

A photograph of three smooth, light-colored stones stacked on a sandy surface. The background is a soft, out-of-focus orange and yellow bokeh. The title text is overlaid on the upper right portion of the image.

Mastering Meditation

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Mastering Meditation

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The Priest and the Medium
Messages of Hope
Love Beyond Words
In the Silence
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Co-Authored with Janet Nohavec:

Through the Darkness
Where Two Worlds Meet

Getting Started

When I first wrote this booklet, I was fairly new to the practice of meditation. I enjoyed an evening with new friends who had spent more years studying and teaching religion and spirituality than I had spent breathing. When I learned that two of the gentlemen present had been meditating for multiple decades, I felt like a piker. I silently asked myself, *Who am I to author a guide called "Mastering Meditation"?*

I went home and slept on that question. I woke up still feeling a bit unsettled and began to consider alternative titles. A pleasant meditation session before breakfast left me feeling more peaceful, then I headed out for a run. The repetitive motion of putting one foot in front of the other allowed my mind to slow as it does while meditating, and it was out there on the trail that I received the answer to my question:

The amount of time one spends in meditation is not what matters ... not the length of each session, or the number of years one has been practicing. What matters are the positive changes one reaps as a result of that practice.

So I did a quick review of my life before I began meditating compared with my life now. Was there a difference? Well, let's see ... these days I take things in stride—good or

bad - without the mood swings that used to dictate my days. I have far more patience, and I no longer stress about the future, knowing that everything is in perfect order right now. I feel tremendous love for everyone, friend and foe alike, often to the point of overflowing. Amazing synchronicities are a near-daily occurrence, and I intuitively know things before they happen. And ... oh yes ... I talk to people's loved ones on the Other Side.

In short, my life now that I meditate reflects nothing short of a total transformation.

Can I honestly attribute all of these changes to simply sitting in the silence for a few minutes each day? Without a doubt ... especially since I made it a habit to start each meditation session with a simple request for God to *transform my life*.

People think it's kind of unusual for a former Navy Commander to now be a practicing medium, and I would have



to agree with them. I never expected to be doing the work I do. The death of my step-daughter Susan in June of 2006 led me searching for evidence of an afterlife. I somehow knew that if Susan's spirit had survived the bolt out of the blue that took her life, meditation was the key to connecting with her. Happily, I was right. I have had many personal encounters with Susan that let me know first-hand that she is not gone forever. The other fringe benefits of meditation are icing on the cake.

That cake is multi-layered and mighty sweet. I've focused on my story so far, but let's shift gears now and talk about you. Why should you make time each day to meditate, and what can you expect if you do?

The Benefits

The physical and mental benefits of meditation are well researched and documented. Regular periods of sitting in silence are known to REDUCE STRESS. Meditation is excellent for lowering anxiety and your blood pressure along with it. People who meditate suffer less from headaches and enjoy enhanced immunity to illness.

A friend of mine who meditates regularly convinced her husband to join her. She was stunned by the unexpected changes in his behavior, and reported that 1) his temper had subsided, 2) he doesn't "trigger" as

easily, and 3) he now thinks more often before he speaks.

Sounds like meditation could put marriage counselors out of business.

As for the metaphysical reasons for meditating, sitting in silence is the key to GETTING TO KNOW YOUR SELF. You may look in the mirror every day. You may know every line and curve you see there, but do you really know the real you? I'm talking about the "you" that doesn't change with time ... the you you're stuck with from now until eternity. If you don't know this side of yourself, meditation is the way to not simply become acquainted, but to become best friends.

You may have heard talk of a lower self and a higher self. You have both. The voice you hear most often belongs to your lower self. This part of you can be quite valuable. It helps you get along in the physical world, but it's not always the most loving voice in the world.

The higher self, however, is nothing but love. As my guides Sanaya told me once in a little rhyme they shared with me in meditation:

Your higher self—

That which spirit you call

Is connected supremely

With the Source of it all.

Your higher self has always been with you, but it's almost impossible to hear the higher self's voice through all the chatter in your busy brain. That's where meditation comes in. By sitting regularly in the silence, you train your brain to be quiet. For a few minutes each day you sit in awareness of who you really are—not just some limited creature walking around in a skin suit, but a limitless spirit-being now and forever that is inseparably linked with your Creator.

As this awareness of your true nature increases, so does your **SENSE OF CONNECTEDNESS WITH ALL THAT IS**. You recognize what the common essence of all living things is because you discover it there inside yourself. That common essence is Love and you come to know that you are that. Call it God, if you will. This knowledge can't help but **BRING MORE PEACE AND HAPPINESS** into your life as you experience real, unconditional love for



yourself and others.

