



Just As I Am The Autobiography Of Billy Graham

Billy Graham

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Every year a Billy Graham crusade comes to a stadium or a television station near you, the message unchangingly passionate, though the messenger is grayer than he once was. The Reverend Billy Graham is more than just another television evangelist; he is as much a part of this country's collective consciousness as F.D.R. or the Vietnam War. Whether you subscribe to Graham's brand of ecumenical evangelism or not, *Just As I Am* reveals the man behind the crusade to be forthright, deeply religious, and driven to spread the Word at all costs, even his relationships with his family. Graham is characteristically honest about his failings as a husband and father, admitting that he didn't recognize his own children at a family gathering.

In *Just As I Am* Graham discusses the beginnings of his career, his struggle to subsume intellect to faith, and, of course, the many famous--and infamous--people he has met over the years, everyone from the Shah of Iran to the Queen Mother to mobster Mickey Cohen. Graham's ministry has extended his influence to many quarters of the world, a fact that should make his autobiography interesting reading for believers and non-believers alike.

Just As I Am The Autobiography Of Billy Graham Details

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Barbara says

Really debated on the rating. I think I may have been stingy with my stars only because I had many issues with the book. I enjoyed the beginning, learning about the boy and his family. But too often I found myself caught up in either his style or something that I disagreed with regarding his dealings with team or his family.

Robert Justice says

I read this book during one of the summers of my high school years, and its impression on me has never left. As a Christian, Billy Graham is one of my personal heroes, and reading his life story from his own "lips" was a genuine thrill. Learning about the amazing things which God allowed Billy to experience provide a powerful comfort to Christians who may be wondering deep down if God can really use anyone.

There are accounts in the book which can't be taken as anything but divine Providence. For example, one of my favorite stories is from when Billy had just married his wife Ruth. World War II was in full swing, and he wanted to join the army as a chaplain. In order to join, he allowed himself to gain a certain amount of weight to meet their standards. He got sick on the very morning he was set to leave, and by the time he recovered he had lost the exact amount of weight that he had GAINED in order to join the forces. Without that sickness, he would have never become an evangelist.

Also, it's mind-blowing to realize how many historical figures Billy had the opportunity to share God's love with. He had the opportunity to sit down with every US President since Harry Truman. He was able to sit down with Winston Churchill and Mother Teresa. He was even able to speak with the Soviet president of the USSR in the very heat of the Cold War (he just wasn't allowed to preach while in the country). Heck, he even put on a disguise and hung out with the young people at Woodstock! (Don't believe me? Read the book!)

His life story, and how it was used to glorify Christ, are an inspiration to his generation and every generation after him. I thank God for Billy Graham's influence.

Scott says

You might find it odd that an atheist would read the autobiography of Billy Graham but actually this is a re-read, I've read it twice before and really enjoyed it each time.

No matter how much our beliefs might differ there is no denying the importance of Billy Graham on the last 100 years and I find him to be worthy of the title "Most Respected American" (which he has been named many many times over the years).

One book can't cover nearly everything that he has done and seen over his 80 year career but I find this book to be a good starting point.

I wouldn't recommend it for everyone but for quite a few this would be a great read (I actually listened to the

audio book on a couple really long training runs).

Jennifer Lewis says

I had no idea Billy Graham lead such an interesting life. I mean I knew he was widely known as an evangelist but had no idea he personally knew every president since Truman. It was amazing to see how he consistently gave credit to the Lord and the power of prayer for his blessed ministry.

Katelyn Beaty says

Christianity Today is one of several organizations that Billy Graham helped launch. I figured that since I knew next to nothing about the man besides "Billy the Evangelist," I would read Graham's 700-page autobiography, published in 1997. After tracing his Southern roots and recapping the highlights of his overseas evangelism work, Graham moves into the most intriguing sections: his relationships with the Presidents and foreign diplomats. Graham was always intentional about forming friendships with the Presidents, wherein he was a mentor and minister. This kind of friendship, although done with good intentions, proved to be naive in some instances, not least in his friendship with Nixon. Billy got burned and he's more than willing to admit it in his retelling.

Other highlights of the book included Graham's encounters with those on the opposite end of the socio-cultural spectrum, including Johnny Cash, Karl Barth, Martin Luther King Jr., JFK, and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. These odd relationships only served to highlight Graham's simple thoughts on the gospel, Christ, and what it means to be born again. In my opinion, simplicity is one of many of Graham's virtues, though I know others would disagree. Any hint of seeming politically disengaged makes many people assume that Graham cared nothing more than about getting as many people as possible to heaven. To this, I would counter that preaching the Good News is a political act in and of itself, as it's an invitation to kingdom-living, which is inherently countercultural and "culturally relevant." Though I don't believe his evangelism approach would be understood or accepted in postmodern culture, I trust that Graham was doing the good work he had been given to do, and I applaud his faithfulness to that work.

Liz Austin says

I see a lot of reviews talking about how long this book is. My answer to that is: Billy Graham has lead a long and full life. This book is excellent and leaves no stone unturned. This happens to be one of my top favorite books ever. I reread this at least once a year. Billy Graham was an inspiring man, intelligent but humble as well.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading about his life and his service to God. This book is very detailed and chalk full of facts and interesting stories.

