

'Jesus Found Me in a Jail Cell': Mother of Slain Idaho Student Finds Hope Amid Tragedy

When Cara Kernodle lost her daughter, Xana, in one of the most chilling mass murders in recent U.S. memory, her world unraveled.

On Nov. 13, 2022, Xana and three fellow University of Idaho students were brutally murdered in their off-campus home. The case captivated the nation, and the man accused—Bryan Kohberger, a former criminal justice doctoral student—has now accepted a plea deal admitting guilt to avoid the death penalty.

For Kernodle, the news brought unexpected emotions.

"My initial reaction was a little bit angry, because I just felt like it was just too easy for him to just admit that he did it and not have to give an explanation or answer our questions," she told CBN News in a deeply personal interview. "And here we have been planning on going to this trial ... I think that all of us were wanting answers."

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But in the midst of unanswered questions, Kernodle said God gave her peace.

"The Lord is just so good in helping me to understand that it's OK that I don't know everything, and that likely is for my protection," she said. "Even if I were to know why he did it or all the details, what is it going to change? Is it going

to make me feel better?"

A Dark Spiral

The path to healing was anything but immediate. Kernodle shared that after Xana's murder, she turned to addiction instead of hope.

"I wish I could say that that was my 'aha moment,' that that is when I ran towards Christ, but I ran towards drugs and alcohol instead," she said. "I knew that I was either going to die living the way that I was, or I could draw close to Jesus and surrender and change my life."



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Her breaking point came in a jail cell.

"I actually turned my life over to the Lord in a jail cell," Kernodle revealed. "Once I did that, it was like I was free. I was just filled with such joy and peace when I finally surrendered to God and decided that I was going to fully surrender and do it His way and not mine anymore."

A New Life in Christ

After her release, Kernodle joined a faith-based recovery program led by longtime friend Pastor Tim Remington. She described the experience as transformative.

"It's just a beautiful program where you are fed the Word from sunup to sundown every day and with no distractions," she said. "That was huge for my healing and to begin forgiving."

Today, Kernodle is 18 months sober, free from addiction, cigarettes, and medication. "I am completely free of every bondage through Christ," she said. "There's just no other answer for that except for Jesus."

The Power of Forgiveness

Forgiving Kohberger wasn't easy, but it was necessary.

"Forgiveness ... the Lord asks us to forgive, and He does that so that we don't have to hold on to that bitterness and that anger and that hate," she explained. "It truly was destroying me."

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She added, "It doesn't excuse what he did in any way ... but it releases me from that bondage of bitterness and anger and hatred that is not of the Lord."

Honoring Xana's Memory

Kernodle remembers her daughter as someone full of joy and light.

"Xana was amazing," she said. "She lit up a room. She was funny. She could make you laugh. She had a way of making everybody around her feel important and special."

Though grief still lingers, faith gives her hope.

"I know that the Lord holds her now. And I know I have that hope of seeing her again," she said. "She's safe in His arms now."

'He Will Redeem You'

Kernodle says she shares her story now not for sympathy—but to help others.

"Jesus. Because people need to know that it is possible with Jesus to overcome addiction in the worst circumstances. And I'm proof of that," she said. "If I can just help one person

see that ... the Lord will redeem you. He will break all those strongholds if you allow Him to."

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She continues pushing forward in life with a message of hope: "He's not a respecter of persons. It's not just for me. He can do this for anybody no matter what your circumstances are."

Kernodle says she will continue to share her story, and Xana's, as a testimony of God's grace and healing power.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Billions of Gamers, Few Missionaries: The Church's Missed Opportunity Online

Daniel Maritz, host of the DLM Christian Lifestyle channel, believes the global gaming community may be one of the most overlooked mission fields in the modern church. With more than 3.3 billion gamers worldwide—half of them in Asia—Maritz is calling attention to a digital culture where countless souls are being shaped without biblical truth.

"There's a whole world of the gaming community," Maritz said. "There's a lot of evil in games today. The entertainment industry, they have an agenda and it's extremely dark."

