

Billy Graham



IS THERE AN ANSWER?

Transcribed and Published by LivingSermons.com

Is There an Answer?

Preacher: Billy Graham

Publisher: Livingsermons.com

Title: Is There an Answer?

Author: Billy Graham

Publisher: Livingsermons.com

© 2026 **Livingsermons.com**

All rights reserved.

No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise—except for brief quotations in critical reviews or articles, without prior written permission from the copyright holders.

For the advancement of the Gospel of the Kingdom and the edification of the Body of Christ. **Scripture quotations** are taken from the *King James Version (KJV)* of the Holy Bible, which is public domain. **THIS BOOK IS NOT FOR SALE**

First Edition — 2026

All inquiries and permissions:

info.livingsermons@gmail.com

www.livingsermons.com

Transcribed, Edited, and Published by Livingsermons.com

For Kingdom impact worldwide.



Foreword

The question that forms the title of this message—Is There an Answer?—is perhaps one of the most important questions ever asked by mankind.

Every generation has wrestled with uncertainty, fear, conflict, and the search for meaning. Nations have searched for answers in politics, economics, education, science, and philosophy. Individuals have sought peace through success, wealth, influence, and personal achievement. Yet despite humanity's remarkable progress, the deepest needs of the human heart remain unchanged.

In this historic address delivered before The Empire Club of Canada in 1955, Billy Graham confronted the pressing issues of his generation with remarkable clarity and conviction. Speaking during a period marked by global tensions, ideological conflict, and the growing shadow of nuclear warfare, he addressed concerns that remain strikingly relevant today.

What makes this message timeless is that Graham refused to place his confidence in temporary solutions. Rather than offering political theories or social programmes as the ultimate answer, he pointed his audience to the enduring truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

With his characteristic simplicity and directness, Graham exposes the root cause of humanity's crisis—not merely economic instability, political uncertainty, or social unrest, but the spiritual emptiness that results when people attempt to live apart from God. He reminds us that man is more than a body and more than a mind; he is an eternal soul created for fellowship with his Creator.

As you read these pages, you will encounter a message that calls for more than intellectual agreement. It is a message that challenges the reader to examine the condition of the heart. It presents the biblical truth that genuine transformation begins

not with external reform but with the new birth that Jesus Christ declared necessary for every person.

More than seventy years after these words were first spoken, their relevance has not diminished. The world still struggles with fear, division, moral confusion, and uncertainty about the future. Yet the answer presented in this message remains unchanged. The hope of humanity is found not in human achievement alone, but in a restored relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

It is our prayer that this sermon will not only inform your mind but also speak to your heart, strengthen your faith, and draw you closer to the One who alone can satisfy the deepest longing of the human soul.

May this timeless message challenge, encourage, and inspire you as you discover anew the answer that Billy Graham so faithfully proclaimed.

— Wisdom Epsi
Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com

Table of Contents

Foreword
Publisher's Note
Main Message
Introduction
Opening Remarks
A Texan and the Resurrection Morning
A World Battling for Survival
Is There an Answer?
When We Turned Away from God
Full Heads but Empty Souls
Scientific Progress Without Moral Progress
The Breakdown of Moral Standards
More Than Bread Alone
The Age of Frustration
The Failure of Secular Alternatives
The Only Way Out
Ye Must Be Born Again
The Power of Faith
A Joy That the World Cannot Give
Can This Change the World?
A Third Force
The Move That Wins
About the Speaker
About Living Sermons
Join Our Team

Publisher's Note

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

Livingsermons.com does not claim ownership of this message. All spiritual credit and ministerial authority belong to the preacher through whom the Word was delivered. Our role is that of stewards and editors—serving the Body of Christ by preserving and distributing life-giving messages in accessible digital formats.

Our commitment is excellence without dilution.

Our standard is reverence for the Word of God.

Our daily goal is to transform powerful live sermons into polished PDF and ebook editions for the edification of the Body of Christ.

It is our prayer that as you read, the same grace, conviction, clarity, and impartation present in the live service will minister to you afresh.

— *Livingsermons.com*

A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship

Main Message

Begins Here



Introduction

The following message was delivered by **Dr. Billy Graham** before **The Empire Club of Canada** on **Thursday, October 6, 1955**.

