

# Shadow Games and Spiritual Warfare: How the Deep State Is Targeting Truth

In a powerful roundtable discussion on Encounter Today, host Allen DiDio sat down with Pastor Todd Coconato and prophetic voice Joseph Z to expose a coordinated campaign by the deep state to deceive the public, silence truth and erode spiritual discernment.

The conversation tackled everything from the false Russia collusion narrative to the strategic media push surrounding the Epstein files. The panelists warned that these efforts are often timed to distract from emerging truths about political corruption and globalist agendas seeking to undermine liberty.



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The speakers expressed concern over President Trump's recent pivot on Epstein, suggesting his shift may be the result of manipulated information inserted into the files during Democrat custody. They believe Trump is possibly playing the long game, allowing events to unfold in a way that will eventually expose widespread corruption.

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However, they also warned that the president may be trapped in an echo chamber, disconnected from the grassroots voices that propelled him to power. The panel emphasized that real justice cannot come without airtight cases and that the church must be spiritually alert to pray these things through.

Beyond political strategy, the discussion framed the battle as deeply spiritual.

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Child trafficking, government cover-ups and cultural perversion are all connected to modern-day Baal worship and demonic influence. Yet, amid the darkness, they shared hope that the church's prayers are working, exposing evil and preparing the way for a new move of God. If the church rises in faith and unity, they believe America has been given one more round to fulfill its purpose.

To hear the full conversation and gain deeper insight, watch the video above.

**James Lasher** is staff writer for Charisma Media.

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## **Post Malone's Unexpected Response to Being Witnessed to About Jesus**

Dylan Novak's pursuit of one of the world's most unexpected evangelism encounters reminds us all of what it means to follow God's call, even when the path is uncertain and the goal seems impossible. For eight years, Novak carried a burden on his heart to witness to music icon Post Malone, a mission he says was entirely led by the Lord.

"This is a case of God doing crazy things," Novak said. And it was.

He had tried again and again to cross paths with Post, always missing him by mere moments. But that didn't stop him from preparing. He had written a personal letter to the superstar, dated all the way back to 2017 or 2018 according to Novak (he can't quite remember), and had a Bible set aside just for him, addressed to Post's real name, Austin Post. These weren't props for a moment of recognition; they were seeds, patiently nurtured, waiting for the moment God would give the green light.

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Novak's long-awaited encounter didn't come in a glamorous setting. It came at 4 a.m., outside a bar in Nashville, after Novak had already suffered disappointment from another failed attempt to witness earlier that day. Frustrated and ready to go home, he received a call: Post Malone had just walked into a local bar. Novak immediately turned around.

That's obedience. That's the faith it takes to drop everything and go when God says, "Now."

When Novak finally met Post, the interaction was nothing short of a divine appointment. "I have tried to meet you so many times and the reason is because I love and care about you," he told him. Post was deeply moved, not just by the gesture, but by the sincerity. "He was just so softspoken, so sweet," Novak said. "He kept calling me pastor."



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Despite Post Malone's fame and the assumptions that often accompany his tattooed appearance and party lifestyle, Novak saw something else, a soul that was open. "Yeah, I used to be more atheist, agnostic mindset," Post told him. "Really, especially since having a kid, I'm starting to become more

open. I want to find that truth, whatever that may be.”

Moments like this remind us why obedience to God’s call matters. When we sow the seed, God handles the soil. We aren’t called to determine the outcome, we’re called to act in faith. To show up. To speak when the Spirit prompts. To deliver a letter written in love. To hold out a Bible in hope.

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So many would have looked at someone like Post Malone and thought, “He’s not going to be interested.” But Novak saw through the noise. He recognized the mission God had laid before him and pursued it relentlessly, even when it meant changing direction at a moment’s notice, sacrificing comfort, and risking rejection.

And the result? A powerful conversation. A Gospel seed planted. A man who once claimed atheism now saying, “I want to find that truth.”

That’s the fruit of obedience.

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This is what every believer is called to do. When God places someone on your heart, no matter how far out of reach they seem, pursue them with love, with prayer and with boldness. Whether it’s a superstar or a neighbor, your willingness to listen to the Lord could open a door that no one else could.

We may not always get to see the full harvest, but like Dylan Novak, we can know we were faithful in planting. And sometimes, if we persevere long enough, God lets us see the beginning of the bloom.

