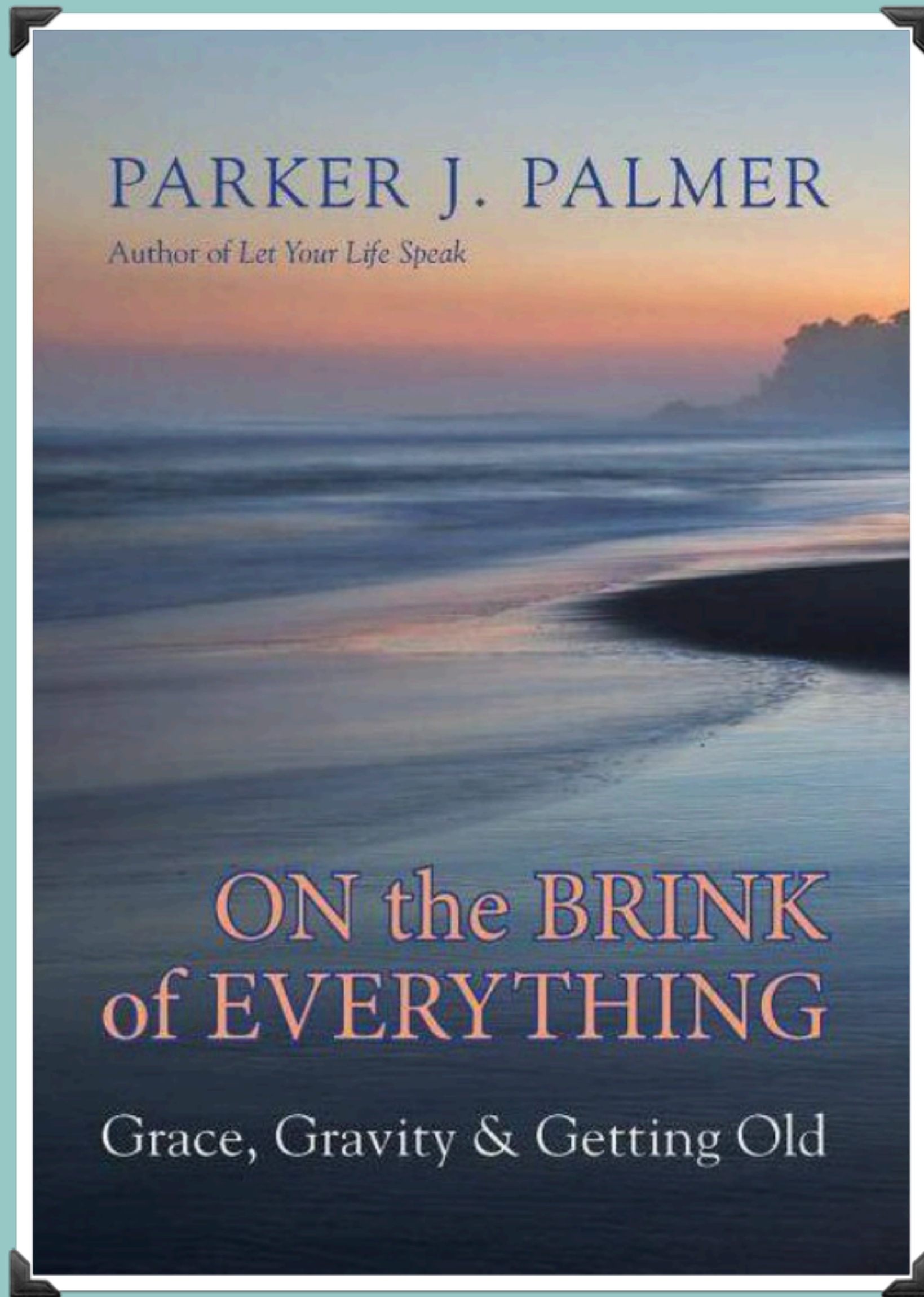
with

WAYNE, JOAN & BRENDA

ST. DAVID'S BOOK STUDY TEAM

ACTS WINTER 2022

BEFORE WE BEGIN



OPENING

Reading Guide for Monday Nights

- * **Session Five: Chapter III February 14**
- * **Session Six: Chapter IV February 28**
- * **Session Seven: Chapter V March 7**
- * **Session Eight: Chapter VI March 14**
- * **Session Nine: Chapter VII & Postlude March 21**
- * **Session Ten: Conclusions and Where to from here March 28**