In short, it can't help but **TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE**.

Having established an improved connection with a higher power through meditation, you'll find that your **INTUITION GREATLY EXPANDS**. When focused solely on the material world, it's far too easy to rely completely on the five physical senses for guidance. These can often lead you astray. Intuition is your most reliable sense - one that animals use daily to keep them out of danger. Unfortunately we humans too often fail to give intuition the prominent position it deserves in our lives.

You not only have your higher self and intuition to guide you, but there are some pretty helpful souls who've made it their sole task to take care of you. Call them what you like: spirit guides ... guardian angels ... Fred and Ethel. All I know is that these unseen helpers are real, and through meditation you can get to know them and ask them for **GUIDANCE**.

With my military background, I did my best to deny the existence of spirit guides and angels for as long as I could, but a few years of meditation left me with no choice but to accept their reality and allow them into my belief system. How can I deny that these loving spirits exist when they whisper in my ear things I have no way

of knowing about a client sitting across from me? How can I deny they exist after they dictated over 365 inspirational poems to me in the course of a year, each one coming to me during meditation, in mere minutes of sitting with my eyes closed?

I've come to know these guides so well that my friends and I now refer to them by name. No, we don't call them Fred and Ethel. I was only kidding about that. My personal guides go by the much more serious spiritual names of Boris and Sally. Seriously, that's what they told me to call them once I asked. To be truthful, I wouldn't have chosen those particular names for a spirit-person, but they told me I wouldn't have believed them if they

gave me more "ethereal" names like Argonauticus or Serendiferous. And they were right. As they reminded me in meditation, names are only important to us. On the other side they recognize each other by personal vibration ... by their light.

So if I wanted to call my guides Fred and Ethel, I honestly don't think they'd mind. I think they're just happy I finally got around to acknowledging them. Now they not only give me beautiful poems, but I receive meaningful messages in prose when I meditate from my group of guides named Sanaya. Here is one of their messages with a beautiful summary of the benefits of meditation:

Never forget who you are. You are not your name. You are not the face that people recognize. You are not a butcher, a baker, or a candlestick maker. All of these titles mean nothing and actually hold you back from realizing the real you. The real you is eternal. The real you has no artificial boundaries and identities. The real you is a vibration in time and space creating a ripple that interacts with all other ripples. The only difference between you and the other ripples is not your name, not your appearance, not what you have done or labeled yourself, but the quality of your personal vibration. That vibration is what continues into eternity.

You know only a limited spectrum of vibration whilst you assume the dense body, but that which is truly you vibrates so finely that you must expand beyond the physical to perceive it. This you can achieve through meditation. There you will taste the sweet nectar that requires no taste buds. There you will behold beauty beyond imagining that requires no eyes. There you will glimpse eternity. Rise above the labels and the looks. Be that which you are—now—and see how your life changes.

Going Within

There are many types of meditation such as Zen, Buddhist, Transcendental, Vipassana, and Japa, to name a few. These are all different means to the same end to achieve a different state of consciousness than your normal, waking state. That being said, what exactly is this thing called “consciousness”?

Consciousness is in every living thing, from one-celled organisms to plants, animals and humans. It is omnipresent. Consciousness has no beginning and end. It is eternal. Quantum physics has proven that everything exists in a field of all possibilities until observed, therefore consciousness is creative. Because it is the source of all awareness, consciousness is *all-knowing*.

We most often attribute these qualities to a power outside ourselves, but when you focus on your inner world and become aware of your “*amness*”, you come to understand that these qualities belong to you as well. You, as an individual, are a focus of this greater Consciousness. In this physical dimension, we call that focus “Mary” or “John.” Take away the labels, the personalities, and the individual beliefs—something you can do in the practice of meditation—and there you find your true nature.

You may have heard the term that

when meditating, one “goes within.” This begs the question: “Within *what?*” Many people think this means to go within the body - to center your attention on the center of your physical form. I disagree. While it’s helpful to focus on the heart area while meditating, I find that focusing on the body limits your consciousness to the confines of your body’s perimeter.

As a spirit-being here and now, you are limitless. Your consciousness doesn’t end at your outer layer of skin. It’s not confined within the contours of your body. Consciousness has no boundaries, and neither do you. “Going within” does not mean placing your focus on the center of your physical universe; it means going within the levels of consciousness which make up the Real You.