***James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.***

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# 'God Is So Good': Deion Sanders Says God Guided Him Through Cancer Battle

Deion Sanders, head coach of the Colorado Buffaloes and NFL Hall of Famer, announced in an emotional press conference that he is officially cancer-free following a harrowing health battle. Through it all, Sanders said his faith in God never wavered, and was, in fact, his foundation.

Doctors discovered a high-grade bladder tumor earlier this year during a routine vascular scan Sanders undergoes annually due to a history of blood clots. What began as a precautionary check turned into a life-changing diagnosis.

"The urologist told us, 'You have a bladder tumor,'" Sanders recounted. "They removed it, and it showed a very high-grade cancer, invading through the bladder wall, but not yet into the muscle layer." The cancer was classified as non-muscle invasive, but aggressive and at high risk for recurrence.

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Faced with two treatment paths, long-term in-bladder therapies with a 50% chance of the cancer returning, or full bladder removal with curative intent—Sanders made his decision based on faith, family, and purpose.

"Given his commitments to his family and to the team, he elected to undergo a bladder removal," said Dr. Lauren Casias, who led the surgical procedure. "I'm pleased to report that he is cured from the cancer."

The road was not easy. The surgery marked Sanders' 14th procedure since 2021, following earlier complications that included amputations of toes due to vascular issues. Yet Sanders, ever transparent and candid, said he never lost his hope—because his hope wasn't in himself.



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"God is so good. You have no idea how good God has been to me," he said. "I never once through this whole journey said, 'God, why me?' Because I would have to say, 'God, why me that You gave me the opportunity to coach at this prestigious university? Why me that You let me father five beautiful children? Why me that You've given me the platform to influence and love people?' I can't question one side without acknowledging the other."

Sanders said he prayed not for deliverance, but for understanding and endurance.

"Lord, whatever it is that You're doing, let me know what it is so I can expedite the process—because I know You got me," he said. "I've seen You have my back. I've seen You in the midst of storms when nobody knew I was going through hell. I've seen You guide me and bring me through."

He framed the suffering not as a curse, but as an assignment.

"I'm God's guy," Sanders declared. "I'm allowed to go through these trials and tribulations so that I could touch and reach and bless people with my words, with the energy, with that thing that God gave me. I'm on assignment. I'm in alignment. I'm not here by mistake. God planted me here."

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Even when considering his own mortality, Sanders maintained a spiritual perspective.

“I never thought about death,” he said. “I made a will because I want to be a good steward, but I got too much life in me to be thinking about death. I got work to do.”

Sanders said the experience has only strengthened his resolve to lead and inspire—not just his team, but the wider public.

“This ain’t about me,” he said. “Everything I deal with is a tool to reach more, to affect more, to challenge more, to love more, to give more. There’s some folks right now scheduling checkups. Some husbands finally listening to their wives. If it could happen to Prime, baby, it could happen to you.”

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As he returns to the field, Sanders expressed deep gratitude for his family, medical team, and the university. But above all, he pointed heavenward.

“Too blessed to be stressed,” he said. “And for all of you who get upset when I talk about the Lord—just know, I’ll never stop. Because it’s God who brought me through this. It’s God who brought me back. And I give Him all the glory.”

**James Lasher** *is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

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# **Trump Tells Israel to ‘Finish**

# the Job' as Ceasefire Talks Collapse

President Donald Trump pulled back U.S. negotiators from the Gaza ceasefire talks last week, declaring Hamas unfit to negotiate in good faith and calling for Israel to “finish the job” against the terrorist group.

“I think they want to die, and it’s very, very bad,” Trump said Friday before departing for Scotland. “It got to be to a point where you’re gonna have to finish the job.”

The president’s remarks reflect a growing frustration with Hamas and a shift in tone as the U.S. reconsiders its strategy in facilitating peace efforts. According to Trump’s Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, the administration is now exploring “alternative options” to secure the release of the remaining hostages held by Hamas.

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Despite international backlash over Israel’s military campaign, Trump reiterated his support for the Jewish state’s right to self-defense.

“They’re gonna have to fight and they’re gonna have to clean it up. You’re gonna have to get rid of ’em,” Trump said, referencing Israel’s military efforts to root out Hamas terrorists entrenched in Gaza.



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Trump placed blame for the breakdown in talks squarely on Hamas, which has been accused of delaying negotiations and exploiting humanitarian concerns. “Now we’re down to the final

hostages, and they know what happens after you get the final hostages,” Trump explained. “Basically, because of that, they really didn’t want to make a deal.”

