

Four Stages of Awakening

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By Joe Vitale

1. Victimhood: This first stage is where most people live. No matter what is happening, it is everyone else's fault or at least someone else's fault. It's the world of the blame game. This is where most people live, as Thoreau pointed out, "lives of quiet desperation."

2. Empowerment: *The Secret, The Attractor Factor, and Think and Grow Rich* are all about empowerment. It's where you can *intend, visualize, and manifest*. It's fun—even thrilling. *But at some point you run into something you have no control over, often a death or serious illness, and you are faced with limitations. You realize you don't control it all. You can't.* This prepares you for the next stage.

3. Surrender: This third stage is the stage of Ho'oponopono as Dr. Hew Len taught it to me. You don't try to run the world. You strive to *release your intentions and allow inspirations*. You *trust a process that is already at work*. You learn to *tune in to an undercurrent from the Divine. You trust it.*

4. Awakening: In this final stage, *your ego merges with the Divine mind*. Almost nobody gets here, but some do. From the outside, you can't say who is enlightened or not. There's no way for you to know. And *it comes by grace*. You can't make awakening or enlightenment happen. It's not up to you. *All you can do is clean, clear, and prepare*. Again, the Law of Attraction isn't dismissed any more than grade school would be to a college student. It's part of your evolution. It's part of the *ladder of awakening* or, as the late Dr. David Hawkins might have put it, the *map of human consciousness*. *They don't conflict. They are simply on different planes of spirituality.*