

President Gerald R. Ford's handwritten reflections, 1977 or 1978

Scanned from the collection **Gerald R. Ford: Materials from the writing of *A Time To Heal*** at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

While writing his autobiography, *A Time to Heal* (New York: Harper & Row, 1979), President Gerald R. Ford composed a series of personal reflections on twenty-seven topics. What makes these documents so unusual is not only their introspection but also their form. President Ford recorded these observations by hand, writing in blue ball point on his favored yellow writing tablets. He did not expend time and energy to polish and edit his writing, apparently planning to do so when incorporating them into the book. Therefore occasional spelling or grammatical errors or incomplete thoughts appear.

For each reflection the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library has scanned President Ford's handwritten document and added a Library-produced transcription below to aid in reading the reflection.

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What religion means to me?

My religious beliefs give me guidance + strength on a day to day basis.

My conviction is very personal. I am most reluctant to speak or write about it publicly.

Our parents brought up my brothers and me in an atmosphere of personal prayer, belief in God and the bible and The Gospel denomination.

This upbringing has been the anchor for my own religious development which includes a dedication to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Rev. Billy Graham, & my son Mike Rev. Billy Zoli have impacted on what religion means to me. Nightly I seek the Lord's guidance by silently repeating Proverbs 3: 5-6. Daily I seek to live by the example of Jesus Christ. I have always gained

strength from the conviction that what I've tried
to do is the will of the Lord.

What Religion Means to Me?

My religious beliefs give me guidance & strength on a day to day basis. My conviction is very personal. I am most reluctant to speak or write about it publicly. Our parents brought up my brothers and me in an atmosphere of personal prayer, belief in God and the bible and the Episcopal denomination.

This upbringing has been the anchor for my own religious development which includes a dedication to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Rev. Billy Graham, Rev. Billy Zeoli & my son Mike have impacted on what religion means to me. Nightly I seek the Lord's guidance by silently repeating Proverbs 3:5-6. Daily I seek to live by the example of Jesus Christ. I have always gained strength from the conviction that what I've tried to do is the will of the Lord.