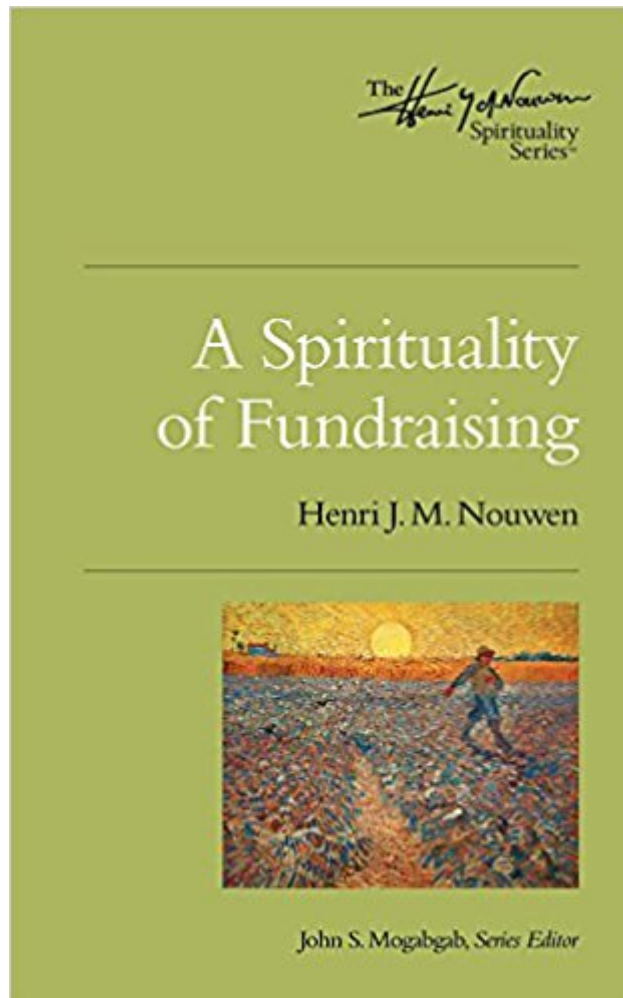




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A Spirituality Of Fundraising (Henri Nouwen Spirituality)



Synopsis

Have you ever raised funds for your church, another organization, or a mission trip? Maybe you felt uncomfortable about asking people to donate money. It's time to change the way you view this important task.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Henri Nouwen was an internationally renowned priest and author, respected professor, and beloved pastor who wrote over 40 books on the spiritual life. Nouwen enjoyed an impressive academic career with positions at the Menninger Clinic, Notre Dame University, the University of Nijmegen, and Yale University. In later life he was called to serve in L Arche Daybreak community, where people with developmental disabilities live with assistants. Henri Nouwen died in September 1996. John S. Mogabgab is a special projects editor at Upper Room Books and is the founding editor of *Weavings: A Journal of the Christian Spiritual Life*. From 1975 to 1980 John served as Henri Nouwen's teaching, research, and editorial assistant at Yale Divinity School.

This is a great little book about fundraising. If you want to raise money for your ministry, this is a good place to start. The book is not very long but it is packed full of nuggets that explore the philosophy of fundraising for the Christian believer. Here are some of the quotes that caught my attention: "Generosity begets generosity." "We may think of fundraising as a necessary but unpleasant activity to support spiritual things...or a failure to plan well or to trust enough that

God will provide for all our needs. Fundraising is a form of ministry. Fundraising is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission. Fundraising is precisely the opposite of begging. Fundraising is always a call to conversion. I ask for money standing up, not bowing down, because I believe in what I am about. Fundraising is a very concrete way to help the kingdom of God come about. Many rich people are very lonely. Many struggle with a sense of being used. Others suffer from feelings of rejection or depression. It may seem strange to say, but the rich need a lot of attention and care. If our security is totally in God, then we are free to ask for money. Asking people for money is giving them the opportunity to put their resources at the disposal of the kingdom. When we ask people for money to strengthen or expand the work of the kingdom, we are also inviting them into a new spiritual communion. Fundraising as ministry is grounded in prayer and undertaken in gratitude. Fundraising is a very rich and beautiful activity. It is a confident, joyful, and hope-filled expression of ministry. Another great book on Fundraising is: How to Raise Money for Your Ministry (The Ultimate Ministry Toolbox Series) (Volume 3)

Talking about this book with a friend, she laughingly observed that "There is probably a Henri Nouwen book on the Spirituality of Tax Preparation, too." Through the Henri Nouwen Society, he has become a posthumous brand for a particular kind of emo spirituality and public self-examination. My experience has been that I really loved the first HJMN book I read, liked the second one a little less, and by this point find myself impatient with him. This very short book is an edited transcript of a short talk, printed with broad margins and widely spaced type, and padded with an adoring Preface, full-page chapter headings, and a fawning biography of Nouwen. Publishing what is essentially a pamphlet as a book feels exploitative on the part of the Society.

This classic booklet, A Spirituality of Fundraising, is just 64 pages and is an excellent companion piece to John Frank's 55-page booklet, Stewardship As A Lifestyle: Seeking to live as a Steward and Disciple. Pastors and ministry leaders can share these two booklets with their board members, staff and key volunteers--with confidence--because they are both short enough that people will actually read them! Henri Nouwen gave a talk on the spirituality of fundraising that became a published booklet after his death. He writes, "Fundraising is as spiritual as giving a sermon, entering a time of prayer, visiting the sick, or feeding the hungry." Then he adds, "Fundraising is always a

call to conversion."Few understood people of wealth like Nouwen did. "Sometimes our concern for the poor," he writes, "may carry with it a prejudice against the rich." His chapter, "People Who Are Rich," is worth the price of this powerful little booklet.

Noted for his writing on spirituality, Henri Nouwen might not be an author one would think to turn to for advice on fundraising, but his perspective is one much needed. Nouwen talks movingly about how raising money can and should convert both the giver and the receiver and lead to more meaningful relationships with God and one another. His approach to what could be seen as a purely secular endeavor is sorely needed in churches and other non-profit organizations.

Having raised support for various mission efforts that my wife and I have enjoyed over the past 27 years, I found this book very helpful. It is so easy to become cynical and focused on the negative of fundraising. Discouragement can be a constant companion, if one is not focused on the spirituality of fundraising. I recommend this book to be read and read again many times, especially before a meeting to ask for funding.

I had already read this book when I purchased this copy for a ministry head that I know. I think it is essential reading for leaders of ministries who feel uncomfortable about or reluctant to ask potential donors to partner with their ministries. Nouwen puts the matter in a whole new light.

Though this classic on fundraising has been around a while, I just discovered it. I have long enjoyed Henri Nouwen's devotional writings, this one stands out as a gem. One big take away from this transcript: Fundraising at it's best is a chance for fresh conversion to God's ways... it is a walk of humility on the side of the "Asker" AND in the "Giver". Both are accountable about their stewardship to God who owns all things and allows us to manage them. Inspiring!

An invitation to fundraising as a moment of shared conversion. In this book, Nouwen offers a vision of fundraising as a spiritual practice for the fundraiser, who learns to live in God's abundance as a fundamental personal experience. This allows the fundraiser to approach others with openness, gratitude, and joyful confidence, regardless of their response as a possible donor. The great goal is always changed lives and community strengthened in the Spirit, in whom we are all beloved.

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