While Egypt and Qatar continue to express optimism, Israeli officials confirmed that negotiations have not collapsed but acknowledged Hamas remains detached from reality. One senior Israeli official told CNN that Israel hopes Hamas will “reconnect itself to reality” and engage more constructively.

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State Department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce backed the administration’s approach, saying, “Clearly there are many tools in President Trump’s tool chest, many options that Special Envoy Witkoff has. They are very smart, adept individuals who know the players. And I expect that we’ll have some success.”

Trump also pushed back against criticism that the U.S. has not done enough to help civilians caught in the crossfire. “We contributed \$60 million to food and supplies and everything else,” Trump said. “We hope the money gets there, because you know, that money gets taken. The food gets taken. We’re going to do more, but we gave a lot of money.”

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As pressure mounts from European leaders, most notably from British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron, Trump has remained resolute in his commitment to Israel’s security and the eradication of Hamas. Macron’s announcement that France will recognize a Palestinian state in September was condemned by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who called the move “a slap in the face to the victims of October 7th.”

While other Western leaders waver, Trump's position remains clear: Hamas must be held accountable, Israel must be supported and any solution must ensure the terror group never again poses a threat to Israeli citizens.

*James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

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## **Spiritual Counterfeit? AI's Doomed Attempt to Interpret the Gift of Tongues**

A new frontier in artificial intelligence is raising spiritual and ethical red flags as developers push the boundaries of what machines can do, including attempts to interpret speaking in tongues. Once confined to the sacred spaces of personal prayer and edification of the church, the spiritual gift of tongues is now being analyzed by AI tools trained on massive datasets of human language, sound patterns and religious expressions.

Proponents of this technology claim AI can help identify patterns in glossolalia, speech that is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit. They suggest that, with enough data, AI might one day decipher the "meaning" behind the tongues or even offer interpretations that mirror those found in Spirit-filled churches.

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But the implications are deeply troubling to many believers. The act of speaking in tongues is not a product of human

intellect, nor is it a language to be decoded by algorithms. Scripture describes it as a spiritual mystery, requiring Spirit-filled revelation, not mechanical replication.



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The danger isn't just theoretical. Introducing AI into such sacred territory risks replacing spiritual discernment with synthetic assumption. It undermines the role of the Holy Spirit as the true interpreter and may deceive individuals into trusting machines over God's presence. More than a technological overstep, this movement borders on spiritual counterfeit, attempting to mechanize the gifts of God and mass-produce what was never meant to be handled by artificial hands.

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There is also the risk of spiritual manipulation. If AI were to produce fabricated "interpretations," people could be misled into thinking God had spoken when He had not. This opens the door to deception, distortion of doctrine and false prophecy disguised in technological sophistication.

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As AI continues its march into every corner of society, the church must remain vigilant. Not every advancement is progress, and not every tool belongs in the realm of the divine. What is holy must stay holy, and the gifts of the Spirit must never be handed over to machines that cannot comprehend the things of God.

***James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.***

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# Assemblies of God Property Seized in Sudden Government Raid

Armed agents from multiple Mexican federal agencies carried out a surprise raid on Assemblies of God facilities in Mexico City on Friday, seizing property and closing buildings amid an ongoing legal dispute over alleged damage to a historic site.

Dozens of officers from the National Guard, the Attorney General's Office (FGR), and the Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC) arrived without warning at the Anna Sanders Theological Seminary, the "Jesus Christ Light to the Nations" church, the Southern District offices of the Assemblies of God, and the Recursos Cristianos Kerygma bookstore. Furniture, books, instruments and personal items were removed from the seminary and left outdoors in public view.

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"Look at us, surrounded by police as if we were criminals. May the Lord have mercy on us," said one of the seminary's teachers as staff watched the eviction unfold.

Closure seals were placed on all properties, including the seminary campus spanning more than 10,000 square meters near the San Lázaro Legislative Palace. The action was reportedly linked to a ruined structure on the premises believed to be a 16th-century Catholic sanctuary protected by the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH).



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"The police carried out the eviction because there's a ruined building on the premises. They claim it is a cultural heritage site," said a seminary staff member who requested anonymity. "This isn't the first time they've tried something like this."

