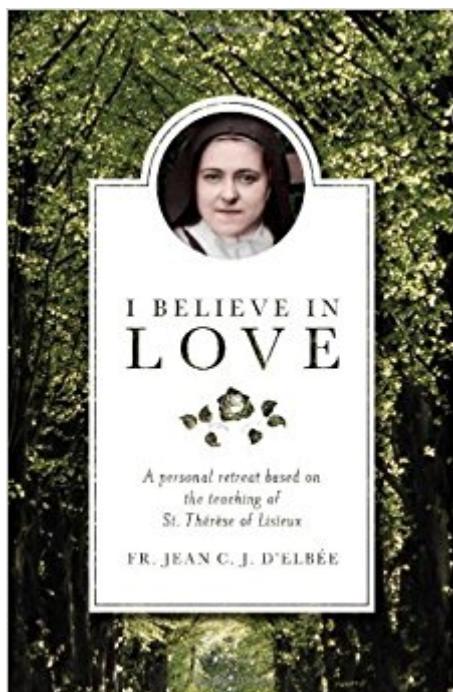


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# I Believe In Love: A Personal Retreat Based On The Teaching Of St. Thérèse Of Lisieux



## Synopsis

This spiritual classic has long been beloved by Catholics for its wondrous distillation of the teaching of St. Thérèse of Lisieux into a reader-friendly set of meditations. It's perfect as a personal retreat when you have only a few moments to spare each day and for spiritual reading anytime and anywhere. Fr. Jean C. J. d'Elbœuf, a French priest deeply imbued with St. Thérèse's spirit, brings you St. Thérèse's teachings on God's love and the confidence in Him that it should inspire in your soul; humility, peace, and fraternal charity; the apostolate; the Cross; and what it means truly to abandon yourself to Divine Providence. *I Believe in Love* has helped countless souls embark on the way to the Father. It will help you focus on Him throughout each day, rest in Him amid your troubles, and live joyfully with Him at every moment! You'll learn: How you can (and must) have confidence in God, not in spite of your sufferings, but because of them! The secret that makes sense of the pain and trouble in your life no matter how great One thing you must cherish in your soul, or you'll never learn to love as Jesus loves God's love for you personally: are you really aware of its reality in every moment of your life? How you can see it at work The spiritual goldmine that is at your fingertips now if you know where to find it What you must do before you speak about the Faith, or your words will be useless Crosses: why you can't avoid them and why you should love the ones God sends you How to deal with failures, reversals, and difficult moments of all kinds without losing your spiritual or emotional equilibrium The Fall of Adam and Eve: how even it shows God's abiding love for every soul The sin that destroys countless souls since few know how to recognize and fight it Do you wish you had the love of God that the saints have but are discouraged by your weaknesses? Why you should take heart Are you drawing on all the treasures of the Eucharist and the saints? How you can be sure The comforting reason why our Lord at times chooses not to deliver you from trials Much more that will show you how to live in the glorious love of God at each moment!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR, Spiritual Passages A Theresian classic that profoundly and beautifully reveals God's deep personal love for each of us and correspondingly awakens in us a burning love for Him. If you want to grow in love of God, this book is a must. Fr. George W. Rutler, author, A Crisis of Saints With felicity and wisdom, this retreat introduces St. Thérèse free of sentimentalism and obscurantism. Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., Homiletic and Pastoral Review Whoever reads this book attentively and prayerfully will grow in the love of God and even desire to be a saint. Fr. Kilian Healy, O.Carm., Awakening Your Soul to the Presence of God Devotees of St. Thérèse will be delighted with this book, but there is something in it for all who seek holiness, the perfection of love. Thomas Howard, Splendor in the Ordinary Fr. d'Elbée's retreat, based on St. Thérèse's little way, draws us into the immensity of that little way. Sophia Institute Press has done us all a great service in bringing this work back into print. Most Rev. Fabian Bruskewitz, Bishop of Lincoln May this personal retreat based on the teachings of the little nun of Lisieux be for those who use it an occasion of grace not only to enlighten their minds, but to elevate their souls to approach the sublime destiny that the little way shows to all. --Personal Endorsements

This spiritual classic has long been beloved by Catholics for its wondrous distillation of the teaching of St. Therese of Lisieux into a reader-friendly set of meditations. It's perfect as a personal retreat when you have only a few moments to spare each day and for spiritual reading anytime and anywhere. Fr. Jean C. J. d'Elbée, a French priest deeply imbued with St. Therese's spirit, brings you St. Therese's teachings on God's love and the confidence in Him that it should inspire in your soul; humility, peace, and fraternal charity; the apostolate; the Cross; and what it means truly to abandon yourself to Divine Providence. I Believe in Love has helped countless souls embark on the way to the Father. It will help you focus on Him throughout each day, rest in Him amid your troubles, and live joyfully with Him at every moment! You'll learn: -How you can (and must) have confidence in God, not in spite of your sufferings, but because of them! -The secret that makes sense of the pain and trouble in your life no matter how great -One thing you must cherish in your soul, or you'll never learn to love as Jesus loves -God's love for you personally: are you really aware of its reality in

every moment of your life? -How you can see it at work -The spiritual goldmine that is at your fingertips now if you know where to find it -What you must do before you speak about the Faith, or your words will be useless -Crosses: why you can't avoid them and why you should love the ones God sends you -How to deal with failures, reversals, and difficult moments of all kinds without losing your spiritual or emotional equilibrium -The Fall of Adam and Eve: how even it shows God's abiding love for every soul -The sin that destroys countless souls since few know how to recognize and fight it -Do you wish you had the love of God that the saints have but are discouraged by your weaknesses? Why you should take heart

