

Influencer Shares Powerful Testimony, Gives Life to Christ After Suicide Attempt

Brittany Dawn Nelson is one of the biggest up-and-coming Christian influencers. However, her journey to Jesus has been far from perfect. Now, she is sharing how she found hope in Christ during the lowest moment of her life.

“I remember the weight of that moment,” Nelson said in a recent YouTube video. “On Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14, 2019, I had a plan to take my life.”

Nelson shared that as she prepared to say goodbye to the world and send a message to her sister, God intervened and showed up in a way she had never experienced before.

“This overwhelming presence consumed me,” Nelson said. “It was the most beautiful presence I had ever felt. I fell to the floor. I remember just collapsing and pills going everywhere, and I was just dwelling in the sweetest presence that I had ever felt and it was Jesus. The Holy Spirit had swept in a moment and saved me from myself.”

Nelson says this encounter with the Lord transformed her life which had previously been marked by lies fed to her by the enemy about fitness, sexual promiscuity, drugs and alcohol. Nelson experienced the collapse of her fitness empire, a failed marriage and wandered far from the Jesus she heard about as a child.

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“I remember thinking, ‘There’s no way; how could He want me?’

And He left the 99 for me. He chased me down and sought me out, and He never left my side,” Nelson said. “In my darkest moment in which I should not have lived through, He said, ‘I want her. She’s mine.’”

Nelson says the destruction of her idols is exactly what was needed in order for her to come to Christ. After Nelson’s life-altering shake-up, she experienced the Holy Spirit setting her free.

“I remember just going through waves of deliverance,” Nelson said. “I would manifest and get it was just like so many demons were leaving me because God is so faithful and when Jesus is present no darkness can touch you; it has no authority over you anymore. I was just being walked through so much deliverance by the Holy Spirit.”

For Nelson, there has been no turning back. After she realized what Christ did for her on the cross, she desired to learn more about Him. She enveloped herself in the Word and got plugged in with the Upperroom ministry.

“My testimony is a story of what the enemy sends out for evil God can turn around for your good,” Nelson said. “The fires that the enemy thought I would walk through that would burn me are the very fires that Jesus used to refine me.”

Today, Nelson has a massive following on YouTube, TikTok and Instagram. She also leads a women’s ministry called She Lives Freed to help women build up their faith through a sisterhood of others seeking to be transformed by the Holy Spirit.

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Progressive Christianity is the Reason a Drag Queen Charted on Christian Music

For the first time ever a drag queen's song hit number one on the Christian iTunes chart.

Flamy Grant's song, "Good Day," featuring Derek Webb took over the number one spot on iTunes' Christian chart.

The song is about Grant's "comeback" to the Christian community. The song implies that Grant was hurt by the church and its teachings against the LGBTQ lifestyle.

Grant is known for both drag and music. Grant's YouTube bio states: "This singing/songwriting drag queen time traveled from a 90s Lilith Fair tour to present day, bringing with her a roots-rock sound influenced by gospel and Americana."

Lilith, as in the spirit, is directly mentioned here. This is something most Christians should catch before listening to any of Grant's music.

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Reject the lies you perpetuate / you're not the keeper of the pearly gates.

That's a pretty shocking statement about the church as a place of judgement and condemnation for a song meant for Christians.

I'm sitting in the front row / it's a good day to come out of

the shadow / God made me good in every way.

Anyone and everyone should be welcome into the church. But not because of a desire to brag about life in sin. The church is a place to lay everything down—especially sin—so we can enjoy the newness of life found only through Christ. Yes, we are made in the image of God (Ps. 139:14-16), but to follow Jesus we must die to self, pick up our cross and follow Him (Luke 9:23). Scripture tells us to take off the old nature and put on the new (Eph. 4:22-24). We may initially be made in His image, but our nature is not “good” in every way. We live in a fallen, broken world and the only way to find true life is to repent and turn to Christ. There is no other way (John 14:6).

Here’s another line worth looking at:

A good day to come back home / you sent me away but I was never alone.

