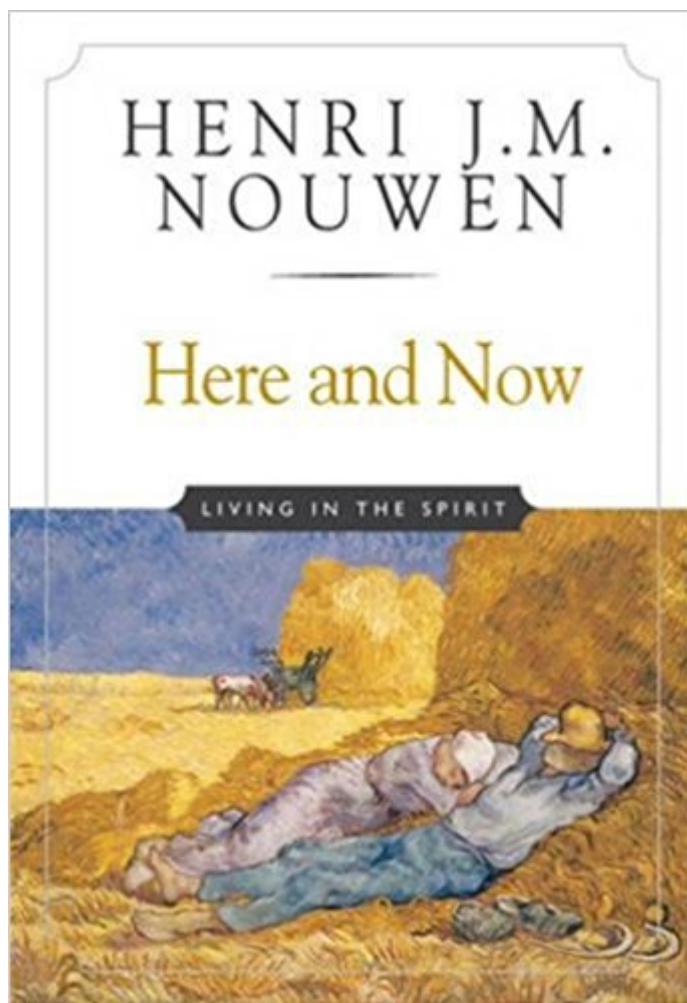


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# Here And Now: Living In The Spirit



## Synopsis

Not a faint memory, but happening right here and now, spiritual living takes place in the present; the Spirit meets us in the ordinary. These inspirational reflections by Henri Nouwen succeed in convincing us that God's presence is reliable.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Nouwen, author of more than 30 books and pastor of L'Arche Daybreak Community Center in Toronto, here shares his spiritual journey. In simple meditations he gently and quietly presents small packets of wisdom, most of them already known to Nouwen readers. Among the less familiar, some insights inevitably are more illuminating than others. For instance, Nouwen reports asking Mother Theresa's advice concerning his many and complex problems. Her answer-"Well, when you spend one hour a day adoring your Lord and never do anything which is wrong... you will be fine"-completely cuts through his pretentious self-absorption and points directly to what is holy. While the present volume is hardly Nouwen at his best, it still has some fine moments and is a rewarding read. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Most touching is Nouwen's account of his near-fatal accident when hit by a car while walking over ice to help a handicapped boy. Nouwen goes through many emotions: real anger when gas station attendants refuse to drive him to the boy, a realization that the accident has given him a new

perspective on his life, peace in the face of death but also the realization that "it was not love that kept me clinging to life but unresolved anger." When he does survive, he asks, "Why was I asked to return to a place where love is so ambiguous?" Brief but profound are his responses to the experience as he realizes God's call to deeper trust in God and to radical freedom. Nouwen's personal narrative is an important book for many people pondering the mystery of life and death, regardless of their religious commitments. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

I found this book on the nightstand at my friend Kay's house when I was visiting for a few days. Wow. I soon realized that I had discovered a treasure. It reads like a devotional, with several short chapters on different important topics. Nouwen's words were from his heart--he bared his soul in a few chapters--and they help the reader move toward a deeper relationship with Jesus and a heart that is more alive. The title, *Here and Now*, refers to one of the main themes: God is in the present with us. We tend to dwell on the past or fear the future, but God is here now, in the present. And we can experience Him and His love for us in an intimate way. Thank you, Henri Nouwen, for your legacy.

This book of meditations is one of Nouwen's best, I think. It covers a multitude of life circumstances and endeavors. Each chapter is divided into short sections that will help get readers focused on their own meditations and prayers to draw out God's will and ways in their own everyday lives. Nouwen's writing is sensitive and wise. His words are well worth pondering. The significance of the title is that it helps to live "in the moment" more than being anxious about the future or regretful over the past. It's a book of meditations, not meant to be read through quickly or in one sitting. Each discussion is meant as a springboard for your own thoughts, prayers and reflections on your own situation. It's not a book for "getting through" as much as it is for "getting along".

Nouwen's style of writing is very comfortable. He draws you into the conversation as if you are an old trusted friend. He also has the gift of explaining or going deeper into a subject without making the conversation revert into a teacher/student role. I learned so much from Henri and I hope that you will have the similar experience.

Nouwen captures one's attention immediately as he details the biblical and theological foundations for living every day in gratitude to our Lord and Savior!

Reflective as always.

Henri's telling of his journey to the 'portal of death,' as he calls it, is insightful and real. You can experience that journey through his eyes. I would recommend this book to anyone that is on a conscious spiritual journey.

Easy to read. Death is going to happen to all of us. Best to figure out what God is doing before then.

A good, solid read. Not to be rushed.

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