In an official statement, the Assemblies of God described the government action as "sudden and treacherous," stating that it was executed under a search warrant despite the church's legal ownership of the property. A previous inspection of the old San Lázaro church in February led to a March lawsuit from INAH alleging "damages to a historic monument."

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"We ask for intense prayer in these days. We hope this is resolved soon. We need to be cautious," said Miguel Ángel Solís Osorno, deputy director of the seminary.

The Kerygma bookstore was also sealed, with all materials left inside. "We weren't able to remove anything from the bookstore; everything was left inside. We don't know what's going to happen to all the materials, hundreds of books and items remain in there," a staff member said.

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Photos shared on social media showed that security cameras were removed from the seminary during the operation. No arrests were made.

Church leaders say their legal team is preparing appeals and that a negotiation hearing is set for Aug. 26. The Mexico City and federal governments have not issued any public comment regarding the raid.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

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# Scientists Are Making Artificial Blood, but Should They?

As researchers race to perfect artificial blood, promising medical breakthroughs that could save countless lives, Christians are faced with a deeper question: Are we forgetting what God says about blood, what it is, what it represents and who gave it purpose?

In the pursuit of innovation, even noble goals can lead humanity down a path that ignores the spiritual weight of God's design. Blood is not a neutral substance. It is the holy transport system for the very breath of life that God breathed into man.

According to scientists at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, artificial blood is being produced by extracting hemoglobin from expired human blood and surrounding it with fat molecules to mimic red blood cells.

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"It's designed so that at the moment it's needed, a medic can mix it with water, and within a minute, you have blood," said Dr. Allan Doctor. His team is testing the product by simulating trauma in rabbits. "This rabbit is still in shock. You can see he's lying very still. It's as if he was at the scene of an accident," Doctor explained. As the artificial

blood was administered, technician Danielle Waters quietly said, "Good bunny."

It may seem like a triumph of science, but beneath the surface lies a deeper concern. In Genesis 2:7, Scripture says, "Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living soul." That divine breath is what animates all humanity. Blood, as created by God, is the delivery system that carries oxygen, the physical marker of life, throughout the body. It is not only biologically essential but spiritually emblematic of the life God imparts.

Every drop of blood flowing through our veins today was created by God, it originates from His design, infused with His breath of life. It is not merely biological; it carries His divine fingerprint. When we receive blood through transfusion or birth, we are still receiving what God first authored. But what happens when we begin placing man-made blood, something not formed by the Creator but fabricated by human hands, into a body that houses a living soul?

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No one can say with certainty what spiritual consequences may follow, but to ignore the possibility is both reckless and arrogant. When we exchange something God made for something artificial, we may be introducing more than we realize, altering not just the body, but potentially opening doors to unseen spiritual effects we are not equipped to understand or control.

Leviticus 17:11 reveals more: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls." Blood is life. And life is not simply a cellular function; it is a gift from God, a sacred trust. The human body cannot live without blood because blood carries the breath of God to every part of it. To alter,

manufacture or re-engineer that process is to misunderstand not only biology but theology.

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The creation of artificial blood may appear practical and necessary, particularly in crises where lives hang in the balance, but as believers, we must measure such developments against God's eternal truth. Though we are not under the Mosaic Law, the Law shows us how God sees things. And from the beginning, God made it clear: blood is holy. Hebrews 9:22, written after Christ's Resurrection, affirms this: "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." This points directly to Jesus, the final, perfect sacrifice, whose blood was not symbolic, but essential, powerful and saving.

The blood of Jesus did what no animal sacrifice and no synthetic replication ever could. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Eph. 1:7). It is through His blood that we are washed clean, made new and granted eternal life. His blood didn't just symbolize life, it was life, poured out for the salvation of all who believe.

This is what makes today's rush to replicate blood so spiritually dangerous. God did not simply create blood to carry nutrients. He made it the carrier of His breath, the sign of His covenant, the instrument of His mercy and the proof of His justice. The further man strays from that understanding, the more we risk treating what is sacred as ordinary.

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Japan's contribution to this race only highlights the global nature of this movement. "Professor Hiromi Sakai's laboratory in Japan has already launched clinical trials using artificial

blood,” the Gateway Pundit reports. Sakai’s product can be stored for up to two years and used for all blood types. But in the eyes of heaven, shelf life does not outweigh sanctity.

We must remain vigilant. We are called to be wise, not cynical, but also not naive. While medical technology may save a body, only the blood of Christ saves a soul. If the church loses sight of that truth, it will soon treat divine design as raw material to manipulate rather than a holy mystery to revere.

