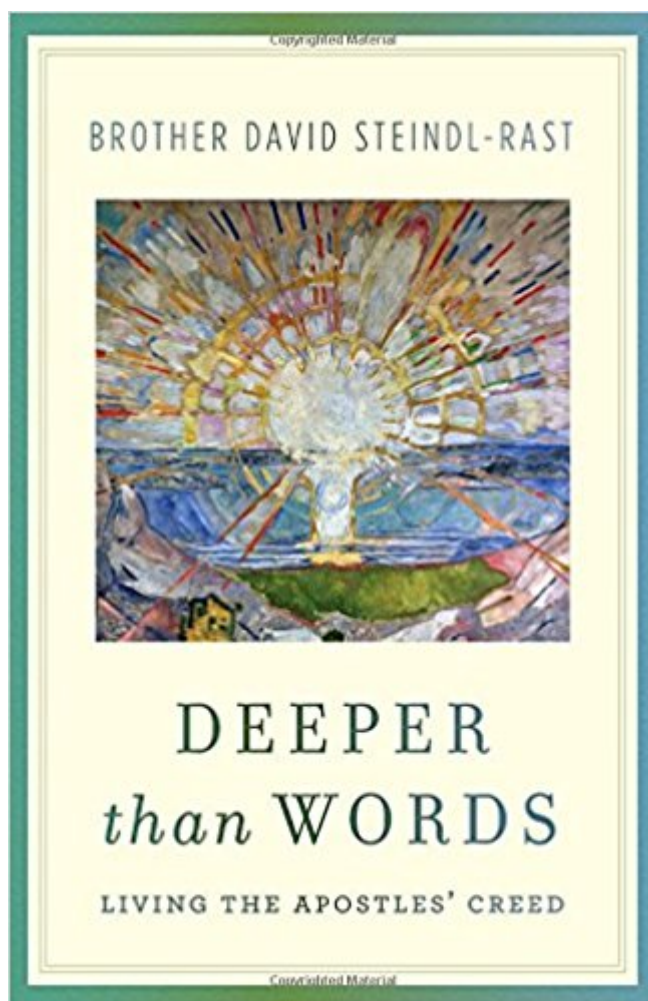


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Deeper Than Words: Living The Apostles' Creed



Synopsis

Spiritual teacher and bridge-builder Brother David Steindl-Rast translates the Apostles' Creed for today, uncovering the deeper universal truths that can be an inspiration to all people. In *Deeper than Words: Living the Apostles' Creed*, Brother David reexamines the words with which the early followers of Jesus summarized their faith. Reading line-by-line with an open perspective, he reveals the often overlooked message of trust, compassion, peace, love, and awareness contained in this widely known but rarely examined statement. *Deeper than Words* moves beyond ritual and exclusivity and instead finds a deeper faith based in real human experience and the sense of limitless belonging that is shared by all people who seek to understand themselves and the world. The words of the Apostles' Creed are Christian, but its heart is a universal and timeless guide to fullness of life. From this transformation perspective, developed over a lifetime of contemplation, Brother David presents a powerful call to renewal through reconnection with the spiritual and a reawakening to shared sacred truths.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I love Brother Steindl-Rast, and all of his work, especially this latest. He is right up there for me with C.S. Lewis, Denise Levertov, and the great Frederick Buechner. I am sure I'll read *Deeper Than Words* many times over the years." — Anne Lamott, author of *Traveling Mercies*

"I have always felt that in endorsing a book I was honoring the book and its author. Brother David's *Deeper Than Words*, however, brought a new and startling

sensation: I found myself sensing that the book was honoring me by allowing me to endorse it. Never before have I felt this way about a book. This book belongs on every pastor's desk, and on the nightstand beside the bed of every Christian who is trying to deepen his or her spiritual life. Huston Smith, author of *The World's Religions: Our Great Wisdom Traditions* "Beautiful and profound. With mystic vision and poetic clarity, Brother David opens us to the eternal vision behind the creed." Jack Kornfield, author of *The Wise Heart: A Guide to the Universal Teaching of Buddhist Psychology* "There is only one Brother David! To be in his presence is to know the possibility of walking faithfully on one chosen path, while not only respecting other faiths, but also studying them rigorously and experiencing them joyfully. In *Deeper than Words*, he distills a lifetime of insight into an inspiring book that can enlighten all of us to the universal similarities and the noble particularities of the world's wisdom traditions." Elizabeth Lesser, cofounder Omega Institute and author of *The Seekers Guide* and *Broken Open: How Difficult Times Can Help Us Grow* "A stunning analysis. It may not make a believer out of you but it will show you the depth meaning of the Apostles' Creed." Sam Keen, author of *In the Absence of God: Dwelling in the Presence of the Sacred* "A timely, profound, and important book. Highly recommended for individuals who want a spirituality that makes sense!" Ken Wilber, *Integral Spirituality* "Brother David has chosen as his text the Apostles' Creed, a fundamental expression of Christian faith. He approaches it by asking point by point, What does this mean? How do we know? And why is it important? The open-hearted candor of his answers to these questions, reaching into his own living and contemporary experience, is what gives his words value and power. I am sure many readers will join me in feeling grateful to Brother David for his kindness in writing this book." His Holiness the Dalai Lama "When Brother David enters into the heart and mind of his listener something new happens to them and they know it." Henri Nouwen, author of *Return of the Prodigal Son*