I recommend it to any and everyone!

Elizabeth Swanson-McKee says

I enjoyed this autobiography of Billy Graham. When Dr. Graham was in Louisville in June of 2001, I was a counselor for the Crusade and it was a pleasure to hear him tell all of us the simple, pure Gospel of Jesus Christ. I was still attending The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky and would graduate in December 2002. This was right before 9/11/2001. Very personable man who loves to preach the Gospel and serve others.

Matt Galyon | readsandcoffee says

One of the things I enjoyed most about this book was seeing how Dr. Graham's crusade ministry developed over the years. The Crusades were such massive undertakings, so to get a glimpse behind the scenes was a treat.

Deb says

It takes a while to get through this biography, but then Mr. Graham has done a lot in his eventful life. The book goes through his life chronologically, and it reads as if Mr. Graham was telling stories about what happened during the time of his life. So often he will throw in a little remembrance that is only a couple of paragraphs long. It makes for a real personal feel to the book.[return]I enjoyed this book immensely. Some chapters were of less interest than others of course, my favorites were the ones in which he described his relationships with political leaders. I highly recommend this book, especially for those interested in famous people and/or religious leaders.

Reid says

L O N G book!

Graham records his early life, becoming a Christian, and the way he was called to be an evangelist and set up an organization.

The interesting anecdotes of the crusades, the relationships with the famous drew me back into my own history trying to remember what each decade was like for me and where Graham was making history during my own life.

Each chapter read like an interesting magazine article.

I was most captivated by his personal comments at the end of the book. His reflections on his family, his regrets, what he would like to have done better.

No real surprises. It is interesting to get a bit of insight into the life and ministry of one of the most famous Christians in all of history.

Giju Abraham says

A long biography of a remarkable life. Even with all his high profile contacts and being known as the President's preacher, the book retains his humility and honesty. He has made no attempt to paint a larger than life image and has been open with his shortcomings.

John Herrick says

A great overview of Billy Graham's career. At the end, I felt a bit disheartened because the reflections it contained seemed, for the most part, only surface-level deep. Knowing about his son Franklin's struggles--which the family overcame--I had hoped to read more about the heart of a father as it related to his ministry. Unfortunately, this seemed more like a rundown of factual events, a general accounting of various crusades and the numbers attended. As much as Billy Graham has experienced personally and as a pastor, I'd really hoped for more. That said, the book cover does cite this is an autobiography (as opposed to a memoir). A good read overall! I love the guy--and he's genuine, which is the biggest reason I was willing to read about his life. Well worth the time spent with the book!

John says

I grew up in a generation that applied a synonymous meaning to spiritual things and Billy Graham. This broad based summary of Billy Graham life is both detailed and inspiring. The book chronicles his life from his early years all the way through to 1996 and tells of his influence as an evangelist literally over the entire globe.

David says

I found Billy's story very encouraging and challenging. His humility comes through in this long story. He preached the Gospel on every continent; most amazing were the doors open to preach in the Soviet Union, China and North Korea. Reading of his friendships with every president since Eisenhower was wonderful because he demonstrated the love of Christ to these powerful people. Billy's interaction with these presidents serves as a lesson for all of us for he did not get involved in politics, he prayed with and for them regardless of whether he agreed with them or not, and he genuinely liked them. His love for all people comes out and it is easy to see how he truly enjoyed being around all sorts of people from the most powerful to the least, from Christian to atheist and everyone in between. At times the story seemed too stuffed with names and places, but what can be expected in recounting over a half-century of work. The final part of the book where he discusses his friends and family was a great conclusion as it took the focus away from Graham the celebrity and put it on Graham the family man and friend.

Larisha says

I learned much about humility and being a true servant of God from this book, and I recommend it highly.

I always wondered what it was about Billy Graham and I found out when I read this book. He is a humble man, a true servant of God, who took all things to the Lord, no matter what it was, before he made any decision!!

I recall a story from the book where Pastor Graham is flying over the middle east, wondering how he was going to speak to the people there about Jesus. And he thought, this is where Christ was born, where he lived and walked, and that is how he approached them. He found a way to connect Jesus Christ with everyone he ever spoke to.

Billy Graham is the most prolific evangelist in Christian history, a pastor to the Presidents, and a Christian man of integrity -- this is Billy Graham. This book tells the story of his life: from his simple farm-boy beginnings, through his tent revival conversion, his college days and marriage to Ruth, his early fiery and outspoken preaching days, his years of global ministry and maturity, and ending today, as a respected man of God by virtually everyone in the world.

The story is told with an easy-going pace and reading it you have to smile at Graham's style, which is honest, humorous, and very... normal. It's really amazing to see how God took this average fellow and used him in such AMAZING WAYS!!

This book is a treasure chest for any person who wishes to live a life of INTEGRITY! We would all do well to honor his legacy by remembering his life and everything that he stood for. Just As I Am is an autobiographical masterpiece from a man I deeply respect.