The church is meant to be a place where someone is loved and supported. However, love sometimes comes in the form of correction (Prov. 3:12). One of the ways that correction may come is through the illumination of the truth about the LGBTQ lifestyle and how it will lead everyone who follows it astray. We’re not called to leave the faith because God wants to shape us. Instead, we need to lean into Christ and our church community.

It’s not this song alone that Christians should be concerned about. The bigger question is how did something like this seep into a music category that was meant to be dedicated to God?

It’s quite simple. We let it.

One example is singer Plumb’s support of Grant and Webb’s “Good Day.” Amy Grant also hosted her niece’s lesbian wedding on her farm. Remember, as we get closer to the end even the elect will be deceived if possible (Matt. 24:24). We are called to be watchful and vigilant because Christ will return

as a thief in the night (2 Peter 3:10). Just because the “Christian” label is slapped onto something doesn’t mean it is actually of God. We must still use discernment and wisdom through Bible reading and prayer to make it through the difficulties we will face in this world.

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Walker Hayes’ Transformation From Battling Alcoholism and Atheism to Life in Christ

Walker Hayes shared in a recent interview with Fox News how his life was transformed by Christ after previously battling with alcoholism and atheism. One of the key pieces to shaping his walk with Jesus was also one of his most heartbreaking as his family experienced a tragic loss when his seventh child died.

It was during this incredibly difficult time that Hayes’ close friend, Craig, supported him and encouraged him to grow in his faith.

“Most people would be drawn away from me,” Hayes said. “You know I lost a kid; I have nothing going on musically, I’m an alcoholic. I’m great at pushing people away, and so then here comes this guy named Craig who was drawn nearer to me, and it was quite confusing.”

Like country music star, Granger Smith, the loss of a child tested Hayes' faith, and brought him into a deeper relationship with God. And throughout the process it was his trusted friend who helped carry him through.

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"In the long run, I honestly found out he's just as broken as me, but he knows Jesus," Hayes told Fox.

Prior to Hayes' friendship with Craig, he found himself battling severe alcoholism, atheism and even lost his record label deal. Over time, Hayes was able to see God for who He really is and why he needed Him to take control of his life.

"You can't wake up and make a list of your good deeds. Even that list is self-righteous," Hayes said. "No one is the answer is Christ."

Hayes' testimony is one of many where God pulled someone out of sin's treacherous waters just when they needed it. Deliverance warrior Tai Locke found herself reaching out to Christ after a drug overdose and her life was radically changed by God's presence. Even renowned pastor and author Greg Laurie was mired in sorrow when his son was tragically killed in a car accident. It is all about the response to tragedy that makes a difference.

Revelation 12:11 reminds us that it is by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony that we are overcomers. We have the choice to either lean in and believe what the Scriptures say, or look around at the circumstances the world throws at us. Whether we allow God to take our ashes and turn them around for good is something we each must decide for ourselves.

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Granger Smith Shares How God's Sovereignty Flows 'Like a River' Even in the Middle of Tragedy

In an exclusive interview with Charisma magazine, Granger Smith shared how God's sovereignty was working in the middle of the worst part of his life when he tragically lost his son, River.

"I have grown to trust, and believe, and surrender, to a very big God," Smith said. "A sovereign, providential God."

Smith got into the weeds of Genesis 50:20, a commonly misunderstood verse, and what it actually means for our lives.

"It doesn't say 'work for good,' it says 'what you meant for evil God meant for good.' Meaning He meant this to happen, providentially, sovereignly, meant for this to happen," Smith said. "He's always working for a greater good, but that doesn't take Him off the hook for things that happen. He doesn't react. He's not playing catch-up; it's not like something evil or bad happens and then God says, 'oh don't worry guys, let Me try to rush in here and fix it for you and we're going to wrap it up.'"

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While explaining the sovereignty of the Lord, Smith also says that this is where understanding His grander and purposeful plan comes into play. He says that God has a plan and a purpose, and it was in the middle of his greatest sorrows that he saw this element of God's character come to life.

"God has a plan and a purpose, and that kind of theology really has emerged through the deepest, darkest ashes for me in our grief and loss," Smith said. "That is a big God that understands. He is compassionate and He is near to the brokenhearted, but He's also totally in control."

