

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Michael Jackson's Spirituality

In his recently released book *What Hollywood Believes* (Genesis Publishing Group), author Ray Comfort uncovers the spiritual beliefs of more than one hundred top celebrities, including Michael Jackson and his famous sisters. It seems that September 11<sup>th</sup> caused some celebrities to rethink their values and become more open about what they believe. Perhaps the popularity of the movie *The Passion of the Christ* has also helped to make spirituality more acceptable. In 2004 alone, Madonna admitted to giving \$25 million in support of Kabbalah, and in November Jim Carrey appeared on CBS's "60 Minutes" and unabashedly shared his spiritual views. Even Hugh Hefner got in on the action, appearing on the television show "Faith Under Fire" to talk about his belief in God.

However, Michael Jackson's religious belief has been public knowledge for many years. Back in February 1993, in an interview that was broadcast live around the world, Oprah Winfrey probed his beliefs by asking, "Are you very spiritual?" Jackson answered, "I believe in God, absolutely, absolutely, very much . . . I believe that all art has as its ultimate goal the union between the material and the spiritual, the human and the divine."<sup>1</sup> In 1999 he told *The Mirror*, "I'm just a person who wants to be honest and do good, make people happy and give them the greatest sense of escapism through the talent God has given me."<sup>2</sup>

More recently, when writing of his upbringing as a Jehovah's Witness, Jackson continued to attribute his musical talents to God, saying, "The best way I can imagine to show my thanks is to make the very most of the gift that God gave me." He added, "When circumstances made it increasingly complex for me to attend [church], I was comforted by the belief that God exists in my heart, and in music and in beauty, not only in a building . . . When I became a father, my whole sense of God and the Sabbath was redefined . . . I see God through my children. I speak to God through my children. I am humbled for the blessings He has given me."

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<sup>1</sup> [www.allmichaeljackson.com/interviews/oprahinterview.html](http://www.allmichaeljackson.com/interviews/oprahinterview.html)

<sup>2</sup> [www.allmichaeljackson.com/interviews/mirrorinterview.html](http://www.allmichaeljackson.com/interviews/mirrorinterview.html)

In *What Hollywood Believes* Jackson does admit to having his doubts. He says, "There have been times in my life when I, like everyone, has had to wonder about God's existence. When Prince smiles, when Paris giggles, I have no doubts. Children are God's gift to us."<sup>3</sup>

Michael Jackson has often made unsolicited references to God in interviews. In 2003 when Ed Bradley of "60 Minutes" asked him about accusations of sleeping with children, he answered, "People think sex. They're thinking sex. My mind doesn't run that way. When I see children, I see the face of God."<sup>4</sup>

In an interview with TV Guide he was asked about people who thought he was "weird" for having exotic animals. Jackson replied, "God created animals and they are loving, they are beautiful."<sup>5</sup>

"God has always been in my heart and a part of my life and my family's lives," Jackson said, following an August 2004 visit to the First AME Church of Los Angeles. "It is through Him that we draw our strength. As a child, my mother taught me the value of prayer and today, it is still a part of my daily life."<sup>6</sup>

No doubt, with this trial going on, he's doing a lot of praying.

Transcript available on [www.whathollywoodbelieves.com](http://www.whathollywoodbelieves.com). We would be grateful if you would source cite *What Hollywood Believes* when quoting from this article.

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I have interviewed hundreds of authors and guests and I can say without hesitation...Ray is the best. He is outstanding. He has an energy and passion that forces people to listen...and respond.

-- Todd Friel, Host, "Talk the Walk" -- KKMS, Minnesota

After interviewing thousands of guests over thirty-one years, I would put Ray Comfort in the top five, not five thousand; five. He is unique.

-- Tim Berrends, Co-host of "Mornings with Tim & Al"-- KJSL, St. Louis

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<sup>3</sup> [www.beliefnet.com/story/56/story\\_5697\\_3.html](http://www.beliefnet.com/story/56/story_5697_3.html)

<sup>4</sup> [www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/12/28/60minutes/main590381.shtml](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/12/28/60minutes/main590381.shtml)

<sup>5</sup> [www.michaeljackson.ru/english/gravity/interviews/intvguide.html](http://www.michaeljackson.ru/english/gravity/interviews/intvguide.html)

<sup>6</sup> [www.jacksonforever.com/quotes.htm](http://www.jacksonforever.com/quotes.htm)