*James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

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## **American Citizen Visiting Family in Syria Publicly Executed by Jihadists**

A Druze-American man from Oklahoma was among eight individuals publicly executed in Syria, drawing global outrage and renewed concern for the safety of minority groups in the war-torn nation.

Hosam Sarayah, who had traveled to Syria to visit family, was identified as one of the victims in a graphic execution video circulated by jihadist militants. The footage, described as too horrific for public platforms, shows the men being led to their deaths because of their Druze faith.

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Rania Dean, an Israeli Druze activist, condemned the execution and said Sarayah’s only “crime” was being Druze. “This guy had

a master's degree in business management. He was an American. He just went to visit his family," Dean said during an interview. "He has to be executed publicly because he is Druze."

Dean accused the international community of ignoring the plight of Druze and other religious minorities in Syria. "We've been exposing thousands of such footages," she said, referring to public executions, destruction of religious sites, and the kidnapping and enslavement of women. "No one is trying to help these people."



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According to Dean, the executions reflect a pattern under Syria's interim president, who she says has rebranded himself while continuing terror operations. "This is the second massacre since he came into presidency," she stated, pointing to prior attacks targeting Alawites and Christians.

Dean also provided accounts from the ground, including Druze students disappearing from Damascus campuses and women being abducted by militants posing as security forces. "They are taking them and they're disappearing," she said. "We have more than 1,500 confirmed killed, thousands missing, and at least 195 publicly executed."

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She appealed for the world to listen and act. "The Druze are not the obstacle. They are the sensor that something is wrong. If they are speaking out, the world should listen."

As Druze and Christian minority communities continue facing escalating threats in Syria, the international response remains alarmingly muted.

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Please pray for the protection, rescue, and and deliverance of all Druze and Christian believers suffering persecution in Syria. Their cries must not be ignored.

**James Lasher** *is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

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## **Supreme Court Petition Challenges Same-Sex Marriage Ruling Nationwide**

Nearly a decade after she was jailed for refusing to issue same-sex marriage licenses, former Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis is once again at the center of a national firestorm. But this time, the battle is not just over policy, it's over the spiritual trajectory of America. A new petition before the U.S. Supreme Court could determine whether *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the 2015 landmark decision that legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, will stand, or fall.

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### **Legal Challenge Reignited**

Liberty Counsel, a Christian conservative legal group, has filed a petition for a writ of certiorari on behalf of Davis, asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn *Obergefell* and reevaluate a lower court ruling that ordered her to pay \$100,000 in emotional damages and \$260,000 in attorneys' fees

to a same-sex couple she declined to serve. The petition argues that Davis' First Amendment rights were ignored and that Obergefell has endangered the religious freedom of countless Americans.

"Kim Davis' case underscores why the U.S. Supreme Court should overturn the wrongly decided Obergefell v. Hodges opinion because it threatens the religious liberty of Americans who believe that marriage is a sacred union between one man and one woman," said Liberty Counsel Chairman Mat Staver. "Obergefell cannot just push the First Amendment aside to punish individuals for their beliefs about marriage."

Davis, a devout Christian, was jailed for six days in 2015 after defying a federal court order by refusing to issue same-sex marriage licenses following the Obergefell decision. At the time, Kentucky still had a voter-approved constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, which the Supreme Court ruling effectively nullified.



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## **A Changing Court and a New Opening**

Since 2015, the makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court has shifted dramatically. Justices Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett—appointed during the Trump administration—have replaced justices who supported the original Obergefell ruling. Justice Clarence Thomas, in his 2022 concurring opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturned *Roe v. Wade*, openly questioned the validity of other "substantive due process" precedents, including Obergefell.

Although Thomas stressed that the *Dobbs* decision only applied to abortion, his comments sparked national debate over whether same-sex marriage could also be on the chopping block. The

Davis petition could become the case that forces the justices to answer that question.

## **Federal Protections Still in Place, For Now**

Even if the Court reverses Obergefell, it wouldn't automatically ban same-sex marriage. Instead, the issue would return to the states, many of which still have dormant laws banning such unions. However, in 2022, Congress passed the Respect for Marriage Act, which requires all states to recognize same-sex marriages performed legally in other jurisdictions. That law, signed by then President Joe Biden, could act as a buffer, but it, too, could be challenged or repealed in the future.