Consciousness appears limited because we are only aware of a small



part of its vastness at any one time. Just as the light you see with your eyes is but a small segment of the electromagnetic spectrum. You only access a small segment of the spectrum of consciousness while in the waking state. You regularly experience other dimensions of consciousness when sleeping or dreaming, or when involved in some repetitive or hypnotic action, as I do when running. Can you remember a time when you drove from one point to another and suddenly couldn't remember covering the distance? If so, you have experienced an altered state of consciousness. Luckily, while your conscious mind was focused on thoughts unrelated to driving, a higher consciousness kept your car from running off the road.

You can deliberately access altered states of consciousness beyond the dream state through meditation. It's then - when you transcend the limitations of ordinary awareness—that you open yourself to higher levels of creativity, insight, inspiration, guidance and wisdom. Some of the world's greatest discoveries have come into being through dreams. Albert Einstein said that "No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it." Imagine what kind of problems we could solve in this world and what kind of creativity could be unleashed if more people purposely accessed higher levels of consciousness on a regular basis.

Jesus was able to harness and use consciousness in ways considered miraculous, but it was he who said that we can do these things and more. Those who come to understand that we all contain this same essence are often referred to as "illuminated" or "enlightened," but this awareness is not limited to a few select beings. It's possible for all of us to enter into and experience the deeper states of consciousness that lead to an understanding of our essential oneness.

Meditation and Brain Waves

Meditation is all about going beyond the normal waking state and realizing that there's much more to this world than what you perceive with your five physical senses. Sitting in the silence allows you to take your focus off of the physical world and attune to the different levels of consciousness that are always present and available to you.

Your brain is constantly active, but its activity level varies. With every task it performs, the brain emits a measurable frequency. Scientists have categorized the four most common states of consciousness as follows:

Beta: Normal wakefulness (the state you're in as you read this, unless my words have you nodding off).

Frequency = 14 Hertz/Cycles per second

Alpha: Meditative state.

Frequency = 8-13 Hz

Theta: Deep meditation and dreaming.

Frequency = 4-7 Hz.

Delta: Deep sleep.

Frequency = 0.5 - 3 Hz.

As you can see, your brain is at its fastest when you need it most: when fully awake. To experience altered states of consciousness, you need to slow things down a bit. You do this quite naturally each day when you slip away into dream land. You also spend limited time each day in Alpha state without even trying, depending on how boring or repetitive the task you're involved in is. To reap the benefits of meditation, however, it's the dedicated time you spend on deliberately slowing your brain waves to Alpha or Theta frequencies that produce results (you know, those little things like peace, love, and happiness ...)

So how do you do that? How do you slow down the brain?

The How To's

What follow are the questions I'm most

often asked in my workshops about the practice of meditation. The most important point I'd like to impress upon you is that there is no right way or wrong way to meditate. In spite of the variety of meditation styles available, if your intention is to sit silently and attune to Higher Consciousness, it's pretty hard to do that wrong.

Question: When is the best time of day to meditate?

Answer: Whatever time works best for you. The important thing is finding a time of day that fits your schedule so you'll stick with it. It's also pretty important that you be relatively alert so you don't fall asleep when you close your eyes. Morning people would do best to meditate in the morning. Night owls might find it better to meditate at night. Personally, I prefer to meditate as soon as I get out of bed for the simple reason that once I get involved in anything, my brain kicks into high gear and I'm off and running. Again, the bottom line is whatever works for you.

When practiced in earnest, the time you spend in silence will become your special, sacred time. To get to that point, I can't stress strongly enough how important it is that you make the decision to make meditation a priority in your life. Choose the time you're going to practice, then stick to it, even if that means setting your alarm a

few minutes earlier than you do now. Keep in mind, though, that meditation should never be a chore. It should be something you look forward to each day. Be warned that once you start to feel the effects of meditating regularly it might easily become the highlight of your day

Question: How long should I sit in meditation?

Answer: It's not the quantity, but the quality of the time you spend going within that matters. If you sit in a chair with your eyes closed for 20 minutes just to put a check in the block that you did it, you're wasting your time. If you sit in that same chair for five minutes with the sincere intention of radiating your heart-felt gratitude to the Universe and feeling your oneness with God, you get a gold star.

Here's what my guides have to say about the subject:

Are you dissatisfied with your life? What would you do to change it? "Anything," you say? What if we were to tell you that the change you desire would come about with the simple investment of five minutes out of each day? Would you be willing to invest five minutes to change your life? If so, then join us daily and sit quietly. Five minutes. That is all we ask ... five minutes on a regular basis of closing

your eyes so as to close out the outer world and then focusing on your inner world.

