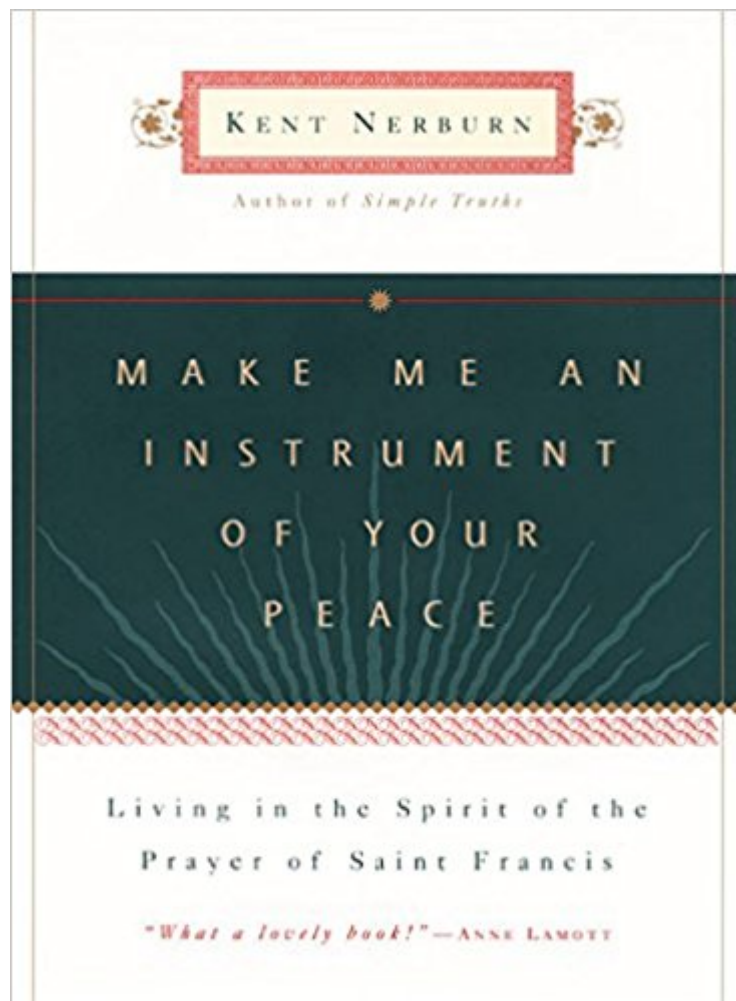




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Make Me An Instrument Of Your Peace



Synopsis

Kent Nerburn's *Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace*, immerses us in the spirit of one of the most universally inspiring figures in history: St. Francis of Assisi. The Prayer of St. Francis boldly but gently challenges us to resist the forces of evil and negativity with the spirit of goodwill and generosity. And Nerburn shows, in his wonderfully personal and humble way, how we each can live out the prayer's prescription for living in our everyday and less-than-saintly lives. "Where there is hatred, let me sow love...Where there is injury, let me sow pardon..." Expanding upon each line of the St. Francis Prayer, Nerburn shares touching, inspiring stories from his own experience and that of others and reveals how each of us can make a difference for good in ordinary ways without being heroes or saints. Struggling to help a young son comfort his best friend when his mother dies, moved by the courage of war enemies who reconcile, being wrenched out of self-absorbed depression by responding to someone else's tragedy, taking a spirited old lady on a farewell taxi ride through her town-these are the kinds of everyday moments in which Nerburn finds we can live out the spirit of St. Francis. By incorporating the power and grace of these few lines of practical idealism into our thoughts and deeds, we can begin to ease our own suffering-and the suffering of those with whom we share our lives. And, remarkably, find a way to true peace and happiness by tapping into our basic human goodness. As we open our hearts and embrace his words, St. Francis "touches our deepest humanity and ignites the spark of our divinity." Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred let me sow love, Where there is injury let me sow pardon, Where there is doubt, faith, Where there is despair, hope, Where there is darkness, light, And where there is sadness, joy... In this beautifully written book, Kent Nerburn leads us into the heart of the St. Francis Prayer and line by line demonstrates how St. Francis's words can resonate in our lives today.

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Customer Reviews

The monastic tradition of lectio divina--holy reading--is a discipline of extremely slow, phrase-by-phrase, meditative reading of scripture. Its desired effect is to plumb the Bible's depths in such a way that scripture's individual words and phrases come to permeate the reader's whole life. In *Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace: Living in the Spirit of St. Francis*, Kent Nerburn reads the Prayer of Saint Francis in a manner much like lectio, and the rewards of this strategy are rich. The prayer ("Where there is hatred let me sow love ...") is a familiar one, but Nerburn's reflections on its phrases--meandering through stories of his summer jobs as a teenager, his lonely expatriate days in Germany, his long walks on the beaches of Mexico--make the old prayer new again. Nerburn has lived this prayer, and the quiet example of this book will help many readers to do so as well. He unwittingly describes the strength and power of his own project while reflecting on a phrase from the prayer's final stanza, "For it is in giving that we receive." Nerburn writes, "Our spirits are nourished by giving, just as our bodies are nourished by food. This is not mystical; it is not high-minded. It is a simple truth about the way that the energy of life flows back and forth between people when a moment of giving takes place." --Michael Joseph Gross