housekeeping





**Reflection on the
Meaning of
“The Dance of the
Generations”**

Eleven Ideas that Challenged Me from Chapter 2





INTERGENERATIONAL DISCOVERIES

**WHY THE GENERATIONS
SHOULD WORK
TOGETHER**



- **ELDERS CAN REACH OUT TO THE YOUNG**
- **TOGETHER THEY HOLD THE FUTURE IN THEIR HANDS**
- **YOUTH HELP SENIORS TO LEARN THE MUSIC OF THE EMERGING WORLD**

THE MOST DEVASTATING MOMENT OF MY YOUNG LIFE...



... When you fail to live up
to the expectations of your
parents

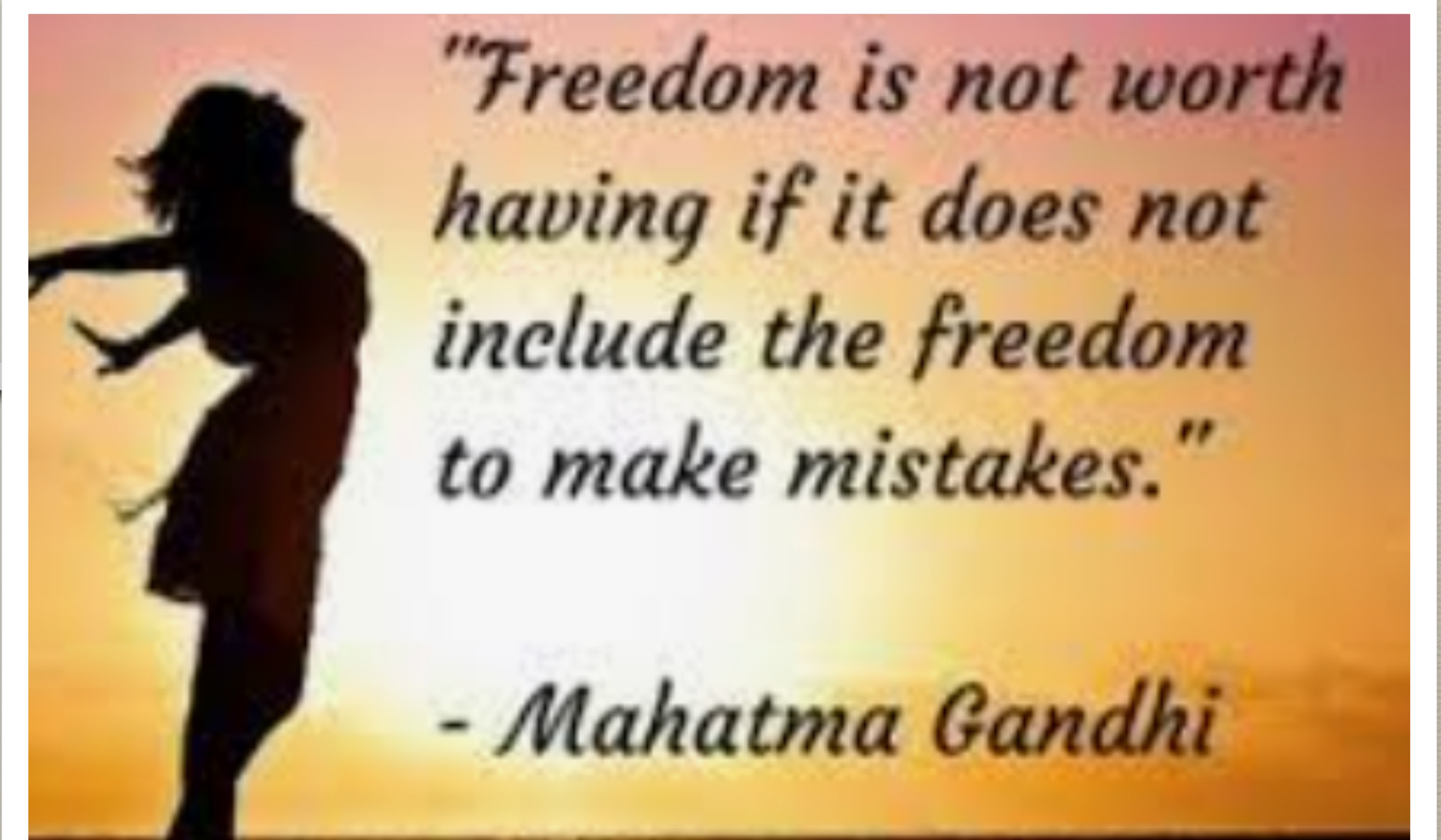
... DISCUSS

Sharing of Gifts ... works both ways





**“keeping the young
from making the
same mistakes we
did?”
...Yes? ...No?**





**...Inventing Forms
of Work and Life
that hold great
promise...
...Thoughts?**

Parker's Early Career Development



... Gandhi's "experiments with truth"
... Failed experiments and growth



DISCUSS

...

Men in Retirement



“I’ve seen too many men lose their sense of identity, even their integrity.”

**Men need to come together to talk vulnerably...
What do you think?**

The Importance of TRUST in Relationships

“I yearn for the day when men and women alike can sit with people they trust, including each other.”

Six Brief Suggestions from Parker

- *Be reckless when it comes to affairs of the heart
- *Integrate ignorance and failure with knowledge and success — “I am my shadow as well as my light.”
- *Extend the same integration to what you encounter in the outer world — “Render hospitality to the stranger.”

*Take on big jobs worth doing and do them faithfully

*Combine suffering and joy — both belong to being human and both taken together can lead to life

