

In the name of any god

Florida megachurch pastor [Joel Hunter](#) broke the mold by interrupting the final benediction of the Democratic National Convention to request that all who prayed with him "close this prayer in the way your faith tradition would close your prayer."

Part of his prayer went like this:

"Guide Barack Obama and all of our leaders to be agents of your will and recipients of your wisdom. And grant that all of us citizens will continually do our part to contribute to the common good so that we can truly love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

Now I interrupt this prayer for a closing instruction. I want to personalize this. I want this to be a participatory prayer. And so therefore, because we are in a country that is still welcoming all faiths, I would like all of us to close this prayer in the way your faith tradition would close your prayer.

So on the count of three, I want all of you to end this prayer, your prayer, the way you usually end prayer. You ready? One, two, three.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Let's go change the world for good."

Steven Waldman, Editor-in-Chief of [Beliefnet](#), is reported by the [Wall Street Journal](#) to have contacted Billy Graham before he accepted the invitation to pray at Barak Obama's Official Nomination of the Democratic Party Convention.

He called Billy Graham, he said. The ailing evangelist said he thought it was a "magnificent opportunity" and that he was "proud that somebody of your stature gets to do this." That was undoubtedly reassuring to Hunter, who has received tremendous criticism for praying at the Democratic convention.

Graham's advice: "Just say what God gives you."

Comment: We have to deduce that Hunter did just that. Three possibilities: Billy Graham did not really mean Hunter should say what he did; Hunter thought Billy Graham would also say what he did; God really did tell Hunter to pray what he prayed. The last is surely not possible.

If we take, cynically and sceptically, what Billy Graham said in an interview with [Newsweek](#), one really begins to wonder: "When asked whether he believes heaven will be closed to good Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus or secular people, though, Graham says: 'Those are decisions only the Lord will make. I believe the love of God is absolute. He said he gave his son for the whole world, and I think he loves everybody regardless of what label they have.'" ([▶▶more](#))

It just makes one wonder! Where is the evangelical church in the USA heading? Has the multi-faith concept now infiltrated evangelical Christianity? Do we see syncretism at work? Syncretism can be a process of absorption by one religion of elements of other religions over a long period of time. The absorbed elements are usually transformed and given new meaning by the fresh context. The frightening aspect is that the borrowed item may remain outwardly the same but its new context signifies something quite new.

Is "the love of God" one of these elements?

History tells us that God does not share his glory, and where people tried to ignore this truth, He showed that He is indeed a jealous God.

God is the same –yesterday, today and into all eternity.