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AWAKENING

A CONTEMPLATIVE SERIES ON AWAKENING & INNER LIFE

WHO ARE THE SPIRITUALLY AWAKENED

BY DON PARKER

5 DEVOTIONS

SEE CLEARLY. WALK QUIETLY.

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THE INNER ROOM

“Bible verses on spiritual awakening often speak of God's power to revive, a call to repent and seek Him, and the resulting new life and understanding. Key verses include 2 Chronicles 7:14, which promises healing for a nation that humbles itself and seeks God; Acts 3:19, which links repentance with "seasons of refreshing"

ISAIAH 57:15 (NKJV)

The Spiritually Awakened

"Who Are The Spiritually Awakened?!" (Intro)

You know there's a very ancient idea that runs through almost every spiritual tradition, and that is the idea of the chosen one, the elect. The person who has been singled out by fate or by the divine for a particular destiny. One of the most consistent characteristics of such individuals throughout history is their profound aloneness.

Not loneliness, mind you, that's something completely different, but aloneness and solitude flow seamlessly together in a chosen ones life. I want to delve deeper into this area because it touches upon something very important. The nature of spiritual awakening and the path of consciousness. And I want to be very clear from the start.

When I speak of a chosen one, I'm not talking about someone who is better than others or more deserving or specifically favored by some cosmic authority. That would be a completely egotistic interpretation. What I'm talking about is someone who's been chosen by life itself. Someone who wakes up one day and sees through the game. To understand what most people never understand.

My question for you this morning is: "Why must such a person walk alone?" Why can't they have the companionship, the sense of belonging, the comfort of being part of the crowd, that most people enjoy? What is it about spiritual realization that necessitates this solitary journey? We'll delve deeper into these and other questions tomorrow in part one of our new edification.

Until then, stay in your word and be blessed.

THE INNER ROOM

“This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

EPHESIANS 5:14 (NKJV)

The Spiritually Awakened

"Who Are The Spiritually Awakened?!" (Part One)

Let me begin by saying that the spiritually awakened individual has a different relationship with reality than most people do. Most people experience life through a thick filter of concepts, beliefs, conditioning, and psychological needs. They see the world not as it is, but as their minds tell them it is. They live in a kind of trance, a conscious hallucination that we call normal consciousness.

The spiritually awakened person on the other hand, has somehow broken through this trance. Perhaps through suffering, perhaps through grace, perhaps through years of spiritual practice. It doesn't really matter how. What matters is that they now perceive reality more directly with less mediation from the conceptual mind. And this creates an unbridgeable gap between them and those who are still living in the trance.

Imagine trying to describe color to someone who's been blind since birth. You can use all the words you want red, blue, and green, but they will never truly understand what you're talking about because they lack the direct experience. In the same way, the spiritually awakened person has experiences, perceptions, and understandings that simply cannot be communicated to those who haven't had them.

And so they walk alone, not because they want to be superior or separate, but because there's literally no one who can fully understand what they're experiencing. Now, this aloneness begins even before full awakening. The moment when someone starts to question the fundamental assumptions of their culture, their religion, their society, that moment they step out of the crowd, they become dangerous because they're no longer predictable, no longer controllable, through the usual means.

The crowd senses this and begins to distance itself from them or they try to pull them back into conformity. I remember speaking to a young man once who had been raised in a very strict religious tradition. He had begun to have doubts and started to ask me questions that his current spiritual community would've considered taboo or heretical.

And he said to me, "Don, I feel like I am dying. Everyone I've known all my life has begun to pull away from me. My family looks at me like I'm a stranger. My friends don't know what to say to me anymore." And I told him, "Yes, you are dying my brother. The person you once were is disappearing, and that death is necessary for you to become the person God can use to move His agenda forward.

But I won't lie to you my brother. It is going to be a slow and lonely death. Simply because you must go through this process alone." This is only the beginning of the initial stages of the spiritually awakened person having to do many of their tests and tasks alone. We will delve into part two of our edification on spiritually awakened souls tomorrow.

Until then, stay in your word and be blessed.

THE INNER ROOM

"how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

HEBREWS 9:14 (NKJV)

The Spiritually Awakened

In today's edification we'll be focusing on the transformation process. Let's dive in. The spiritually awakened are undergoing a transformation that others can not follow them through. It's like the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly. The caterpillar must go through the chrysalis alone. No other caterpillar can accompany it.

