



Billy Graham Email

Was thinking of the word - encouragement - along with some of the reading I have been doing and thought I would pass some along to you and encourage you to do the same with others.

The passing of Billy Graham took me down a path of reflection that brought about some observations and a few phrases that have delivered nourishment to my soul.

Since all souls seek nourishment here they are:

Billy Graham through the eyes of Peggy Noonan this past Saturday Feb 24 in the WSJ.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/billy-graham-the-ecumenical-evangelist-1519344269?mod=searchresults&page=1&pos=1>

- Noonan has represented to me a window into the heart of the can-do Catholic from the northeast, a person who knows how it can be done and who with age has started to see the entire landscape well.
- Here are a few lines:
 - "There was something different and special going on between Catholics and Billy Graham. They saw.... his confidence in his message."
 - "I asked archbishop of Philadelphia Charles Chaput if he saw this also. He emailed back: when I was growing up back in the 1950's relations were still wary, but catholic families felt that Billy Graham was the preacher they could feel a real kinship with."
 - "He had the ability to reach across the fractures and speak to the COMMON BELIEVING HEART."
 - A quote from Graham on his passing.
 - "I have gone into the PRESENCE of God."
- I loved the combination of our common believing hearts and being in the presence of God.

Billy Graham through the eyes of George W. Bush on Monday February 26 in the WSJ.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/how-billy-graham-changed-my-life-1519427900?mod=searchresults&page=1&pos=1>

- Reading #43 prose is exactly like listening to him, he is consistent.
- Graham was instrumental in the grace of the holy spirit working inside W's heart and also taught him not to quarrel over semantics which is a great lesson for some of the fundamentalists in our midst.

- "One night while dad was away on a trip during his presidency, mother and I had dinner at the White House. Eventually we got to talking about religion and who gets to go to heaven. I made the point that the new testament says clearly that to get to heaven, one must believe in Christ. Mother asked about the devout who don't believe in Jesus but do God's work by serving others. She then took advantage of one of the benefits of being first lady. She picked up the phone and asked the White house operator to call Reverend Graham.
- It wasn't long before his reassuring southern voice was on the line. he told us "I believe what is written in the new testament. But don't play God. He decides who goes to heaven not you." Any doctrinal certitude gave way to a calm trust that God had this figured out better than I did."
- My lesson of encouragement: amidst all the strife, how about some grace and trust.

Another article asked about where the next Billy Graham will come from and it quoted him a conference in the 1980's that was full of ministers.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/will-there-ever-be-another-billy-graham-1519414479?mod=searchresults&page=1&pos=1>

- He said: "You are all the next Billy Graham...Go and preach."

The Three Points come together like this for me:

- We, the people, have a common believing heart.
- We, the people, can take great assurance that God's presence is with us.
- We, the people, can reassure those around us with our kindness and grace.

Peace be with you,

Drew

en·cour·age·ment

the action of giving someone support, confidence, or hope.