Presiding over the gathering was **Dr. C. C. Goldring**, President of The Empire Club of Canada.

It is particularly appropriate for The Empire Club of Canada to begin its 1955–56 season by having as its guest speaker a man who has been designated as “the most potent evangelist in American history.”

Dr. Graham came to Toronto at the request of more than five hundred churches and is conducting meetings which attract many thousands each day and evening. Tens of thousands of Canadians have followed the career of Dr. Billy Graham during recent years.

During the years 1951, 1952, and 1953, the Graham Crusades centred in seventeen major American cities, including Washington, Dallas, Seattle, and Detroit. During each of those years, approximately two and a half million persons attended the crusades.

In 1954, Dr. Graham went to Europe and, in England and Scotland, conducted meetings attended by more than 3,100,000 people. Probably his largest single meeting took place at Wembley Stadium, where there was an overflow crowd of 120,000.

Following his crusade in Britain, he visited Europe and conducted meetings in six countries, attracting some 80,000 people on one occasion in Berlin.

From coast to coast, many Canadians listen to Dr. Graham's radio broadcast, *Hour of Decision*, which is currently heard on more than 400 stations throughout North America and approximately fifty foreign stations. He has also reached thousands through religious films, four of which have now been produced under his general direction.

It is a real pleasure to welcome Dr. Graham here today, and I extend to him, on your behalf, a warm welcome to The Empire Club of Canada.

Opening Remarks

Mr. Chairman, gentlemen, members of The Empire Club, and friends gathered here today, it is a great delight and privilege for me to be here.

I am grateful for the very generous remarks made by your President, and I am reminded of an incident that happened to the Archbishop of Canterbury some years ago.

He was scheduled to visit an orphanage. In preparation for the occasion, the head of the orphanage gathered all the children together and said:

“Now, when the Archbishop comes, there is a certain protocol you must observe. The Archbishop of Canterbury is always addressed as either ‘My Lord’ or ‘Your Grace,’ and that is the way you are to address him if he stops and talks to any one of you.”

So the Archbishop came. When he stopped in front of one little boy, he asked:

“Son, how old are you?”

The little boy, frightened, looked up and answered:

“My God, I am ten.”

After the introduction I have had today and the statistics that have been quoted, I am not sure exactly what you think of me, but we have been looking forward to coming.

A Texan and the Resurrection Morning

I heard a story the other day about a Texan who was playing jokes on another Texan. When two Texans play jokes on each other, they are really jokes, for they carry things to extremes.

It seems that this man had been doped by his friends. He had been given some sort of drug that put him to sleep. They had prepared a grave for him in the cemetery, placed him in a coffin, carried him out, and put him in the grave. However, they did not cover it. The next morning, when he awoke, he looked around and saw that he was lying in a coffin. He looked up at the clear blue sky, then stood up in the grave and looked around at the surrounding tombstones.

Suddenly he shouted:

“Hallelujah! This is the resurrection morning, and a Texan is the first one up.”

A World Battling for Survival

I am certain that The Empire Club has a certain amount of pride in the Commonwealth of Nations, and more particularly in the Commonwealth of Canada.

It has been my privilege to travel through many parts of the British Empire and recently to spend considerable time in the British Isles, where I made many friends.

Most of us are aware that not only Great Britain but also the United States and indeed the entire world are battling, as one United Nations delegate recently said, for our very survival.

Economically, morally, politically, religiously, and otherwise, we are struggling against forces of materialism, humanism, and communism that are beating at our gates from without and infiltrating from within.

We are living in a period of world history that could either mark the beginning of a new day, in which all mankind could be lifted to new economic levels and a higher standard of living, or it could be a day in which the entire world is swept into destruction.

A German scientist recently stated that it is now possible to depopulate the entire earth.

That seems strange. With the advances of science, with improved economic conditions, with formerly illiterate populations learning to read and write, and with increasing educational, medical, and social opportunities, it seems remarkable that ours should be an age characterised by fear.

Is There an Answer?

Many people are asking, “Why?”

They are asking: “What is the solution to our many problems?”

“Which way can we turn?”

“Is there an answer?”