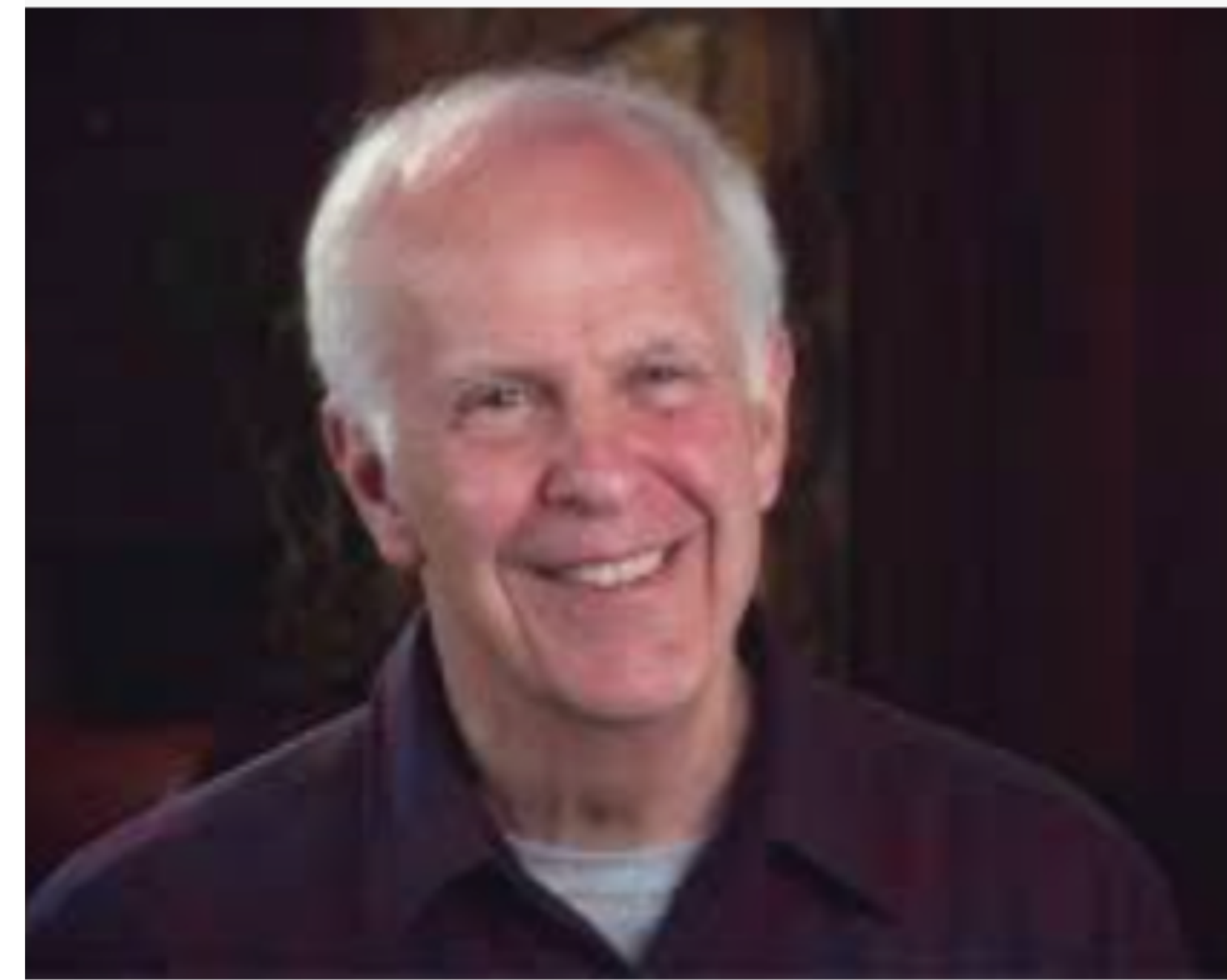
*Daily keep your death before your eyes.” St. Benedict

10. Key theme of this study -

“We need to reframe aging as a passage of discovery and engagement, not decline and inaction.”



**Dr.
Parker
Palmer
Ph.D.
Sociology**



[https://
www.newcomer
palmer.com/
home](https://www.newcomerpalmer.com/home)

[https://
onbeing.org](https://onbeing.org)

The Growing Edge Podcasts

QUOTES TO CONSIDER

“When young and old connect, it’s like joining the poles of a battery.”

