



Of Seeds and Flowers



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BILLY GRAHAM 1918-2018 - IN HIS OWN WORDS.

Say a prayer before reading this issue of "Of Seeds and Flowers". Read and listen prayerfully with your HEART. Be vulnerable! If something touches your beautiful heart, **STOP**, and let it do its **FULL WORK** in you. Not everything is for everybody or for everybody in the same way at the same time but **SOMETHING IS FOR EVERYBODY**. Grace is NOW or it ISN'T.

"My home is in Heaven. I'm just traveling through this world".

1934, 15 YEARS OLD: "I could not help but admit to myself that I was purposeless and empty-hearted. Our family bible reading, praying and churchgoing-all these left me restless and resentful ...I was spiritually dead." Just before his 16th birthday, at a revival, he went forth and made a decision for Jesus. The rest is history.

"I am convinced the greatest act of love we can ever perform for people is to *tell them about God's love* for them in Christ."

"In great weakness I would stand up to preach, and I would then sense A POWER COMING UPON ME." "Preachers are not salesmen, for they have nothing to sell. **They are bearers of GOOD NEWS.**"

"I have found that when I present the simple message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with authority, quoting the very Word of God- He takes that message and DRIVES IT SUPERNATURALLY into the human heart."

After his first date with his future wife, Ruth McCue Bell, she went back to her room and prayed: "Lord, if You let me serve You with that man, I'd consider it the greatest privilege of my life." "Without Ruth's partnership and encouragement over the years, my own work would have been impossible. We were called by God as a team."

"I had not been preaching long before I decided that I WOULD NEVER PREACH TO ANOTHER SEGREGATED AUDIENCE in any situation over which we had control. "Down through the ages, man's heart has remained unchanged. Whatever the color of his skin, whatever his cultural or ethnic background, he needs THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST." (Perhaps this is the reason there will never be peace in the East. FORGIVENESS and not just Old Testament, "An eye for an eye...") "Christianity is not a white man's religion. Don't let anybody tell you that it's white or black. CHRIST BELONGS TO ALL PEOPLE."

"Had it not been for the ministry of my good friend Billy Graham, my work in the civil rights movement would not have been as successful as it has been." Martin Luther King Jr.

"I am not here to give you my thoughts, but **God's thoughts.**" "For the Son of Man (Jesus Christ) has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10. "The work has been God's and not man's. I want no credit or glory. I want the Lord Jesus to have it all." "Whoever speaks on his own is bent on self glorification." John 7:18.

"God's love is unchangeable. He knows exactly what we are and loves us anyway." "We are Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us." 2Cor. 5:20

One night I asked Billy, "Of all your ministry life, what did you enjoy the most? Maybe being with presidents and kings/ Maybe leading millions to the Lord?" He took his hand and swung it across the table as if to wipe my lame suggestion to the floor. He said, "Joe, my greatest joy has been my fellowship with Jesus, To know His presence, to hear his wisdom, to have His guidance." Then he said it again: "The greatest joy of my life has been my fellowship with Jesus." Joseph Stowell, president, Cornerstone University

"I would not change places with the wealthiest and most influential person in the world. I would rather be a child of the KING...." "We sometimes forget that some of the loneliest people in the world are those who are constantly in the PUBLIC EYE. They have spiritual needs just like everyone else."

"We're all sinners who earn God's love not through good deeds, but **through His grace.**" A word given by Billy Graham, to and prized by George W. Bush.

"The deepest problems of the human race are **SPIRITUAL IN NATURE**...the problem is the **HUMAN HEART**, which GOD ALONE can change." "No clergyman however brilliant, no evangelist no matter how eloquent or compelling can bring about the revival we need. **Only the Holy Spirit can do this.**"

"The United Nations is filled with suspicions, with criticisms of each other and with fear... The only personality in the universe at this hour who can remove that fear is Christ, for He is the Prince of Peace." Feb. 1965 (And how about 53 years later?)

"I never go to see important people-or anyone else- without the deep realization That I am -first and foremost - an ambassador of the KING OF KINGS ...I am always thinking of ways I can share Christ." "Go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to EVERY creature." Mark 16:15.

"In order to get to Heaven, Jesus us said that you must be converted. IDIDN'T SAY IT -JESUS SAID IT." "God has not promised to bless oratory or clever preaching. HE HAS PROMISED TO BLESS HIS WORD."

"The cross shows the seriousness of our sin but it also shows us the *IMMEASURABLE LOVE of God.*"

"Don't be a prude, or snobbish, but let your life GLOW for Christ. We are lamps shining in the darkness." "Blessed are all who hear the word of God and put into practice." Luke 11:28. The Spirit goes ahead of us when we witness - preparing the way, GIVING US THE WORDS, and granting us courage."