BROTHER DAVID STEINDL-RAST (b. 1926) was born in Austria and came to the United States after receiving his Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Vienna. As a member of the Benedictine Order of Catholic monks, he is known for pioneering work in interfaith dialog, especially between Christianity and Buddhism, for his promotion of the spiritual practice of gratefulness, and for his efforts to revitalize contemplative prayer life. For decades, Brother David has divided his time between periods of hermit's life and extensive lecture and retreat tours on five continents. He is

author of numerous books, including the classics of spirituality *Gratefulness*, *the Heart of Prayer* and *A Listening Heart*, and he is the co-founder of *A Network for Grateful Living*, an organization dedicated to gratefulness as a transformative influence for individuals and society. Audio and video recordings of Brother David can be found at www.gratefulness.org, a website viewed by over twenty thousand visitors per day.

Having read a number of this author's books and liking them very much, this one sounded extremely interesting, too. It has been a joy to read as it has been very educational in detailing the breakdown of what the Apostles Creed really means. When you have been saying a prayer for over 50 years, it is gratifying to read a description of the essence of the words. It definitely makes this prayer more meaningful to me. I have learned so much more than just the meaning of the words, though. I have also learned some things about myself since reading this book. I recommend it to anyone who is familiar with David Steindl-Rast's books or anyone interested in learning the meaning of the Apostles Creed. I have this book in paperback and in Kindle format.

This book gave me back the 'Apostles Creed' which I learned as a child and have choked over in my adult life. Understanding the deeper meaning behind the words as explained by Brother David moved me to tears. The understanding that he points to is universal, and expressed beautifully in many ways in many faiths - having this explained so clearly is a great gift.

The book is dense and I tended to take it one section at a time, rereading frequently to let the words settle deep within my understanding. Dense but not abstract. Brother David brings the Apostles' Creed to life, addressing the universality of faith, the universality of our human connectedness. But most astonishingly, *Deeper than Words* is truly a manifesto about the power of poetry and literary myth to provide us with language, experience, understanding, connection, and a vital access to the love and beauty that surrounds us if we take the time to be mindful, to be.

There is an Army doctor who teaches Mindfulness, which includes Yoga & Zen meditation, and who is moving toward Buddhism. He still reads this Benedictine monk's books, like "*Deeper Than Words*" because they help him relate to the best of Catholicism, while he makes this personal transition. What better motivation does one need, to read a book which considers a Creed at the root of Catholicism but still makes room for broader thinking and spiritual growth?

Brother David's writings have been an important part of my spiritual growth for many years. In this book he exposes the true meaning of the Apostles' Creed in such a way that all can embrace its life affirming words. This work is based on historical, literary and theological foundations and uncovers deep universal truth and love.

My church is reading this for Lent, and it's been a wonderful journey. Great for those who know the creed by heart from all those days in church but never thought of the meaning behind each line. I appreciate the thoughtfulness of this book.

With this deep and very personal lecture on The Creed, Brother David takes us by the hand and leads us a beautiful, learned, poetic and mystic way through the pregnant sentences of the Christian main creed. He brings new life to the old words in a way that makes you think and feel for your self. Why am I a Christian? And he joins the many people, who to day are trying to include all of mankind to the same quest for God - a quest with different words and traditions, but never the less the same quest. Jesus of Nazareth is in his own Jewish way expressing the deepest longings of every human being, and this makes the Creed in a way universal. To me personally - I've been a minister in the Church of Denmark for 28 years - his interpretations -and not least his inclusions - have brought me so much, that I have started to translate his book into Danish. My fellow countrymen should not miss the opportunity to read this great book. Thank you, Brother David!

This latest book from Br David Steindl-Rast provokes inquiry into fundamental questions such as who Jesus Christ is for us today? Readers will need time to ponder these and other questions that are sure to come with a careful read. This book will be a real treasure for many who find they can no longer find meaning in traditional understandings of their faith, but who wish to go deeper.

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