For Smith, the key to understanding and knowing more of who God is at the core has been developed through his personal devotional time each day. In order to really trust a big God, one must spend time in His presence.

"I believe part of that is our daily Scripture reading, walking through the Bible in some kind of active plan," Smith said. "I'm recommending a daily dose of some kind of reading plan that you're working through in context through a book of the Bible and you're including this in your daily lives."

Smith believes spending time in the Word of God is not only driving himself to go deeper to know the Lord, but he is trying to lead by example for his children so they can be equipped with a biblical foundation no matter what they encounter in life.

"I hope that really clicks for them one day when it matters to them so that's kind of a future investment I'm putting in just for them," Smith said.

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Crusades Lead Over a Million People to Respond to the Gospel

Christ for All Nations (CfaN) broke record numbers as they held 11 crusades over a two-week time span with over 1 million people responding to the gospel.

In an exclusive interview with Charisma News, Christ for All Nations' Macoby Donaldson said that they recently tried and succeeded at the impossible—doing 11 crusades at once across the nation of Zambia.

"We did 11 crusades in a two-week period," Donaldson said. "And we did it for what normally would cost the same as one crusade because there's something special."

It was through these 11 remarkable crusades that over a million people in Zambia accepted Christ as Lord and Savior.

"1,040,720 to be exact," Donaldson told Charisma News. "1,040,720 Zambians made a decision to follow Christ."

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Donaldson shared how the crusades were conducted by evangelists who have been trained up by CfaN President Daniel Kolenda himself. Back in the fall of 2022, Kolenda announced

the introduction of the CfaN School of Ministry to build up evangelists to go out into the world and preach the gospel. Now, CfaN is seeing the fruit of what they have sown.

Donaldson believes there was an awe-inspiring sense of joy during the crusades where deliverance, healing and salvation were present in a supernatural way.

“It’s something that when you’re on that field with the masses of people and there’s deliverance and there’s breakthrough and there’s freedom,” Donaldson said. “There’s such an overwhelming presence of joy.”

Donaldson also discussed how this great joy of seeing the harvest come in is not just for professional missionaries or evangelists. All of God’s people can actively see souls saved for the sake of Christ.

“You may think you’re unqualified to lead people to Christ or to preach on stage or take testimonies in front of hundreds of thousands,” Donaldson said. “But it still is like the harvest is outgrowing the ‘s almost like a mentality. It’s more like, the harvest becomes wider and wider.”

Just as CfaN is working to bring the Great Commission into reality, all Christians can take note of the power of discipleship. God uses His Holy Spirit in His people to share the message of salvation, and without devoted disciples, more people cannot come to know Christ. That’s the reason Jesus said to “go and make disciples.” It takes committed followers for more people to experience salvation and the glory of God.

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Granger Smith Shares His Journey to Redemption After Tragic Loss

In an exclusive interview with Charisma Magazine Online, Granger Smith shared his journey to redemption after the tragic loss of his son.

Smith released his book, "Like a River" which details his life's journey after losing his son, River. His son's death was also a pivotal moment for a redirection in his career.

"It was the first time that I got up to tour after losing River, [and it] was an attempt to have a change of scenery," Smith said. "The first time ever in decades I thought 'This is meaningless.' You know, I felt like Solomon at some level saying that, this is all in Ecclesiastes, this is all dust, this meaningless."

Smith said that he was able to perform and engage with audiences, but that it was the first time his experience was different than it had been in the past.

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"That was the first time that the veil was torn as you can say, that there was a crack," Smith said. "God sovereignly reduced my passion in touring and in music and proportionately raised Him. As that began to happen as I toured more and more I began to feel not a discomfort or not a dissatisfaction in touring; I just felt pulled in another area of my life."

Smith felt that he kept hitting the same wall again and again: picking up his cross was more important than gaining glory from the applause of his fans.

“To be a believer, to follow Christ, to deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Him, did not align with self-exaltation on a stage,” Smith said. “I’m speaking for me; I could not reconcile needing the glory for myself on a stage no matter how I looked at it. That feeling eventually overcame and overran me to a point where I thought, ‘I have to surrender this, I have to turn it in.’”

