

Stretching the Wineskin

The entire life of a good Christian is an exercise in holy desire. You do not see what you long for, but the very act of desiring prepares you, so that when he comes you may see and be utterly satisfied. Suppose you are going to fill some holder or container, and you know you will be given a large amount. Then you set about stretching your sack or wineskin or whatever it is. Why? Because you know the quantity you will have to put in it, and your eyes tell you there is not enough room. By stretching it, therefore, you increase the capacity of the sack, and this is how God deals with us. Simply by making us wait he increases our desire, which in turn enlarges the capacity of our soul, making it able to receive what is to be given to us.

Augustine Quote in *When the Well Runs Dry* by Thomas H Green, S.J.

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The following article to access is “*Discernment and the Creative Process of Art*” by Cynthia Reynolds. The article was written as a Unit Paper for the *Tending The Holy* course at Christos. We have arranged it for seven-part viewing for the website.

This article introduces us to the “stretching” of the creativity and imagination in discernment. The article pictures the involvement of our whole being in our ability to receive from God and to cooperate with Him. It invites us to be willing to let go of our own ideas and accept new ones. It opens us to colors and to community in the process of discerning, thus the stretching of our wineskins.

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