

The Powerlessness of Christmas



I find it rather odd to start this Christmas greeting to you by talking about the powerlessness of Christmas, rather than the joy and peace it brings. What prompted me to share this with you is my reading of Henri J. M. Nouwen's *Finding My Way Home: Pathways to Life and the Spirit*.

In his book, Nouwen sees God as a weeping God as He looks on our planet, watching the misuse of political, economic, and—more dangerously—the religious powers. Nouwen argues that our God is indeed a “powerless” God! He has displayed His powerlessness in the manger, in His life, and on the cross.

Let us see in God's powerlessness the right path to real power! This means that it is crucial for us to develop a theology of weakness. This theology is not a “theology for weaklings but for men and women who claim for themselves the power of love that frees them from fear and enables them to put their light on the lampstands and do the work of the kingdom.”

In an age when we see various displays of power, and from a region that faces all kinds of violence and brutality, I invite you this Christmas to reflect together on the story of the Incarnate Savior. Let us focus on the helplessness and powerlessness of our God. Let us open our hearts and minds in welcoming the light of a helpless baby, asking Him to lead us in the right path of power.



Wishing you from Lebanon, a joyful, peaceful and “powerless” Christmas!

The ICETE Team
On behalf of over 250,000 theology students worldwide

