

Excerpts from *The Journey* by Billy Graham

“No matter what your life has been like so far, God wants to put your feet on a new path...a better path...His path. And regardless of what you may have thought, His path promises joy and peace and purpose far beyond anything you could have imagined.”

“...God has given us a blueprint for living—but we must know what it is and then put it into action. And this can happen because God doesn’t leave us to do it alone. He wants to be with us every step of the way, guiding and helping us (and even correcting us when necessary), because He loves us and wants what is best for us.”

“No matter who you are or what your life has been like so far, the rest of your life’s journey *can* be different. With God’s help you *can* begin again. With Him you *can* confront your problems and begin to deal with them, and you *can* avoid life’s pitfalls and detours.” --p. 6

“His love is not a passing fancy or a superficial emotion; it is *a profound and unshakable commitment that seeks what is best for us*. Human love may change or fade; God’s love never will. He says to us, ‘I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness’ (Jeremiah 31:3).

“This is a staggering truth. Think of it: The infinite, all-powerful, holy God of the universe wants to be your friend! He wants you to know Him personally and to discover what it means to walk with Him every day. He wants you to know He is with you, and He wants to have communication with you through His Word and through prayer. He wants to comfort you when you are upset or anxious and to encourage you when you are dejected or depressed. He wants to guide you when you face difficult decisions, and He even wants to correct you when you are about to do something foolish or wrong. Human friends may fail us, but God never will. The Bible reminds us that ‘A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother’ (Proverbs 18:24). That friend is God. Jesus said to His followers, ‘I no longer call you servants....Instead, I have called you friends’ (John 15:15). God wants to be our friend, and for us to be His friends as well.” --p. 31

“Our greatest need is not economic or political or educational in nature; it is spiritual. *Our greatest need is to have our sins forgiven and our old sinful nature exchanged for a new one*. Only then will we be on the right path—the path God designed for us.” --p.45

“By a simple prayer of faith, you can give your life to Him today. Perhaps the following prayer will help you make your commitment: O God, I know I am a sinner. I am sorry for my sins, and I want to turn from them. I trust Christ alone as my Savior, and I confess Him as my Lord. From this moment on, I want to serve Him and follow Him in the fellowship of His church. In Christ’s name I pray. Amen.” --p. 52

“God’s will is for us to become more like Christ—and this only happens as we submit every area of our lives to His authority.” --p. 81

“People weren’t attracted to Him because of what He *didn’t* do; they were attracted to Him because of what He *did* do. They saw in Him a quality of life they had never seen before, and they wanted to

experience it for themselves. When they looked at Christ, they saw joy and peace and kindness—and most of all, they saw God’s love.” --p. 82

“The Christian’s journey through life isn’t a sprint but a marathon. Are you prepared for it? How can you be prepared? *It begins with a commitment to be His disciple—to be Christ’s learner, Christ’s follower, and Christ’s servant.* Are you that kind of disciple?” --p. 93

“The key to spiritual victory is to stay close to God.” --p. 100

“Many Christians are spiritually starved and weak because they ignore the spiritual ‘food’ God has provided in the Bible. *The Bible is not an option; it is a necessity.* You cannot grow spiritually strong without it. Job said, ‘I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread’ (Job 23:12). Is the Bible this important to you?” --p. 111

“*What makes Christians different from everyone else is that God Himself lives within them by His Holy Spirit.* When we come to Christ and give our lives to Him, God actually takes up residence within us.” --p. 135

“As humans we have two great spiritual needs. The first is *forgiveness*, which God made possible by sending His Son into the world to die for our sins. Our second need, however, is for *goodness*, which God also made possible by sending the Holy Spirit to dwell within us.” --p. 135

“Why do we have so many problems, even as Christians? One reason (as we’ve seen) is because we are part of a vast spiritual conflict—one that won’t end until Satan’s final defeat at the end of time. In addition, our old sinful nature is still alive, competing with the new nature God has given us. The Holy Spirit now lives within us, but this doesn’t free us from life’s problems or guarantee that we’ll never sin. In fact, one reason the Holy Spirit has been given to us is because God knows how weak we are. The Bible says, ‘The Spirit helps us in our weakness’ (Romans 8:26).” --p. 157

“Many centuries ago Pope Gregory the Great divided all sin into seven categories: pride, anger, impurity, gluttony, slothfulness, and greed. Over time these came to be called ‘the seven deadly sins,’ and while no single Bible passage lists them exactly this way, they each occur frequently in Scripture.” --p. 169

“Emotions in themselves aren’t wrong or sinful—not at all. God gave our emotions to us, and we shouldn’t despise or deny them. If we didn’t experience emotions, we couldn’t know God’s peace and joy....Emotions aren’t bad in themselves, but they can become twisted or even destructive. They may even become so overwhelming that we require professional help to restore us to health.” --p.178

“Can we conquer our anxieties and fears? Or must we spend our lives consumed by worry? Let me respond with another question: What is the opposite of fear? For the Christian there can be only one answer: *The opposite of fear is trust—trust in God and His unchanging love.* Once we realize God is in control and He holds us in His loving hands, we can meet life’s dangers and uncertainties with confidence. After all, *if we can trust God for our eternal salvation, can’t we also trust Him for our lives right now?* The psalmist declared, ‘The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid’ (Psalm 118:6).” --p. 182

