

## **HOWARD THURMAN: MYSTICISM & SOCIAL CHANGE**

**Inner Light Ministries :: May 20-21, 2011 :: [www.innerlightministries.com](http://www.innerlightministries.com)**

**Instructor: Dr. Liza J. Rankow :: OneLife Institute :: [www.onelifeinstitute.org](http://www.onelifeinstitute.org)**

### **Course Description:**

Dr. Howard Thurman was a guide and mentor for Martin Luther King Jr. and many others in the struggle for freedom, justice, and civil rights. His work speaks directly to today's personal and social issues, highlighting the powerful connection between spirituality and social transformation. A renowned author, educator, and preacher, Thurman co-founded the nation's first interracial interfaith congregation.

Through readings, discussion, audio and video resources we will explore the relevance and implications of his wisdom for contemporary times, and consider the practical applications of the principles presented for each participant's life journey, with a particular focus on the intersection between mysticism and social change.

The Friday night session may be taken as a "stand alone" introduction for those wishing to learn more about Howard Thurman, or as part of the full weekend workshop.

*Please Note: Attendance on Friday is a prerequisite for the Saturday session, however some exceptions may be arranged with instructor permission. The ILM office can provide my contact information as needed.*

### **Schedule:**

- **Friday evening, May 20th, 7:00PM - 9:30PM** (registration / doors at 6:30PM)

#### **Introduction: The Life and Legacy of Howard Thurman**

Includes portions of the film: "Conversations with Howard Thurman"

- **Saturday, May 21st, 9:30AM - 4:30PM** (arrival / doors at 9AM)

*(Lunch is on your own. Please also feel free to bring potluck snacks to share.)*

### **Course Readings:**

Upon registration you will receive access to download several background readings for the class, along with a few readings by Dr. Thurman. (References for these are listed on the next page.)

If possible, I recommend you purchase a copy of the anthology *For the Inward Journey: The Writings of Howard Thurman*. It is available at the ILM bookstore or via the internet, and will not only be useful for this class, but as a source of ongoing inspiration and study. (Some readings from that text are also noted below.)

I encourage you to read as much as possible in advance of our time together. However, the course is designed to be "user-friendly" and accessible for all participants, including those who decide at the last minute to attend. All are welcome.

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**Readings:** Most are available for download upon registration, via Inner Light's website.  
Please print and bring a copy with you to class. Thank you.

### Background Articles:

Harding, Vincent. "Dangerous Spirituality," *Sojourners Magazine*, vol. 28 (January/February 1999), 28-31.

Smith, J. Alfred. "Howard Thurman: Thoughts from a Student." *Creation Spirituality* 7 (March/April 1991), 17, 53.

Smith, Luther E. "Companion for the Journey: The Works of Howard Thurman." *Sojourners Magazine*, vol. 22 (December 1993), 42-43, 45.

### Thurman Texts:

Thurman, Howard. *Meditations of the Heart*. Richmond, IN: Friends United Press, 1976, 117-118, 120-121. (Originally published by Harper & Row, 1953.)

Thurman, Howard. "Mysticism and Social Action." *Lawrence Lectures on Religion and Society* presented in Kensington, CA, First Unitarian Church of Berkeley, Oct. 1978, (excerpts).

\*\* Thurman, Anne Spencer, ed. *For the Inward Journey: The Writings of Howard Thurman*. Richmond, IN: Friends United Press, 1984,

The basics: 6, 16-18, 35-, 47-, 52-, 181-, 184-188, 295-

For those who want more: 38, 42-, 79-, 83-, 91-, 97-, 177-183, 189-195

I also recommend Dr. Vincent Harding's excellent Introduction to this book (ix – xv).

(An open-ended hyphen indicates readings that finish on the next page).

**\*\* Please note:** This anthology, *For the Inward Journey*, is available for purchase at the ILM Bookstore (and new/used on Amazon, etc) and this reading set is not part of the downloadable packet. Those unable to purchase the book may want to xerox a copy of "the basics" (listed above) from a friend's book in advance of class. We may be able to provide a limited number of copies on an as-needed basis.