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## **Biblical and Spiritual Significance**

Beyond the courtroom drama lies a deeper, spiritual battle. Scripture repeatedly warns of national consequences when sexual immorality is embraced and celebrated. In Romans 1, the apostle Paul describes a culture that has turned its back on God, stating that "God gave them over to vile passions" as part of divine judgment. The story of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19 is perhaps the most infamous example of what happens to societies that make sexual sin a cultural cornerstone.

Many Christian leaders see the push to reconsider Obergefell not just as a legal necessity, but as a call to repentance for a nation that has departed from God's design for marriage. The outcome of this case may not only define the legal limits of religious freedom, it may reveal whether America is willing to

humble itself or continue down a path of moral confusion and rebellion.

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The petition from Davis is a spiritual alarm bell. It forces the nation to confront hard questions about the future path it wants to take. Will America continue to suppress biblical values under the guise of tolerance, or will the highest court in the land acknowledge the constitutional and spiritual rights of those who stand for God's design?

What unfolds next will not only shape the legal landscape, it will echo into the spiritual destiny of the nation.

***James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.***

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## **5 Sins That Open the Door to Demons, and How to Shut Them for Good**

Demons are real, and their influence is more present in daily life than many realize. In a recent teaching on the DLM Christian Lifestyle channel, Daniel Maritz warns believers that many people are unknowingly living under demonic oppression because of certain sins they've allowed to remain in their lives. These actions, he says, give demons "the legal right, access, a foothold" into people's lives. Maritz doesn't mince words: "Ongoing sin is a big problem and some choose to live in the darkness."

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Here are the five sins he identifies as the most common open doors to demonic activity, and what you can do to close them.

## **1. Unforgiveness and Bitterness**

“Unforgiveness, which also brings bitterness and resentment.” According to Maritz, many Christians go to church and think they are spiritually healthy, yet still harbor resentment toward someone in their past or present. He cites Ephesians 4:26–27: “Do not let the sun go down on your anger and give no opportunity to the devil.” “Demons thrive on bitterness. And if you’re bitter, it means that they might be still having their claws on your heart.”

## **2. Sexual Sin**

“Sexual sin: pornography, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, all sexual sin.”

Maritz warns that sexual sin not only damages lives but also invites “unclean spirits” and forms soul ties with others.

“Sexual sin has spiritual ties... if you are not a child of God, you are open. Demons can come into you because the Holy Spirit is not there not protecting you, right?”

## **3. Occult Practices**

“These are things like witchcraft, new age astrology, and so forth.” Maritz emphasizes that involvement in occultic or pagan practices—even horoscopes and crystals—are spiritual entry points. “They are all demonic doorways.” He also says other religions often involve demons masquerading as gods: “Those are not gods. Those are demons behind those idols.”



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## 4. Addictions

“These can be drugs, alcohol, gambling, games and so forth.” Addictions enslave people, and Maritz says they can give access to “spirits of bondage.” “If you cannot say no, you already have a problem. You’re not controlling it. It is controlling you. You are a slave to it.”

## 5. Willful and Repeated Sin

“You continuing to live in disobedience and not asking God for forgiveness while you know it is wrong.”

According to Hebrews 10:26, willful sin after knowing the truth invites judgment. Maritz says, “Demons have the legal right to influence and come into people who reject God’s commands.”

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## How to Close Demonic Doors

Maritz offers a five-step process for shutting these doors once and for all:

- **Repent Immediately:** “Repent immediately. Turn away from any sin that has given the devil access.”
- **Renounce All Connections to Evil:** “Whatever it is... reject it. Renounce it 100%, completely, in the name of Jesus Christ.”
- **Pray for Deliverance and Protection:** “You just say in the name of Jesus Christ, remove any demonic influence over my life... You have no legal right. Go out.”

- **Fill Your Life with God's Word:** "The more of the Bible you have in you, the stronger you become."
- **Stay Accountable and Surround Yourself with Strong Believers:** "If you don't have good brothers and sisters in Christ that you can trust, pray for it... They will keep you accountable, but they will also keep your eyes on Jesus Christ."

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No matter your past, no matter how dark things may seem, freedom is possible. Maritz reminds us, "God loves you. He gives you the choice to choose to live in the light or to live in the darkness." But through Jesus Christ, the victory is already won. "It is enough. The final sacrifice for sins... we are also victorious through Jesus Christ."

**James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.**