During that time of transformation, it's not a caterpillar nor a butterfly. It's in between in a kind of a liminal space that is profoundly isolating. But there's a deeper reason still. The spiritually chosen individual has discovered something that most people spend their entire lives avoiding. That the separate self, the ego, is an illusion.

Now, this is not just intellectual understanding. It's a direct perception, a lived reality. They have seen through the fiction of being a separate entity isolated inside a bag of skin, cut off from the rest of existence. Once you've seen this, once you've realized that what you are is not this little ego, but the vast consciousness in which everything appears, you can't relate to people in the same way anymore.

Most human relationships are based on two egos. Interacting, negotiating, competing, and cooperating. But if you no longer identify primarily as an ego, if you've seen through that whole game, then conventional relationships become very difficult. This doesn't mean that the awakened person becomes cold or indifferent. Quite the opposite, they often become more loving, more compassionate, and more present.

But the basis of their relating is different. They're not relating ego to ego. They're relating from that deeper dimension, from consciousness itself. And most people don't know how to meet a person at that level. They are so identified with their personality, their story, their psychological needs, and fears that they can only relate to others who are playing the same game.

When they encounter someone who isn't playing, someone who has stepped out of the game, while appearing to be still in it, they become confused, uncomfortable, and sometimes hostile. The chosen one must walk alone because they're operating from a different dimension of being than most people. It is as if everyone else is living on a flat plane, and they've discovered that there's a vertical dimension, a depth that most people are unaware of.

They can still move on the horizontal plane with others. They can have conversations, do their work, and participate in society, but their center of gravity is elsewhere in that vertical dimension that others can not see. Tomorrow, in part three of our new edification, we'll delve into values and priorities. Until then, stay in your word and be blessed.

THE INNER ROOM

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.”

PSALM 51:10-12 (NKJV)

The Spiritually Awakened

"The Spiritually Awakened." (Part Three)

As we continue in our new edification series on the spiritually awakened. Let's now delve into their values and priorities. The spiritually awakened person has seen through the goals that most people are pursuing. Wealth, status, security, pleasure, achievements, and these things that drive most human behavior are recognized as empty, as incapable of providing the fulfillment that people seek from them.

Not that the spiritually awakened person necessarily rejects these things or lives in poverty and isolation, but their not fooled by them. Their not hypnotized by the carrot that society dangles in front of everyone. And when you're not chasing what everyone else is chasing, when you're not competing in the same race, when you're not measuring yourself by the same standards, you naturally find yourself alone.

Because the whole structure of society, the whole mechanism of social interaction is built around these shared pursuits, these common goals. When you step out of that framework, you step out of the social world in a very fundamental way. I've observed this in my own life. I've known many people over the years, had many acquaintances, and participated in many social circles.

But there's always been a quality of aloneness, of not quite fitting in, of being present, but somehow apart. Not because I'm trying to be special or different, but because I simply can't take seriously the things that others take seriously. The dramas that consume people's attention, who's up and who's down bad, who said what about whom, which politician or celebrity is doing, what these things strike me as fundamentally unimportant, like children arguing over toys.

Now, this might sound arrogant, as I'm claiming to be above such concerns, but it's not arrogance. It's simply a different perspective, a different level of seeing. It's like an adult watching children play. The adult doesn't think their better than the children, but they can't quite enter into the drama of the game with the same intensity because they've outgrown it.

They see it for what it is, a game, a temporary amusement, not the ultimate reality that children take it to be. The spiritually chosen person has outgrown the collective game that humanity plays. The game of separation, competition, accumulation, and achievement. And so they walk alone, not in bitterness or superiority, but simply they're no longer playing.

But here's something very important to understand. This aloneness is not isolation. The awakened person often feels more connected to existence, to nature, to the cosmos, to other beings at a deeper level than they ever did when they were part of the crowd. The paradox is that in losing their sense of being a separate self, they discover that they're connected to "EVERYTHING!" We'll talk more in detail tomorrow during part four of the new edification series, the spiritually awakened person.

Until then, stay in your word and be blessed.

THE INNER ROOM

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

JOHN 14:6 (NKJV)

The Spiritually Awakened

"The Spiritually Awakened." (Part Four The Final Lesson)

In walking alone, they find that they are never truly alone because they are whole. There's a beautiful Zen saying, "Before enlightenment, chop wood, carry water." The external activities remain the same, but the internal experience is completely different. The awakened person still lives in the world, still interacts with others, and still does what needs to be done.

