

## The notes of Anne

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Yale

by Henri Nouwen

Gospel of St Luke – “Watch yourself or your hearts will be poisoned. Stay awake at all times. Stand with confidence before the Son of Man.”

It is *action* course of the Lord to explain what it means to be peace makers today. Start with saying that just as we can be real servants of people when we are aware of our own individual deaths. So too can we only be peace makers when we are willing to face the death of history. Sometimes our activities and sometimes over concerns are ways to face our own mortality. Just as important that we also dare to face the end of history because that is written in the book of God. Just as creation has a beginning it will have an end. Peace making is therefore those witnessing for the God of Light while facing reality that indeed history has an ending. Peace making is based on the knowledge that history will have an ending, but that there is hope for history just as there is hope we have entered into a new consciousness when for the first time we are able to destroy, to end the world in which we live.

It has become a human possibility to bring total destruction. The event in the world can bring about that and the question is are we going to survive the end of all things, so that we can stand erect with confidence or are we swept away. Peace making means to call our human friends to alertness that being awake and praying always so that the day of the Lord will not catch us unawares but will lead us to freedom but to a life in Him, Who overcame all death and evil.

Three complete conditions that might summarize peace making. An attempt for a spirituality for peace making for our way of living in this age.

1. prayer
2. resistance
3. community

Three elements of peace making. Make the connections with your own experience and with your own struggle.

Prayer – If you understand what prayer is you will think out it stands in the center of peace making. Some people consider it a pious activity, sometimes a substitute for action. It is one of the most momentous ways of living. Not just praying for peace. Prayer has a way of being in the world in which we breathe the Spirit of God, the Spirit that makes us live and survive. To pray is breathing with Gods’ spirit. Let that breath be the spirit of your living. In that way it is one of the most radical acts.

We are made to believe because we are what we own, what other people say, in the friends we make and once we are made to believe that our \_\_\_\_\_ is really given to us by the world in which we live. When we think that survival means holding on to food \_\_\_\_\_ from that moment we are the people who cling to what we have. \_\_\_\_\_ sees because that is how we are deciding what we are. I am this, I am that and it is hard to give up and those who want to take from us are considered our enemies. Then we try to hold if there is scarcity, there is where we become greedy \_\_\_\_\_ hostile and where we throw bones and where we become looking to kill. We have to survive. My survival is the death of millions. Because concern of survival is the road to death. The \_\_\_\_\_ way to discussions. This is the way the world will come to discussion. Prayer mans to let good from that illusion. To let good over all things that socially identify us. My true being is rooted not in the world but in God. In his spirit and allows us to say I am loved by God. that is the spirit of the Christ who has overcome the world and death.

When it is really rooted in Christ, then I am free to stand in the midst of this world without being destroyed by violence and jealousies.

I have this sense that I have to be totally pure only when I am stripped of possessions will I be free. To pray is an act of resisting. Resisting the illusions of the world. You’re willing to stand naked in the presence of God and say “Lord, you are giving me out of the abundance of your life. I am who you give me to be, because I am called to live in that spirit you are drawing me up. I am sending you into the world just as my father sent me into the world. If you pray you are a peace maker. You are protesting. Everytime you enter into prayer you are a peace maker. Because you do something the world does not want to do. your duty is related to something outside the world.

Resistance –

Means to throw \_\_\_\_\_ a way of keeping control, a resistance between the need to be powerful and famous – resistance against the idolatry of power, the resistance against Satan. Resistance is saying no. Clearly and loudly to the powers of evil. No against the “Trident”. No against oppression. No against poverty and the powers that create it. Resistance also means yes to those moments where we see the love of God appearing in very small ways. Saying yes to the poor person – always resistance saying no to power and yes to the small flower breaking through the ground. You are a peace maker everytime you do something illogical. You make peace when you work with retarded children. With the poor – when you hold the hand of someone dying. You break away the world.

Resistance means evoking the small events. Resistance is prayer just as prayer is resistance. It is proclaiming in the face of discovery powers that God is a god of the living. Resistance has no \_\_\_\_\_ and is a way in which we proclaim that God has overcome the world and the event \_\_\_\_\_ and death.

The God life who is greater than stronger than death. As long as your resistance is the work of the peace of God. Has two elements. The word of God of resistance always include repentance. The first point is not to try to stop the want to say that we human beings have to repent. Not to change the world but to prevent the world from changing me. Not for praise or to change the politics. I want to prevent myself from being caught up in life.

To be who I understand myself to be. I am part of the problem. I myself am a sinner. Repent. I am the same as anybody else. I am the same as the people I am resisting. To say no is always repentance. Lord, have mercy. The acclamation of the God of Life. We want to witness God, overcoming evil. God came and destroyed the powers of death by his death and we are witnesses. The death of history cannot kill me. I have already died and therefore I am free.

Resistance is liturgy, the word of God. If payer and resistance are two elements how can we fulfill. We cannot. They are elements of the peace making community. Everytime we pray and resist it leads us to community. – Because we pray and resist in the name of Christ. Where is Christ? I is thee where we come together. It is our common vocation. Means that we realize where the living Christ is where we come together and witness together the One Who is life. We are set free by His Body and Blood, not by

resistance. – by His death on the cross. Opens up a new prospective. Where two or three are gathered together I am in their midst. where it is done seriously new life takes place. A new movement of peace making a whole wide network.

Benedict – Francis – Ignatius all started movements and brought people together and brought people to the world. We might be witnessing the rebirth of a whole new movement of people. Being a christian means being a peace maker. To realize that since we are christians and since we have read the gospels – not a cause of statistics. Every time people gathered have more power. A new nation of peace makers. To work for the salvation of the world even though we get stung. To proclaim peace. To pray at all times. To resist evil. To call forth good. To come together in community.

St. Francis of Assisi had the wounds of Christ burned into his hands and feet and side. St. Bonaventure saw by the light of supernatural intuition the full meaning. St. Francis passed over into God, in the ecstasy of contemplation – a perfect example of contemplation. Set up as an example just as previously in the active life in order that God through him might draw all truly spiritual men to his kind of passing over less by the word than by example. Here is the clear true meaning of contemplata tradere by one who had lived that life to the full. It is the vocation to transforming union to the height of the mystical life and of mystical experience, to the very transformation into Christ that Christ living in us and directing all our actions might Himself draw men to desire and see that same exalted union because of the joy and sanctity and supernatural vitality radiated by our vitality or rather because of the secret influence of Christ living within us in complete possession of our souls. St. Bonaventure make no distinctions. Christ imprinted his own image upon St. Francis in order to draw not some men – a few privileged monks but all truly spiritual men to the perfection of contemplation which is nothing else but the perfection of love.

Once they have reached these heights they will draw others in their turn. This means in practice that there is only one vocation. Whether you teach or live in a cloister, nurse the sick, in religion or out of it, married or single, no matter who you are or what, you are called to a deep interior life, perhaps even to mystical prayer and to pass the fruits of your contemplation on to others. And if you cannot do so by words then by example.

Yet if the fire of this infused Love burns it will send forth an influence more tremendous than could be estimated in bringing men to God!