Smith shared how he gave up his record deal in 2021 as the first step in his process toward sanctification in Christ. The next major step for Smith will be the wrap-up of his touring days.

“Really what we call this as believers we call this sanctification. It’s a slow process, sometimes painful, sometimes uncomfortable process of shedding the world and conforming more and more like Christ,” Smith said. “This is a lifelong journey for all believers.”

Smith’s journey at this point in his life has been heavily about surrendering the things of this world to God, and trusting that He has a bigger and better plan for him.

“Our faith is active, it is not a noun, it is a verb, and it’s an active form of surrender,” Smith said. “It’s surrendering everything back to God.”

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From Addict to Deliverance Warrior, Tai Locke Shares Her Testimony to Freedom

In an exclusive interview with Charisma News, Tai Locke shares her powerful testimony of how she went from addict to deliverance warrior with her husband, Pastor Greg Locke.

Tai Locke, who pastors Global Vision Bible Church with her husband, Greg Locke, shared how she came to Christ in the middle of a bleak and dark drug addiction. However, when she finally laid everything down at her Savior's feet, her life was changed forever.

"When I met the Lord, I had an encounter with the Lord in a ditch. I drug overdosed," Locke said. "When I got born again, the Lord did a drastic transformation in my life very immediately after that encounter with Him."

Because Locke didn't grow up in the church and had no context of Christian culture coming into the faith, she took everything the Bible said at face-value. She didn't doubt that God could still heal or perform miracles. She had already experienced His Holy Spirit transforming her life for His glory. However, after marrying Greg, she learned that cessationism was an actual struggle for him as it is for many people who have been taught over the years that the gifts of the Holy Spirit ceased when the apostles died.

"I never realized what an inner struggle that was for him until he openly began to, from the pulpit, begin to repent of not... believing in the gifts of the Holy Spirit," Locke said. "That was honestly kind of a shock to me because he never

quenched the Spirit of the Lord in me. He never told me one time, 'No, that's not what we believe,' he never did that. He allowed me to express my heart and my spirit to him."

Soon, both Tai and Greg were believers that the Holy Spirit was still at work in this day and age. The biggest change came when Greg felt the Lord ask him to lay hands on Tai and pray for the healing of her back, an area she had been dealing with pain for years. Not only was Tai healed, but this was the beginning of the next step toward God's plans for their ministry.

"That was a pivotal moment for us," Locke said. "I believe it was from that moment that we are where we are today."

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Locke shared how she became more interested in learning about deliverance ministry because of her own questions she had about spiritual bondage in Christians. For her, the day that a young girl manifested a demon during a baptism was a turning point for how she would forever see God's call on her life.

"I wept all day after church because I couldn't find her," Locke said.

Seeing a young child around her own daughter's age under such oppression and demonic takeover was unshakable for Locke. She addressed to her husband how deeply this occurrence cut her to the core.

"I can't continue in ministry and see those kinds of things and not be equipped to help someone that is in that situation," Locke told her husband. "And that was the moment for us. We began to fast; we began to pray."

The Lockes' church has now experienced 80 weeks of revival as

people have been delivered from demonic influence and found freedom in Christ. For Locke, the next thing she is focused on is sharing about the glory of the Lord with others for the discipleship process to continue after deliverance. She believes we are in a time of harvesting, and this work cannot be neglected.

“My fear is that in these days with so many people looking at the gifts of the Spirit, so many people looking at deliverance, my fear is that we’re going to miss the glory of the Lord,” Locke said. “The harvest is plentiful, and the laborers are few.”

Locke believes this is the time that Christians must seek the presence of God and share Him with the world.

“Now it’s harvest time, to go out into the highways and byways and compel them to come in,” Locke said. “I mean out on the streets, that when we go to Walmart, you know, or we go to the gas station, that the glory of the Lord is so evident on us that people begin to ask cannot contain the glory of the Lord in a building.” {eo}

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4 Ways to Identify a Lukewarm Christian, Says John Ramirez

Evangelist John Ramirez is exposing false prophets sleeping

into the church community today, encouraging people that this is the time to get right with God before the rapture of Jesus' saints.

