The Leadership Secrets of Billy Graham
All of us are acquainted with Dr. Billy Graham as an evangelist, but how many of us think of him also as an entrepreneurial leader and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association?

I want to recommend to you a book on his leadership philosophy and practice. Harold Myra and Marshall Shelley have written The Leadership Secrets of Billy Graham.

This book identifies twenty-one vital principles that define extraordinary leadership and helps you apply these visionary practices to your personal circumstances as a leader.

When Billy started out in the ministry and began to preach he soon discovered that his eloquence could not persuade or transform people. His personal charisma was not enough to fulfill the great call from God he felt upon him.

In God's providence, he met the well-known preacher Stephen Olford. After hearing Olford preach on being filled with the Holy Spirit, Billy approached him after the service and said, "You've spoken of something that I don't have. I want the fullness of the Holy Spirit in my life too."

To make a long story short, Olford took Billy to a small stone hotel room and led him step by step through the Bible verses on the Spirit's filling and power, which had produced Olford's profound spiritual renewal a few months earlier. After hearing Olford's testimony of being filled with the Holy Spirit, Olford suggested they "pray this through," and both men knelt on the floor.

Billy said his heart went from praying to praise and he walked back and forth across the room crying out, "I have it! I'm filled. This is a turning point in my life."

That night as Billy rose to preach, "for reasons known to God alone, the place which was only moderately filled the night before was packed to the doors" and Billy preached under the anointing power of the Holy Spirit. Members of the audience came forward to pray even before Billy gave an invitation. At the end of the sermon, practically the entire crowd rushed forward."

I give you this illustration from Billy Graham's life to remind you that until we are filled with all the fullness of God we are doing our work of ministry "in the flesh." May God help us to daily experience the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our vocational ministry. Only then will the principles of leadership you read about in this book be applicable to ministry.

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