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Maritz says that while churches have invested tens of billions of dollars in Christian music and film, virtually no serious effort has been made to reach gamers with the gospel. “Almost nothing,” he said. “And that is why most gamers play games about magic, necromancy, murder... even doing satanic rituals. There’s even pornography in it.”

The Bible’s Stories Deserve a Place in Gaming

For Maritz, the issue is not just the content but the missed potential. “Games are just a different form of storytelling,” he said. “But instead of only just listening to it, reading it, or watching it, you also engage with it. So it is amplified.”

He believes the Bible holds the greatest stories ever told—stories that can come alive through gaming in a way that connects deeply with players. “The Bible, it has the best stories to tell,” Maritz said. “And now, with games, you can read it, you can watch it, you can hear it, and you engage with it as well.”

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Introducing Ruach Entertainment

To meet this need, Maritz and a global team of Christian volunteers have launched Ruach Entertainment, a new gaming studio dedicated to creating gospel-centered games. Their first project, Judges TD, is a tower defense game based on the biblical judges of Israel, with plans to make it free to play to remove barriers to access.

“Our goal is simple,” Maritz explained. “To bring truth into entertainment through high-quality, very important, biblical, grounded games that will reach the lost and disciple the saved.”

The team is also working on a second game, Lightborn, aimed

specifically at reaching unbelievers. But to continue development, they are calling on the church to help fund the mission without relying on outside investors. “We want God to tell us how to create games,” he said. “We want God to be the CEO.”

Not Just Entertainment—This Is Evangelism

Maritz encourages churches to think of gaming outreach the same way they would support missionaries in foreign countries. “This is a huge missionary field that is ready to be harvested,” he said. “But where are the workers? We’re not reaching these people at all.”

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He emphasized that the average gamer is 36 years old—not a child—and that many young people are being influenced daily by messages counter to Scripture. “Your kids, your grandkids, they are being brainwashed with lies that pull them away from God every single day more and more,” he said.

Fulfilling the Great Commission in a Digital Age

Maritz believes the Great Commission applies to all spaces where people gather—including online platforms and digital worlds. “Jesus gave us, as the church, a command,” he said. “‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’”

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As the church steps into new digital territory, Maritz urges believers to act. “Let’s bring light into those dark places in all corners of the earth,” he said. “We can do this together

to share truth into entertainment—but also what that actually means is just truth into people’s lives, wherever they are.”

James Lasher *is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

Exposing Demonic Gateways and the Spirit of Antichrist in Today’s World

Demonic portals may be opening under the guise of scientific advancement, ushering spiritual forces into the natural world. That’s the alarming claim made by prophetic teacher Joseph Z, who says today’s experiments at CERN and other facilities echo the rebellion and corruption of Noah’s day.

Z connected modern technology with ancient biblical warnings, claiming that particle collisions at CERN may be more than science. “They explode, and when they explode, scientists want to observe them... But what they’re doing is... they’re allowing things to come out from the spirit realm,” he said.

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Referencing a past CERN director, Z noted, “We’re going to open up a doorway... and we don’t know what that’s going to be.” He believes these efforts are allowing interdimensional forces to enter our world.

Z pointed to the bizarre opening ceremony at the Goddard Tunnel near CERN as an example of open occult symbolism. “This is what happens when science meets demons,” he said. “You get perversion and... the worship of Krampus and all this sickness

that's going on."



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He warned that this pattern mirrors the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11. "They said, 'Let's make a name for ourselves and build a tower up into the heavens.'" Z likened CERN to a modern-day ziggurat—an attempt to pierce the veil between realms without God's permission.

"Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft," he added. "Because rebellion itself is an unauthorized access to a realm God has not given you."

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Z questioned why CERN features a statue of the Hindu god Shiva and why occultic rituals have taken place on its grounds. "There's a lot to be said for a place that's just there to smash particles... There's a lot more to it."

Yet amid these warnings, Z reminded believers of their spiritual authority. "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world," he declared. "If we knew how much we were restraining, I think we would be amazed."