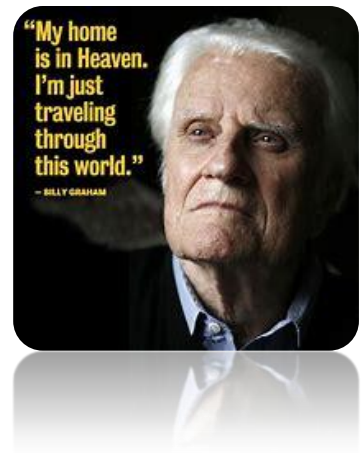
"How marvelous it was to stand in a place like the Soviet Union and... tell them that Communism will not win. I told them Capitalism would not win either; **It's the Kingdom of God that is going to win.**"

"The message I preached in China is the same message I preached all over the world: the Good News that God loves us and sent His Son into the world to forgive us and reconcile us to God so that we could have our hearts changed and have hope for the future."

"We should not pray for God to be on our side, but that **WE MAY BE ON GOD'S SIDE.**" "*Your word is my source of hope.*" Psalm 119:114. . Your yearning for God must supersede all other desires.. It must be a like a gnawing **HUNGER and a BURNING thirst.**" "If **ANYONE** thirsts, let him/her come to me; let them drink...from within him/her rivers of living water shall flow." John8:37.

"With all my heart, I want to leave you with **TRUTH**...to use my energy that I have left to share this important message...and that message is JESUS."

"Salvation is ALWAYS GOOD NEWS. It is news of God's love and forgiveness -adoption into His FAMILY..." "Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may...**teach them to their children.**" Deuteronomy 4:10.



"I've become an old man now, and I've preached all over the world. And the older I get, the more I cling to that hope that I started with many years ago."

"MY HOME IS IN HEAVEN. I'M JUST TRAVELING THROUGH THIS WORLD." How about you?

Billy Graham preached to over 215 million people in 185 countries. Each time he preached he would end by asking people to make a **DECISION** "To repent (turn from your sins), ask for God's forgiveness, and by faith receive Jesus Christ into your heart and life and follow Him as your Lord and Savior.

"**DECISION**" is the name of the magazine published by the *Billy Graham Evangelistic Association*.. On the last page of **every edition** is an invitation to make a decision for Christ. It reads:

1. **RECOGNIZE GOD'S PLAN** - *peace and life*. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16.
2. **REALIZE OUR PROBLEM** - *separation from God*. People choose to disobey God and go their own way. This results in separation from God. "ALL have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23.
3. **RECEIVE GOD'S SON** - *Lord and Savior*. You cross the bridge when you ask Christ to come into your life. "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name." John 1:12.
4. **RESPOND TO GOD'S REMEDY** - *the cross of Christ*. "God sent His Son to bridge the gap. Christ did this by paying the penalty of our sins when He died on the cross and was raised from the grave. "God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8.

THEN FOLLOWS THESE WORDS AND PRAYER OF INVITATION:

"**THE INVITATION IS TO:** Repent (turn from your sins), ask for God's forgiveness, and by faith receive Jesus Christ into your heart and life and follow Him as our Lord and Savior" AND THEN THE...

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT: "Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and ask for your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior, in Your name. Amen."

MILLIONS of people, all over the world, have chosen to follow Jesus because of Billy's preaching and invitation. **HE WILL BE MISSED. He is in Heaven building a bridge for the rest of us to follow!**

TRANSFORMED PEOPLE, TRANSFORM PEOPLE!

"We need transformed people today, and not just people with ideas." Rohr
*We don't **think ourselves** into a new way of living. We **live ourselves** into a new way of thinking.*
GO INSIDE AND KNOW FOR YOURSELF. *Why do you think all great spiritual teachers demand **prayer** so much?*

GO INSIDE AND EXPERIENCE FOR YOURSELF!

"ANY WHO DID ACCEPT HIM HE EMPOWERED TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD" John 1:12. There are **NO ADULTS OF GOD**. "Unless you become like **little children** you cannot enter the Kingdom of God."



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SPEAKING SOFTLY

About 4 years ago I had a little Chinese girl in my Latin class who said, "My mother is always saying "You are like a frog at the bottom of the well."

I thought about it for few moments and drew two perpendicular lines on the whiteboard about 10 inches apart looking like a well and placed a crude looking frog at the bottom. "What does the frog see as it looks up"? The students responded, "A small piece of the blue sky".

"What happens if I move the frog half way up the well?" They answered, "The frog sees more of the sky." "And what happens if the frog moves up to 5 feet from the top"? Again, "The frog sees more of the sky". "And how about when the frog sits on the edge of the well"? "The frog sees how big the sky really is".

"You are like a frog at the bottom of the well". The students and my little Chinese friend now understood. Ahh! -a teachable moment! NEVER lose a teachable moment!

"The truth and reality about the sky is very limited at the bottom of the well, isn't it? In real life, what happens if people spend most of their life at the bottom of the well"? Uniformed, immature, uneducated, no wisdom, selfish, not loving, believing everything others, who know as little as they do about reality, tell them, etc..

How many people are at the bottom of the well with regards to God? -not in touch with reality. Suppose that God is *The Ultimate Reality that upholds ALL Reality*. Could it then be, that to the degree that you are not in touch with God, to the same degree, you are out of touch with reality? How many people are out of touch with reality and truth in the American media?

"TO FORGIVE IS TO SET THE PRISONER FREE, AND THEN DISCOVER THAT THE PRISONER WAS YOU."



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