



**PARKER J. PALMER**

## LET YOUR LIFE SPEAK: LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF VOCATION

*“What I learned about vocation is how one’s values can do battle with one’s heart.”  
(Ch 2, p.21)*

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Here are some questions from Parker's book that you can ask yourself:

1. Palmer describes identifying one’s vocation as a pilgrimage of self-discovery, where one discovers one’s limits and potentials, weaknesses and strengths (Ch.2, p.22) and those roles and relationships in which “we thrive...[or] wither and die.” (Ch.3, p.44).

2. Parker explores “the link between selfhood and service.” (Ch.2, p.30), saying we do others a disservice if we try to be that which we are not. We are transformed by those who “decide to care for their authentic selfhood.” Who inspires you? Why?

3. Parker gathered some Quaker friends to form a clearness committee as he grappled with an important decision.

Glue a photo of yourself into your journal. Make a list under each of the above headings.

Then ask someone who knows you well to make a list using the same headings. Compare them. Talk through the lists. What have you learnt about yourself?

Do some research on clearness committees. <http://www.couragerenewal.org/clearnesscommittee/>

Next time you need to discern something, consider forming such a committee.

