



"God, what is it You want to do through me?"

Faith Raising Grounded in Prayer and Hospitality

How do we become people whose security base is God and God alone? How can we stand confidently with rich and poor alike on the common ground of God's love? How can we ask for money without pleading, and call people to a new communion without coercing? How can we express not only in our way of speaking but also in our way of being with others the joy, vitality, and promise of our mission and vision? In short, how do we move from perceiving fundraising as an unpleasant but unavoidable activity to recognizing fundraising as a life-giving, hope-filled expression of ministry?

Prayer is the spiritual discipline through which our mind and heart are converted from hostility or suspicion to hospitality toward people who have money. Gratitude is the sign that this conversion is spreading into all aspects of our life. From beginning to end, fundraising as ministry is grounded in prayer and undertaken in gratitude.

Prayer is the radical starting point of fundraising because in prayer we slowly experience a reorientation of all our thoughts and feelings about ourselves and others. To pray is to desire to know more fully the truth that sets us free (see **John 8:32**). Prayer uncovers the hidden motives and unacknowledged wounds that shape our relationships. Prayer allows us to see ourselves and others as God sees us. Prayer is radical because it uncovers the deepest roots of our identity in God.

In prayer we seek God's voice and allow God's word to penetrate our fear and resistance so that we can begin to hear what God wants us to know. And what God wants us to know is that before we think or do or accomplish anything, before we have much money or little money, the deepest truth of our human identity is this: *"You are my beloved child. With you I am well pleased"* (see **Luke 3:22**). When we claim this truth as true for us, then we also see that it is true for all other people. God is well pleased with us, and so we are free.

By Henri Nouwen from *A Spirituality of Fundraising*, 55-56

Reflect: Tom Melzoni suggests that we use the term "faith raising" rather than fundraising. **What are your thoughts about this shift in thinking?** How does the reading from Henri Nouwen inform such a shift?



*Please join the inspiration of our Daily Devotionals for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter on the theme **Full to the Brim**. Please email your reflection, prayer, or other contribution to MCCDC Senior Pastor Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson at RevDwayne@mccdc.com.*

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