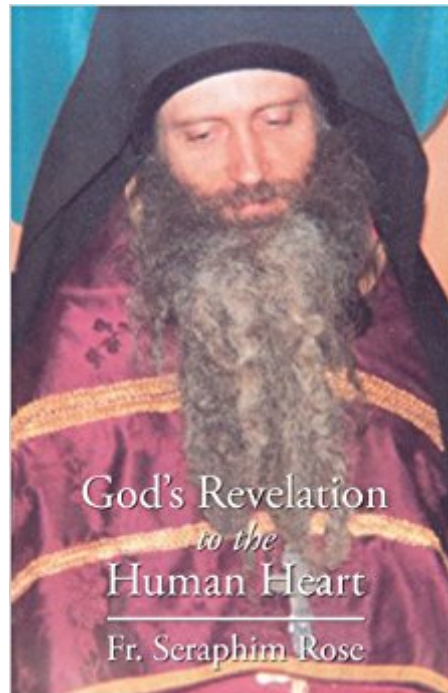




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God's Revelation To The Human Heart



Synopsis

What does man seek in religion and what should he seek in it? How does God reveal Himself in order to bring man to a knowledge of the Truth? How does suffering help this revelation to occur? Fr. Seraphim Rose addressed these and other issues during a lecture at the University of California, Santa Cruz, in 1981. *God's Revelation to the Human Heart* is a transcription of that lecture, and the question-and-answer session between Fr. Seraphim and the university students. Drawing upon a wealth of resources--the Holy Scriptures, patristic writings, the Lives of ancient and modern saints, and accounts of persecuted Christians in today's world--Fr. Seraphim leads the audience to the core of all Christian life: the conversion of the heart of man, which begins to burn with love for Christ and transforms him into a new man.

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Customer Reviews

When conversion takes place, the process of revelation occurs in a very simple way--a person is in need, he suffers, and then somehow the other world opens up. The more you are in suffering and difficulties and are desperate for God, the more He is going to come to your aid, reveal Who He is and show you the way out.

Fr. Seraphim Rose (1934-1982) was an Orthodox monk in the ancient tradition that dedicated his life to reawakening modern Western man to forgotten spiritual truths. From his remote cabin in the mountains of northern California, he produced writings, which have been circulated throughout the world in millions of copies. Today he is Russia's best-loved spiritual writer. His books *Orthodoxy* and

the Religion of the Future and The Soul After Death have changed countless lives with their uncompromising and sobering truth.

Published transcripts of talks are risky. Sometimes a lecture that is powerfully persuasive because of the personal charisma of the speaker comes across as dull and uninspiring when read. This is usually (but not always) an indication that there's little substance in the talk, and that its original appeal was founded more on smoke-and-mirrors than insight or wisdom. I'm happy to say that the transcript of Father Seraphim's 1981 Santa Cruz talk, "God's Revelation to the Human Heart," comes across as well on the written page as it must've when he gave it to college students a quarter-century ago. Delivered a year before his premature death, it can be viewed as a concise statement of his spirituality. The purpose of religion (re+legio=to reconnect), says Seraphim, is to "open up contact" with a "reality deeper than the everyday reality that so quickly changes, rots away, leaves nothing behind, and offers no lasting happiness." In our deep hunger for this reality, we frequently settle on the one hand for effusive experiences that feel good but which don't necessarily lead us to the Truth we seek, or cold, calculative philosophies, which promise to reveal Truth for us but typically wind up dissecting it instead. What we need do is recognize, as Pascal said in the seventeenth century, that the heart has reasons that the mind knows not. The heart, Seraphim reminds us, is that organ designed to reveal God to us, because the heart is the seat of love, and only love takes us to Truth/reality. That which reconnects us is love. But to love necessarily means to suffer, for in loving we empathically experience the pain of those whom we love. In willingly taking on the cross of suffering, we invite God to crack open our hearts and reveal both Himself (Truth/Reality) and our true identities. The path of love/suffering defended by Father Seraphim in this lecture, then, takes us to Truth by avoiding gushy sentimentality on the one hand, and detached, rationalistic analysis on the other. His approach is the same as that defended by the Fathers in the first centuries of the Church. Ironically--sadly--the questions asked of Seraphim by students after his talk (the transcript is included in this volume) suggest that most of his listeners just didn't get the point of what he was saying. The questions tend to be off-subject ("What do Orthodox think about non-Orthodox?" "What's the Apocalypse?" "What does Orthodoxy teach about fasting?"). But one can hope that seeds were planted. Certainly the published version of Seraphim's talk is rich and fertile for those of us fortunate enough to read it. Many thanks to St. Herman of Alaska Brotherhood for making it available.

Not quite what I thought it would be. Looked for a more personal account towards his revaluation

about the heart.

Small and dense. It sends you right to the essence of orthodoxy. Pain and suffering if understood correctly can take you closer to the Lord. All you have to do is ask for His help.

I had a recommendation to read Fr. Seraphim's book. This was the first I came across to order. It's a quick read of words but takes some time to really absorb. As an individual seeking the "right" fit, this lecture not only explained but opened my heart further. I've since purchased His Life and Works - very intelligent, compelling, inspiring & relatable. I'll have to go back to this lecture when I've completed it with new perspective. At any rate, both books spoke to me and I wish the same for you too.

This small volume is a must read for anyone seeking Truth. It will immediately speak to the heart of the seeker and will smell different than that which our western minds have grown to know, yet rightly challenge. Blessed Seraphim Rose faced the same struggle and was rewarded with the ultimate gift, the struggle to fully follow a fullness of Truth that his heart knew existed, but previously escaped him. His wisdom now becomes ours as he crucified his mind to follow the Savior without compromise.

This is a beautiful lecture delivered at a time when many were searching for "spiritual enlightenment," in risky behaviors. LSD, Ecstasy, and other hallucinogenic agents were used in an attempt to find meaning. The search for meaning is a human characteristic, and is seen at all levels of human endeavor. Whether a primitive in a protected, undisturbed environment, or a "well-educated," citizen of the world, the need for meaning persists. I, as a woman, a mother and a grandmother, a Christian, and a psychoanalyst trained in the tradition and following of C.G. Jung, find much meaning in this Monk/and priest of Orthodoxy.

Excellent and uplifting sermon by Fr. Seraphim Rose of Platina. Highly recommend.

Fr. Seraphim Rose is one that I admire for his many works.

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