



Pastor's Comments

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Reagan's Faith

Ronald Reagan, rightly praised for his optimism, courage, and convictions, was a man of outstanding integrity and principle. These qualities were **based on his religious beliefs** according to Billy Graham, who remembered him as a **man of religious faith "deeper than most people knew."** He was raised by a devout Christian mother who took him to an evangelical church where he grew up hearing the biblical truths that would forever influence his worldview. **As a teenager, he professed faith in Christ** and was teaching Sunday School by the age of 15. The values he acquired then led to his realization that faith in God was essential to America's survival. He once stated, "America needs God more than God needs America. **If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.**" To those trying to exclude God from our country, he spoke with clarity, "The First Amendment of the Constitution was **not written to protect** the people of this country **from religious values**; it was written **to protect religious values from government tyranny.**"

As a candidate for president in 1980, Reagan was asked, "Do you **know** Jesus Christ? Not do you know **about** Him, but do you **know** Him?" He answered, "**Oh, yes. He is very real to me. I have trusted Him as my personal Lord and Savior, and I pray every day.**" According to William Clark, national security adviser to Reagan and a close friend, he was a "**man of prayer.**" On horseback rides they took together, Clark said, "Sometimes the president would look around and say, '**What a wonderful place for prayer.**' And sometimes, he'd just look up at the sky and say, '**Glory to God.**'"

Reagan's concepts of God and Christian truth motivated him to define good and evil in a way that changed the course of history.

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