Yes, of course your mind will want to be back in a few, but please be quiet for now. Concentrate on your slow breathing as a way of quieting your thoughts this is the beginning. If you use these five minutes as a training ground to attune to All That Is, having the intention when you sit of getting to know yourself as the God-Force (Yes, a bold statement, we know, but how else will you transform your life?), then true change will begin.

Are you dissatisfied with your life? Begin to change it with five minutes a day. Every day. Change will occur. It is the law of cause and effect. And if those five minutes become ten, then fifteen, then twenty, then we cannot be responsible for your transformation, for at that point you will truly begin to understand who you are, and you will finally take full responsibility for your life

Question: Where should I meditate?

Answer: Anywhere that's quiet and free from interruptions. Indoors, outdoors, in a chapel, or in your bathroom—as long as it's quiet and private—it doesn't matter. Just do it.

Yes, it's romantic to watch a movie like

“Eat, Pray, Love” and think about going to India for three months of meditating in an ashram, but there’s no place like home. Surely there’s some place in your home where you can sit quietly for a few minutes each day. You don’t need fancy or exotic surroundings. Think about it: the whole point of meditation is to shut out the outer world, right? That’s why it doesn’t matter where you meditate, as long as you meditate.

Create a space that’s yours alone. It could be something as simple as a chair in the corner of a guest room or even the laundry room, as long as it fits the “quiet and uninterrupted” rule.

The first summer my husband Ty and I went around the country in our small RV, I didn’t want to ask him to be quiet for half an hour every morning just so I could do my thing. What did I do? I sat in the car we towed behind the RV! It got a little chilly at times, but it was private.

My father used to say, “Wherever you are, here you are.” You can find peace wherever you are, for true peace lies within.

Question: Does it matter how I sit?

Answer: Actually, you don’t need to sit at all. It’s perfectly fine to lie down if that’s most comfortable ... as long as you can stay awake. The important thing is to keep your back straight so

the energy that’s constantly moving through your body (Life Force, chi, prana ...) has a clear path. While it’s true that your back is straight when standing, it’s too difficult to relax the body when on your feet, so lie flat, sit on the floor, or on a straight-backed chair.

If sitting on the floor, it’s okay to cross your legs. If lying or sitting on a chair, keep both feet flat on the floor. As for your hands, put one on each thigh. It makes no real difference if they’re palm-up or palm-down ... whatever’s most comfortable. You may want to try linking your thumb and a finger or two on each hand—a practice called “making a mudra.” If it helps, do it; if you find no difference, don’t.

Question: I can’t quiet my mind long enough. What do I do?

Answer: This is the most common



question I hear. First of all, notice the use of that word “can’t.” As Henry Ford said, “If you think you can, you can, and if you think you can’t, you’re right!” You CAN quiet your mind. You simply may not be able to quiet it for as long as you’d like. It’s hard to find a quiet moment these days, what with TVs and radios constantly blaring in the background all the emails popping up, to-do lists growing longer... That’s why meditation is more important now than ever before.

Meditation is a gift to yourself of a few minutes of blessed silence each day. The payoff is that those few minutes you spend with your Self will train your mind to be quiet at other times throughout the day. Answers to questions you ask in meditation are

more likely to be heard outside of meditation when you learn to slow down your mind at will. (I highly recommend you turn off the TV and radio more often and learn to enjoy the silence).

Don’t be too hard on yourself if you find it difficult to settle down when you first start meditating. It’s hard to undo the body’s way of doing things, but it’s not impossible. One of my favorite ways to quiet my mind is by praying. It’s been said that prayer is talking to God and meditation is listening to God. The two go hand in hand, and nothing settles you down for meditation better than praying first. Here’s how my guides Sanaya taught me the importance of this.

So many of you complain that you cannot quiet the mind. You wish to sit in the silence, and for this we applaud you. There is no greater way to know your true nature and to commune with your Source. But it is true—you cannot go within and sense your oneness with God whilst the ego is chattering away, trying so very hard to enforce its false sense of separation.

How to overcome this? Quite simple. Begin each period of meditation by chattering away from your heart and soul. You do call this “prayer.” Take a few breaths upon sitting with eyes closed, then spend as much time as you need talking to God and your guides and your angels. Share your desires and fears, of course, but most importantly, express your gratitude. Chatter on and on, asking for what you would like to have in your life, and giving thanks that it is on its way.

