

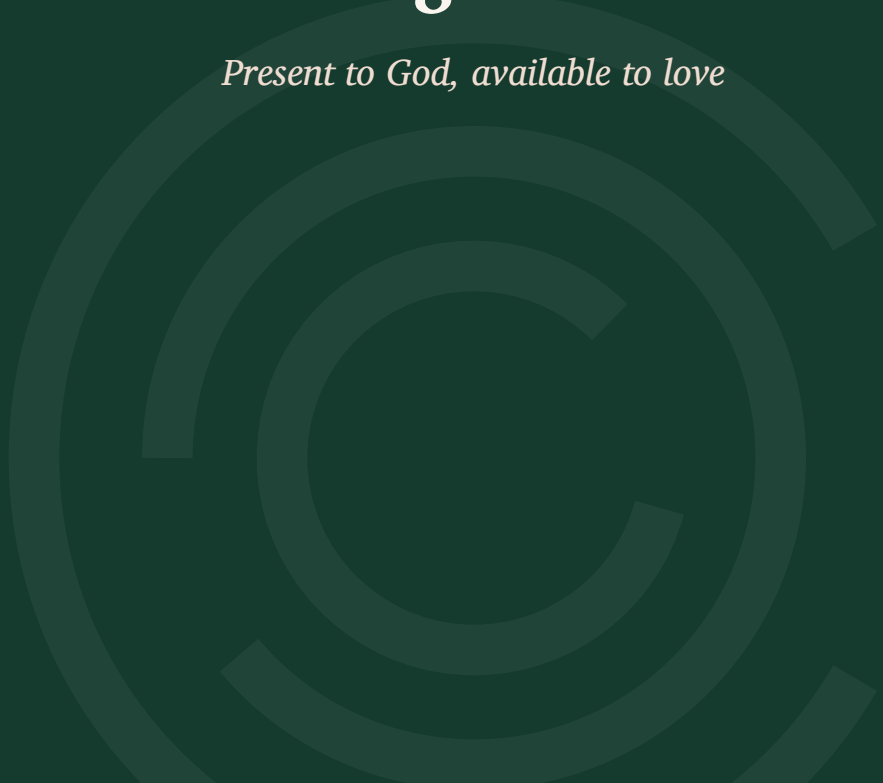


HOMeward

THE JOURNEY OF FAITH · STAGE SIX

Living Awake

Present to God, available to love



A HOMeward GUIDE FOR YOUR SEASON

Living Awake

Stage Six of the Journey of Faith



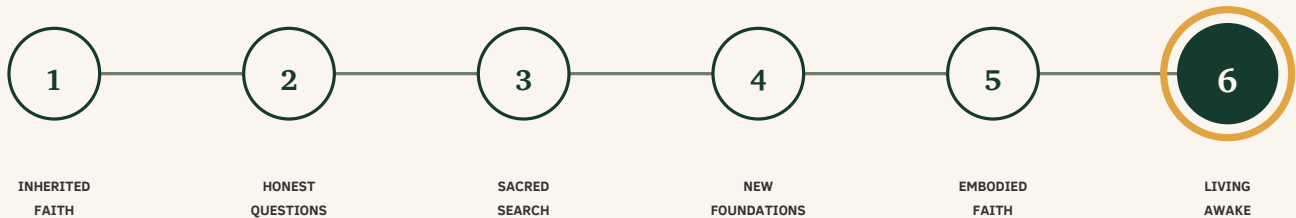
You appear to be in a season where faith is increasingly experienced as presence, freedom, compassion, and trust. You may feel less compelled to defend certainty and more drawn to recognize God in ordinary life, suffering, beauty, people, and

This is not a finish line. Living Awake names a movement toward availability - being present to God as life is, and increasingly free to respond with courage and love.

A mirror, not a box.

No stage makes you more loved by God. You may still revisit earlier questions, grief, or rebuilding. The spiral remains open.

YOUR STAGE ON THE JOURNEY



A spiral, not a ladder. Awakening remains humble, embodied, and available to love.

A Spiral, Not a Ladder

Spiritual growth is rarely linear. We receive, question, seek, rebuild, embody, and awaken - often more than once. No stage is a rank, and no stage makes anyone more loved by God.

BELONG

1 Inherited Faith

We receive faith through people, stories, and practices. Its gift is belonging; its invitation is to become personally alive.

2 Honest Questions

Old answers begin to strain. Experience, suffering, or wonder opens questions that can no longer be ignored.

GROW

3 Sacred Search

We explore new voices and practices. The invitation is to seek deeply without searching alone.

4 New Foundations

A more honest and spacious faith takes shape - rooted in Jesus and held with humility.

BECOME

5 Embodied Faith

Faith moves from ideas into rhythms, relationships, healing, service, and love.

6 Living Awake

We live with greater presence, freedom, compassion, and trust - bringing the life of God into the world.

The stages describe how our relationship to faith may change - not God's relationship to us. Jesus remains at the center, inviting us toward greater honesty, freedom, compassion, and love.

This is not arrival. It is availability.

You may be discovering that the deepest spiritual life is not dramatic. It is the growing capacity to be here: awake to God, honest about reality, and available to the person or need in front of you.

Contemplation and action are no longer competing paths. Stillness teaches you to see; love gives that seeing a body. One common risk is subtle spiritual superiority or detachment. The invitation is humility: remain teachable, embodied, connected, and willing to return to any earlier turn of the spiral.