This book is phenomenal! It is one of the best spiritual direction guides I have ever read. I have read it many times, and find something new that speaks to my heart every time. I have underlined almost everything....it is all so important and speaks to my very soul. If you are interested in following the "Little Way" of St. Therese of Lisieux, this book is a MUST for you. It is written in the form of an individual retreat, and can be done at your own pace. I was so enthralled by it that I read it straight through, cover to cover the first time, then went back and slowly read it...again and again. I really can't recommend this enough. Fr. d'Elbee has certainly taken the teachings of St. Therese and really given us a thorough understanding of them and practical ways to put them into practice. A masterpiece!

Love this book on the spirit of St. Therese. It is super easy to read and very uplifting on how we need to have a spirit of confidence about how we go about our relationship with God. Confidence is like hope but more concrete and relatable for people today. Highly recommend this book. It is a gentle part of your day to take a break and read a chapter and helps to put life here into perspective. Good for the new reader or old reader of spiritual books.

This is a fantastic spiritual read. For too long I had relegated St. Therese as an overly sentimental young girl; childish. This despite her status as Doctor of the Church. This book - by the grace of the Holy Spirit, of course - taught me to see differently. In his "conferences" (chapters) Elbee makes St. Therese of Lisieux accessible to all of us; even those of us with excessively hard hearts who tend to be too deaf and daft to hear. I read the book slowly, meditating on it. It was a pre-Lenten read for me and so was perfect as an introduction for me to read the great saint in her own words, *The Story of a Soul*.

This is a fantastic book with a highly readable text...great for anyone who wants a little pick-me-up. St. Therese's ideas are concisely and precisely presented in a very readable way. It is perfect for a personal retreat for anyone who wants to grow closer to God. My priest recommended this, and I am so grateful. It is also very good for non-Catholics (I've shared it w/friends of other faiths); the message is for everyone.

It is the most beautiful and at the same time accessible spiritual book I know! In my opinion, in its tone and regarding the universally understandable message of "I believe in Love" it conveys (a belief for which it gives wonderful reasons and testimonies) , it surpasses all similar books. It is sublime (drawing heavily from St Thérèse de Lisieux and other Saints) and yet accessible to everyone and simple. It mediates the central message of divine love and providence in a truly unique way. I recommend it to everyone, Christians and non-Christians as well as atheists and searchers for truth and for love.

This has quickly become one of my favorite books on St. Therese spirituality. I keep coming back to this book and continue to find new gems and encouragement with each reading. There are many books on St. Therese's 'Little Way', but this book brings a synthesis and I believe ought to be on the bookshelves of all St. Therese devotees. On a side note, this particular version has decent margin space which is great for those who like writing notes in their books.

This book makes for a great book study/discussion group. It is also a wonderful personal retreat, and a great aid in deepening your faith in Jesus Christ.

I received this book as a gift. A quick look at the Table of Contents and the conferences listed there had me feeling drawn to concentrate on this rather than dozens of other books waiting to be read on my shelves. I found that the book was exactly what the caption on the cover said: A Personal Retreat! Based on the Teaching of Saint Thérèse, Father d'Elbée quickly gets to the heart of what we all need to hear: How we are truly loved by God! Saint Thérèse is also one to go beyond what we normally imagine. The confidence she claims we can place in God; the confidence we should have in placing ourselves and our total trust in God; is both necessary for us to hear and very comforting. She is so confident, she says: forget you past! Just tell Jesus: "Make up for what I have done badly" and "Do what I have left undone." She gives her own personal examples. Father d'Elbée presents Saint Thérèse in such a realistic light. She appears as she truly is, for those

who have studied her life, a child of God, similar to what she calls herself (Thérèse of the Child Jesus) and a disciple of Saint John of the Cross. Like all the saints, her message is founded on the virtue of humility, which she claims is so absolutely necessary. The message we receive is that if we knew what we could gain from this we would thirst for it. Father makes it clear that "no one but a disciple of Jesus can be humble." The simple reason is that it is not humanly possible because of our fallen human nature. We need His grace! The conference on "Great Desires, Humility, and Peace" is extremely helpful. One example, showing our blindness especially in respect to our need for humility, comes from the statement: "The majority of hurts, offended feelings, grudges, and bitternesses in life with others come from this obsession with our rights [i.e. we are always seeing injustice and demanding justice for ourselves and miserable when it does not happen], this need for esteem [the egotistical self-fulfilling pride that Saint John talks about], so strongly woven into our 'self.'" This is very true. We can only change ourselves. The solution for most of our problems lies within our grasp. It does, however, mean looking at ourselves with brutal honesty. But, it's the price we must pay for finding humility and peace. Don't jump to this part of the book. Read the whole thing. I am sure there is plenty that each person needs to hear. There is a lot that will hit home in each chapter. The Masters all say, not to advance in the Spiritual Life is to fall back. This book gives us food to help advance and keep advancing. Saint Thérèse is very profound in what she says, but when it comes down to what she asks us to do, they are very simple things—yes, maybe very hard to integrate into our lives, but it will not take a rocket scientist to know what she is talking about. If the book has the same effect on you that it had on me, give it as a gift to someone else. That's what I am doing now. I received it as a gift. I am ordering two more copies now for others.

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