This period of focused, connected “chatter” will set the stage for the quiet period to follow. In this time of prayer you have made your connection with Your Maker. Now in communion, sit for a moment—or many moments—and simply “be.” Can you think of a better way to spend your time?

If I plan to meditate for 20 minutes, I can easily spend 10 of those praying at the beginning of the session. I've tried to enter straight into the silence, and my mind is all over the place. Happily, after 5-10 minutes of talking to Higher Consciousness, which includes my guides, all the chatter I brought into the space with me has been pushed into the background.

Starting your meditation session by praying is a great way to reinforce the reason you're sitting (or lying) there in the first place. Pray silently, or try praying aloud. I find that speaking softly aloud makes my connection and focus even stronger. With that in mind, here's a great way to begin:

"Oh God and my unseen helpers, as I sit here in communion with You and with the intention of knowing myself as part of You, may I be aware of your presence now and always in my life .

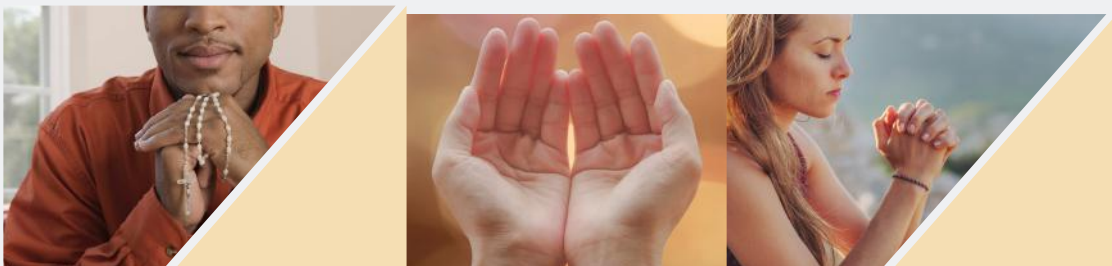
May I go forth today as the Spirit-being that I am, experiencing the fullness of all Life and receiving Life in all its fullness in return.

Today may I trust, relax, and see the perfection of Life as it is unfolding.

May I see Love in all things and radiate love at all times.

May I truly appreciate the oneness of all life and feel my connection with All That Is.

And today, as I go forth as Love, may I bring comfort and light wherever I go."



The spirit world reminds me again and again that they are standing by to help us, if we will only ask. This period of prayer is your time to ask, so ask away! It's perfectly okay to write out your prayers, wishes, dreams, and all that you're grateful for and to read these as you pray. You can set the paper down and close your eyes when you're ready to be silent.

My greatest word of advice is to not let your prayers become rote recitations. Always pray from the heart. If you use the prayer above, pause between each phrase and truly feel the words as you say them. If you find yourself taking the words of your prayer for granted, find new words. You're talking with God and the spirit world here ... Make it a fresh, heart-felt conversation every day.

Question: What if I fall asleep?

Answer: This is a common consequence of slowing down the brain waves. You may find that you go right past alpha and theta state and straight into delta! Many people new to meditation face this challenge. Unintentional nap time will usually stop after a couple of weeks. Otherwise, try sitting in a harder chair, use a mantra more often, choose a different time of day to meditate, and make sure you're getting enough sleep to begin with.

Question: Should I listen to music or not?

Answer: That's completely up to you. I recommend trying it both ways and alternating between the two every so often to shake things up a bit. Music that is specifically designed for meditation is terrific for helping to relax and slow down your brain waves. I have a series of meditation CDs produced with Hemi-Sync tones to aid in the meditative process. One of the keys to connecting with any aspect of higher consciousness, be that guides or your loved ones who have passed, is achieving coherence of mind, body, and spirit energies. The addition of Hemi-sync tones allows the two hemispheres of your brain to come into rapid synchronization. This makes it easier for you to achieve the desired expanded states during your exercise periods.

For newcomers to meditation, the Hemi-Sync set "Mediumship: The Training Ground" I produced will help you to enter into an expanded state of meditation or deep meditation at will and to recognize the difference between the two.

Please note that you don't have to be a medium to benefit from these meditations. Does this kind of training really work? Absolutely. I have had the privilege of being tested as a medium by several respected research scientists in different laboratories in the United States. During one such session, the researcher fitted me with a brain-wave measuring skull cap with numerous

electrical leads connected to a computer.

