

Is a New Gas Station Drink Opening the Door to Addiction and Spiritual Bondage?

A new drink being sold at gas stations and smoothie bars has raised serious concerns from both health and spiritual perspectives. Marketed as a “plant-based joy” beverage in a small blue bottle called Feel Free, the product has been linked to addiction, severe withdrawal symptoms, and troubling encounters with teens seeking it. While it appears alongside energy shots and gum, critics warn that its effects are far more dangerous.

Pastor Kap Chatfield recently addressed the issue after investigating claims surrounding the drink. “There’s a drink being sold at gas stations and smoothie bars right now that’s being marketed as plant-based joy. It’s an energy drink that is shaped like this in the small little blue bottle. It says Feel Free. But what’s inside may be opening a door that no parent or just any person, any adult should ignore,” he said.

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Chatfield recounted testimony from individuals who encountered its effects firsthand. One man described losing friends and hurting his family before coming to the realization of just how dangerous the drink was. Another user explained the devastation of addiction, saying, “I’ve lost friends, jobs, everything because of these drinks. If you see them, turn the other way. It’s not worth it.”



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Research shows the drink’s active ingredients are two powerful

plants, kava and kratom. Chatfield explained, “These alkaloids hit the same brain receptors opiates do. The FDA flat out warns about the risk liver toxicity, seizures, and substance use disorder. People report real withdraw symptoms such as anxiety, sweating, insomnia, restless legs when they stop.”

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But beyond the health risks, Chatfield connected the issue to a spiritual dimension. He cited an engraving reportedly seen at the FDA headquarters that read: “The devil has got hold of the food supply of this country.” Pointing to Scripture, he said, “The Bible says that the thief does not come except to steal and to kill and to destroy. And Jesus says, ‘I have come that they may have life and they may have it more abundantly.’”

For Chatfield, the widespread marketing of products like this is part of a larger spiritual battle. “God’s will for you is not that you’d be bound into addiction. Not that you’d be bound in needing these certain substances or these certain foods or whatever that are ultimately created to hurt you, to keep you enslaved, to keep you in bondage, to keep you addicted. That’s the plan of the devil. God wants to set you free,” he said.

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While Feel Free is marketed as natural and healthy, testimonies and warnings suggest it can enslave rather than uplift. As Chatfield reminded, “Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil and he came to heal the sick.”

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

From Adam to AI: Preserving Our Humanity in an Augmented World

We stand at a crossroads of innovation and identity: never before have humans wielded the power to reshape not just our tools, but our very biology. As robotics, nanotechnology, genetics and artificial intelligence merge into a single “hybrid age,” society faces questions more profound than convenience or productivity. At stake is nothing less than the essence of what it means to be human, and whether that essence is worth preserving.

On The Deep End podcast, Timothy Alberino urges us to confront two “essential questions that no other generation ever has had to contemplate.” First, he asks, “What does it mean to be a human being?” and then follows with the harder, paired query: “Is our humanity worth preserving?”

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Though AI may dominate headlines, and even spawn guilty pleasures like “the Bigfoot vlogs,” Alberino warns that it’s merely the most visible strand of a vast technological tapestry.

“Most of us are not interacting with technologies that can alter our genome,” he notes, yet those are arriving alongside AI. As these disparate fields “coalesce,” he says, they will culminate in the ability “to modify wholesale human biology...mind, body and soul.”



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From his Christian vantage point, Alberino reminds listeners that human dignity isn't earned by technological feats but flows from our being "created in the image of God." He frames our original state as "the pinnacle," with Adam "communing with his maker."

In contrast, he warns, trying to use tech to "steal the fruit from the tree of life" will only lead us further from lasting fulfillment. True restoration, he insists, comes "through the door, through Christ."

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Every one of us, Alberino emphasizes, is already "slowly participating in the transition out of Adam and into some posthuman condition." His mission, in writings, interviews and live events, is to help people anchor themselves amid this upheaval by "rooting themselves in the gospel of Christ," the only sure defense against losing our shared humanity.

