

Can You Handle This IHOP Speaker's Hard-Hitting Word?

Corey Russell preaches a powerful message in this promotional video for the International House of Prayer's Onething conference. Russell's message is at first scathing and hard to hear—at one point telling the crowd of churchgoers, “I promise you you're a lot worse than you think you are.” But it all turns around when he mentions God's power to deliver us from our worst sins. Watch his short, powerful gospel presentation (in less than a minute) here.

How to Know Whether You Have a Heart Fixed on God

“Create in me a pure heart, oh God.” How often do you pray this prayer? God is the great cardiac physician spiritually and physically. He will run to you when you pray. Your broken heart will be made courageous. Find out how by watching this teaching on Psalm 112 by Charisma Media's Dr. Steve Greene. Apply this prayer each day to ask the Lord to search out your heart as David did.

Prophetic Word: The Lion of Judah Is Roaring Against Demonic Lies and Injustice

Ryan LeStrange says he received a prophetic word that the Lion of Judah is roaring and exposing injustice in society and the lies of the enemy. He says God is re-establishing and decreeing prophetic purpose, cleaning His house and revealing hidden wrongs. Watch the video for more details.

Is There More to Tithing Than Just Money?

Isn't tithing just an outdated, Old Testament teaching? Why should we even care about tithing? Listen as Bill Wiese brings scriptural insight into this highly debated topic.

Spirit-Filled Psychologist Explains the Spiritual Side

of Suicide

As a psychologist, I've seen suicide tear apart many lives—including my own. I got the call late at night, just after I'd arrived home from a trip. It came from Hawaii, where my father lived, but the man calling wasn't my father. My stepbrother's voice quavered so hard his words were almost indiscernible, lost between breathless repetitions of "I'm so sorry." Finally, he eked out, "He shot himself."

My father had taken his life. Instantly, I crumpled to the floor. I wanted to escape from this moment and those that followed, but there was no route out, only a way through.

Suicide touches so many of our lives. It is in the news, in our community and, often, in our family history.

Who's at Risk

If suicide has not yet impacted your life, I am sincerely heartbroken to tell you that it likely will someday. According to 2016 figures from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the 10th-leading cause of death in the U.S. across all ages. It's even higher among young people; it's the second-leading cause among ages 10-34 and third among ages 35-54.

And those numbers are only going up. Suicide rates have increased 30 percent since 1999. In fact, in 2016, 9.8 million American adults reported seriously thinking about suicide, 2.8 million reported making a plan, and 1.3 million reported attempting suicide. Sadly, because these numbers are self-reported, we know the true numbers are actually higher.

One person commits suicide every 12 minutes in the U.S. Unfortunately, most people who engage in suicidal behavior never seek mental health services, and only 54 percent of Americans who have died from suicide had a mental health

diagnosis.

Most who commit or attempt suicide view it as a way to escape pain—usually the pain of a dark depression. Typically any sense of hope has been devoured by a vortex of depressive states and thoughts. Depression can blind people so they see no other options for relief from unrelenting sadness.

Sadly, depression is more common than we might think. Research tells us that one out of every six adults will experience depression in their lifetime. The National Institute of Mental Health reports that depression affects 16 million Americans every year, and the World Health Organization says depression affects 300 million people worldwide. Depression can be caused by physiology, unresolved trauma, complicated grief, unresolved and unmet childhood needs, and circumstantial factors mixed with faulty cognitive patterns. Depression can also be exacerbated spiritually by open doors to the enemy.

But if spiritual forces can worsen depression, spiritual people can help alleviate it. God's people have always been His preferred vehicle for bringing healing to the world's pain. In regard to depression and suicide, He wants to equip us to be part of the solution.

How God can use believers as part of the solution becomes quite clear when we consider suicide's risk and prevent factors. Risk factors for suicide include feelings of hopelessness, isolation from community, stigma regarding mental health conditions and treatment, family history of suicide, child maltreatment, barriers to appropriate treatment and substance abuse. On the other hand, prevent factors—factors shown to prevent suicide—include effective and supportive ongoing therapy, family and community support and connectedness, coping skills, communication-building interventions, and cultural and religious beliefs that support hope and confidence.

The church can help the depressed and offer much of what they need. But first, we must make an important decision. Some will operate in narrow-mindedness and fear, distancing themselves from the problem by stigmatizing and judging those suffering from depression. But we must choose to move out of our comfort zones and do the work of setting the captives free (see Luke 4:16-21).

