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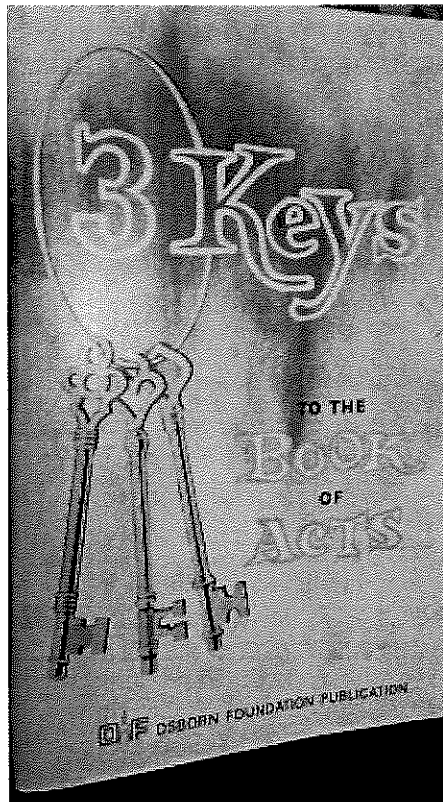
## **T.L. Osborn's Mention of Billy Graham** Ideas Presented for Success in Ministry

**By Roscoe Barnes III**

Author, *F.F. Bosworth: The Man Behind Christ the Healer*

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T.L. Osborn (1923-2013), protege of F.F. Bosworth (1877-1958), had some interesting things to say about Billy Graham. In his book, *3 Keys to the Book of Acts* (Osborn Foundation, 1960), he suggested one of the keys to Graham's success was his emphasis on the Bible in his preaching.

Osborn shared that view in Chapter 2 of his book where he acknowledged the historic

nature of one of Graham's crusades. After noting the crusade was not about Graham's eloquence, Osborn pointed to the one thing that Graham did consistently when preaching. Osborn wrote:

"One of the greatest revivals recorded in human history was the Billy Graham Crusade in Manhattan. Summing it all up, everyone agrees that it was not the eloquence of the man; not the depths of his message; nor the attraction of his program.

"One thing will always stand out about this great Crusade: It was the hundreds of times -- yea, thousands of times that Billy Graham said, 'The Bible says ...' That was the secret to Manhattan's spiritual visitation. God found a man whose one consuming passion was to tell New York City -- 'The Bible says.'

"This principle will produce revival anywhere on earth today. I have stuck close to 'Thus saith the Word' in over 40 foreign countries. Mass revival has been the result every time without fail. 'Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my Words shall not pass away' (Mt. 24:35)."

Osborn gained fame as a missionary evangelist and the noted author of many books, including the classic, *Healing the Sick*. He was "best known for his mass-miracle ministry to millions," according to his ministry website. His book, *3 Keys to the Book of Acts*, was described as "the companion book to 'The Purpose of Pentecost.'" It appears to be based, in part, on some of the writings of E.W. Kenyon (1867 – 1948). Osborn focused on the prayer of the early church found in Acts 4:29-31:

And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak **thy word**, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by **the name** of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with **the Holy Ghost**, and they spake the word of God with boldness. (KJV)

Using that passage, he presented three keys: the Word, the Name and the Holy Spirit. According to Osborn, the three keys are the "three facts which unlock this treasure of apostolic power." He argued that the Book of Acts is the "supreme example" for the contemporary church. "We may read inspiring accounts of the ministry of Luther, Whitefield, Moody and scores of other great men of God, but the Book of Acts is our model," he said.

Osborn was one of many Pentecostal leaders who admired Graham. Others included Jimmy Swaggart, who has preached about Graham's "heavy anointing." When Oral Roberts (1918-2009) opened Oral Roberts University, he welcomed the support of Graham. In April 1967, Graham gave the dedication address for the new university.

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