"You can't sell an anointing," Ramirez said in a recent message. "You can't sell something that's not yours."

Ramirez warned the audience of televangelists and other seemingly spiritual influencers who target Christians seeking to hear from the Lord or expecting Him to answer a specific prayer request. Ramirez shared that while one may genuinely desire something of the Lord, you can't simply buy what you want from God off of the rack like a new coat or a pair of shoes. Being anointed doesn't always equal the same kind of influence the world is after, but rather it means relying whole-heartedly upon Christ to reach a God-given destiny.

"Those are false prophets in the house of God with no fear of God," Ramirez said. "You know why they have no fear of God? Because they don't care. The fear of God means this: 'I don't want to disappoint God.' That's the fear of God."

Ramirez boldly confronted false ministers who offer resources with no real biblically-based solutions. One of the top things he wanted Christians to know is the difference between anointing and influence so they could discern between those who truly walk with God and those who don't.

"The devil has stolen their anointing off them that God gave them," Ramirez said. "The devil has stolen the anointing and gave them influence, and influence is not the you got influence and you got no fruit, you could have never been with Jesus. Fruit is the ministry of Jesus Christ."

Ramirez also prompted a very serious question about gifts versus fruit. "Who's holding the gifts?" Ramirez asked. "You can fake gifts, but you can't fake fruit."

☒ Beyond the questions of fruit, gifts and anointing, Ramirez

challenged the audience to dive deep and think on whether or not their faith is founded on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, or if they are actually lukewarm Christians with one foot in with God and one foot out with the world. He did this by giving the audience four practical action steps they can take to grow in their faith.

“My question to you is, are you lukewarm?” Ramirez asked. “Do an assessment of your spiritual inventory. Are you deformed? Are you the same Christian of last year? When is the last time you had a glory-to-glory movement in your life?”

Ramirez exposes even more lies of the enemy and how Christians can build their life with Christ in his latest book, “Fire Prayers.” {eo}

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Why Don't More Christians Celebrate Pentecost?

It's undeniable that most Christians celebrate Christmas and Easter. But why not Pentecost? What makes Pentecost so mysterious to most people?

What happened on the Day of Pentecost changed the world. Before then, the Holy Spirit did not permanently reside in the human heart. However, after Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension to heaven, the Holy Spirit could come down and dwell with us!

So why not celebrate this more?

In order to really understand Pentecost, a person has to understand what a relationship with the Holy Spirit looks like. Perhaps many people have been too scared to really dig deep and know what this means. For some, a relationship with the Holy Spirit may appear to be too mystical on the outside. What it really comes down to is a misunderstanding of who the third person of the Godhead is.

I can say personally that if you would've asked me about Pentecost just a few years ago, I would've said it was a great event, but probably wouldn't have dwelt too much on it. My faith in Jesus seemed strong and sturdy, and truthfully, I didn't know enough about how a relationship with the Holy Spirit should look despite the instructions being right there in the middle of Scripture. I believe it is quite possible that there are plenty of other people out there like myself who simply just didn't realize how important a relationship with the Holy Spirit is because they feel so secure in knowing what Christ did for them. However, the more I learned about Jesus, the more I found myself needing His Spirit. The more I read in Scripture, the more I saw that it is the power of the Holy Spirit which enables me to live according to my heavenly Father's will. The more time I spent getting to know one member of the Godhead, the more I understood the other two and how they are all one. My faith didn't develop overnight; it was a gradual process.

When you don't understand who the Holy Spirit is, a first interaction with Him can seem incredibly scary and intimidating. This is something I personally went through. After receiving salvation in Christ in middle school. I would spend hour after hour writing prayers and listening to worship music. The way I felt when I did this was indescribable. I didn't realize I was ministering to the Holy Spirit!

