

Introduction

Henri Nouwen was one of the most popular and profound spiritual writers of our time.

A priest, psychologist and famed professor, Nouwen is remembered as being “one of us.” Struggling to reconcile the paradoxes inherent in life and the Christian faith. Searching to find his heart’s true home. Celebrating the unexpected epiphanies that bring joy and delight.

As he aged, his style changed. A young pastoral voice relaying “shoulds” and “oughts” turned personal, drawing readers into his life—the joy and the sorrow—as if they were his circle of friends. Readers who had never met him mourned his sudden death in 1996.

I trust these selections introduce new readers to Nouwen and his take on themes that defined his life: prayer, solitude, and community. And in later writings he hammered hard on variations of one particular theme: the unlimited love of God.

Other readers, who are Nouwen enthusiasts, might find here a compact refresher, insights that will challenge their walk, lighten their load, and draw them close to Christ and to the memory of an old friend.

If you like this book, pick up any of the books cited in the acknowledgments in the back of the book. Discover the wealth of wisdom penned by this fellow traveler.

Evelyn Bence