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He urged Christians to stay vigilant. "We are the red church, blood-bought believers not allowing this malfeasance to take place while we are here... And if we pray, I believe we can hold back this nonsense."

As spiritual forces continue pressing into the natural world, Z encourages believers to remain grounded, discerning and

bold, trusting that God has equipped His church to withstand the darkness and stand firm in these prophetic times.

James Lasher *is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

Birth Pains of the End Times? Floods, Quakes and Spiritual Collapse

From catastrophic floods in Texas to escalating earthquakes across the Pacific Rim, the world is shaking, both physically and spiritually. What many write off as environmental chaos or coincidence, others are beginning to see as part of a larger pattern prophesied in Scripture. These events may not simply be natural occurrences, but prophetic signals that align with biblical warnings about the end of the age.

In recent months, the frequency and severity of disasters have intensified.

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Texas faced unprecedented flash flooding, submerging entire neighborhoods and costing many their lives.

Simultaneously, wildfires ravaged the Grand Canyon and parts of California were set ablaze earlier in the year, turning historic landmarks to ash and entire communities to rubble.



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At the same time, seismic activity has spiked with hundreds of earthquakes reported beneath Mount Rainier and more than 1,300 recorded in Japan's Tokara Islands in one week alone. Volcanic eruptions in Ecuador and Indonesia only add to the sense that creation itself is groaning, just as Romans 8 describes.

But these signs aren't limited to the natural realm. Spiritually, the global church is being tested as deception spreads and foundational truths are increasingly replaced with popular opinion.

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Biblical teachings on sin, repentance and holiness are being sidelined by messages centered on comfort and self-affirmation. Scripture warns of a time when sound doctrine will be abandoned, and many will be drawn to false teachers. This spiritual drift appears to be preparing the way for the rise of the false prophet and the global deception prophesied in Revelation 13.

Meanwhile, advances in technology and artificial intelligence are building a digital infrastructure that mirrors the beast system described in end-times prophecy, centralized, controlling and global in scope.

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As these events unfold with increasing urgency, the call to biblical discernment has never been more critical. Followers of Jesus are commanded not only to be aware of the times, but to stay grounded in the truth of God's Word. While the world reels in chaos, believers are reminded that the final chapter has already been written, Jesus is returning and His Kingdom will reign.

James Lasher *is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

Is Zionism Biblical? Prophecy Watchers Unpack the Debate

As headlines about Israel continue to dominate the news, many believers are asking deeper questions: What role does modern Israel play in God's plan? Is Zionism rooted in Scripture, or is it a political movement disconnected from biblical truth?

In a recent episode of *The Week in Bible Prophecy*, Prophecy Watchers hosts Gary Stearman and Mondo Gonzales tackled these very questions, offering thoughtful insight for Christians who support Israel and long to understand its prophetic significance.

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The hosts began by unpacking the term "Zion," a word deeply woven throughout the Bible as a symbol of God's presence, His promises and His people. They pointed to moments like Solomon's temple dedication as a high point in Israel's spiritual history, when Zion represented the glory of God in Jerusalem. That symbolism, they explained, continues to hold spiritual weight today, especially as the Jewish people have returned to the land after nearly 2,000 years of exile.

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Stearman and Gonzales acknowledged two major extremes in the Church: one that dismisses Israel's current role entirely, and

another that supports it blindly without biblical context.

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They walked through the history of Zionism, clarifying that while early political Zionism wasn't religious in nature, Christian Zionism sees the Jewish return as fulfillment of God's prophetic word.

Perhaps most importantly, they reminded viewers that God's covenant with Israel remains intact, not because the people are perfect, but because God is faithful.

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For those who want to hear more from Gary and Mondo on this compelling topic, watch the full video above.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Russell Brand Opens Up About Addiction, Trials and the God-Shaped Void

Comedian and actor Russell Brand is no stranger to controversy, but in a recent conversation with former MMA fighter Bas Rutten, Brand peeled back the curtain on the deeper spiritual truths behind his past battles with addiction, and how God used his lowest moments as a catalyst for transformation.