As he was hooking up the nest of wires, I set the intention of entering a state of expanded awareness before being instructed to do so. Following my BLESS ME Method that I discuss later, I self-induced the familiar state I use when working as a medium. As I did so, the scientist turned to me and asked with surprise, "Are you an experienced meditator?"

I did not know how to answer him. In terms of years of practice, there were many people who had been meditating decades longer than I had. Thanks to my focused training, however, I had learned to enter expanded states of awareness at will quite easily. For that reason, I shrugged and replied, "I suppose I am. Why do you ask?"

He shook his head as he stared at his computer screen and replied. We haven't even started our experiments yet, and you're already producing some very coherent alpha waves."



For one who strives to obtain evidence, this comment provided validation of the value of training the mind and body to become coherent. Alpha waves are the signature of a state of expanded awareness. Theta waves are produced in deep meditation, and these appeared on the screen later in that laboratory session when I was asked to tune in to specific aspects of higher consciousness.

For more information on these special recordings, please visit:

<https://suzannegiesemann.com/hemi-sync-mediumship-series/>

I also have several free meditations on my website at:

<https://suzannegiesemann.com/gifts-to-help-you-connect-with-spirit/>

If you don't use music, it's very important not to get uptight at the sounds around you. I remember when I first started meditating how irritated I became at every little noise, including the sound of a bird chirping outside my window. I realize now how absurd that was, since they put bird songs on meditation music.

Now I simply sit in my quiet space and allow whatever's going on outside that space to happen. Sit with the intention that external noises will only help you go deeper. Be alert to resistance, which causes unwanted tension, and allow distractions to be.

The "BLESS ME" Method

As stated earlier, there's no right way or wrong way to meditate. You should experiment and find what works for you. When I decided to teach people how to connect with higher consciousness including loved ones who have passed, I examined very carefully what I do when I make the connection. I distilled my process into seven distinct steps. What follows is my *BLESS ME Method for connecting with Higher Consciousness*.

"BLESS ME" is a memory device in which each of the seven letters represents a specific stage of this simple meditative process. Each step flows seamlessly from one to the next. I developed this seven-step process to assist in accessing higher state rapidly and with greater focus. The structured progression of the BLESS ME Method keeps the brain from wandering while

allowing enough flexibility to adapt the process to our own style and preferences.

Those I've shared it with like the process because it gives them a structure to follow, yet it's not so rigid that it becomes rote. Try it. If you like it, use it. If you don't, try something else. What matters is the intention you set in the first place, and that intention should always include discovering and connecting with your true Self, experiencing an expanded reality, and feeling your oneness with All That Is.

What follows is a general description of each step. The guided tracks in my [Hemi-Sync CDs](#) and my [Journey of Remembrance](#) meditation follow this process and provide an example of how to tailor the meditation for a specific intention.

ELEMENTS OF THE "BLESS ME METHOD"

Breathe

Sit or lie down with your eyes closed. I like to begin my meditations by picturing myself sitting in a shaft of white light that connects me to the heavens and to the center of the earth. Slow, deep breathing automatically begins to slow the brainwaves and induce a state of relaxation. Always breathe deeply, drawing the air down into the abdominal area. By exhaling a

few seconds longer than you inhale, you will trigger the body's relaxation response.

Take a minimum of three slow breaths, becoming more relaxed each time. Use intention and auto-suggestions to self-induce a highly relaxed state. After several breaths, do a full body scan and make sure you have released any remaining tension. As you move on to subsequent steps, simply continue breathing slowly and naturally.

Lift

With eyes closed and body still, utilize one or more mental tools, as desired, to raise your personal vibration. Flow from one to another until you feel a lift. Examples of tools include, but are not limited to:

- Bring to mind thoughts and/or images of someone or something that brings you joy and engenders feelings of love in your heart
- Bring to mind those things for which you are grateful (Gratitude is optimum for creating a coherent state)
- State positive affirmations
- Pray
- Visualize a scene that makes you feel good and then bring in all other senses to the scene (what do you hear, smell, taste, feel?)
- Clear your chakras
- Fill your aura with white light

The length of time you spend in this stage depends on how you were feeling when you began the meditation. If you felt out of sorts or "gunked up," do not move on until you are feeling light and love-filled.

Expand

Now that you are radiating higher vibrations, take in a deep breath. As you exhale, imagine your human energy field in the shape of a sphere expanding at the speed of light in all directions. This imagery takes your focus off the human body, providing awareness of the limitless nature of the soul. After this audible exhalation, I like to silently affirm, "I am limitless!"

