



## A Gift of Love: Sermons from Strength to Love and Other Preachings

*Martin Luther King Jr. , Coretta Scott King (Foreword) , Raphael G. Warnock (Foreword)*

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**The classic collection of sixteen sermons preached and compiled by Dr. King**

As Dr. King prepared for the Birmingham campaign in early 1963, he drafted the final sermons for *Strength to Love*, a volume of his best-known homilies. King had begun working on the sermons during a fortnight in jail in July 1962. Having been arrested for holding a prayer vigil outside Albany City Hall, King and Ralph Abernathy shared a jail cell for fifteen days that was, according to King, “dirty, filthy, and ill-equipped” and “the worse I have ever seen.” While behind bars, he spent uninterrupted time preparing the drafts for classic sermons such as “Loving Your Enemies,” “Love in Action,” and “Shattered Dreams,” and continued to work on the volume after his release.

*A Gift of Love* includes these classic sermons, along with two new preachings. Collectively they present King’s fusion of Christian teachings and social consciousness, and promote his prescient vision of love as a social and political force for change.

## **A Gift of Love: Sermons from Strength to Love and Other Preachings Details**

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## **From Reader Review A Gift of Love: Sermons from Strength to Love and Other Preachings for online ebook**

### **Emmie says**

Whenever I feel lost. Whenever I feel like the world is an ugly place. Whenever I feel lonely, I read the wisdom of Martin Luther King and I know everything will be fine.

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### **Vanda Denton says**

Out of the sixty-five reviews I've written so far, I have given five stars to only five books. I save them for the most exceptional. I wish I could give this more than five stars. It is by far the most inspiring, moving book I have ever read. Second only to the New Testament. I cannot recommend this book highly enough.

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### **Susan Frazier-Kouassi says**

King was not only an amazing leader of the civil rights movement, but also a deeply intelligent and critical thinker ahead of his time. I am proud to say that I am also an alumni of the same university where he earned his doctorate, Boston University.

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### **Marguerite Gagnon says**

#### **A wonderful man of God**

Dr. King showed us what a real man he was .He did what he had to and did it afraid. He loved the Lord Jesus Christ with all his heart. Even if he died to do it.

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### **Just? says**

This is a collection of best sermons Martin Luther King wrote. I am not a christian or strong believer, and I still think they're great. It sounds as relevant now as it did 50 years ago.

The themes of fascism, love, intellectual blindness, segregation and prejudice with only a slight hint of preaching - you can read it today and find similarities, especially in the current political and international climate. Highly recommend to find solutions and ways to act in the corrupt, populist and post-truth/alternative facts times that we find ourselves in these days.

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## **Raymond says**

This book was really good. It is a collection of sermons from his book Strength to Love plus two more that the King Estate added. Dr. King had such a way with words. He was so smart and full of wisdom. I wish there were more nationally known preachers like him in our current moment.

Some of my favorite lines from his sermon "Love In Action":

*Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a permanent attitude.*

*Only goodness can drive out evil and only love can conquer hate.*

*Intellectual blindness is a dilemma which man inflicts upon himself by his tragic misuse of freedom and his failure to use his mind to its fullest capacity.*

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## **Sheila Chapman says**

### **Can't put down**

Preachings of love. As a Christian, my faith strengthened! I would recommend this as an Audio book to listen to in times of anger and in moments of hardship.

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## **Fern Adams says**

Sometimes five stars is not enough for one book, this was one of those books. Inspiring, thought provoking, well argued and written I don't think it would be possible to get to the end of this book and not make a conscious decision to strive to be a better person. "I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be."

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## **Keith Sanders says**

Well written and prevalent even today. The spiritual aspects are essential to the manifestation of principles of success. Dr. King Jr. Exemplifies his passion and his thought processes that help the movement to succeed.

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## **Gina Levert says**

Interesting choice of MLK's sermons and speeches- I was surprised that the "I have a dream" speech wasn't incorporated into this book. MLK is DEEP, and so professorial that at times I needed a dictionary along with the book to read it properly. The last two sermons are actually a different style and much more relaxed and

kind of a "hooping" style. I really enjoyed those and was disappointed that the last sermon in the book was cut off and unfinished.

I have renewed love and respect for this man of love and nonviolence who very much emulates a modern day Jesus Christ. His life almost mirrored that of Christ and he sacrificed his life for so many who do not even have an appreciation for his gift.

Would love to read other sermons picked by the people and not the family.

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### **Rosanne says**

Dr. King was a sage. This set of sermons shows his wisdom, a clear moral code and they are so well written. I absolutely love this book.

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### **Naomi says**

Another fine volume in the King Legacy series edited by Beacon Press, where Martin Luther King's writings and speeches are being assembled and published (or republished). Now, *Strength to Love*, where most of the book is drawn from, is one of my favorite of King's works, something I have turned to again and again at low points in my own life, when discouraged in community work, and when feeling my own strength to love on the wane. These sermons are both practical theology and sources of encouragement to keep on through the long and difficult haul. I disagreed with the editors' choice to remove King's sermon distancing the civil rights movements from communism -- an important piece of history and also a dirty trouble community organizers still have to wrestle (what's politically necessary in aligning with other marginalized and oppressed groups or might sink one set of work because of association with another, especially when you have concerns about that other? - there being both practical and idealist answers to that question). Still, this collection is powerful preaching and leadership. Sadly, many of the themes expounded on are still issues today, so may we take up these words and not just remember, but answer the urgency of now and the work of justice, equity, and dignity still to be accomplished.

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### **Derek Emerson says**

Martin Luther King, Jr is well known for so many reasons. A civil rights leader, great orator, great Christian, great pacifist. It is no surprise to find all those elements in "A Gift of Love: Sermons from 'Strength to Love' and Other Preachings." As sermons, they are rooted in the Christian faith. But his call for civil rights, his call for a non-violent struggle, are prominent throughout. King was a preacher of the moment, responding to the needs of his congregation and beyond through the lens of his faith. And his strong oration style can be heard even in reading the sermons, as he brings home his points with a cadence which cannot be missed.

The weaknesses in the sermons are more a matter of their context rather than their thinking. Some of them slip toward self-help language, but they reflect the growing awareness of psychology in one's thinking. Some of the world political issues are now a moot point, and some of what he sought we have reached.

But that our world has not reached the racial integration he sought is clear, and shameful, 50 years after some

of these sermons were preached. What does come through in reading these sermons is King's faith. He was a Christian, and he interprets what he sees through those eyes. These sermons will not allow him to become a secular hero. The civil rights movement was an expression of his Christian faith. His pacifist viewpoint, which was strengthened by the example of Gandhi, was rooted in his Christian faith.

I will not attempt a break down of each sermon. I read this over a long period and was more interested in their impact on my own faith than that of a book review. His sermon, "Antidotes for Fear," was given to me by a doctor treating my son, who has been battling cancer for over two years. He is not likely to survive another year, and King's words spoke to my condition. What stronger testament is there to one's power as a writer or thinker that 50 years later, they still reach people where needed.

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### **Mafalda says**

inspirational and positive read.

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### **Sumana Savaram says**

A great read about Martin Luther King.

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