“Addiction is the soul’s attempt to make the material feel holy, to fill a God-shaped void with pleasure, fame, or chemicals,” Brand said in a clip he posted to X. For him, addiction wasn’t merely about escapism. It was a symptom of a spiritual hunger, a longing for something eternal, something sacred.

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This hunger for the holy, Brand explained, often drives people toward idols that ultimately fail them. “Sex can’t give it to you. Fame can’t give it to you. Money can’t give it to you,” he said. “So in the end, you have to introduce chemicals which can at least alter your state.” But even those could not satisfy the soul.

Scripture echoes this deeply human struggle. In James 1:2-4, believers are told to “count it all joy... when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.” Rather than viewing suffering as abandonment, the Bible reveals that trials are often a refining fire—an invitation to return to the One who alone can satisfy.



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Brand described how, after he gave up resisting God and could no longer outrun his emptiness, he descended into a spiritual crisis. “After [the] fighting ended, I spiraled. The devil attacked me, but God allowed it, because rock bottom wasn’t the end; it was the path back to Him.”

That single line encapsulates a profound biblical truth: God doesn’t waste our suffering. In fact, Romans 8:28 reminds us that “for those who love God all things work together for good.”

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For Brand, the process of healing didn't begin with numbing the pain—it began with facing it and recognizing its spiritual cause. "Addiction is an attempt to sanctify and make spiritual the material," he said. "That our thirst for God and our hunger for the holy is so strong that you have to have God."

These confessions are not just about Brand's personal recovery. They are reminders of a greater truth: even in our darkest moments, God is present and working. Isaiah 43:2 promises, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you... when you walk through the fire, you will not be burned."

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No matter how deep the pit, the gospel assures us there's no place too far for God's grace to reach. Whether you're struggling with addiction, depression, or simply searching for meaning, Brand's testimony, and Scripture itself, makes one thing clear: rock bottom may just be the beginning of redemption.

As Brand discovered, "You have to have God." Nothing else will do.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Israel Strikes Damascus: Are

We Seeing Prophecy Begin to Unfold?

The images and headlines coming out of Syria this week are sobering. For the first time in a long time, Israel carried out a direct airstrike in the heart of Damascus, hitting the Syrian Defense Ministry headquarters. It's the kind of development that, for those who read and study the Bible, makes you stop and pay attention.

Is this the beginning of something prophetically significant? We don't know yet. But Scripture tells us to watch, to stay alert and to understand the times we're living in.

A Strike That Got the World's Attention

According to a report from the Associated Press, "The Israeli military launched Wednesday a rare airstrike in the heart of Damascus, hitting the Syrian Defense Ministry headquarters." This came just hours after a drone strike on the same location. Syrian state media confirmed there were casualties but gave no details.

The strike didn't happen in a vacuum. Clashes have been erupting for days in the southern Syrian city of Sweida between government troops and Druze militias. In response, Israel launched multiple strikes on Syrian government targets, saying the actions were in defense of the Druze minority.

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Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz posted on social media that, "The painful blows have begun." And Prime Minister Netanyahu followed with a statement emphasizing Israel's intent to keep the region near its border demilitarized, along with a commitment to protect Druze communities.

These are not hollow words. Israel has reinforced troops along its northern border and has made clear it will continue escalating if needed.

What Does the Bible Say About Damascus?

Hearing about attacks on Damascus instantly brings to mind the ancient words of the prophet Isaiah. In chapter 17 of his book, Isaiah tells of a time when Damascus will be reduced to ruins, no longer a functioning city, but a desolate heap.

That prophecy has fascinated and unsettled students of Scripture for centuries. While Damascus has suffered many wars, including during the Syrian civil war, it has never been completely destroyed in the way Isaiah describes. It remains one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities on earth.



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So when we see headlines about Israeli missiles striking the core of Damascus, it naturally raises the question: Could this be the beginning of what Isaiah saw?