Surrender

This is a short, simple step: Silently state the words, "I surrender." This intention-filled statement asserts your willingness to remove your focus from the ego's "story," and identify instead with your true nature as a soul.

Shift

This critical state shifts your focus from the physical world to the world of no form, no time, and no space. You may choose any keyword or imagery that helps you to shift your awareness from form to spirit. I use the verbal command, "Shift." Using the power of intention and belief, the shift occurs. Know that the result of this shift is that you have "moved" from one state of consciousness to another—the higher realms of spirit.

Merge

Through intention, merge your energy field as a soul with that of any other being of light that serves the greater good in that moment. This could be a loved one who has passed, a higher being, or your own higher self. Invite this merging of energy fields to take place with a phrase such as, "Come now."

Experience

If you become consciousness of another being merging with you in response to your request to “Come now,” notice the difference in your awareness. If you do sense someone, engage with them. Ask questions or simply remain passively receptive to whatever occurs.

Spend as much time as you need to experience whatever is supposed to happen during this final and most expanded state of the process. Sit in awareness of whatever you might perceive from Higher Consciousness, be that imagery, thoughts that are clearly not your own, or unusual sensations.

If you sense no other presence, this may simply be a period in which to practice quieting the mind. If you find it difficult to release all thought, it can be very helpful to use a mantra. A mantra doesn't have to be a long phrase that you memorize in Sanskrit. A simple word that makes you feel good is fine. Repeat this word in your mind over and over very slowly. Just like when you focus on your breathing, focus on the word, leaving enough space in between each repetition that your mind doesn't have a chance to get spooled up again. Words such as love, peace, joy, surrender, and God make excellent mantras.

Keep the silence between each repetition as long as you can handle it without allowing other thoughts to intrude, but don't push yourself. I find that 3-4 seconds is the most that busy folks can handle. So your mantra chanting would go something like this:

“Love” ... (one thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three, one thousand four) ...

“Love” ... (one thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three, one thousand four) ...

“Love” ...

Note that the quotation marks above are only around the mantra. The “one thousand ones and twos” are included for illustrative purposes only! Don't count the seconds. Simply enjoy the silence. This is your training ground—those periods where your brain is completely one with beingness.

This is how you slow down your brain waves. This is where you experience other realities. It's also the place where one day, if you continue to set your intentions on this goal, you will experience an overwhelming fullness of love that will bring you to tears. In that moment (and hopefully many that follow), you will know that this is what people everywhere are searching for – and it's been right there inside you all along

Receiving Guidance

The "Experience" step is the optimum state for asking for insight and guidance from Higher Consciousness. Whether or not you sense a presence other than your own, trust that a higher aspect of consciousness will hear you. Ask a very specific question relating to an issue you are facing or regarding something that will help you on your life's journey. Remain open to whatever happens after you ask the question.

Even if you sense nothing immediately in response, because you have asked so clearly, you will likely receive an answer in the coming days, whether in meditation or while in normal waking consciousness.

Remain in the passive Experience stage for as long as you feel guided. When you are ready to return to full waking

consciousness, do so with an expression of gratitude for what has been experienced.

Don't Expect Instant Transformation

When I first started meditating, I was disappointed. I expected to hear booming voices in my head, to see etheric visions, to have a visit or two from loved ones on the other side, and see spectacular light shows behind my eyelids. When none of these happened within the first three weeks, I had a hard time not thinking that this whole meditation thing was a big waste of time.

Then I started noticing things ... little things like knowing where people were from or how they were feeling before they spoke. I noticed that I was reacting a bit more calmly to situations that used to get me spun up. I noticed that I was getting into the flow of life rather than swimming upstream. The only thing I could attribute all these changes to was the fact that I had added meditation to my daily routine.

You can expect changes in your life if you follow the steps in this guide. If you begin praying and listening to the Universe every day, how could you not transform your life? But change doesn't always come instantaneously. Sometimes it's so gradual that you don't notice until you find yourself thinking, acting, and reacting differently than you did in the past.

Then again, I have also had those magical moments of interacting with Higher Consciousness that left me sobbing with bliss.

I recommend that you keep a journal of the changes you note in yourself and in your life once you start meditating regularly. It's easy to dismiss events as random occurrences, but by keeping a written record of the things that catch your attention, you'll start to see a pattern. This will keep you going if you think there's no real benefit to the time you're investing in meditation. Believe me, the benefits will make themselves known in subtle and sometimes not-so-subtle ways.