"What a lovely book!"-- Anne Lamott, author of *Bird by Bird* and *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*"I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed Ken Nerburn's *Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace*. I have never realized the depth of thought in that brief prayer of St. Francis. Kent Nerburn, in a few masterful strokes and touching stories, plumbs its depths and offers us a precious little treasure."-- Joseph F. Girzone, author of *Joshua* "An ennobling book. It will not only make you feel better, it might just make you a better person."-- Huston Smith, author of *The World's Religions*"Kent Nerburn has written a little jewel of a book, to warm the heart and touch the soul."-- Rabbi Harold S. Kushner, author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*"Kent Nerburn offers his mindful heart and thoughtful presence to illuminate the penetrating wisdom of Francis's sweet prayer. This book is a pearl of great price, revealing how the most potent, authentic prayer is also tender and very human. Kent Nerburn is a wise companion who has given us a blessing to be cherished again and again."-- Wayne Muller, author of *Legacy of the Heart* and *How, Then, Shall We Live?*"Kent Nerburn has tackled a well developed Franciscan prayer and topic with the freshness of an outside and contemporary perspective. Filled with stories from modern life in the

west, it is thoroughly enjoyable as a quick, refreshing read, yet filled with spiritual gems."-- John Michael Talbot, founder of Brothers and Sisters of Charity, author of "The Lessons of St. Francis

Grief and Gratitude often walk hand in hand. My husband left his earthly life a few months ago. I had begun reading this book shortly before. introduced to it by a friend. As our family prepared his memorial service, I carried this treasure with me Every day reading its pertinent and healing passages. It brought me comfort and peace especially at times when others needed to be understood in their grieving during this time. The Prayer of Francis of Assisi, "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace " was sung that day . This prayer had always been a part of my life but this brought new and deeper understanding at a time when I dearly needed it. Thank you Kent Nerburn.

I have read other books on St. Francis but this one really spoke to me in it's simplicity and clear cut examples. I have read several of the author's other works and truly enjoyed this one.

I have had this book for a good while. I ordered more copies to use in an adult Sunday school class. The class and myself find it readable, touching the essence of each verse and catapulting us into discussions of how our lives are lived out in light of each chapter. It has generated the most honest sharing of life experiences I have encountered in any adult class in which I have participated. I totally recommend this book on an individual level or as a catalyst for group discussion. Rev. Jim Smart

Loved the book and ended up buying copies for others. 1. Dear friend and spiritual advisor 2. Friend in Alaska with conflict in her home between son and father. 3. A dear Friend who lost her husband to cancer. 4. Dear friend and head of our Needs ministry having health problems. Woman who came into needs who had problems with depression and mental problems. All this happened in a week and I kept running to .com. Love the works of Kent Nerburn looking forward to reading more of his works. Since I first wrote my review have purchased more to give away. Also kept giving my copy away as of today 9/25/2015 have purchased 20 copies. During this time I also lost my beloved younger. I wrote his service using Saint Francis prayer for Peace for it said so much about my brother. Every one that I have sent a copy to have found Peace. Thank Kent Nerburn.

I have read this book several time and each time I read it, I come away with a fresh insight into this beautiful prayer by St Francis of Assisi. Each chapter is designed to look at one line of the prayer,

and is a wonderful way to spend time in quiet reflection and meditation. It will truly lead the reader to ways of really living this prayer and becoming an instrument of God's peace.

I absolutely LOVED this book! Kent Nerburn's style is beautiful. He speaks from the depths of his soul. The kindness and goodness that he possesses as a human being is obvious. The depth of his spirituality is rare and he makes you want to do all you can to follow in CHrist's footsteps. The imagery he uses is so awesome. He uses the language of words as it is meant to be used--descriptive and visual. I took several stories from his book and told them to my kids, trying to instill in them a sense of selflessness, of giving without thinking of the cost. Giving of self, because it's the right and good thing to do. We are called to love others, putting God first, others second and self last, because that's what God asks us to do. I have read so many spiritual works, and this is one of my very favorites. I just ordered 2 more of his books. I can't wait to read them, as well!

Kent Nerburn's books are always filled with intelligence and compassion, and "Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace" is an excellent example of just how much head and heart can be beautifully installed into 129 pages. Nerburn's reflections on the Prayer of Saint Francis teach us more about ourselves than about the famous saint, and that is probably just fine with Francis. Nerburn always emphasizes the practical. "I would rather try to manifest my belief in God than to profess it," he writes. In this way, Saint Francis and the self-admitted not-so-saintly Nerburn make a wonderful team. They teach us that we cannot successfully hide from the dark side of our world or of ourselves; that instead we must face even the "most frightening human emotion" --- hatred --- head on. The goal is not to become a saint, thank goodness, but to accept responsibility to do what we can to manifest, and not just profess, our own beliefs. Congruent with its contents, the physical book itself makes an excellent gift. I keep several copies in my office to give away whenever I may be so moved --- by the spirit of Saint Francis perhaps. (Although I doubt that Francis is involved in book promotion)

Kent Nerburn wrote touching stories about his life path and how this beautiful little prayer of St. Francis can be used each day for whatever challenges appear in our own journey. Love is simple, but so powerful.

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