



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

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

- **Check in Question:** Were you raised in a “boring” household with peace and stability or one with more excitement? What kind of household did you provide for your children?

Opening Prayer

Loving and Gracious God,
As we gather in Your presence, we bring before You our whole selves.

Our minds seek understanding. We long to make sense of our lives, to organize our experiences, and to see the patterns and meaning that lie beneath the surface. Open our minds to Your wisdom, which is greater than our own understanding.

Our wills seek what attracts and delights us. We are drawn toward many things—some that lead us closer to You and some that distract us from Your call. Purify our desires, Lord, that we may seek what is good, true, and life-giving, and find our deepest joy in You.

Our hearts seek security and control. We want certainty, safety, and assurance about the future. Yet You invite us to trust rather than control, to surrender rather than cling. Help us place our lives into Your loving hands, confident that Your care is sufficient for all our needs.

May our minds be enlightened by Your truth, our wills strengthened by Your love, and our hearts rested in Your peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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 7

1. Have you ever been present at a peaceful deathbed? What did that experience teach you about life, faith, or letting go?
2. Ronald Rolheiser writes that suffering and aging can break down our illusion of self-sufficiency so that our souls can emerge more fully. Where do you see yourself on this journey of humility, dependence, and spiritual growth?
3. Rolheiser suggests that we sometimes understand life's deepest mysteries more through not understanding than through understanding. When has this paradox proven true in your own life?
4. Have you ever come to know someone more deeply through faith, trust, or hope rather than through facts or certainty? What was that experience like?
5. Have you experienced what spiritual writers call a "dark night of the soul"? How did it affect your relationship with God, others, and yourself?
6. Rolheiser proposes that death may ultimately lead us into a profound experience of joy and ecstasy in God. What are your thoughts or feelings about that idea?
7. Henri Nouwen suggests that those who die well continue to bless and nourish the lives of those they leave behind. Whose spirit, wisdom, or love continues to sustain you today?
8. Deep in your heart, do you believe that you are God's beloved? What helps or hinders you from embracing that truth?
9. Can you recall a significant failure, loss, or defeat that eventually became a source of grace, growth, or transformation? What did it teach you?
10. If you were asked to write a spiritual will today, what values, blessings, or wisdom would you want to pass on? To whom would you entrust a "double share" of your spiritual inheritance?
11. If you were to write your own personal creed, what beliefs, convictions, or life lessons would it contain?

Closing Prayer

For whom and what shall we pray...

Loving God,

As we bring this time together to a close, we place our hearts before You.

Please forgive me for the times I have failed to love You and others as I should. Heal what is broken within me and lead me in Your ways.

I forgive those who have hurt me, disappointed me, or caused me pain. By Your grace, help me to release resentment and choose the path of mercy and peace.

Thank You for Your countless blessings—for the gift of life, for Your faithful presence, and for the people You have placed in my life. Thank You for walking with me each day.

I love You, Lord. With all that I am, I offer You my heart, my mind, my hopes, and my fears. Help me to love You more deeply and to share Your love with everyone I meet. May Your forgiveness, peace, gratitude, and love remain with us as we go forth from this place.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Overview of our meetings

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

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