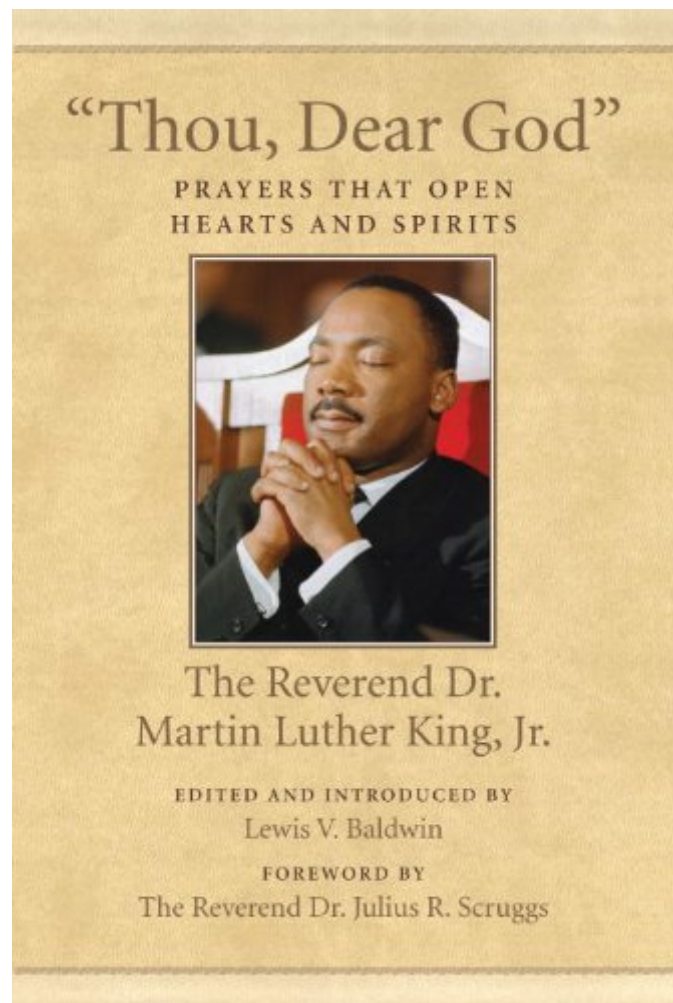


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"Thou, Dear God": Prayers That Open Hearts And Spirits (King Legacy)



Synopsis

"Thou, Dear God" is the first and only collection of sixty-eight prayers by Martin Luther King, Jr. Arranged thematically in six parts--with prayers for spiritual guidance, special occasions, times of adversity, times of trial, uncertain times, and social justice--Baptist minister and King scholar Lewis Baldwin introduces the book and each section with short essays. Included are both personal and public prayers King recited as a seminarian, graduate student, preacher, pastor, and, finally, civil rights leader, along with a special section that reveals the biblical sources that most inspired King. Collectively they illustrate how King turned to private prayer for his own spiritual fulfillment and to public prayer as a way to move, inspire, and reaffirm a quest for peace and social justice. With a foreword by Rev. Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, it is the perfect gift for people and leaders of all faiths, and an invaluable resource for spiritual individuals and those who lead worship.

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Customer Reviews

In the first few pages of this book it says it is for people of faith everywhere. That is so utterly true. This book gives prayers and petitions from MLK to God that inspire, uplift, and push me to be better. This book changes how I pray and how I think about faith. Within a day of getting the book, I had already put on post it notes around thirty of my favorite prayers and am compiling a list of who in my friend/family groups would benefit the most from this book as a gift. Wonderful book. If you are a person of faith, I think it will highly benefit you to get it.

Besides his famous labor in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, Dr. King was first and foremost a minister of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was also an excellent writer. One will find both aspects of Dr. King's being in this inspiring collection of prayers. This book highlights the most important aspect of Dr. King's life: his loving relationship with the Most High God. Not a man to whine, mumble or complain about his trials and tribulations, Dr. King sought God's strength and wisdom in his conversations with God. A timely read by today's standards, one will find much nourishment for the soul in Dr. King's prayers.

From the Lincoln Monument he proclaimed, "I have a dream!" From a pulpit in Memphis, Tennessee he proclaimed, "I've been to the mountaintop!" For all the speaking and marching we have looked past the prayer life of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. A spiritual leader and theologian par excellence, King's prayer life was central to his mission. Lewis V. Baldwin has collected and edited 68 prayers in *Thou, Dear God*. These prayers reflect the myriad of situations and subject matter King engaged. Though only 68 prayers, we are able to catch a glimpse into King's spiritual bedrock. In this globalized age some congregations are seeking to reclaim a prophetic voice. They are learning what it means to enact social justice. Along the way it remains easy to lose the prayer life. King's prayers remind those that seek to do justice as empowered by faith not to lose the connection to the divine. As I read this book I found myself challenged to reimagine what "prayer" means. For King it was not only petitioning God or interceding on behalf of the community, but an extension of the work of justice. Awakened, I was, to the power of short, simple prayer that challenges our structures and our daily living. In January 1956 King delivered a prayer at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church after several homes and churches of civil rights activists had been bombed and destroyed by white bigots. His words are simple, yet prophetic. "Lord, I hope no one will have to die as a result of our struggle for freedom in Montgomery. Certainly I don't want to die. But if anyone has to die, let it be me." Then there's the prayer offered at the end of his "Palm Sunday Sermon on Mohandas K.

Gandhi" on March 22, 1959. In it he says, "We call you different names: some call Thee Allah; some call you Elohim; some call you Jehovah; some call you Brahma...But we know that these are all names for one and the same God, and we know you are one." King believed in ecumenism and interfaith work, for he knew justice flows most strongly when small streams unite into one river. For religious leaders of all faiths, and even for Atheists, Thou, Dear God unlocks fresh ways to see our relationship with one another and the divine mystery. These 68 prayers, though only a snippet of King's prayers, have embolden me to discover in what ways prayer can be an extension and embodiment of justice. Perhaps King prays it best, "Lord teach me to unselfishly serve humanity." And to that, I think everyone can say, "Amen."

The prayers are very nice. I'd like to find the actual sermons.

Great book. Great seller!!

What an inspiration. I am so glad I purchased this book. I used parts of it in a church service.

Sometimes the trouble of the world gets in your way and you seem so overwhelmed that you can't get a prayer out but, MLK has a prayer to comfort you for just that occasion.

I gave this as part of a gift. The recipients liked it. Did not give it 5 stars, since I did not keep it and read it.

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