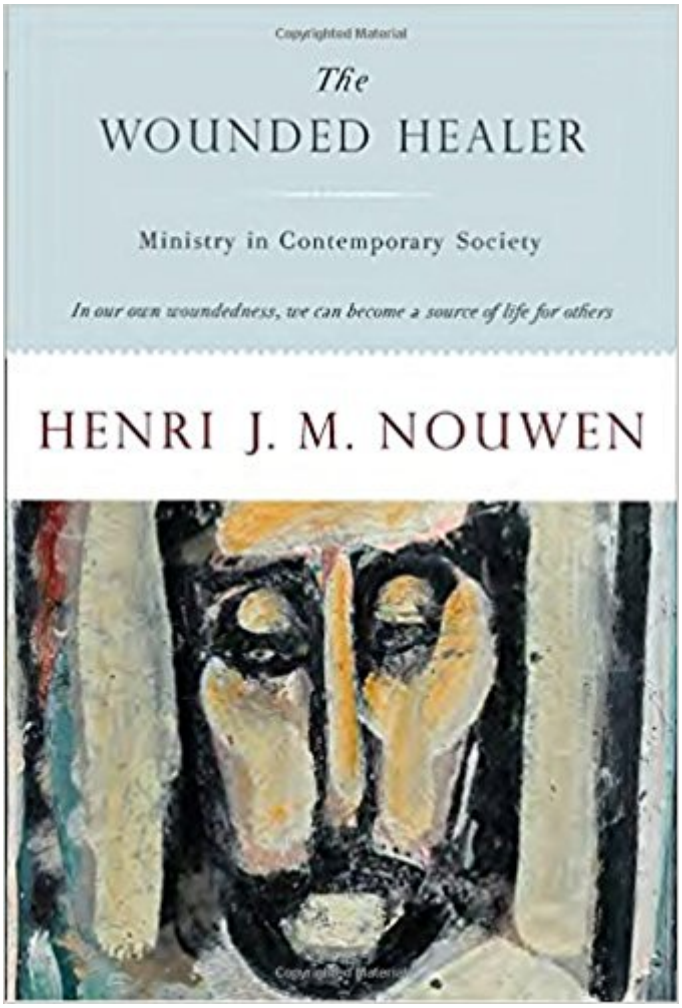
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# The Wounded Healer: Ministry In Contemporary Society




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## Synopsis

The Wounded Healer is a hope-filled and profoundly simple book that speaks directly to those men and women who want to be of service in their church or community, but have found the traditional ways often threatening and ineffective. In this book, Henri Nouwen combines creative case studies of ministry with stories from diverse cultures and religious traditions in preparing a new model for ministry. Weaving keen cultural analysis with his psychological and religious insights, Nouwen has come up with a balanced and creative theology of service that begins with the realization of fundamental woundedness in human nature. Emphasizing that which is in humanity common to both minister and believer, this woundedness can serve as a source of strength and healing when counseling others. Nouwen proceeds to develop his approach to ministry with an analysis of sufferings -- a suffering world, a suffering generation, a suffering person, and a suffering minister. It is his contention that ministers are called to recognize the sufferings of their time in their own hearts and make that recognition the starting point of their service. For Nouwen, ministers must be willing to go beyond their professional role and leave themselves open as fellow human beings with the same wounds and suffering -- in the image of Christ. In other words, we heal from our own wounds. Filled with examples from everyday experience, The Wounded Healer is a thoughtful and insightful guide that will be welcomed by anyone engaged in the service of others.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"I wish I could send this book to every seminary, rectory and parsonage in the country."-- The Record The Wounded Healer is Nouwen at his best .... the ideas it implants linger long after the book is read, and re-read.Ã Â -- Best Sellers "One of the world's greatest spiritual writers." --Christianity Today

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"So long as we define leadership in terms of preventing or establishing precedents, or in terms of being responsible for some kind of abstract ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“general good,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• we have forgotten that no God can save us except a suffering God, and that no man can lead his people except the man who is crushed by its sins."The Wounded Healer is probably the best thing I've read on suffering.

This book is of great help for the one who are not only in the role of christian leader but day to day encounter with wounded souls. This book is very inspirational and provides a guide that stretches beyond superficial Christianity. We each have been hurt, wounded or even destroyed because of our experience, but only for the one who dares to enter into one's darkness and find the hope anchored in Christ can reach and speak directly to the one in need.

Nouwen writes about his visit to the Haight Ashbury district of San Francisco and his reflections on the impact of the HIV virus on the lives of people living there. He does not find fault, he does not condemn, nor does he use Christianity to polarize the reader against those who so shell-shocked by the possibility they may be infected that they avoid testing, as I've read in the books by other Christian leaders. Rather, Nouwen approaches them with compassion. In many ways, San Francisco became a refugee camp, filled with young men and women who were condemned by their families and neighbors and forced to leave their homes. The Haight was an area they could find acceptance and understanding in a time when the fear of AIDS was rampant in American society. It was an infection that touched families of the affluent and the poor of all ethnicities, men and women, and of all religions. I remember Henry visiting the infected son of a Catholic family in Oakland. He came with an open heart at a time when AIDS led to a certain death. His ability to reach to others was based on the time he spent understanding his own pain, his own sinfulness, and the forces that led him to judge others. He was, indeed, the wounded healer.

There were times that this book got to deep and lost my attention but the overall message was strong and very helpful for me personally as well as for me as I (hopefully) helps others in their struggles in life.

Should be required reading for all Christians, regardless of your denomination or affiliation. We are all wounded healers and bear the ability to help one another in this journey called life. Powerful message. I'm a Nouwen fan. Have read most all his books. The man was truly a humble servant of Christ.

I read this book in a day. While only around 100 pages it is filled with thought provoking concepts related to ministry. While it is specific to pastors it is very much worthwhile for anyone seeking to follow Jesus while at the same tome be effective in ministry to others. I suspect I will come back to this time and time again. I also suspect that it will lead me and others to other books by Nouwen.

I have not read this slim volume yet but I will. I am a studying to enter the clergy. After entering the theological program, which I adore, I was diagnosed with one of those nasty, incurable neurological diseases that will, as time goes on, impact my ability to fully participate in the things most clergy do. The head of my community of faith strongly recommended it to help me as I serve others while

dealing with my own problems.

Such a true and tender book I had to read it slowly.

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