

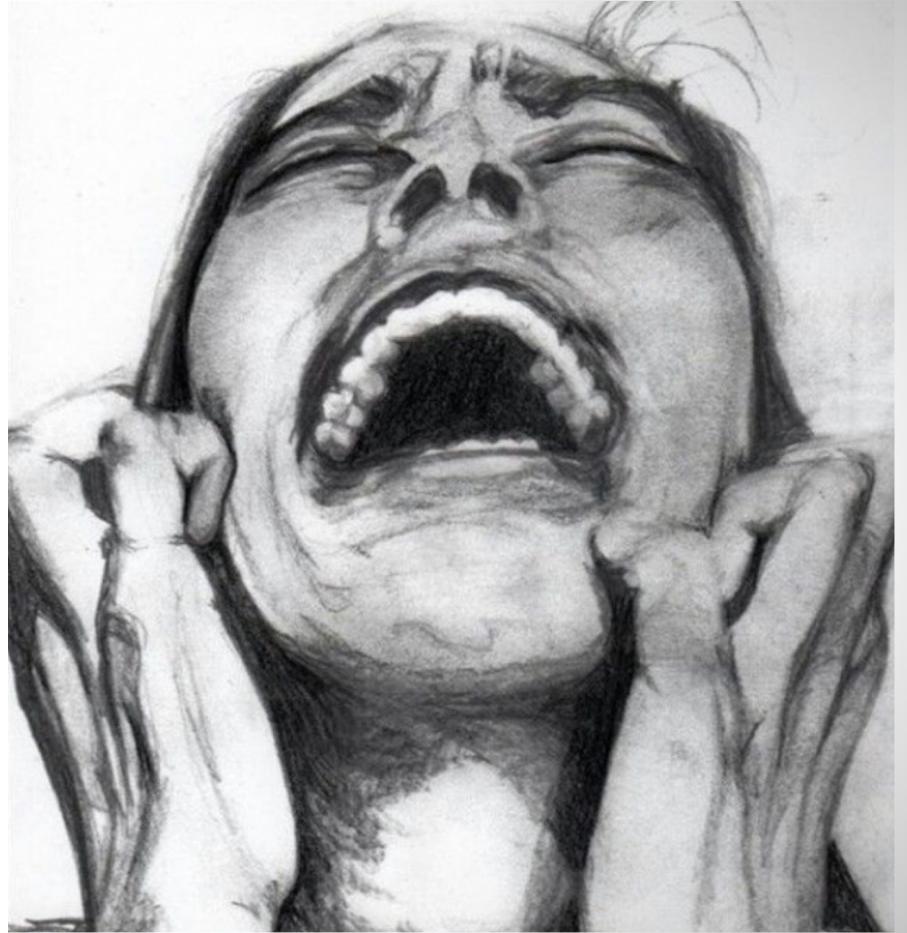
A person stands on a rocky peak, looking out over a vast mountain range under a dramatic, cloudy sky. The scene is captured in a wide-angle shot, emphasizing the scale of the landscape. The person is silhouetted against the bright sky, creating a strong contrast. The mountains in the background are rugged and partially covered in snow. The foreground shows the rocky texture of the peak the person is standing on. The overall mood is one of solitude and awe.

IMAGINE

IMMEASURABLY MORE

Preaching on Giving?

Preaching on Giving



HENRI NOUWEN

Asking people for money is giving them the opportunity to put their resources at the disposal of the kingdom. To raise funds is to offer people the chance to invest what they have in the work of God. Whether they have much or little is not as important as the

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possibility of making their money available to God. When Jesus fed 5000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, he was showing us how God's love can multiply the effects of our generosity. God's kingdom is the place of abundance where every generous

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act overflows its original bounds and becomes part of the unbounded grace of God at work in the world.

EPHESIANS 3:14 – 21

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

EPHESIANS 3:14 – 21

¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,

EPHESIANS 3:14 – 21

that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

God the Father shares with every disciple of Jesus some portion of his limitless riches, power, love and knowledge. Why would he do such a thing?

RICHES

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the
Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven
and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the
riches of his glory

- Psalms 50

RICHES

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

–2 Corinthians 8:9

RICHES

But God, being rich in mercy because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – it is by grace you have been saved.

–Ephesians 2:4-5

POWER

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being

POWER

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

–Romans 1:16

POWER

That you may know... what is the
immeasurable greatness of his power towards
us who believe...

–Ephesians 1:19

For this I toil, struggling with all his energy
that he powerfully works within me.

–Colossians 1:29

LOVE

¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts
through faith—that you, being rooted
and grounded in love,

LOVE

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

–John 3:16

LOVE



LOVE

For the love of Christ controls us

–2 Corinthians 5:14

KNOWLEDGE

that you, being rooted and grounded in love,¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

NOUWEN



To be converted means to experience a deep shift in how we see and think and act. To be converted is to be clothed in our right mind, to come to ourselves the way the younger son did when he was starving far from his true home. It is a shift of attention in which we set our minds on divine things.

WHY?



RICHES



POWER



LOVE



KNOWLEDGE

WHY?

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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IMAGINE

IMMEASURABLY MORE