Many believe the answer lies in the United Nations. Others believe the answer lies in economic assistance to the underprivileged and programmes designed to improve living standards.

Today, everyone has an answer.

And today, I would like to have my say.

I want to go back two thousand years to find the answer to the dilemmas and problems we face.

When We Turned Away from God

The United States and Canada were founded by God-fearing men.

Whether their faith was Catholic or Protestant, they came to these shores believing in God. They carried the Bible in their hands. They built into the very foundation of government the conviction that we trust in Almighty God. They believed in religious liberty. They believed in God and in the Scriptures. They made the Bible the basis of their way of life, their government, and their laws.

But a few years ago we decided that we no longer needed this faith.

We no longer needed the Bible.

We no longer needed God.

Around the turn of the century, something happened. We began to believe that scientific, economic, and industrial advancement made religion unnecessary. We concluded that science and religion could not be reconciled and that religion belonged to a bygone age.

We viewed it as mythology, something to be discarded.

In many ways, we almost agreed with Lenin when he described religion as the opiate of the people. So religion was pushed aside. Particularly in intellectual circles, the supernatural concept was rejected. We declared that we no longer believed in God and no longer believed in the authority of the Bible.

In religion's place, we substituted other things:

- Reason.
- Rationalism.
- Mind culture.
- Science worship.
- Freudianism.
- Naturalism.
- Humanism.
- Behaviourism.
- Positivism.
- Materialism.

And countless other "isms."

Full Heads but Empty Souls

What happened as a result?

We developed our minds while neglecting our souls.

We forgot that we are more than bodies possessing animal passions, desires, and appetites.

Certainly we have bodies. We have eyes, ears, noses, hands, and feet. Every person possesses physical appetites that require satisfaction—hunger, thirst, sexual desire, companionship, and the instinct to belong.

So we set out to satisfy the body.

Our minds also possess desires—the desire to learn, understand, and acquire knowledge. Therefore, we filled our minds with information.

But we neglected a third and critically important part of human nature:

The soul.

Spiritually, we starved our souls, and they began to shrivel. We forgot that we had been created in the image of God and that we possess living souls with spiritual appetites.

Those appetites can be satisfied only through faith and communion with God.

Scientific Progress Without Moral Progress

We made money. We acquired knowledge. We advanced scientifically. Then one day we found ourselves holding hydrogen bombs without possessing the moral capacity to control them. Sir Winston Churchill observed:

“We have progressed scientifically and materially, but we have lagged far behind morally, and now our problems have gone beyond us.”

When Sir Winston asked on the floor of the House of Commons, “Is there an answer?” he sat down without answering his own question. I believe that even one of the greatest statesmen in the world was not entirely sure there was an answer. We faced a dilemma: Full heads but empty souls.

The Breakdown of Moral Standards

We had departed from the idea of God. We had raised an entire generation while expressing doubt that God even existed. Certainly we did not encourage people to accept Him, follow Him, or serve Him. Morality ceased to be absolute and became relative.

Instead of saying that certain things are right and certain things are wrong, we blurred the distinction between black and white and turned everything into shades of grey. We said people could lie, cheat, and be dishonest—and then called it “good business.”

Consequently, our moral standards began to deteriorate. The symptoms appeared throughout society:

- Juvenile delinquency
- Racial hatred
- Prejudice

- Bigotry
- Social unrest

Many of the problems we face today have emerged because we have starved the souls of men.

More Than Bread Alone

Human beings need more than material provision. We remember the words of Jesus:

“Man shall not live by bread alone.” (Matthew 4:4, KJV)

We need more than bread. We need more than gadgets, refrigerators, automobiles, and aeroplanes. Why would a beautiful young Hollywood actress, only twenty-nine years old, with a million dollars in the bank and worldwide fame, attempt suicide?

Why would a Texas millionaire possessing one hundred million dollars in oil reserves bow his head and say: “I am the most miserable man in Texas”?

Some of you here today possess prestige. You possess wealth. Yet you have not discovered inward peace, happiness, or security.

Why?

Because you have forgotten one thing: You are a soul created in the image of Almighty God. And as Saint Augustine said long ago: “Our hearts are restless until they rest in God.”