WHAT MAY BE TRUE IN THIS SEASON

1

God is already here.

Awakening is less about reaching a distant God and more about becoming present to the Presence already sustaining life.

2

Contemplation becomes action.

Stillness that is real gradually becomes compassion, courage, justice, and care.

3

Love is the measure.

Freedom, mercy, humility, and care for the vulnerable reveal what is becoming real.

4

The journey remains open.

Mature faith can revisit doubt, grief, and rebuilding without shame. No one graduates from being human.



Contemplative Presence

Present to God. Available to love.

Set aside five to ten quiet minutes. The practice is not about creating a spiritual feeling. It is about becoming more present to the God who is already here.

1

Arrive

Feel your feet, breath, and body. Let yourself be here.

2

Receive

Breathe in the truth that you are already held in love.

3

Notice

Open your senses to what is present without judging or fixing it.

4

Listen

Ask quietly, "Jesus, what does love invite now?"

5

Offer

Name one person, place, or task and become available to love there.

WORDS TO CARRY

Here I am · You are here

Receive love · Offer love

Be still · and know

Christ in me · Christ before me



Try this for seven days.

Begin with five quiet minutes, then carry one phrase into the next person or task before you. The aim is not a special experience. It is a more available life.

homewardcommunity.com/practice-contemplative-presence

Companions for the Road

Choose one companion that helps awareness become humility, courage, and love in action.

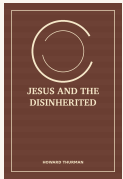


BEGIN HERE

New Seeds of Contemplation

Thomas Merton

A classic invitation into contemplation as life fully awake and receptive to God.



FOR LOVE IN A WOUNDED WORLD

Jesus and the Disinherited

Howard Thurman

Jesus' way of dignity, resistance, and love from the perspective of those with their backs against the wall.



FOR AWAKENED SEEING

The Naked Now

Richard Rohr

1

Turning to the Mystics

James Finley explores Christian mystics through teaching and practice.

2

The Sound of the Genuine

Howard Thurman, suffering, inner authority, and courageous love.

3

Action and Contemplation

Richard Rohr on prayer and prophetic action held together.

4

Contemplative Sit

A guided invitation into stillness and receptive awareness.



Keep the shelf close.

Open the full Living Awake shelf, guided practice, and future additions.

homewardcommunity.com/resources/living-awake

Stay Awake Together.

Living Awake is not a private achievement. Presence is protected and deepened through people who help us remain honest, grounded, and available to love.

Homeward Circles are places to practice this way of life: sharing a meal, listening beneath the surface, sitting with Jesus and Scripture, and helping one another carry love into the world.

No one arrives alone. We become awake in relationship.

Practice presence.

1

Bring your whole self – joy, fatigue, uncertainty, and attention.

Stay teachable.

2

Let others reveal what you cannot see alone.

Carry love outward.

3

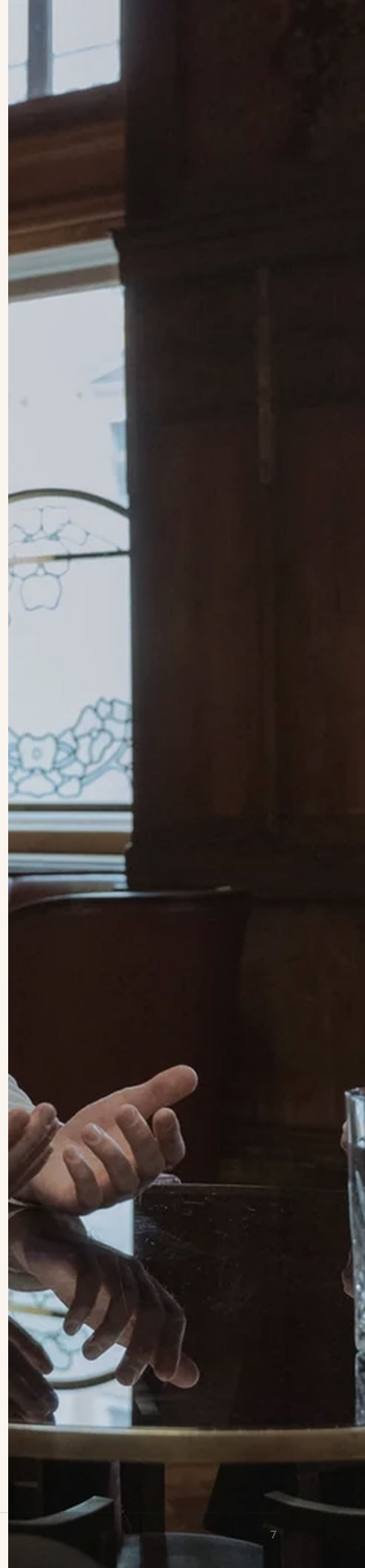
Choose one concrete way to serve, repair, encourage, or accompany.



Come and practice.

Explore a Circle where presence, honest conversation, and love become a shared way of life.

homewardcommunity.com/m/circle



*May you be awake to the God who is already here -
within you, between us, and shining through the world.*

*May the life of Jesus free you
from fear, hurry, and the need to be above anyone.*

*May stillness become compassion,
compassion become courage,
and courage become love in action.*

*May you remain humble enough to begin again,
and available enough to be good news.*

You belong here - come as you are.



HOMEWARD

Journeying Toward God. Together.

BELONG · GROW · BECOME

Return to the Journey of Faith reflection after a season, and notice what has moved.