How to Help

Depression is widespread, both inside and outside the church. To effectively fight depression, we need to perceive its complexity, its causes and its treatment. Depression is often the result of an amalgamation of circumstances, genetics and psychosocial factors, and therefore requires skilled treatment. We need to be wary of recommending folks “just be more positive” and “take your thoughts captive.” Yes, being more positive and filtering our thoughts through God’s Word are important, but that’s often not enough to help those suffering with depression.

Thankfully, there are practical things we can do to truly help those dealing with suicidal or depressive thoughts.

Ask about safety. Depression has signs. Look for them. These signs can include excessive sadness; loss of motivation; irritability or restlessness; changes in sleep patterns or appetite; increased somatic complaints; difficulty with concentration; increased fatigue; amplified guilty, hopeless or worthless feelings; and mentioning suicide or self-harm. If signs of depression are present, ask, “Are you thinking about hurting yourself?” If you do not receive an emphatic no, press on with direct questions to determine:

If they are thinking about suicide.

How long they have been thinking about suicide.

If they have a plan for killing themselves.

Whether they have access to lethal agents.

If these questions indicate suicide is imminent, call 911 immediately. If the individual is having suicidal thoughts, ensure access to treatment by a skilled mental health clinician immediately. In addition, encourage the individual to tell other trusted people about the problem. The goal here is to provide a net of support and awareness around that person.

Next, provide the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) to the hurting person and ensure that individual has adequate supervision during at-risk moments. Finally, continue to ask and check in.

Direct the hurting to psychotherapy. Sometimes, as Christians, we can feel afraid of mental health therapy, thinking “God should be enough,” or that therapy will open the recipient of therapy to receiving “ungodly counsel.” I understand these fears, but consider this instead.

As the owner of a medium-sized psychological practice, I interact with many providers. I can agree that most therapists work in the psychological realm, not the spiritual. With a client who suffers with depression and suicidality, reducing and eliminating suicidal ideation would always be the immediate and primary goal, as safety is supreme. The therapist would also skillfully work with the client to alleviate depressive symptoms and facilitate progress toward any other presenting mental or behavioral health client goals.

Moreover, most therapists honor and utilize the client’s religious belief system in the course of therapy. Christian counselors are prevalent and can provide the assurance of a similar worldview (Prov. 9:10). To choose a good therapist, look for depth and diversity of skills, status as board-licensed psychologist or counselor, Christian or Christian-friendly worldview, positive client reviews, and how effective

the therapist is at creating a relationship that feels safe and accepting.

Recommend a medication consult. There are many antidepressant medications available that can be life-changing for those struggling with depression and suicidal thoughts. Medication paired with therapy has shown tremendous effectiveness in treating depression. Recommend a medication consult with a psychiatrist.

Show generous compassion. People struggling with depression are hurting and need to feel that they are not alone in their hurt. Attentive listening coupled with compassion and understanding, free from judgment, helps bridge the gap of isolation. Just being there and saying things like, "It sounds like carrying that weight feels unbearable. It sounds really painful," can go a long way.

Share hope. As children of God, we have the privilege of knowing we are deeply and individually loved and are each placed on earth for a unique reason. God wants us to share His deep, unconditional love with those who are hurting. He also wants us to see beyond the current circumstance to the gift, calling and hope in the life before us and speak what we see.

Facilitate community and belonging. We all need connection and belonging. Those who feel isolated need us to provide a loving, accepting, safe community. In practical terms, that means reaching out and checking in frequently.

Pray the dark away. There is no darkness in light. Depression is dark; God is the light. Pray for His light to shine on those who are suffering. Pray that their eyes will be enlightened to the hope of His amazing calling.

As we take each other's hands and encircle the hurting with God's love and protection, we can propel others into lavish healing. We can pluck many out of the grip of darkness and into wholeness and life. {eoa}

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Mike Bickle: We Believe Part of This Bob Jones Prophecy Will Come to Pass This Week

Join us by webstream for an historic gathering this week at IHOPKC at ihopkc.org. Around 1,000 Chinese leaders and friends are coming to IHOPKC for four days this week (Sept.19–22, Wednesday–Saturday). The majority of these leaders and emerging leaders are from Asia and North America. I believe that this will be one of the most significant gatherings in IHOPKC's 19-year history.

I was overjoyed in receiving news that one of the purposes of Chinese guests in determining to come to Kansas City was to connect hearts with IHOPKC leadership team and community. They are calling this four-day gathering, "Convergence"—the idea is in seeing the convergence of the preaching the gospel in Asia to night-and-day prayer, and even to see the convergence of hundreds of Chinese ministry teams to a deep relationship with the IHOPKC community. What a joy, privilege and honor for us and for *you*—our extended IHOPKC family that often joins us by

the webstream.