The Age of Frustration

We have produced an age of frustration. Everyone seems frustrated. There is nervous tension everywhere. If historians ever write the story of this age, they may well call it the Vitamin Capsule Age. We consume aspirin by the millions.

In the United States, millions of sleeping tablets are taken every month so that people can sleep at night, and then stimulants are taken in the morning so they can wake up.

Every imaginable tablet is available. This is an age of selfishness. An age of fear.

Consider the titles of modern bestsellers:

- *The Decline of the West*
- *The Decay and Restoration of Civilization*
- *Civilization on Trial*
- *The End of Our Time*
- *The Crisis of Our Age*
- *The Crisis of Civilization*
- *The Annihilation of Man*
- *The Abolition of Man*

Professor Albert Webber has said: “We are now at the end of history, and we know it.”

William Vogt, in *Road to Survival*, declared: “The day of judgment is at hand.”

What pessimistic titles. Somewhere we missed the way.

The Failure of Secular Alternatives

We accepted alternatives to religion. Now, all around us, we can see the ruins of the secular state that was offered to humanity as a substitute for faith. Five years ago, before Mr. Eisenhower's inauguration as President, I had the privilege of visiting the Commodore Hotel in New York City.

There sat the man who was soon to become President of the United States. He rose, greeted me warmly, and then stood silently at the window for nearly a minute.

Turning around, he said:

"Billy, do you know why I believe I have been elected President?"

I replied:

"I think I know several reasons, Sir."

He answered:

"I think one of them is to help lead America in a religious revival which we must have."

Some time later, I spent forty minutes alone with Sir Winston Churchill while he was Prime Minister, in his office at Number 10 Downing Street.

During that conversation he made this statement:

"We must have a religious renaissance."

Arnold Toynbee, the distinguished British historian, has likewise stated that only a revival of Christianity can save us.

The Only Way Out

If this is true—and the President has said it, the Prime Minister has said it, historians have said it, scientists are saying it—then I say to you today that ordinary citizens had better become actively involved.

It is the only way out of our dilemma.

If the survival of our boys and girls, and the future of the next generation, depends upon a spiritual awakening, then we must devote ourselves to it with all our hearts.

For if the answer is a religious revival, then we had better be about it in every way we can. But there is another reason, and that is that you and I have everlasting souls that are accountable to Almighty God. If you are to find peace for the rest of your days, peace in your final moments, and peace in that hour when you stand before your Maker, you had better do something about it.

There was a Man—and He was not an ordinary man. He was different from any man who ever lived—who came along two thousand years ago and said, “I have an answer.”

He gave us, in the Sermon on the Mount, the greatest moral and social document the world has ever known. Yet we have never been able to live up to it. Oh, we have tried, but we have failed.

Why?

Because we find no strength within ourselves to live up to it. Everyone has tried, at some period in life, to live according to the Sermon on the Mount, yet has failed. You have no strength of your own. You are not sufficient in yourself, because when you want to do good, you find yourself doing evil. There is something that continually pulls you downward and causes you to do the very things you really do not want to do.

What is it?

What is the answer?

Ye Must Be Born Again

We forgot one thing this Man said. He was born a man, but He was also the God-Man, walking in human flesh. He declared:

“Ye must be born again.” (John 3:7, KJV)

What did He mean?

It is a strange statement. He spoke these words to an educated man, an intellectual, a great leader. He said to Nicodemus:

“Ye must be born again.” (John 3:7, KJV)

In other words, human nature must experience a renaissance. It must undergo a complete change. Wherever you go in the world, you find lying, cheating, bigotry, greed, hatred, and immorality. Go to India. Go to China.

Travel anywhere on earth. You will find the same problem. It is a disease of human nature, and the Bible calls it sin. Jesus Christ taught that a man must be born again. He must experience a transformation of his nature. He must become a new person.

And Jesus said that He could make that happen.

The Power of Faith

You may say, “Well, Billy, that sounds too simple.”

I know it sounds simple. It may even sound illogical. It may not appear very academic. Nicodemus asked Jesus:

“How can these things be?” (John 3:9, KJV)

Jesus essentially answered that there are realities which can only be entered through faith. The word *faith* is used repeatedly throughout the Scriptures. The Bible promises that if we receive Christ into our hearts as Saviour, Lord, and Master, our lives can be changed and transformed.