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As he puts it, after pondering the staggering price of redemption, "to just cast our humanity aside so that we can have what? Life extension, Neuralink," that, he warns, is the real void we must avoid.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

2 Children's Near-Death Visions Reveal a Personal Encounter with Jesus

Near-death experiences offer a window into something far greater than our everyday reality—a realm where time, space and even human limitations fall away.

In Gabe Poirot's latest video, he shares two powerful testimonies of children who, while hovering at death's door, encountered Jesus in vivid detail. One little boy described Him walking on a creek, dressed in a "white robe" with "a little beard and...brown hair," while both children heard Him speak the same tender instruction: "Take care of your family."



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These moments aren't comforting hallucinations or side-effects of anesthesia, they're deeply personal encounters that have forever reshaped young lives.

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Poirot gently guides viewers through the uncanny parallels between these accounts and countless other near-death visions, emphasizing not only the consistency of the imagery but the overwhelming sense of divine love and affirmation. He reminds us that every human heart carries a longing for more than the physical world can supply, and that these glimpses beyond the veil point to a perfect, relational Savior who loves us unconditionally and affirms our worth.

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To experience the full depth of these moving reactions, watch the full video above.

James Lasher is staff writer for *Charisma Media*.

Unraveling the Nephilim Mystery: Why Genesis 6 Led to the Flood

Many of us have wrestled with the strange references in Genesis 6 to beings called the Nephilim and wondered why the Flood followed so soon after. What exactly was the problem God addressed, and how does Noah's story fit into His broader plan? By exploring these questions, we gain fresh insight into our origins, the depth of human brokenness, and the hope God extends through redemption.

On *Prophecy Watchers*, host Gary Stearman and guest Lee Brainard unpack this passage. Stearman explains that Genesis 6 "opens with this dramatic arrival of ... the ones who came to corrupt mankind, and then it works its way into the great flood of Noah." Brainard then highlights Noah's unique role: "Noah was perfect in his generations. ... He was able to be used of God to bring forth the messianic line untainted with the serpent seed."

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They explain that the Flood wasn't simply a response to human rebellion but addressed a deeper crisis: "if we don't see that

there was a tampering and a tainting of the human DNA ... we're going to have a difficult time comprehending why God was faced ... to wipe out the entirety of humanity except for Noah, his wife, and his three sons and their wives."



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Stearman and Brainard also point out that ancient cultures worldwide recorded similar accounts of cataclysmic floods and "super beings" living among humans: "there's some long television programs out there on ... the flood except not from the biblical point of view ... chronicled ... in what became the European countries, Greco, Roman, they all have their histories of the megalithic world and the time when super beings came and lived among men."

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Yet many believers embrace dragon and flood legends as validating Scripture, "there's flood stories all around the world. Harmonizes with the Bible," but shy away from the Nephilim: "when we come to the Nephilim, it's like the blinders are on." That contrast only underscores how pivotal this topic is for understanding the full scope of biblical history.

Turning to prophecy, they note how Daniel 2:43 signals a revival of this hybrid line at the end of the age: "as the iron doesn't mingle with the clay ... it's referring to the kings don't mingle with the seed of men." Those 10 kings in Revelation, along with the Antichrist and False Prophet, are portrayed as the final Nephilim rulers, cast into the abyss and later released.

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Rather than leaving us in despair, this revelation points us firmly to Christ's redeeming work. As Brainard emphasizes, humanity's deepest need isn't just moral correction but full restoration from every form of corruption. Because Jesus came to heal both our sin and our spiritual DNA, we can face the future with confidence, fully assured that God's plan, woven from Genesis through Revelation, secures our redemption and renews all creation.

James Lasher is staff writer for *Charisma Media*.

End Times Apostasy: Warning Signs of the Great Falling Away

Hostility toward key end-times truths is rising, even among those who once championed them. Across congregations and online forums, doctrines about biblical prophecy, the rapture and Israel are increasingly met with scoffing and outright rejection.

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"The scoffers and the mockers are increasing from within the church," Pastor Tom Hughes warns, citing the very words of 2 Peter 3 that such mockery would mark the last days. Both Hughes and guest Lee Brainard have felt the sting personally: "I have never seen my emails filled with the type of hate mail I get now," Hughes admits, underscoring just how widespread

the backlash has become.