On the day that I met Bob Jones 35 years ago (March 7, 1983), he told me that when the Lord raised up 24/7 prayer with worship in our midst, He would then connect us to millions of Asians and their leadership in a powerful way. He said this would happen when we received the property that President Harry Truman once owned in Grandview (we received 125 acres of his land as a gift in 2008).

Next, on that same day in 1983, Bob prophesied a most perplexing thing—that millions of Asians would connect with us on what Bob called “unplugged TV sets” (he was speaking of what is now known as smartphones). All of this did not seem possible in 1983. Today, many Asians are connecting with us by the webstream on a regular basis. Bob told me that the Lord would do this because He would orchestrate a relationship with a future 24/7 prayer ministry in Kansas City with Asian leaders that would have an end-time global purpose.

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We believe that this next week will be another big step toward seeing this prophetic word come to pass.

In our gathering together with 1,000 Asian guests this week, we will also celebrate IHOPKC’s 19th anniversary of 24/7 prayer with worship—our anniversary is this Wednesday, Sept. 19.

We see this as a “*kairos* moment,” thus it demands extra attention in the Spirit as we will likely be unpacking the ramifications of our deepened relationship with them during these four days—the impact of this will affect many for years to come. While we celebrate these events, we also feel a sober sense of stewardship.

Join us live in any of the eight sessions of the Chinese

Convergence Gathering that will be shown live on the webstream. All the meetings are at Forerunner Church. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday: 6 – 9 p.m. (celebrating IHOPKC's 19th anniversary)

Thursday and Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., 2:30 – 5 p.m. and 7:30 – 10 p.m.

Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. {eoa}

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What Christians Get Totally Wrong About the 'Satan Masquerading as an Angel of Light' Passage

The biggest concern some Christians have regarding angelic interaction is that they fear Satan will come as an angel of light, and they will accidentally start worshipping him. As we have [already discovered](#), there is no record in Scripture of any believer actually doing that, so biblically speaking, that fear is not justified. It is also significant that the clearest instruction we have on not worshipping angels [was delivered by an angel himself.](#)

That it is a huge revelation in itself, and now we want to examine the passage about the “angel of light,” since that has also been greatly misunderstood. When Paul mentioned Satan masquerading as an angel of light, was he somehow trying to subtly warn the Corinthian Christians about the “perilous dangers” of engaging the angelic realm? What do those verses in Second Corinthians actually say?

Let’s take a look at them in context:

For such are false apostles and deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

We can start by understanding what Paul is not saying. He is not discussing worship. The focus of his conversation is not Satan. Paul is writing about false apostles who pretend to be good but they are not. That is what this passage is about.

Then, almost off-handedly, he mentions Satan. You could paraphrase the verse this way:

“False apostles pretending to be apostles of Christ? No wonder; even Satan tries to make himself out to be an angel of light. It’s not a surprise his followers do the same! But no matter, they will all be exposed.”

We recognize immediately that, more than anything, this is simply a discussion about deceptive people in the Corinthian church. Just because there are false apostles or false prophets, does that mean we reject all apostles and prophets? Surely not, since Paul was an apostle himself. So too, just because there are fallen angels doesn’t mean we systematically reject all angels.

Of course, we want to glean any secrets Paul may be revealing about our enemy in this passage, but have we potentially misinterpreted his words? Obviously, unbelievers who don't have the Spirit of Christ in them can and will be deceived by Satan. They are *already* deceived by him. Their eyes have been blinded, and they live in spiritual darkness. Paul says that before we were saved, we were in darkness (Eph. 5:8). This is how Satan can disguise himself and appear as an angel of light to unbelievers.

But that has nothing to do with you.

As Christians, we are no longer in the darkness (1 Thess. 5:4). We are children of light and children of the day; we do not belong to the night or to the darkness (1 Thess. 5:5). We walk in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7). Jesus, the light of the world, is alive in us and now we are light in the Lord (Eph. 5:8)!

Our eyes have been opened: Truth is a person, and He lives in us (John 14:6). His Spirit of truth enlightens us, and His discernment guides us into all truth (John 16:13). First John 2:20 tells us that we have His anointing to know truth and the passage goes on to say,

“I have written these things to you concerning those who deceive you. But the anointing which you have received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. For as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and just as it has taught you, remain in Him” (1 John 2:26-27).

Hallelujah! We can be confident that Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom Himself, will give us supernatural perception and discernment.

What Does Jesus Think?

Jesus, when asked about prayer, said:

“What man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a snake? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!” (Matt 7:9-11).

If we go into our quiet times with the Lord asking for an angelic encounter, is He going to give us a demonic counterfeit? Do we believe He's a good dad who can keep us out of trouble and protected? Do we think His power to keep us is greater than the enemy's power to reach us?

