

**Billy Graham Evangelistic Association
Communications – Cissie Graham Lynch
Fearless – Ep 129 – Political Violence: How to Pray for Our Nation with
Franklin Graham
Final Transcript**

MUSIC STARTS

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:00:02 Hi, I'm Cissie Graham Lynch. Welcome to *Fearless*, helping you have a fearless faith in a compromising culture.

MUSIC TRANSITION

Cissie:

00:00:21 Welcome back to a unique episode of *Fearless*. I'm here in Alaska with my dad, and I just felt like the episode that was supposed to release tomorrow just wasn't appropriate with what's happening in our country and what's happened this past weekend with the assassination attempt with President Donald Trump. I've asked my dad just during this time to join me for today's episode.

And Dad, I was with you and with my kids sitting right here in your house watching on Saturday, just the videos over and over that were coming in—

Franklin Graham:

00:00:51 Yeah.

Cissie:

00:00:52 —of the assassination attempt. What was going through your mind when you watched that?

Franklin:

00:00:56 Well, I think at first, Cissie, when I saw him down on the podium, we thought that he may have not survived or would have been severely wounded. Then when we saw him stand to his feet and raise his hand in the air with his fist raised saying, I guess, "USA." I think everybody was chanting, "USA." I just couldn't help but just say, "Thank You, Lord. Thank You. Thank You for saving his life."

And, anytime we have—people that have near-death experiences—and he certainly has had a *near-death* experience—it changes you. It changes people. And I don't know what that means for Donald Trump, but, I hope he realizes and will know and understand it was God that saved his life. God protected him that day. It's hard to understand why He allowed President Trump to live and another man who was a good man—he was a fire chief in that area, had a good family, and for his life to be lost. We don't understand these things, why God allows one to live and takes another, I don't know.

But that day, Donald Trump, when he walked off that stage, I think gave hope to millions of Americans and people around the world, that he's still willing to fight for this nation, to save this nation from the socialists that want to take it another direction.

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Cissie:

00:02:11 When I read a lot that's going online right now, you know, I think Christians are kind of wondering, "How do Christians respond during a time like this?" When we see our nation divided and—

Franklin:

00:02:20 I think we pray. We pray for those that are in authority—that includes President Biden. We pray for those that are in authority. And of course, we, having an election, I believe many people believe that Donald Trump is going to be the next president. So, we pray for Biden and we pray for President Trump, that God's hand would be on them and protect both of them.

Cissie:

00:02:39 You know, as a voter going into November, me as a young mom, I have a lot of things that I'm looking to when I go to the ballot. What do you go to when you're going to the ballot box in November? What are you voting for this year?

Franklin:

00:02:51 Well, I think the America that we have known and loved is being changed by socialism and I'm looking for leadership that's willing to stand up for freedom and liberty and freedom of speech, freedom of religion.

Cissie:

00:03:07 I think people are angry. You can go to social media, or you can see people in the news, people are divided. People are very cynical right now. It seems like we're on the edge of disaster. Have you ever seen the country like this in your lifetime?

Franklin:

00:03:22 Oh yeah, yeah. The Vietnam War, no question, country was divided. But yet, I saw 9/11 where all of a sudden this country was attacked and the country pulled together and we were all ready to stand against the Islamists that attacked our nation. So, it swings both ways and—

Cissie:

00:03:42 Well, when you look at just the hatred and the rhetoric that comes from Republicans and Democrats from both sides of the aisle right now, the language that's being used towards one another. How do you believe that we can come back from that?

Franklin:

00:03:55 Well, this language basically began to start with President Nixon and when the Democratic Party was after him. And, it used to be that the Democrats and Republicans would disagree. They would debate, and the Democrats had their side and Republicans had their side, but at the end of the day, they still worked together, cooperate together, would go out and have meals together and socialize together in

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Washington, but now they don't even talk to one another. It's become so divided, so difficult. The only hope, I really believe, is God. He's the only hope for this nation.

Cissie:

00:04:28 You've been invited by President Trump—[**Franklin:** Mm-hmm.]—to come pray before he takes the stage at the Republican National Convention this week in Milwaukee.

Franklin:

00:04:37 This Thursday, yeah.

Cissie:

00:04:38 What do you think is the most important prayer for Christians and Americans to be praying right now?

Franklin:

00:04:43 That God's will be done, that God's will be done. Remember, "*Our Father which art in heaven,*" you know, "*hallowed be Thy name. ... Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*"

Cissie:

00:04:52 Looking at just the Republican National Convention, and maybe the platform, what is your encouragement to conservatives, for Christians to stay focused on? I think sometimes we can—you know, some people are worried that the RNC might be shifting its views to cater to a new generation.

Franklin:

00:05:12 Well, there is no question ... it's always a struggle in politics. Because there's always a pull to the left, and you've got Hollywood, and you have all these other interest groups that are trying to influence the political agenda in *both* parties.—[**Cissie:** Mm-hmm.]—And, as evangelical Christians, we're not always welcome.

Cissie:

00:05:31 Well, I don't do this very often on an episode, but thank you for joining me for a very short episode. But do you mind just closing us in prayer?

Franklin:

00:05:40 Sure. Father in Heaven, we come this day to pray for our nation and pray for all the leaders that are running for office, who are in office or serving. And Father, as we have seen this attack on President Trump's life, we realize this could happen in other venues and other areas. We just ask that You watch over and protect all of our leaders, and we pray especially for Donald J. Trump, that Your hand would be on him and he would know and understand that it was *You* that saved his life. It wasn't luck, but it was You and You alone. So, Father, we thank You. It's in Jesus' Name we pray, amen.

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Cissie:

00:06:14 And I just want to be encouraging you to those who are listening that it's easy to put on social media, on your Instagram, on Twitter, on Facebook just, "Pray for this country." "Pray for our nation," but I want—if you're listening right now, just to stop and pray. Pray for your local leaders. Pray for your state leaders right now. Pray for the future of this country. We've been blessed beyond our imagination. I'm here in Alaska, which my family believes this is the most beautiful part of America, that we've been blessed beyond our imagination, that God would just give us more time, to have mercy on us, and that we as Christians would just be a light in this darkness and a light during this time to speak truth and to have a fearless faith in a compromising culture. Thanks for joining me today.

CLOSING MUSIC

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