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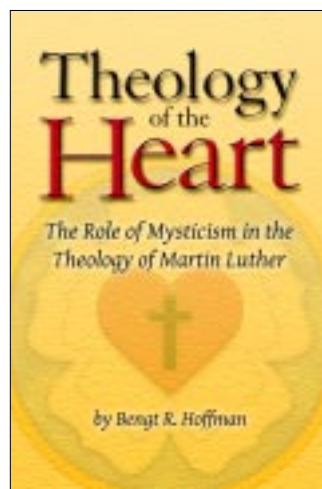
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Theology of the Heart

The Role of Mysticism in the Theology of Martin Luther

by **Bengt Hoffman**
Pearl W. Hoffman, Editor

Bengt Hoffman elevates Christian spirituality and spiritual formation as proper subjects for serious theological study. This book reveals Luther's mystical experience of God in a prayerful life to be essential in the development of his theology. It shows how the spiritual life is essential to Luther's understanding of the gospel. Balanced by his emphasis on the "external Word" Luther's experience of the divine was a critical influence on his understanding of faith and salvation.



Theology of the Heart is an important contribution to the recovery of the church's rich spiritual tradition. In the present era this work demonstrates that theology is not a matter of intellect only, but also of the whole person's experience. Dr. Hoffman has given us a truer understanding of Luther and the theology of the heart in Judeo-Christian scripture.

About the Author: Born in Kinna, Sweden, **Bengt Hoffman** received his theological education in Sweden, where he served as pastor and rector in Church of Sweden parishes. He earned his Ph.D. at Yale University. Dr. Hoffman served on the World Council of Churches staff in Geneva, Switzerland, and as director of Lutheran World Service. After World War II he went to China as a missionary. In 1967 he became professor of ethics and ecumenics at Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary. Dr. Hoffman died in 1997.

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