If we believe God is going to keep us safe and sound for all eternity in the spiritual realm of haven, then we can probably also trust Him enough to keep us safe and sound in the spiritual realm now while we interact with angels for a few minutes.

Faith is the currency of heaven (Heb. 11:6). It is what we can give to a God who has everything: our faith, our trust, our strong belief in His strong love. If we are in fear, we are questioning either His goodness or His sovereignty.

We purpose to know and believe the love God has for us, because that is what casts out the fear (1 John 4:16-18). Father has gotten us this far; how could we worry that He's going to let us down now? He doesn't know how to fail, and we cannot trust Him too much. Indeed, Jesus told us that the work of God is to believe (John 6:29).

In summary, we understand that we no longer need to walk in fear of deception, since it is God Himself who is teaching us and leading us. We can be confident that any “light” the enemy may attempt to mask himself with is a weak disguise that pales in comparison to the shekinah glory of God that dwells within us and radiates through us.

Jesus told us that we are the light of the world (Matt. 5:14).

Light is not afraid of the darkness. Light simply shines, and darkness flees. So arise and shine (Isa. 60:1). Shine brightly. Shine brilliantly. Shine on! {eoa}

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How God Sustained This Christian Through 19 Months in Chinese Prison

Kevin Garratt is a Canadian Christian who spent 19 months in a Chinese prison on charges of spying and espionage. Garratt explains how his faith in God got him through the persecution and the surprising ways he was able to minister to his fellow inmates. Listen to his story and pray for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ in China.

Sadie Robertson: Why Is Modesty Such a 'Touchy Subject'?

Sadie Robertson says she doesn't want to weigh in on the modesty debate—but she will. In a new vlog, the *Duck Dynasty* star explains her feelings on the modesty debate the best way she knows how. What do you think? Give us your take on the hot modesty debate in the comments.

Prophetic Vision: 'Many Have Waited Faithfully for Years, but Now I Will Open the Right Doors for Them'

I recently had a vision where I was walking down a long hallway. I had a great expectancy as I kept walking down this hallway. I noticed that there were doors all along its sides, some to the right and some to the left. Again, as I kept walking, I felt an excitement, and joy begin to build. I kept walking straight ahead and came to a door directly in front of me. I felt the Lord say, "This is your door."

So I opened the door, and as I walked through it, I came upon another door. I opened it and walked through the next door and another door opened to me. This happened many times. I keep opening door after door, one right after another. Then I heard the Lord say, "There are so many people who have been patient

in the process, walking with Me for years, and they have been waiting on the right time and the right door to be opened for them. They've prayed about the doors they have come across and have been faithful to stay out of the wrong doors and opportunities. But now I am leading many into the right place, at the right time, and the right doors are opening for them."

God was showing to me in this vision that this is not just a season for one door to be opened for people. Instead this is a season of multiplied doors. God is sending open doors to you, one right after another after another. Not just one door, but multiple doors. Many people are waiting for God to just open one door. God doesn't just want to open up one door for you, He wants to open up multiple doors for you in this season. You don't have to look for doors of opportunity; open doors will find you. You don't have to ask for favor; the favor of God will find you.

If you are faithful to stay in the secret place of fasting, prayer and seeking the Lord God will open doors for you. You won't have to go looking or knocking on doors. As you stay humble and walk in humility, God will open up doors for you that you can't even imagine. When you walk through each door, you will have the insight to be able to manage and steward what is on the other side of each one.

The Lord spoke to me and said, "Everything from your past, every pain, trouble, blessing, hard season, great season, all of your education and training will make sense and help you as you walk through the doors." I saw this like a funnel which starts out with a wide opening and becomes narrow at the bottom. I saw this season like a funnel of everything in the past coming together and leading up to this moment for many people.

As you enter into this incredible season of multiple doors, never forget it was the Lord who opened the doors for you and gave you the strength to walk through the doors. God is

pouring out divine insight and wisdom to those that will walk through these multiple doors. Get ready, my friends. Your long walk through the hallway of closed doors is about to end. Door after door after door is going to be opened for the people of God in this season. Your season of multiplication, acceleration and your season of numerous doors being opened for you is here, and it's coming! {eoa}

Joe Joe Dawson is the founder and apostle of ROAR Apostolic Network and ROAR Church Texarkana. Joe Joe is married to the love of his life, Autumn Dawson, and they have three children, Malachi, Judah and Ezra. The Dawsons live and teach a lifestyle of revival and awakening. Their desire is to see every believer fulfill their God-given destiny and live life to the fullest in God. Joe Joe is also the author of *Living Your God-Sized Dream and Recipe for Revival*. To connect with Joe Joe or for more information, visit joejoedawson.net.

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