During this time period, I had my first experience of what most would consider the baptism of the Holy Spirit. However, I had never heard of this, and I was thrown completely off guard

by it. I learned later that the Holy Spirit had simply become the One guiding my life! If someone has not experienced or known anything about the Father or the Son, it is hard to understand the Spirit without first knowing about these two. Perhaps that's why the Old Testament introduced the Father before the Son and the Holy Spirit became present in the New Testament.

There's a genuine misconception about the Holy Spirit's presence in our life today. Many Christians live life as though the power of the Holy Spirit that helped Peter preach to the thousands and see salvations was only for his day and age. That is simply not true. If God is the same yesterday, today and forever, then that means that the Holy Spirit is the same God now as the God who helped the apostles. He has the same power and capability to give us the boldness and the heart to preach the gospel, to do His will and to see the lost saved that He gave to the disciples. Wouldn't it be great if the church acted like the early Christians presented in the book of Acts?

Instead of looking at the Holy Spirit as some mystical power, we need to look at the plain, biblical text of the Holy Spirit's power, presence and purpose for the life of the Christian. Perhaps if we took the time to know more of who He is, we could look at the day of Pentecost with a deeper sense of appreciation and gratitude.

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The Shocking 'Transformation' of Michael Todd's Easter Service

Michael Todd's Transformation Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, has caused waves across social media in the past few days for their Easter play called "Ransom."

Clips of the play have been circulating across social media, especially on YouTube, leading many to create reaction videos of what was seen at the service.

Part of the play included music from Ke\$ha's "Die Young," and other secular artists, dark clothes and makeup, fire and red lighting to set the stage to actually look like a frame in hell. There was also a part of the play where the "demons" danced and compared their physical features to one another saying, "I don't have a fatty," referring to their posteriors, and another clip also shows a part in the service where the demons are pulling Jesus off the cross.

Another video clip showed the end of the service which appeared to be a regular praise and worship session.

In a Facebook video, Todd shared the purpose behind the play before the production began. He said that in 2015 after becoming the pastor of Transformation Church, he said that he had never preached an Easter sermon, so he came up with the idea of doing an Easter play. He envisioned that the play should speak to the lost instead of just to those who already were saved, saying that he wanted to go "to the edge" and do everything "short of sin" with the play.

Now, after a few years after the growth of the church, Todd was ready to bring back the play to the larger congregation.

“Today, with an amazing team under the direction of some amazing people, I believe for the first time we’re going to get to see this production with the level of anointing and excellence that I saw in it when I didn’t have the resources to be able to present it,” Todd said.

Todd encouraged the audience to be humble, open and transparent, which is one of the church’s core culture codes presented on their website. Before the production started, a note was also placed on the screen.



*(Ransom play description
screenshot/Michael Todd Facebook)*

“Ransom is the creative expression of the true story of the fall and redemption of man through Jesus Christ, as written in Scripture. Backstories and some characters or dialogue have been added. However, all biblical and historical contexts along with any artistic imagination are designed to support the truth and intention of the Scriptures,” the screen read. “This production intends to portray a representation of the gospel that draws in the lost and reminds the found of the power, love and grace of Jesus Christ. Viewers are encouraged to read the Bible for further context and understanding of the Easter story.”

The play’s website also gives a description of Ransom’s narrative, which is centered on a princess who is deceived by a dragon into committing a crime to disobey the King.

Comments and reactions from people across social media have varied, some siding with Transformation Church that the play was powerful, effective and well loved by their entire family, some even claiming that around 600 people were saved through the service. However, there were others who believe the play went too far and glorified sin.

“Do I think that the church’s primary role is to glorify God and to edify believers with the Word of God and with the gospel? Do I think that everything done in a church should be pointing to the Lord? Yes, I do,” commentator Allie Beth Stuckey said. “Is that what you got out of this? No. It is entirely inappropriate.”

Pastor and YouTuber Marcus Rogers also warned about using discernment and wisdom with productions like this one.

“When you spend time with God in the private place, you just are able to discern something is not right,” Rogers said in his reaction video. “It doesn’t matter if the whole world is singing this individual’s praises, in the spirit you know something is off.”

With so many people torn between loving or hating “Ransom,” one thing everyone can agree on is that Transformation Church created a stir with the production.

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