In their conversation, Hughes and Brainard trace this surge of apostasy to a departure from Scripture in favor of cultural trends or entrenched tradition. They unpack how replacement theology has quietly “de-Judaized” the Bible, rewriting every promise to Israel as if it now belongs to the church.



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Brainard observes that many critics “have gone on YouTube, they’ve gone down a black hole, they’ve been led astray,” demonstrating how easily well-meaning believers can abandon plain biblical teaching. Both men stress that reading the whole Bible “cover to cover,” rather than cherry-picking or overlooking prophetic passages, is the first line of defense against deception.

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They also explore the critical distinction between Israel’s prophetic timetable and the church’s calling. Drawing on Daniel’s “70 weeks” and Revelation’s assurances, Brainard lays out why a pre-tribulation rapture remains the best fit for the text: the church is “kept from” the coming trial on earth, while Israel endures the final week of judgment in order to be turned back to her Messiah.

Hughes and Brainard confront the perennial temptation to set dates, cautioning viewers that every prediction to date has “gone belly up,” and remind us that prophecy unfolds on God’s timetable, not ours.

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Ultimately, this interview equips believers to answer growing skepticism with clear, text-based teaching rather than sound bites or social pressure. Viewers will learn practical steps for standing firm—whether explaining why Israel must remain distinct, defending the rapture promise or simply choosing God’s approval over man’s applause. “It’s gonna increase [apostasy]. It’s gonna increase,” Brainard insists. Yet the cure lies not in spirited debate alone but in humble engagement with the plain statements of Scripture.

If you’d like to watch the full interview, please see the video above.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Breaking Free from Spiritual Attack: Refuse Discouragement and Rise Up

Many believers today feel worn down by fatigue, anxiety and discouragement. The weight of life can press so heavily that it feels easier to stay in bed, keep scrolling through endless feeds, and withdraw from the calling God has placed on your life. But Pastor Mike Signorelli of V1 Church shared a powerful prophetic word reminding us that these battles are not just natural, they’re spiritual, and they must be fought with the right response.

“You are not supposed to be lazy and lethargic and passive,” Signorelli declared. “You’re not destined to be depressed and filled with anxiety anymore. Let me tell you, you always fight a spirit with the opposite spirit.” He explained that giving

in to the temptation to lay down when the enemy attacks with weariness only empowers the attack.

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Instead, he urged, "If the devil is tempting you with being lethargic, then you stand up. You rise up and you say, 'No, devil. I'm going to take back everything that you're trying to steal from me, and you're not going to have my body. You're not going to have my children. You're not going to have my destiny.'"



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Signorelli emphasized that this fight begins with shifting our focus. "God, I'm going to pray more than I scroll on social media. I'm going to read more of your word than I read of their words on social media," he said. For him, the key is using your own breath to speak life and faith, even when you feel weakest. "I take this breath and I turn it into words of faith. I take this breath and I turn it into a rebuke to the devil."

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That often means encouraging yourself when no one else will. Signorelli shared from his own experience, "I can't tell you how many times I've been in the lowest places of my life and I've looked in the mirror and I've said, 'You are a man of God. You are going to lead through this. You are equipped and well able by God.'" His encouragement? Don't wait for someone else to call you up. Instead, prophesy over yourself: "You are the person that you've been waiting for. You're the prophet."

Even when you feel justified in your pain, Signorelli reminded

listeners that breakthrough comes from refusing to give in to it. “You have a right to be sad. Refuse to be sad. You have a right to be discouraged. Refuse to be discouraged. It’s not about what you have a right to. It’s about what you refuse.”

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For anyone struggling under the weight of weariness, confusion or discouragement, this word offers hope: you are not powerless. You can stand, speak life and refuse to let the enemy steal your destiny.

James Lasher *is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

‘Uncomfortable’ but Necessary: Dan Orlovsky Explains Why He Prayed for Hamlin Live on ESPN

More than two-and-a-half years have passed since Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin suffered cardiac arrest during a game, yet the memory of ESPN analyst Dan Orlovsky’s spontaneous, live-television prayer continues to inspire fans who believe in the power of faith.