To Wrap Things Up

Meditation has gone mainstream, but it still has a bit of mystique, and maybe even a bit of stigma to it. I know that when I first began to meditate daily, I felt odd announcing to my husband, "I'm going to go meditate now." That was something other people did.

Today, I can't imagine not meditating and connecting with my Team in spirit. Meditation has transformed my life, exactly as I prayed it would do. It is my highest priority each day.

Meditation can do the same for you, but it takes dedication. It's hard to change habits, and if your daily routine

doesn't currently include taking time for yourself for such a passive activity. What do you wish to create in your life? More peace? More love? More happiness? Your beliefs are your brushes; your desires are your paint. When you harness consciousness you'll need to take this new habit seriously. Commitment is the key.

Through the regular practice of prayer, meditation, and contemplation, you can achieve the inner knowingness that an Intelligence far greater than your own flows through you. You - as a focus of this intelligent consciousness - are a co-creator with the great Artist of Life. You are given a blank white canvas every moment on which to paint your reality. It's up to you what you put on that canvas. Through regular periods of meditation, all of life can be your masterpiece.

To experience those attributes that many spend a lifetime seeking, you need only focus your consciousness within. In doing so, you realize that what you have been outwardly seeking has been there inside you all along.



Poem #299

(Received non-stop during a state of expanded awareness)

Sitting quietly by a river,
The leaves go floating by...
This is how to still the brain
And see with your mind's eye.

Meditation's not so difficult.
Some make it harder
than they must.
It's a matter of simply sitting still
And in the Spirit placing your trust.

Begin with some deep
breathing.
Follow the air as it does flow.
Then as your thoughts
come to your mind
Release them - let them go.

The brain will want to chatter.
To stop it do not try.
Acknowledge that it
works for you,
Then let the thoughts float by.

You may wish to choose a mantra -
A word
that brings you peace.
Then say this word repeatedly,
Quite slowly without cease.

It's in the silence of the gaps
Between each word you say
That you enter God's great kingdom
And in His world do play.

"Be still and know that
I am God."

It's there that you will feel it.
In the gaps between the words,
God's presence - He'll reveal it.

No words can match this feeling.
It is different for each one.
But once you taste the nectar
To God's side you'll want to run.

But there's no need for rushing.
God will walk with you each second.
Long after you resume your day
For His help you clearly beckoned.

Such an awakening is yours, my friend.
Such gifts they do await.
For taking time to sit in peace -
For taking time to meditate.

In this way you show commitment.
You set your priorities quite right.

Continue Your Journey with Suzanne as she leads to:



A Path to Knowing Who You Are and Why You're Here.
The Awakened WaySM is not a system, not a process, not a religion.
It is an awakened approach to living a consciously connected and
divinely guided life.


What is my first step? We each start where we are on this path. There is no prerequisite. No two paths are identical.


Suzanne's ["Ten-Minute Transformation"](#) and her guided session of ["Making the Connection"](#) have proven to be powerful starting points (and strengthening points) for The Awakened WaySM.


One of the best ways to learn "Who you are and why you're here" and to align with those in the spirit realms is by regularly doing these sessions, This practice is transformational. Go to the link below and enjoy the guidance from Suzanne and her spirit team.


<https://www.suzannegiesemann.com/theawakenedway/>


There are so many ways to grow with Suzanne and Sanaya...


 Continue your reading with her books [The Awakened Way](#), [Making the Afterlife Connection](#), [Mediumship](#), and [Still Right Here](#) which are filled with evidence of the afterlife.

 Watch the documentary [Wolf's Message](#), a powerful and true story of Michael "Wolf" Pasakarnis, who left a profound message & undoubtable evidence that he foresaw his own passing


 Join Suzanne for live, interactive [Monthly Connections](#) to share in the latest teachings and ask your questions.

 Check out her [YouTube Channel](#) featuring more than 500 videos of shared teachings, interviews, and answers to some of the most frequently asked questions Suzanne has received.

 Download the free [Awakened Way App](#) to receive fresh inspiration each day and save your favorite message in one easy-to-find place.

 Find out how to connect with those across the veil by enrolling in one of her [online video courses](#).

 Join Suzanne for her weekly [podcast](#), "The Awakened Way with Messenger of Hope Suzanne Giesemann"

 Meditate to her [Hemi-Sync audio tracks](#) to help increase your connection with the spirit world.

 Increase your connection to the spirit world with her free [guided meditations](#).

 Join Suzanne's email list to get the [latest news and updates](#).