When I first heard that, I laughed. Some of you may be smiling inwardly right now. Yet I knew that human nature desperately needed transformation. The necessity of the new birth was preached by John Wesley and George Whitefield. Their message helped bring Britain into a spiritual revival that many historians believe spared the nation from the kind of bloody revolution that engulfed France.

Again and again they proclaimed the same message:

“Ye must be born again.”

I laughed at it.

I said it could never happen.

When I Put It to the Test

Then one day I decided to give it a trial.

One night, without emotion—for it is not necessarily an emotional experience, though it can be—very quietly and calmly, I prayed:

“God, I am going to give You a trial. I am going to do what You said. I am willing. I do not have the strength, but I am willing to turn from my sins, and I am ready to open my heart to You.”

When I did that, something happened in my life.

I cannot explain it. I cannot analyse it. I cannot place it in a test tube.

But I can illustrate it.

I come from a part of the country where many people viewed those with different coloured skin through the lens of prejudice and discrimination. When I received Christ, I began to see people differently.

The colour disappeared. Instead of seeing race, I saw a person created by God. It did not matter what colour his skin was or what shape his features were.

The prejudice was gone. I began to love where once there had been bias. My life had changed. It did not become perfect, and it is not perfect today.

But I discovered a new strength, a new power, and a new dynamic for living. I found the ability to say “No” to temptations that previously controlled me.

I had found a new resource.

A Joy That the World Cannot Give

This was not the kind of religion that gives a man a long face and drooping shoulders.

It put a smile on my face.

It put a spring in my step.

It brought joy into my soul.

It gave me the peace and happiness for which I had searched. I have watched people from every walk of life experience the same thing.

I have seen lords and ladies.

I have seen royalty.

I have seen congressmen and senators.

I have seen university professors surrender their lives to Christ.

It has happened right here in Toronto during the last few days.

One of your professors from the University of Toronto shook my hand last night and said:

“Billy, for the last five days I have been living. I never knew what living was. Two weeks ago I would have laughed at all of this, but my life is different. I cannot explain it. Some of my friends laugh at me, but my life is different.”

Why?

Because you are more than a body and a mind. You are also a soul.

You will never discover inward joy, peace, forgiveness, and security until your soul is satisfied.

And your soul cannot be satisfied apart from God.

Can This Change the World?

Now you may ask:

“How would that affect world affairs?”

After all, this is The Empire Club. We are interested in political and economic questions. How can this solve the problems of the world?

Let me ask you a question. Do you see any solution to the world's problems during the next hundred years if humanity continues on its present course?

As long as people lie, hate, cheat, and live in greed and prejudice, there remains the possibility that somewhere, at some critical point, a madman may push a button and turn the entire world into his funeral pyre.

Do you not think Adolf Hitler would have done exactly that in his final days if he had possessed the power?

Suppose we could inject the whole world with love instead of hatred. Suppose there were a serum capable of transforming human nature overnight. Do you know of any such serum?

It certainly is not education alone. The last great war was fought primarily by educated and civilised nations, not by primitive tribes. Do you know the answer?

You may reject the answer I offer today, and that is your privilege. But I believe it is the answer. Human nature can be transformed. Your life can be transformed.

And if enough people receive Jesus Christ and experience that transformation, it will make a profound impact upon the affairs of the world.

A Third Force

I am not in favour of war.

Neither am I in favour of appeasement. I am in favour of a third force that is rarely mentioned. I am in favour of gathering such a powerful spiritual and moral force in the world that its influence will be felt in the affairs of men. I believe we need such a religious renaissance throughout the Western world—and indeed throughout the entire world—that people will demand from their leaders genuine peace.

I believe it can happen. I believe there is evidence that it is already happening.

- It is happening in Great Britain.
- It is happening in Germany.
- It is happening in the United States.
- And I believe it is happening in Canada.

Men and women are beginning to return to God. They are returning to the church. They are returning to the Bible. I believe it is the only road out of the confusion and bewilderment that confronts us today.

The Move That Wins

There is a painting in Paris depicting a game of chess. On one side sits the Devil. On the other side sits a young boy, perhaps sixteen years old. The two are playing chess.

