

Prayers to Sophia: A Companion to the Star in My Heart

Joyce Rupp

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This volume of fifty short prayers is not likely to cause more than a ripple in the ongoing dispute between conservative Christians and advocates of Sophia, who, as described by Rupp, is the feminine aspect of the divine found in the wisdom literature of the Bible. Rupp refrains from any polemical discussions and simply presents meditations on her personal relationship with Sophia. She states in the introduction that she is “not out to convince anyone about Sophia.”

Still, Rupp can't get to her prayers without first dealing with the controversy, in which conservatives have accused feminist theologians and others of attempting to replace or append the divine Trinity with Sophia. Rupp laments the “anger and fear within the Christian community regarding Sophia,” and wonders if detractors have “reflected on the wisdom texts in the Bible.” Yet she says she understands their hesitation to accept Sophia as she initially had her own hesitations and concerns.

Rupp fortifies her prayers with excerpts from the wisdom literature of the Bible (Proverbs) and the Apocrypha. The prayers are written in verse and are the material of daily life: i.e., anxiety, compassion, grief and loss, nature and change of seasons. The prayers may be based on one woman's journey on the path of personal growth, but most readers will likely find they have much in common with Rupp. Following each prayer and scriptural verse, Rupp includes suggestions for journalizing.

This book coincides with the tenth anniversary printing of Rupp's “The Star in My Heart.” Knowledge of the earlier work is not a prerequisite for enjoying these prayers. Acceptance or even awareness of Sophia is not required to enjoy and utilize the prayers as part of a program of spiritual growth as long as the reader does not consider the mention of Sophia as heresy.

SHARON FLESHER (January / February 2000)

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