



Billy Graham

1918-2018



Surrendering to God

“One night in March 1938 Billy Graham returned from his walk and reached the eighteenth green immediately before the school’s front door. ‘The trees were loaded with Spanish moss, and in the moonlight it was like a fairyland.’ He sat down on the edge of the green, looking up at the moon and stars, aware of a warm breeze from south. The tension snapped. ‘I remember getting on my knees and saying, “O God, if you want me to preach, I will do it.” Tears streamed down my cheeks as I made this great surrender to become an ambassador for Jesus Christ’” (John Pollock, *Billy Graham*).



The Modesto Manifesto: November 1948

- We will never criticize, condemn, or speak negatively about others.
- We will be accountable, particularly in handling finances, with integrity according to the highest business standards.
- We will tell the truth and be thoroughly honest, especially in reporting statistics.
- We will be exemplary in morals – clear, clean, and careful to avoid the very appearance of any impropriety.



The Crisis Over the Bible at Forest Home

“Billy went out in the forest and wandered up the mountain, praying as he walked, ‘Lord, what shall I do? What shall be the direction of my life?’ He knew he had reached what he believed to be a crisis....‘So I went back and I got my Bible, and I went out in the moonlight. And I got to a stump and put the Bible on the stump, and I knelt down, and I said, “Oh, God; I cannot prove certain things. I cannot answer some of the questions Chuck (Charles Templeton) is raising and some of the other people are raising, but I accept this Book by faith as the Word of God”””(John Pollock).

The Crisis Over the Bible at Forest Home

“In August of that year (1949) I had been invited to Forest Home, a Presbyterian conference center high in the mountains outside Los Angeles. I remember walking down a trail, tramping into the woods, and almost wrestling with God. I dueled with my doubts, and my soul seemed to be caught in the crossfire. Finally, in desperation, I surrendered my will to the living God revealed in Scripture. I knelt before the open Bible and said: ‘Lord, many things in this Book I do not understand. But thou has said, “The just shall live by faith.” All I have received from thee, I have taken by faith. Here and now, by faith, I accept the Bible as thy Word. I take it all. I take it without reservations. Where there are things I cannot understand, I will reserve judgment

Crisis at Forest Home

until I receive more light. If this pleases thee, give me authority as I proclaim thy Word, and through that authority convict me of sin and turn sinners to the Savior.’”

- Billy Graham, “Biblical Authority in Evangelism”

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The Heart of Billy Graham

- “My one purpose in life is to help people find a personal relationship with God, which, I believe, comes through knowing Christ” (Billy Graham).
- “All attempts to explain Billy Graham fail unless they begin at the cross” (Sherwood Wirt, *Decision Magazine*).
- “Billy’s marching orders came from hours of prayer and studying the Scriptures and praying with those who shared his convictions and were in the trenches with him. He was constantly asking the question, ‘What is God actually saying we should do next?’” (Harold Myra and Marshall Shelley, *Christianity Today*).



Billy Graham & Prayer

“From the beginning, his spiritual power has come from prayer and the Bible. His colleague, T.W. Wilson, called him ‘the most completely disciplined person I have ever known.’ The discipline started around 7:00 a.m. each day, when he would read five Psalms and one chapter of Proverbs. He started there because, as he often said, the Psalms showed him how to relate to God, while Proverbs taught him how to relate to people. After breakfast he would pray and study more Scripture. Even under the pressure of travel schedules moving him from city to city, from hotel to hotel, often through many time zones, he strove to study and pray each morning” (Myra and Shelley).



Billy Graham & Prayer

- “When we come to the end of ourselves, we come to the beginning of God” (Billy Graham).
- “Because Billy was well-connected to his (God’s) continuous voltage, he knew where the power came from. He simply made himself available to receive it” (Myra and Shelley).



An Undistracted Life

“Billy Graham has spent a lifetime pointing to the door and praying for those who hear his invitation to put their hands on the latch, to walk into a life of reconciliation, purpose, and joy. No other role, for his life, has loomed larger; other goals have never been compelling enough to deflect him” (Myra and Shelley).

Into the Presence of God

“Someday you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don’t you believe a word of it! I shall be more alive then than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God.”