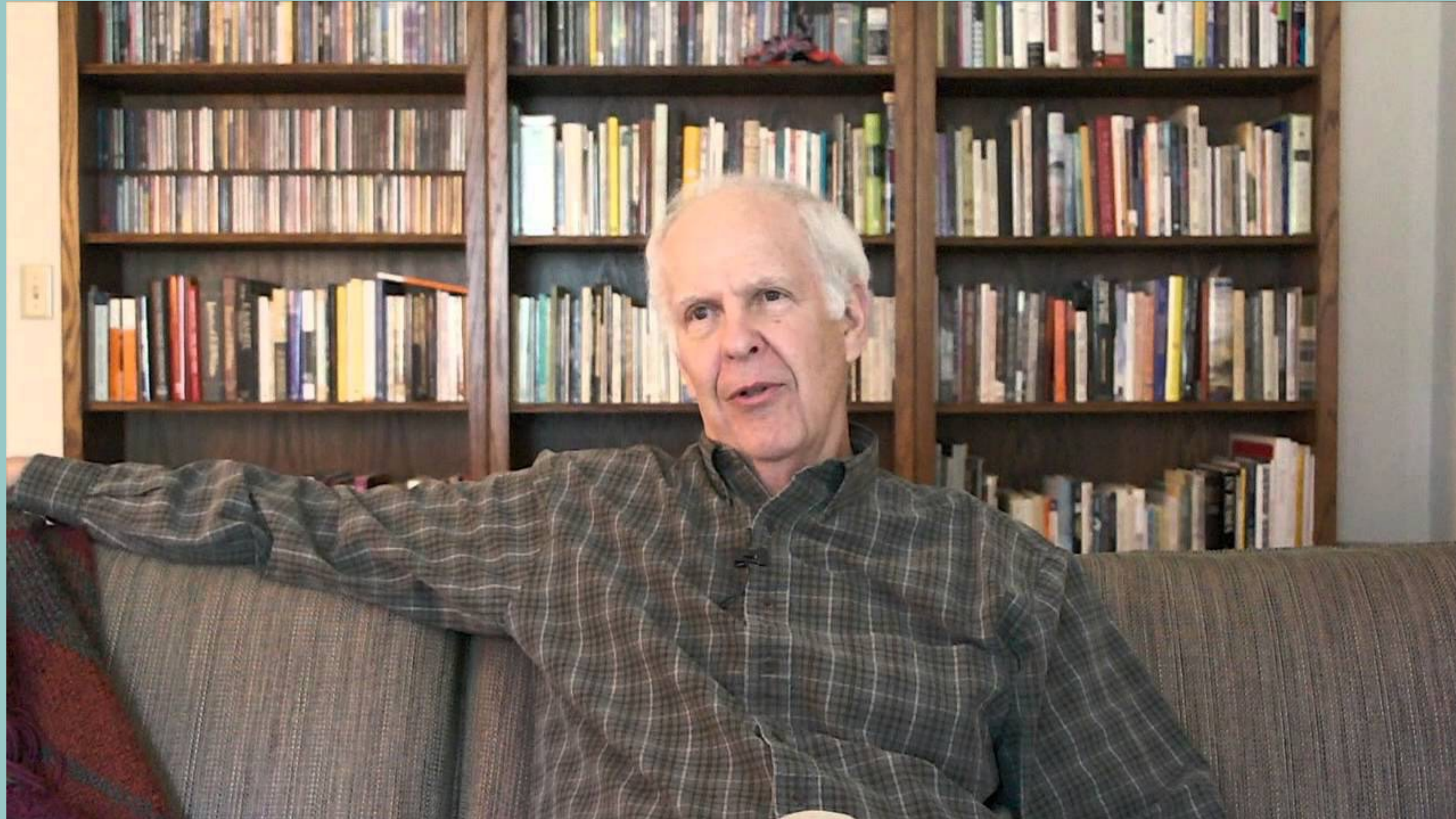
Parker J. Palmer

“We — young and old together — hold the future in our hands.”

“... many of the young adults I know are inventing forms of work and life that hold great promise...”

“everyone has inner wisdom, and that one of the best ways to evoke it is in dialogue.”

PORTRAITS OF FAITH WITH PARKER PALMER



2014: SPIRITUAL INSIGHT

**PARKER PALMER in conversation with SONDRA SAMUELS
at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC
We the People: A Time to Act**

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11/16/19

beginning at 44:00 — 47:15

Oliver Wendall Holmes:

“Many people die with all their music in them.”

Courtney Martin

“They Do It Anyway”

Parker Palmer:

“Mentors and apprentices are partners in an ancient human dance.”

Mahatma Gandhi

his life — “experiments with truth”

Grace, Gravity & Getting Old

Break out Rooms

2022: Some things to discuss

*** Growing edges?**

***Coping? * "The Music Will Play On"**

***Spiritual Insight**

***Mentors in our lives**

***Healing the Heart of Democracy — Parker's Growing Edge**

Feedback and Summary

**Great ideas and
stories that need
to be shared**

**NEXT WEEK: Session V —
February 14 , 2022**

- **Read Chapter Three:
Getting Real: From Illusion
to Reality...**
- **Check out ‘Pause to Consider’**
- **VOLUNTEER FOR OPENING
AND/OR CLOSING Next Week**



CLOSING WITH JOAN



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