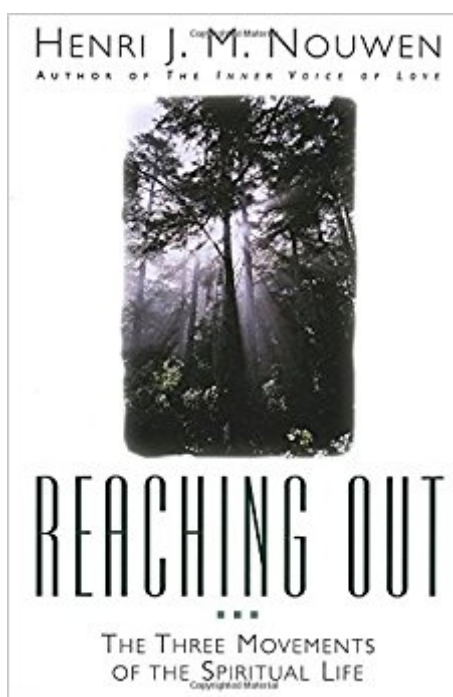


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Reaching Out: The Three Movements Of The Spiritual Life



Synopsis

With the clarity and depth characteristic of the classics, this spiritual bestseller lays out a perceptive and insightful plan for living a spiritual life and achieving the ultimate goal of that life -- union with God. Nouwen views our spiritual "ascent" as evolving in three movements. The first, from loneliness to solitude, focuses on the spiritual life as it relates to the experience of our own selves. The second, from hostility to hospitality, deals with our spiritual life as a life for others. The final movement, from illusion to prayer, offers penetrating thoughts on the most mysterious relationship of all: our relationship to God. Throughout, Nouwen emphasizes that the more we understand (and not simply deny) our inner struggles, the more fully we will be able to embrace a prayerful and genuine life that is also open to others' needs. *Reaching Out* is a rich book to be read, reread, pondered, and shared with others. "It does not offer answers or solutions," Nouwen cautions, "but is written in the conviction that the quest for an authentic Christian spirituality is worth the effort and the pain, since in the midst of this quest we can find signs offering hope, courage, and confidence."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for *Reaching Out*
The Church Times`...wide maturity, full of insight.'
The Tablet`particularly good on the whole business of knowing ourselves.'
The Church of England Newspaper`explores areas of spirituality rarely touched on in our evangelical tradition.'
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

With clarity and deep spiritual insight, this religious bestseller offers today's Christian a perceptive,

systematic plan for living the spiritual life achieving union with God.

This book stimulated discussion and growth in our weekly spirit group. The three movements are: from loneliness to solitude, from hostility to hospitality, and from illusion to prayer. Key is this quote: "We do not have to deny or avoid our loneliness, our hostilities, and our illusions. To the contrary: When we have the courage to let these realities come to our full attention, understand them and confess them, then they can slowly be converted into solitude, hospitality and prayer." Discussing this book helped our group develop the author's habit of owning up to our weaknesses, and helped us to realize more deeply that spiritual maturity is not a life without weaknesses but an ability to acknowledge them and be open to their healing.

This is my second order of 7 or more books. The first time I read the book I loved it so much that I bought some to give away. My current order is for a book study with women. I shared with them how much I love Henri Nouwen's Reaching Out and the 3 movements of gaining inner peace with self and a deeper spiritual relationship with God that gives us the genuine ability to have hospitality for others. I guess my excitement won them over. I also use this book in my counseling with people who have addictions, mental health and tram concerns.

Henry N's insights into our hearts and souls is deep and wide. He names our greatest battles that keep us from finding true joy and peace. It's not about removing ourselves from the pain and chaos of this world but of finding joy amidst all that is humanity. To find ourselves we must lose our hostility, aloneness and fear. This is my fourth read of Reaching Out and I know it won't be my last! It seems to re-emerge on my shelf whenever I need it most.

Gives you a lot of time to think about other people that are not in your circle of friends. How will I bring them into my circle? How can I be introduced to people they know that need help? Why am I "too busy" to hear other people and relate to them and the helping hands that they need? Can I get members of my church to spend more time with these people?

I have read some of Nouwen's work before, and this is one of his best. My daughter spoke of this book as she was reading it for a study she was doing at the Christian school where she works, and I bought a copy as she was using hers. In the middle section, while speaking to everyone, he addresses parents, teachers, and professionals. I'd say more, but you really need to read it yourself.

This is a book that, read carefully, has the potential to change how you function as a result of your faith.

Excellent!

In this book, Henri Nouwen outlines a way to move to a greater spirituality for the individual and community. His words ring ever more true today than when first written. This book should inspire all to a greater solidarity, hospitality, and prayer life.

This book is a must read for you if you are struggling with your spiritual growth. Are you lonely? Are you hostile? Do you have the illusion that the Godly way takes away all suffering? This book speaks to these three questions. An excellent book.

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