



Insane for the Light, A Spirituality for Our Wisdom Years, by Ronald Rolheiser

Week 6- Chapter 5: The Modality and Darkness of Faith and Its Deeper Stages of Maturing

Check in Question: Although Ronald Rolheiser suggests that God is beyond human imagination, how do you personally imagine God?

Opening Prayer

*Loving God,
in moments of darkness, uncertainty, and fear,
draw us ever closer to your light.
Open our hearts to your presence,
our minds to your truth,
and our lives to your love.
May your light guide our conversations,
deepen our faith,
and help us reflect your goodness to one another.
Lead us from darkness into hope,
from isolation into communion,
and from fear into peace.
We ask this through Christ our Light.
Amen.*

Reflection questions:

As you read through the following questions, select one or two that speak to you and be ready to share your reflection.

Chapter 5

1. What are your thoughts about why Jesus Christ cried out as he was dying on the cross? What do his words reveal about suffering, faith, and the human experience?
2. Have you ever experienced a “dark night of faith”? In what ways, if any, was your experience similar to those described in the book?
3. Ronald Rolheiser suggests that when we experience doubt, pain, and confusion, what seems like darkness may actually be “an excessive light” beyond our ability to

fully comprehend. Have you ever gone through a time of darkness only later to discover that God was leading you into a deeper experience of grace or insight?

4. Did any of the Scriptural passages discussed in this chapter resonate with you in a particular way? Which passage spoke most deeply to your heart, and why?
5. Did you find Ronald Rolheiser's suggestions for responding to the "dark night of the soul" (pp. 81–82) helpful or meaningful? Which suggestion resonated most with you, and why?
6. Ronald Rolheiser suggests that during our later or "wisdom" years, God gives us a new fervor for a holy purpose. How have you experienced this in your own life?
7. What do you think of the saying, "God made us in His image and likeness, and we have never ceased returning the favor"? What might this reveal about the ways people imagine or misunderstand God?
8. When have you experienced a moment of deep spiritual clarity, authenticity, or purity in your relationship with God? What made that experience meaningful for you?

Closing Prayer

For whom and what shall we pray...

Faithful God,
when life becomes uncertain and our hearts grow weary,
teach us to trust you even when we cannot see the way ahead.
Give us the courage to remain present to our pain
rather than fleeing from it.
Help us to accept the mystery of unknowing
and to resist the false comforts that offer only temporary escape.
Guard us from voices that wound rather than heal,
and keep us from being discouraged by shallow judgments or easy answers.
Teach us to grieve honestly,
to pray faithfully,
and to seek companions who walk with wisdom, compassion, and humility.
When darkness lingers,
help us remain steadfast in love,
confident that even in silence, you are near.
May we continue to hope,
continue to seek,

and continue to trust that your light is present,
even when we cannot yet perceive it.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
who remained faithful through suffering and into resurrection.
Amen.

Overview of our meetings

Week 7- Chapter 6: Forest Dwelling and Preparing to Find Our Beggars Hut (p 91-110)

Week 8- Chapter 7: Finding Beggar's Hut and Giving our Deaths Away (p. 111-131)

Week 9- Chapter 8: Thoughts on the Afterlife (p 132-150)

Week 10- Chapter 9: A Paradigm from a Christian Mystic (p. 153-174)