But they do it from a place of profound aloneness, which is simultaneously a place of complete unity. This is very difficult for most people to understand. They think of aloneness as loneliness, as isolation, as being cut off. But, spiritual aloneness is something entirely different. It's a fullness, not an emptiness. It's the discovery that you are sufficient unto yourself because you're not really yourself.

You are existence itself expressing through this particular form. The chosen one walks alone because they have discovered they were never really separate to begin with. The sense of needing others, the call for acquiring companionship to be complete, arises from the illusion of being a separate entity. When that illusion resolves when you realize your fundamental unity with all that is the desperate need for relationship dissolves, too.

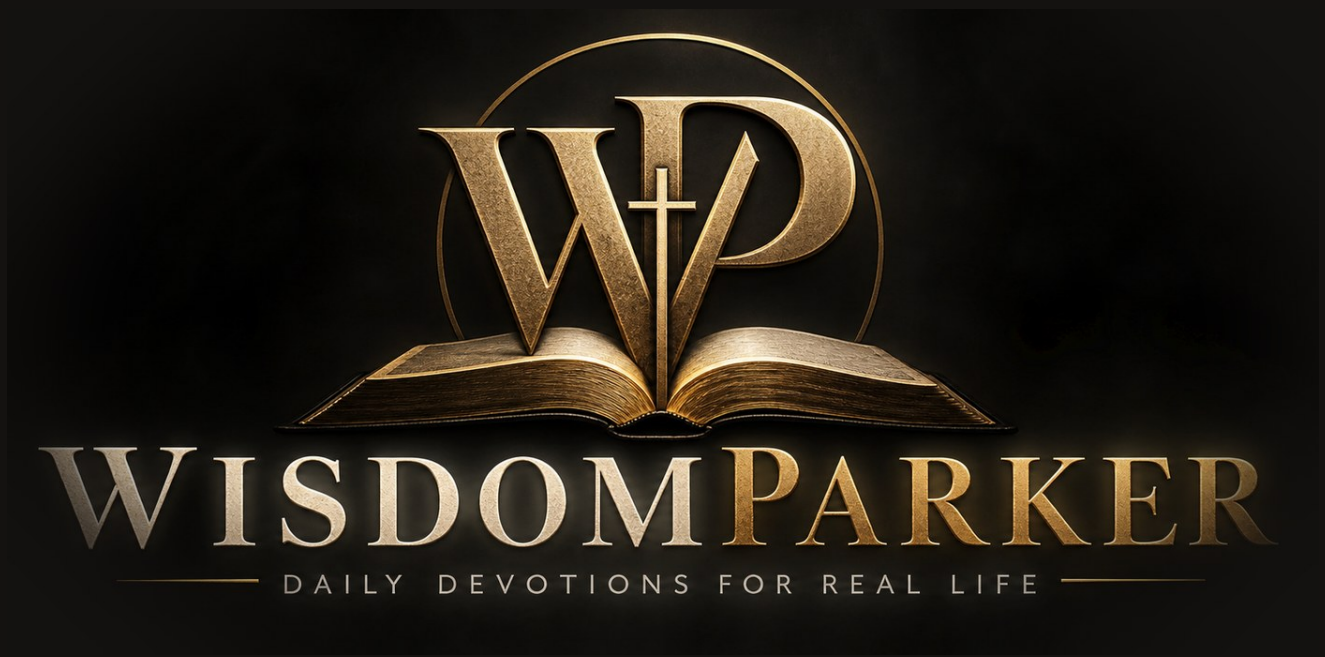
Not that relationships disappear or become unimportant, but they're no longer driven by that anxious neediness that fear of being alone that drives so much human behavior. And this changes the quality of relationships entirely. When you're complete in yourself, when your center is within you rather than in others, without agenda, without need, without the unconscious manipulation that characterizes most human interaction.

You can love without attachment, engage without depending, or participate without losing yourself. This is why the spiritually awakened must walk alone, maintain their solitude, and guard their silence like a precious treasure. Because this is where truth lives and all the real work happens. I hope you have enjoyed this short series on the spiritually awakened.

Have a blessed day, and stay in your word. We'll talk tomorrow. Be blessed.

DAILY DRILL

Write down one area of your life where you have been on autopilot spiritually. Name one action that would wake it up today.


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