The Devil wears a triumphant expression. The boy sits defeated, his head bowed, tears running down his face. The Devil appears to have won.

The title of the painting is *Check Mate*.

A famous chess master once stood before that painting and studied it carefully. He felt sympathy for the boy and hatred for the Devil's expression. As he examined the arrangement of the pieces, suddenly he shouted: "Son, I have found a move—one move! If you make that move, you can defeat the Devil."

He became so absorbed in the scene that he forgot it was merely a painting. In the game of life, many people feel exactly like that boy. Sometimes it seems the Devil has nearly won. When we look at world conditions, the future often appears dark. The basic issues remain unresolved.

The shadow of the hydrogen bomb still hangs over humanity. Terrible weapons continue to emerge from scientific laboratories. And as we look ahead to future generations, we may be tempted to say: "Check mate."

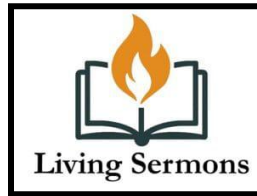
But I believe there is One looking down from above.

He sees the board.

He sees every piece.

And He says to you and to me: "There is a move. There is one move you can make—and you can win."

That move is toward Jesus Christ. You can make that move today in your own soul.



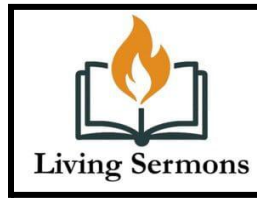
About the Speaker

Billy Graham (1918–2018) was one of the most influential Christian evangelists of the twentieth century. Over the course of a ministry spanning more than seventy years, he faithfully proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ to audiences around the world, preaching in person to nearly 215 million people across more than 185 countries and territories.

As the founder of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, he led numerous evangelistic crusades, conferences, radio broadcasts, television programmes, and publishing initiatives that helped bring the message of salvation to millions. His ministry was marked by a steadfast commitment to biblical truth, personal integrity, and the call to lead men and women into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Billy Graham also served as a trusted spiritual counsellor to multiple Presidents of the United States, offering biblical wisdom and pastoral guidance while maintaining his primary calling as an evangelist of the Gospel.

His messages continue to inspire believers worldwide, pointing people to the hope, forgiveness, and eternal life found in Christ alone. Through his preaching, writings, and global ministry influence, Billy Graham remains one of the most recognised and respected voices in modern Christian history.



About Living Sermons

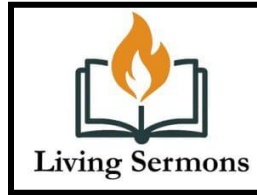
Living Sermons is a Spirit-led publishing platform dedicated to transforming timeless messages of God’s servants into books that can reach and impact lives across the world.

Our mission is simple: to preserve the wisdom, revelation, and anointing carried in the preached Word and make it accessible in formats that can be studied, shared, and revisited for generations. By turning sermons into high-quality Christian books and eBooks, we extend the life and influence of each message far beyond the pulpit.

At Living Sermons, we believe that the preached Word is living and powerful (Hebrews 4:12). Every sermon carries truth that can instruct, comfort, rebuke, inspire, and transform. Our role is to faithfully capture these words, polish them for clarity and readability, and present them in a way that maintains the preacher’s unique voice and anointing.

Through our work, messages that might otherwise be heard once are preserved as lasting resources for teaching, devotion, discipleship, and evangelism. These books are designed not just for reading but for equipping believers, strengthening families, and advancing the Kingdom of God.

Living Sermons—*the preached Word in lasting form.*



Join Our Team

At **Livingsermons.com**, our mission is to ensure that sermons inspired by the Holy Spirit are accessible in written form for study, meditation, and reference by believers around the world. This work is growing, and we can't do it alone.

We are inviting passionate believers to volunteer in any of these roles:

- **Transcribers** – Convert sermon recordings into accurate transcripts.
- **Editors** – Refine transcripts into polished, readable eBooks.
- **Bloggers** – Create SEO-friendly posts to share new books.
- **Social Media Managers** – Share books online and engage our community.
- **Language Translators**
- **Graphics Designers**

If you feel led to serve in any of these roles, please reach out through our [Volunteer Page](#) on Livingsermons.com. Together, let's spread the knowledge of Christ to the nations.