Orlovsky, a former NFL quarterback, paused ESPN’s “NFL Live” the day after Hamlin’s collapse and told viewers, “I heard the Buffalo Bills organization say that ‘We believe in prayer,’ and maybe this is not the right thing to do, but it’s just on my heart, and I want to pray for Damar Hamlin right now.” He

then bowed his head and prayed aloud: “God, we come to you in these moments that we don’t understand ... We just want to pray ... for strength for Damar, for healing for Damar, for comfort for Damar. Be with his family to give him the peace.”

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That clip quickly spread across social media, and the overwhelmingly positive reaction “%” affirmed his decision, as reported by Fox News.



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Still, Orlovsky admitted on the “Awful Announcing” podcast that publicly praying was “uncomfortable,” knowing that “prayer is ‘not for everyone.’” But he felt compelled: “Someone should actually pray for Damar, like actually pray for him, instead of saying thoughts and prayers. ... God’s telling you, go pray for Damar.”

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Emails and texts from skeptics arrived, yet Orlovsky said “overwhelmingly, I think a lot of people just connected, and it resonated with [them].” ESPN offered no reprimand, and he recalls “an overwhelmingly positive” response from the network itself.

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Hamlin, hospitalized for roughly a week, returned to action in the Bills’ 2024 opener and has since reestablished himself in Buffalo’s defense, a testament, Orlovsky believes, to the impact of collective prayer. For countless viewers, his

televised prayer remains a reminder that public faith can encourage unity, hope and healing when tragedy strikes.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Is This the Last Generation? Key Indicators the End Times Are Near

Are we really living in the end times, or do today's crises just make it feel that way? That question framed a recent episode of Prophecy Watchers, where host Gary Stearman interviewed author and speaker Jonathan Brentner about hope, technology and the "blessed hope" of Christ's return.

Stearman opened by telling Brentner that reading his work makes him "take a deep breath and relax." Brentner said his goal is to restore biblical anticipation: "There is something to look forward to," he explained, lamenting that many churches downplay prophecy and thus "ignore so much of the comfort that we can find in Scripture."

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A panorama of hope

Brentner outlined the sequence he believes Scripture predicts:

- **The rapture:** "Beginning with the rapture," he said, "we're given new bodies and the Lord catches us up to be with Him in glory."

- **The marriage supper of the Lamb:** A moment Brentner likened to “a thunder” of rejoicing, louder than a roaring football stadium.
- **The Second Coming and millennium:** Jesus’ return will be “the most triumphant moment in human history,” he said, and believers “will reign with Him for a thousand years.”

“Our triumph is Jesus’ triumph,” Brentner added. “So graciously He enables us to share in His triumph.”

Why prophecy still matters

Stearman noted that sermons declaring “Jesus is coming soon” are more common now than in past decades. Brentner agreed, warning that pastors who sidestep the topic “do a great disservice” because the promise of Christ’s return “affects believers in the pews and what they look forward to.”



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He also drew connections between current technology and biblical warnings. Artificial intelligence, he said, could become “the precursor to the great power the Bible talks about under the Antichrist,” facilitating an unprecedented level of deception. Yet Brentner urged calm: Scripture foresaw these challenges, and God remains sovereign.

Signs and perspective

Both men discussed the surge in antisemitism after Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack, viewing it as another indicator that prophecy is accelerating. Still, Brentner cautioned against panic. “Yes, Jesus is coming for me,” he said. “I don’t know when, but He’s coming for me... even if it doesn’t happen in my lifetime, it’s still worth waiting and watching.”

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Living in the meantime

The Bible's guidance for uncertain days is simple and practical:

- **Stay alert:** Jesus urged His followers to "watch" (Matt. 24:42) and recognize the signs without succumbing to fear.
- **Live holy lives:** Peter wrote that since "all these things will be destroyed," believers ought to "live holy and godly lives" (2 Peter 3:11).
- **Encourage one another:** Paul called the rapture "the blessed hope" and told the church to "comfort one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4:18).
- **Keep working:** Jesus' parables commend servants who stay faithful until the master returns.