We can't say for sure. And it's wise to avoid sensationalism or trying to force current events into prophetic timelines. But it's just as unwise to ignore them altogether. This is a moment that calls for spiritual discernment.

Why This Matters Spiritually

Jesus told His disciples to be alert, to watch for signs and not be caught off guard. In Matthew 24, He described wars, unrest, and upheaval as the beginning of birth pains leading up to His return. What's happening in Damascus may not be the final fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, but it could be part of a larger unfolding picture in the Middle East.

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And let's be honest: the pace of world events has been accelerating. Global instability, rising anti-Israel sentiment, the realignment of nations and now direct strikes in Damascus, all of it reminds us that we're living in days where prophecy and headlines are beginning to echo one another more frequently.

Stay Awake and Rooted in the Word

If you've been paying attention to what's happening in the world and feel a sense that things aren't just "business as usual," you're not alone. Many believers are feeling that same nudge, that now is the time to press into the Word of God like never before.

These aren't the days to be lukewarm or distracted. They're days to open your Bible, study the prophets, read the words of Jesus, and ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom. If you're watching the news more than you're in the Word, your understanding of what's really happening will always be incomplete.

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We don't know exactly how the situation in Damascus will play out. But we do know what Jesus said: stay alert, keep your lamps burning, and be ready.

So let this moment stir your heart, not with fear, but with urgency. Stay rooted in Scripture. Stay sensitive to the Spirit. And above all, stay close to Jesus.

Because no matter what happens next, He's coming soon.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Prophetic Shifts in the Middle East: Israel's War and the Echoes of Ezekiel

The prophetic clock in the Middle East appears to be accelerating as conflict, alliances and Scripture converge in the headlines.

In a recent episode of 700 Club Israel, Gordon Robertson and CBN Jerusalem bureau chief Chris Mitchell discussed how unfolding events in Israel align with biblical prophecy, particularly the war launched by Iran and the spiritual significance of Numbers 23.

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"We are going through tumultuous, historic and biblical changes right now in the whole Middle East," Mitchell said. "You look back to October 7, the worst day in Israel's history since the Holocaust ... we are seeing not only a geopolitical shift, but a biblical shift of all the nations in the region."

The episode highlighted Israel's response to Iran's recent missile barrage, which was named Operation Rising Lion, based on Numbers 23:24: "A people rises like a lioness and lifts itself up like a lion." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu publicly referenced the verse, using it as a spiritual battle cry tied to Israel's divine destiny.



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Mitchell emphasized that these connections are more than coincidence. "So many times that portion of the week just equates to what's happening geopolitically in the region," he said, referring to the week's Torah portion that included the story of Balaam's failed attempt to curse Israel. "You really can't understand the Middle East until you look at it from a biblical perspective."

The conversation also turned to the growing interest in whether Israel is heading toward a season of temporary peace, possibly setting the stage for greater prophetic fulfillment. "Are we on the cusp of a new expanded Abraham Accords with Saudi Arabia coming in?" Mitchell asked. "Is this the peace that some people look to preceding the Ezekiel 37-38 war? That's what many people are asking."

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While some observers see signs of peace emerging, both Robertson and Mitchell pointed to the prophetic significance of regional instability. "Israel's never been at peace in its entire history," Robertson said. "There's always been a declaration of war that has stood against them since 1948."

Despite increasing international pressure and media hostility toward Israel, Robertson reflected on the biblical parallel with Balaam. "He was meant to curse Israel," he said. "And we see that right now in the media. We see they're cursing Israel, misinforming about Israel, accusing Israel, intentionally lying about it."

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As the world watches the Middle East intensify with conflict and diplomacy, Mitchell concluded that believers must discern the times. "God's purposes will unfold throughout all this,"

he said, urging Christians to view these events through a prophetic lens and pray for Israel's peace and destiny.

James Lasher *is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

Pastor Defies Opposition With Baptisms, Sparks National Movement for Children

Pastor Travis Johnson shared his remarkable testimony of courage and spiritual breakthrough during a Daystar interview, recounting a 2007 encounter that transformed both his ministry and community.

