

Henri Nouwen: A Spirituality of Imperfection  
by Wil Hernandez

## Book Reviews:

By: **Rev. Ron Hooker**

Date Added: Tuesday 25 March, 2008

Wil Hernandez does a masterful job of reviewing the true Henri Nouwen. As one of his students at Yale, I highly refer others to this work. It captures Nouwen's way of "thinking and feeling" as few authors are able to do.

Rev. Ron Hooker, Pastor Emeritus  
Grace United Church of Christ & Yale Divinity School Graduate

*Rating: ★★★★★[5 of 5 Stars!]*

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By: **Paul Jensen**

Date Added: Friday 15 December, 2006

Wil Hernandez provides us with a readable multifaceted look into the life and ministry of Henri Nouwen who has been a spiritual guide par excellence to so many of us. One cannot read a page from Nouwen without sensing his depth. Wil's book illuminates the sources of this depth far beyond what could be gleaned by those of us who have frequently returned to Nouwen as a source of spiritual reading and guidance over many years. As Wil so ably shows us, Nouwen's love of God, self and others was Biblically faithful, theologically nuanced and psychologically sound which freed him, broken as he was, to engage others in the healing and transforming ministry of Jesus. I highly recommend adding Henri Nouwen: A Spirituality of Imperfection to your library if you have not yet done so.

L. Paul Jensen, Orange, CA

*Rating: ★★★★★[5 of 5 Stars!]*

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By: **Lynn Gibson**

Date Added: Thursday 14 December, 2006

Wil Hernandez's lucid text is a welcome and needed volume to the study of Christian spirituality. By building upon Henri Nouwen's "spirituality of imperfection" readers will find much hope and clarity for their own journey of faith. Hernandez offers a very engaging and erudite discussion of the travails of spiritual formation, encouraging all honest believers to bridge the gap between professed and expressed theology by cultivating an integrative authentic spirituality for the whole of life.

C. Lynn Gibson, DPhil, CFSP  
Assistant Professor  
Oxford Graduate School

*Rating: ★★★★★[5 of 5 Stars!]*

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By: **Virgil Lew**

Date Added: Tuesday 05 December, 2006

Wil Hernandez has hit upon a crucial point in the Christian faith and that is the struggle with the reality of sin. Drawing and deriving from the inner thoughts of Henri Nouwen's life, Wil has poignantly put in plain words the Christian life as a journey through imperfection and not so much a already perfect life. Our Christian life has many twists, turns and curves that demonstrate challenges and scuffles we face each and every day. Wil Hernandez shows through Nouwen's writings the spiritual life's journey consists of an inward, an outward and upward reality. The spiritual life is a three fold movement towards oneself, others and God.

In this book, I am amazed at the integration of psychology, ministry and theology laced throughout his writing. It is with pleasure that I encourage others to read this thoughtful, critical book on the explanation of beauty and grace in imperfection.

*Rating: ★★★★★[5 of 5 Stars!]*

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By: **Glendale Lazaro**

Date Added: Saturday 25 November, 2006

To every generation God sends men of faith who, by their life and witness, speak to us in our milieu so that we can journey together. Henri Nouwen, a Dutch priest was such a man to us. After nearly two decades of teaching at the Theological Institute in Utrecht, Holland, the Univ. of Notre Dame, Yale and Harvard, he shared the last decade of his life with the mentally handicapped as pastor of L'Arche Daybreak Community in Toronto, Canada.

Henri published his books on spirituality, and after his death in 1996, many authors wrote about his rich legacy. Wil Hernandez wrote of Henri's courage to face his imperfections, in the light of the Gospel, to pursue his journey to perfection. This fine book will give us hope and courage to care for our soul, and reach out to others, within the embrace of God's love. The author presented Henri's life and concepts on spirituality in a way that we can identify with. I highly recommend this book to anyone who honestly pursues his or her spiritual journey.

*Rating: ★★★★★[5 of 5 Stars!]*

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By: **Melvin Fujikawa**

Date Added: Saturday 11 November, 2006

This is a wonderful book! Will Hernandez has done a great job of probing Nouwen's writings and thoughts, citing key Biblical references and giving insight into Christian Spirituality that has been so profoundly impacted by the deep faith and soul-struggle of Henri Nouwen. This text is a powerful integrative resource for those that are familiar with Nouwen's writings and personal journals. But Will Hernandez' labor of love will also be a inspiring introduction to the novice of the heart and soul of the "wounded healer." I highly recommend this book to anyone that has struggled to find meaning and hope in the imperfection of their own journey of faith.

*Rating: ★★★★★[5 of 5 Stars!]*

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By: **Fe Varquez**

Date Added: Saturday 11 November, 2006

"Congratulations to Wil Hernandez on his excellent first book -- well organized and clearly written. His scholarly treatment of the integrated spirituality of Henri Nouwen is impressive. I particularly appreciated Part 2 of the book and its thoughtful insights into Nouwen's personal life that revealed a very real human being who embraced his brokenness and imperfection as the path towards wholeness and holiness. An inspiration to all of us in our own spiritual journey. Thanks, Wil, for sharing the fruits of your dissertation. Looking forward to Book #2."

Fe Varquez  
Glendora, CA

Rating: ★★★★★[5 of 5 Stars!]

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By: **Jas Chen**

Date Added: Saturday 11 November, 2006

This book will be an encouragement to those who have embarked on a spiritual journey and have wrestled with integrating and bringing to life the aspects of our inner, relational and spiritual lives in light of unending longings, wounds and struggles. Through Wil Hernandez's clear analysis and synthesis of Nouwen's spirituality, we can learn from the dynamics of Nouwen's spirituality of imperfection, and continue with renewed hope on our journey to know God. A must read for anyone who is familiar with Nouwen and/or interested in learning more about Nouwen's spirituality.

Rating: ★★★★★[5 of 5 Stars!]

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By: **Jonathan Dephouse**

Date Added: Wednesday 01 November, 2006

I have been reading a number of works by Henri Nouwen over the past few years and was absolutely delighted to read Wil Hernandez's book on Nouwen, "A Spirituality of Imperfection." It is no easy task to write holistically about a figure who has had such a wide and deep impact as Nouwen; yet, Wil H. has managed the task wonderfully. Grounded in research, yet easy to understand, the book conveys a spiritual and theological maturity that will likely connect with a wide spectrum of people. The author's chosen theme of "imperfection" rings with precision (though this sounds ironic) in capturing the essence of Nouwen amidst all his apparent and real success. I was challenged intellectually and moved deeply at a number of points. If you are new to Henri Nouwen, or have been acquainted with him for some time, "A Spirituality of Imperfection" will be a welcome edition to your library. Cheers.

Rating: ★★★★★[5 of 5 Stars!]