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Brentner's bottom line echoed those themes. Prophecy, he said, should move from head knowledge to heart assurance, producing "a lasting peace amid turmoil." For Christians wondering if today's turbulence marks the end times, the message is both sobering and uplifting: keep one eye on the headlines, the other on eternity, and let hope, not fear, shape each day until Christ appears.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Mantles and Anointings: Keys to Last-Days Revival

Throughout Scripture, mantles symbolize divine authority and responsibility. The prophet Elijah cast his mantle on Elisha as a sign of spiritual succession (1 Kings 19:19), and later, Elisha took up Elijah's mantle after his ascension (2 Kings 2:13), walking in a double portion of his anointing. These accounts reveal that mantles represent more than clothing—they are tangible signs of God's calling and empowerment resting upon His servants.

"God has given mantles to individuals and generations," said Joseph Z, explaining that these callings are unique assignments from the Lord. "A mantle is not a jacket. A mantle is a calling and empowerment from God."

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He emphasized the responsibility tied to these assignments. "If you don't step into it, somebody else will," Z said, underscoring that a mantle may be transferred if left unused.

Z also distinguished mantles from other spiritual gifts. "This is not just about gifting; this is about assignment," he said. "Anointing breaks yokes, but mantles change history." While the anointing brings breakthrough and freedom, he described the mantle as a force that alters the course of nations and generations.



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According to Z, the present moment is crucial. "We are in a time where God is handing out mantles," he explained. This, he noted, is a season of opportunity where believers must be

alert to the call of God and ready to act.

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“It’s time for the body of Christ to take up what God has put on us and move forward,” Z urged. “If you don’t step into it, somebody else will.”

Z highlighted the biblical truth that while anointing empowers, mantles carry legacies meant to be stewarded faithfully. His charge echoes the stories of old, when God passed authority from one servant to another, reminding the church today that the same principle still applies: “Anointing breaks yokes, but mantles change history.”

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As revival fires stir in the last days, the call to receive and walk in God’s mantles is more urgent than ever. Believers are being challenged to rise in faith, take hold of their divine assignments, and steward the authority God has placed upon them—not just for personal breakthrough, but to shape history according to His will.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Derek Prince: Why Evangelism Must Include Casting Out

Demons

For many believers, evangelism is seen simply as sharing the gospel message with others. But in the New Testament, evangelism was never meant to stand alone, it was always accompanied by power and authority over the unseen realm.

The late Derek Prince, one of the most respected Bible teachers of the last century, emphasized that Jesus never sent His followers into the world without first equipping them to confront spiritual darkness. His words still resonate today as both a challenge and an encouragement for the church.

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Prince declared, “In the New Testament no one was ever sent out to evangelize without first being commissioned to deal with evil spirits. There isn’t an example in the New Testament. It is unscriptural to do that.”

Looking at Matthew 10, he pointed out how Jesus first gave authority to the twelve disciples: “He gave them power over unclean spirits to cast them out and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.” The disciples weren’t just told to preach a message. They were sent to demonstrate the kingdom by healing the sick, cleansing lepers, raising the dead, and casting out demons.

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This commissioning was not limited to the 12. In Luke 10, 70 others were sent out with the same power and returned declaring, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” Prince noted, “What impressed them most? They had authority over demons.”

He then turned to the Great Commission itself: "These signs will follow those who believe: in My name they will cast out demons." Prince stressed that this mandate was not just for the early church but for all generations. "He made no provision for that process to change. He envisaged the same thing going on from the time He left to the time He came back. That's His program."



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Prince warned that much of the modern church has neglected this foundation: "The tragedy is the church has departed from it. They have not improved upon it. They can't. They've simply made a disaster out of it." Still, his reminder was rooted in hope, pointing believers back to God's original design for His people.

As an example, Prince highlighted Philip, the only man in the New Testament specifically called an evangelist. "Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them... And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many." Prince observed, "The first thing in his ministry as an evangelist was driving out evil spirits."

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His conclusion was firm: "Both the pattern and the commission of Jesus leave no room for the servants of God today to go out in evangelism without first being equipped to deal with evil spirits."

The encouragement in this teaching is that the same authority given by Jesus has not been withdrawn. Evangelism is not only

about words but also about the power of the kingdom breaking through into people's lives.

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When believers proclaim Christ and walk in His authority, they can expect to see transformation, freedom and the tangible work of the Holy Spirit.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.