While baptizing new believers at a Miami-Dade beach, officials shut down the event, calling it "offensive." Johnson remembered being told by the parks director, "You have to come in before 5 a.m. to do baptisms." Undeterred, he responded, "We'll cooperate... but we're going to have another baptism on this date. If you arrest us, I'll cooperate. I'll tell the whole church: OK everybody in the cop car."

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Officials never showed, and a year later, one of the same lifeguards who tried to stop them got baptized in those same waters.

From that bold act of faith, God continued to move in surprising ways.



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Johnson shared how a small group in his church rallied to help a Coast Guard family adopt a little girl from Ethiopia. One member suggested selling Christmas trees to raise funds, and the Buy A Tree, Change A Life, initiative was born.

"We gave 100% of that money away," Johnson said. "God just blessed that... I think He said, 'Yeah, I can pour some gasoline on that fire.'" What began as a local fundraiser became a national movement now active in churches across the country, raising nearly \$13 million to support children both globally and locally.

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Reflecting on the journey, Johnson encouraged viewers not to wait for qualifications before stepping into their calling.

"God is looking for people who are available," he said. "You don't know how to do it, then you do it, then you know how to do it."

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His story is a call to bold obedience and a reminder that what looks like a giant may actually be "your next platform."

To view the full interview with Pastor Johnson, watch the video above.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

4 Keys to Spiritual Discernment Every Believer Needs

Spiritual discernment is essential in a time when believers are constantly bombarded with conflicting voices, cultural pressure and personal uncertainty. Many Christians find themselves worn down—not from disobedience, but from operating outside of God’s appointed timing. That was the central theme of Pastor Mike Signorelli’s recent message at V1 Church, where he introduced a biblical strategy to help believers align with God’s rhythm for their lives.

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“Discernment should be developed internally before it’s distributed externally,” Signorelli said. “You got people who want to distribute more discernment externally than they want to develop internally.”

Preaching from Ecclesiastes 3 and Luke 12, Signorelli unveiled a four-part framework called . to help Christians move forward with clarity, faith and intentional obedience.

• D – Discern the Season You’re In

“Could it be that you’re not burned out because you’re doing the wrong things? It’s that you’re doing the wrong things in the wrong season.”

Signorelli emphasized the difference between doing what is right and doing it in the right season. He taught from Ecclesiastes 3:1, explaining that the Hebrew word

zeman means “appointed time,” not “suggested time.” Discerning this timing is critical to avoiding spiritual burnout and aligning with God’s will.

- **O – Observe and Fully Embrace Today**

“Today is all we’ve got. That’s why it’s called a present—because today is a gift.”

Signorelli encouraged the congregation to stop living in the regret of yesterday or the fear of tomorrow. Instead, they should engage fully with the responsibilities and blessings of today, trusting that God’s grace is sufficient for the moment.

- **S – Stay Faithful in the Small Things**

“Faithfulness in what seems insignificant leads to greater stewardship later.”

He reminded believers that obedience in obscurity prepares them for influence in visibility. Even unnoticed acts of faithfulness are seeds that bear fruit in God’s timing.

- **E – Execute with Consistency and Intentionality**

“Life is not about doing it all. It’s about doing the right thing in the right time.”

Signorelli warned that delay, often caused by fear or insecurity, leads to wandering. He urged the church to act with purpose, encouraging them to “stand up, sign up, and show up.”



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Pastor Signorelli challenged every believer to seek the Lord in prayer and sit in His presence for five minutes each day to ask, “What season am I in?” He encouraged journaling the response and sharing it with a trusted friend for accountability.

“Most of your discouragement is you not being in agreement with what God appointed for right now,” he said.

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Spiritual discernment isn't reserved for the elite, it's a daily practice of surrender. As Signorelli put it, "When you align with the rhythm of grace, the rhythm of discernment, then you'll find rest. You'll find purpose. You'll find fruitfulness."

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Let this be a season marked not by suggestion, but by divine appointment. Pursue the Lord with everything, and let discernment lead you into your next breakthrough.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.