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Strength To Love



Synopsis

"If there is one book Martin Luther King, Jr. has written that people consistently tell me has changed their lives, it is *Strength to Love*." So wrote Coretta Scott King. She continued: "I believe it is because this book best explains the central element of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s philosophy of nonviolence: His belief in a divine, loving presence that binds all life. That insight, luminously conveyed in this classic text, here presented in a new and attractive edition, hints at the personal transformation at the root of social justice: " By reaching into and beyond ourselves and tapping the transcendent moral ethic of love, we shall overcome these evils." In these short meditative and sermonic pieces, some of them composed in jails and all of them crafted during the tumultuous years of the Civil Rights struggle, Dr. King articulated and espoused in a deeply personal compelling way his commitment to justice and to the intellectual, moral, and spiritual conversion that makes his work as much a blueprint today for Christian discipleship as it was then. Individual readers, as well as church groups and students will find in this work a challenging yet energizing vision of God and redemptive love.

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Customer Reviews

Martin Luther King Jr. was President of the southern Christian Leadership conference and co-pastor of Ebenezer Baptist church, Atlanta, Georgia. He led the dramatic "walk for freedom" in Montgomery, which resulted in bus desegregation, and for a decade he led the African American struggle for civil rights. He was Time magazine's Man of the Year in 1963 and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968. Among his works are *The*

Measure of a Man, Why We Can't Wait, and Stride toward Freedom.

Dr. King is perhaps the most recognizable figure in 20th Century American History and in American History in general. We have all seen the iconic images of the March on Washington and of the I Have a Dream Speech. I vividly remember having the honor of reciting Dr. King's speech in fourth grade. I didn't do the speech justice, but I was still honored nonetheless. So I really enjoyed sitting down and reading Dr. King's words to get his perspective on Christianity, racism and society in general. The result is a powerful, inspiring, motivational book, which demands that we all live under the principles of love, no matter how hard this task may be at times. I must confess that I did not fully agree with all of Dr. King's arguments. In particular, Dr. King's chapter on Love in Action left me confused as to my own views on the race struggle in America. In particular Dr. King argues that the Supreme Court Justice who made the despicable Dred Scott decision in 1857, Robert Taney, was not a wicked man, but merely an ignorant man who didn't know what he was doing. I disagree. I feel that Dr. King's explanation almost excuses Taney's reprehensible actions. I believe that the white racists during the slavery era were fully aware of their actions, and their actions were a result of selfishness and greed as well as ignorance and lack of education. We all know right from wrong, and I don't believe ignorance is an excuse. I bring this up not to be disrespectful to Dr. King, to whom I owe a great debt to for his sacrifice and his commitment to peace and love. I bring this up because while I have the utmost respect for Dr. King, I don't necessarily agree with all of his philosophy. Nonetheless, I greatly admire Dr. King and I do agree with the majority of his views. I am not a religious person, but I am someone who respects history and the great men who made it. Therefore, Strength to Love is a great historical document and a great lesson in love, compassion and the need to fight for what we think is right. I look forward to reading more about this iconic figure who helped make positive changes for all of us. One more thing that I learned was how intellectual Dr. King was. In reading these words, I really got an idea of the depth and richness of Dr. King's intellectual ability. Dr. King was studying complex subjects such as liberalism, neo-orthodoxy and existentialism. He read the works of great thinkers and philosophers, most notable among them, Mahatma Gandhi. In addition to being one of the greatest civil rights leaders ever, Dr. King was one of the great thinkers of the 20th Century. Dr. King was the forefather of Cornell West and Michael Eric Dyson.

MLK had a lot of very good ideas, going well beyond the few lines of "I Have a Dream" on posters. This is a great book to read if you are struggling with how to remain loving and open hearted in the

face of any kind of bigotry or oppression. He writes from a very Christian perspective, but it is equally applicable to any other tradition.

I am a pastor in southern California, and here is my review of this book: This is, without a doubt, the greatest book I have ever read about church. If anyone is wondering why they should belong to a church, or why they should participate in Christianity, or where the church should be headed, this is the book I recommend.

I think this book is one of the all time great reads, a real gem. Particularly notable to me is the fact that Dr. King edited this book himself during his lifetime--so it reads the way he wanted it to read. In addition, it really challenges the reader in a variety of ways and does so in an uncompromising, yet with pastoral care, way. If you want to live justly, this is a definite must read. I give copies of this book each year to students in my congregation when they graduate from high school as a gift--blessing them with not only a gift in the moment, but wisdom for a lifetime. You'll want to get this one on your shelf.

A brilliant set of sermons and essays that show Dr. King's deeply spiritual analysis of the situation confronting America -- and the dangers of failing to deal with that moral crisis in a moral and systemic way. Still deeply moving. Still deeply relevant.

Martin Luther King is Teaching us that true Freedom is Found In Each Person's Heart

A classic.

This book is inspirational. I am currently still reading it. The gift GOD loaned Dr. King to translate the messages from the bible, and translate why things are happening in the world is amazing. The message in this book is still relevant today!

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