

## THEO 239: Scriptures and Spirituality

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With this modest introduction, let me say that I truly look forward to being with you during the Fall Quarter and to explore with you important themes which emerge from our own experience of God and from our experience of God as it is conveyed to us through the inspired texts of Judaism and Christianity. During these past weeks I have been reading up a storm in search of the best texts for this course. To this end, I have decided on **two required texts for THEO 239-01 (36544) – "Scriptures and Spiritualities,"** they are:

Barbara E. Bowe, with contributions by Laurie Brink and John R. Barker, ***Biblical Foundations of Spirituality: Touching a Finger to the Flame***, Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017. ISBN 978-0-7425-5961-5

Thelma Hall, ***Too Deep for Words: Rediscovering Lectio Divina, with 500 Scriptural Texts for Prayer***, Mahwah, New York: Paulist Press, 1988.  
ISBN 0-8091-2959-0

You will **not need** these texts for our first two class meetings. However, **you will need them by September 28/29.** In choosing these texts, it is my sincere hope that they will become **two very useful tools for your "Ministerial Library."** For decades, whenever I have accompanied persons on an Eight-Day Retreat or offered an individual some scriptural passage for prayer and reflection, I have found Thelma Hall's text to be most useful. As regards the second text, while having access to biblical commentaries would be "the best of all possible worlds," the text by Barbara Bowe, with contributions by Laurie Brink and John Barker, will give you some quick and useful insights into the historical context and the theological issues which are conveyed in particular works of scripture.