

In *The Spirituality of Fundraising*, Henri J.M. Nouwen offers a transformative vision of fundraising as a spiritual discipline rather than a burdensome necessity. Originally delivered as a talk and later published as a booklet, the work reframes the act of asking for money as an invitation into deeper relationship and shared mission.

Nouwen begins by acknowledging that many people, including ministers and church leaders—feel discomfort around fundraising. He challenges this mindset by asserting that fundraising is a form of ministry, rooted in trust in God and in a commitment to a shared vision. Rather than being a transactional exchange, fundraising becomes a spiritual act that draws both the asker and the giver into participation in God's work.

Central to Nouwen's message is the idea that fundraising is not about begging but about proclaiming what we believe in and inviting others to join. He draws from Scripture and his own life as a priest and member of the L'Arche Daybreak community to illustrate that inviting others to give is a way of building community and mutual transformation. It's not about extracting resources; it's about forming partnerships in mission.

Nouwen also emphasizes the inner life of the fundraiser. Those who ask for money must be deeply rooted in their spiritual identity and trust in God's provision. They are not merely seeking funds but offering people a chance to invest in something meaningful. This perspective shifts the focus from scarcity and anxiety to abundance and faith.

Accessible, brief, and deeply profound, *The Spirituality of Fundraising* is a compelling resource for pastors, nonprofit leaders, and anyone involved in fundraising. It invites readers to see giving and asking as sacred acts that align with God's generosity and call us into joyful, collaborative ministry.