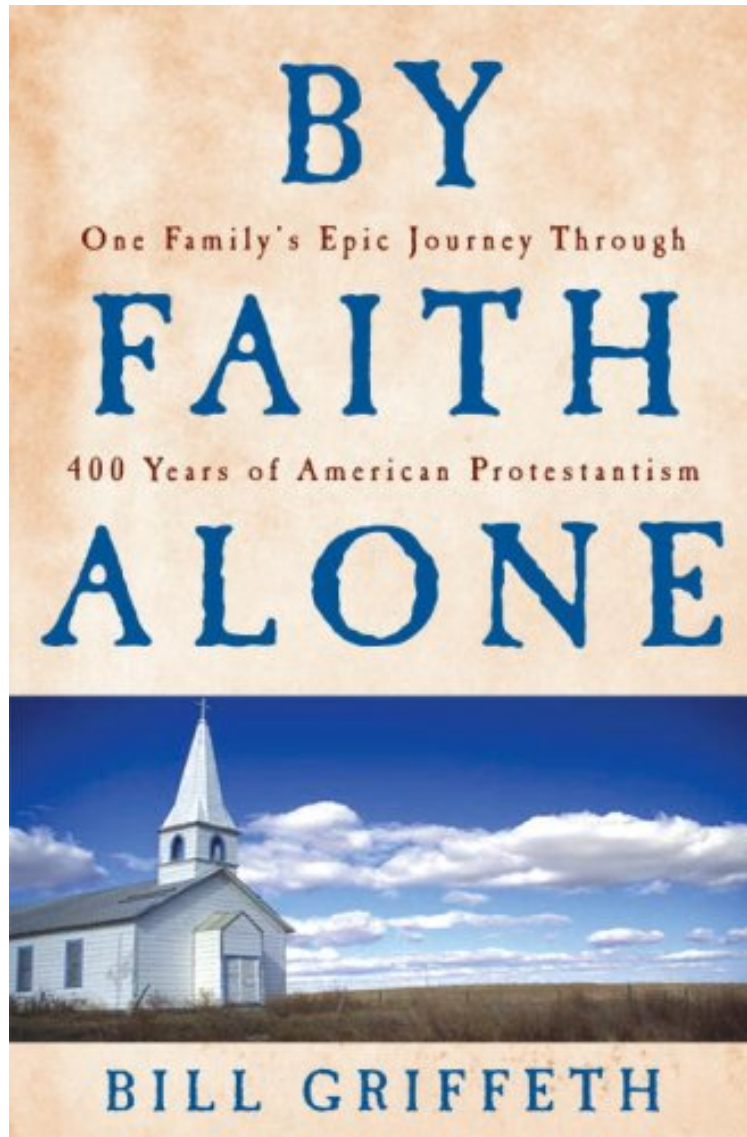


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By Faith Alone: One Family's Epic Journey Through 400 Years of American Protestantism

Bill Griffeth

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised By Faith Alone: One Family's Epic Journey Through 400 Years of American Protestantism:

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coverage by an excellent CNBC favorite. Bill G. did good job of bringing personal family history into today's world. Recommended reading for anyone involved in their own family genealogy. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good Book! By Larry K. Jones Since I enjoy researching our family genealogy, I enjoyed this book, which combines genealogy research with a history of the early Christian church. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. By Faith Alone By Cynthia Tenicki I love genealogy, and this book is a good guide. This is a very well written summary of Mr. Griffith's search for family. I heard him Lecture. Apparently he wanted to title the book, "I Have A Witch In My Genes." This, because one of his ancestors was accused in the Salem Witch trials. But the book is a carefully researched history of the Protestant Church. Excellent in all respects. C. Potter-Tenicki, Glen Rock, NJ

"The first photo I took of St. Nicholas Church [in Great Yarmouth, England] . . . is still my favorite of all the pictures I took. It is difficult to describe adequately what I felt standing before the church my ancestors had called home four hundred years ago. This was where it had all begun for my family ten generations ago, and I was in awe." Bill Griffith had been a TV journalist covering Wall Street and the world of high finance for a quarter of a century. But when he made the startling discovery that his eight-times great-grandmother was convicted and executed during the Salem witch trials of 1692, he began to research the biggest story of his life: the four-hundred-year history of his family and of our country's Protestant roots. It was a history that dated back to the seventeenth century and the English Puritans and Separatists who fled to North America for an uncertain future. His travels took him to the fishing village in England where his earliest ancestors lived and worshipped; to the Netherlands where they sought refuge from persecution; and to the sites in New England and New York where they were members of colonial villages with legendary names: Salem, Plymouth, and New Amsterdam. They were Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Methodists, and they had a surprising connection to the founder of the Mormon Church. Griffith's account includes not only the stories of his long-forgotten relatives but also of some of their neighbors and colleagues whom history still remembers, including Plymouth's great governor William Bradford, New Amsterdam's swashbuckling director general Peter Stuyvesant, the infamous Salem witch trial judge Colonel John Hathorne, and the stout-hearted Methodist bishop Francis Asbury. *By Faith Alone* is a rich history of our country's Protestant heritage. It is also one man's journey of more than ten thousand miles and four centuries, and it captures his personal desire to understand the courage and faith of his distant family members and to better appreciate how religion and the context of history shape his own life even today.

From Publishers Weekly In this blend of genealogical detective story, church history and travelogue, Griffith traces a family tree that has, for more than four centuries, intersected many of the great themes of American history. A financial journalist and co-anchor of CNBC's *Power Lunch*, Griffith's journey includes trips to England, the Netherlands, the Eastern seaboard and the Midwest to set his family narrative in the broader context of European and American religious history. Fleeing England to avoid religious persecution in the early 17th century, the three families Griffith researched eventually ended up in America, where members settled in American colonies, took part in the Methodist religious revivals of the early 19th century and joined the great move westward. As Griffith recounts in one of the book's more moving chapters, several of his ancestors were tried and executed in the infamous 1692 Salem witch trials. Meticulously researched and with a great eye for detail, the writing sometimes seems descriptive rather than evocative, as though the writer was observing someone else's past. The volume may motivate those amateur genealogists who wish to explore how the experiences of their ancestors became a part of the American experience, shaping the narratives and faith journeys of future generations. (Dec. 31) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Fascinating. Tom Brokaw Bill Griffith's story is America's story. *By Faith Alone* offers an unexpected and fascinating tour through some of the epic events of American history—the Pilgrims, the Salem witch trials, the founding of New York—from a completely fresh point of view. Reading this book is like watching the slide show of an old friend—a friend who knows what he's talking about, has done his homework, enjoys telling a good story, and was transformed by his own journey. I cheered his extraordinary family and was moved by their faith. Bruce Feiler, author of *Walking the Bible* and *Where God Was Born* Enthralling . . . Bill Griffith shows directly how his own four-hundred-year family history is a microcosm of American Protestant history. John Dominic Crossan, author of *God Empire* Weaving history, faith, and family, *By Faith Alone* is a work of love that is equally inspirational and educational and, not least, a fascinating journey from beginning to end. Jeremiah J. Park, resident bishop, New York area, United Methodist Church About the Author BILL GRIFFETH, the veteran CNBC-TV anchor, lives with his wife and children in New Jersey. Visit him at BillGriffeth.com.