

How the 'Immaculate Constellation' Fuels End Times Great Deception

In a recent video, researcher, author and speaker [L.A. Marzulli](#) warns Christians about the “coming great deception,” urging believers to stay vigilant against the spiritual and prophetic implications of unfolding events.

Marzulli's commentary weaves together the rising prominence of UFO phenomena, prophetic biblical narratives and the deceptive tactics of Satan. His warnings are a wake-up call for the body of Christ to remain grounded in biblical truth and prepare for the return of Jesus.

The “Immaculate Constellation” and Its Implications

Marzulli delves into the term “Immaculate Constellation,” linked to a Pentagon crash retrieval program. He explains how this name, evoking the Virgin birth of Jesus, may not be accidental. “Make no mistake, that's where they're going—a non-human origin story,” Marzulli says, warning that such narratives are designed to shift humanity's focus away from God and toward extraterrestrial entities as creators.

This deception aligns with what Marzulli sees as the enemy's ultimate plan: a one-world religious system and government foretold in Scripture. “How do you get a one-world religious system and a one-world global government that the Bible plainly speaks of? ET shows up—all bets are off,” he cautions.

[Breaking News](#). [Spirit-Filled Stories](#). *Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!*

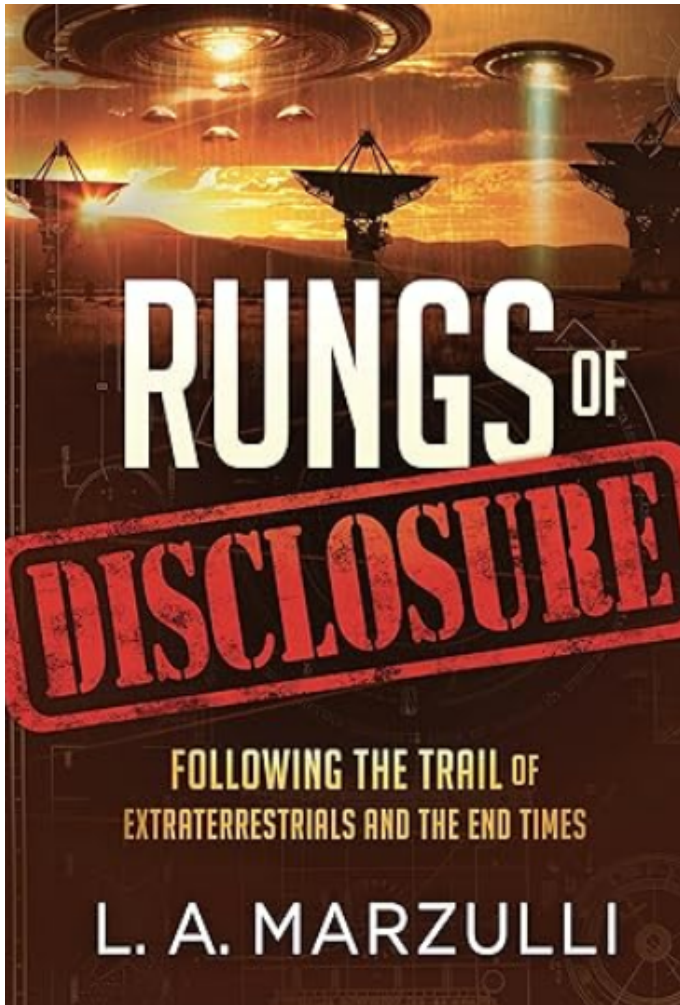
Groups like the Vatican's interest in extraterrestrial life raises questions about its motivations, blending theology with a surprising degree of scientific inquiry. Through its observatory, Jesuit astronomers have explored the cosmos while Vatican officials, like Father José Gabriel Funes, have framed potential alien discoveries as consistent with Catholic doctrine.

So it begs the question, if extraterrestrials are brought forward as the creators of mankind, contradicting the Bible and God's role in creation, which side of the aisle will large religious organizations like the Catholic church stand on?

The Danger of Neo-Darwinism and the False Narrative

Marzulli critiques Neo-Darwinist paradigms, particularly their inability to account for the complexity of DNA. "This was created—this is intelligent design," he asserts. As a Bible-believing Christian, he points to John 1:3: "All things were created by Him, and without Him nothing was created that was created."

Marzulli warns that proponents of alien origins seek to [undermine biblical truths](#) by presenting extraterrestrial beings as humanity's progenitors. He ties this deception to the prophetic framework outlined in 2 Thessalonians 2:11: "Therefore God will send them a strong delusion, that they should believe the lie."



[Order L.A. Marzulli's book "The Rungs of Disclosure" on Amazon.com!](#)

The Deceptive Narrative of the Fallen Ones

Drawing from decades of research, Marzulli underscores that UFOs are not extraterrestrial but interdimensional, demonic entities with a dark agenda. "The dragon, the Fallen One, will come with all signs and lying wonders," he explains, citing biblical prophecies of end-time deception.

Marzulli ties this to the days of Noah, when humanity faced spiritual corruption. "It'll be like the days of Noah—[the] seed war," he says, emphasizing that the enemy's strategy involves a direct assault on humanity's spiritual and physical existence.

Prophetic Connections and Israel's Role

Marzulli links these deceptions to global events, including the Middle East conflict and Israel's prophetic significance. He references claims by Israeli psychic Uri Geller that UFOs aim to help Israel achieve peace and rebuild the Third Temple. According to Marzulli, such narratives are part of Satan's strategy to distract and deceive.

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Be Ready: Guarding Against Deception

Marzulli's message is a clarion call for Christians to stay rooted in Scripture and vigilant against the lies of the enemy. Ephesians 6:11 reminds us to "put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." Similarly, Matthew 24:44 exhorts believers: "Therefore you must be ready, for in an hour when you least expect, the Son of Man is coming."

As Marzulli concludes, "I've been banging this drum for 30 years. The truth is here [in the Bible]." His warnings teach us that spiritual readiness is not optional but essential. By grounding ourselves in God's Word and staying watchful, using biblical discernment, we can resist the Great Deception of the Fallen One and prepare for the glorious return of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

In a world increasingly drawn to the spectacular and the mysterious, Christians must hold fast to the truth of the Gospel. The enemy's tactics are cunning, but God's Word is unchanging. We must guard our hearts, stay anchored in the faith and eagerly await the return of the One who holds all things together.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Should Christians Get Tattoos? Demon Slayer Podcast Weighs In

Tattoos have long been a subject of debate within Christian circles, with perspectives ranging from total condemnation to cautious acceptance. In a recent episode of the Demon Slayer podcast, featuring Christian leaders Mike Signorelli, Vlad Savchuk, Isaiah Saldivar and Alexander Pagani, [the hosts tackled the divisive topic](#) with an eye toward Scripture, personal conviction and pastoral responsibility.

Diverse Views on Tattoos

The podcast opens with Signorelli sharing his personal journey with tattoos, emphasizing that while he doesn't see tattoos as inherently sinful, their implications require discernment.

"I have a sleeve of tattoos," Signorelli admitted. "It was another season of my life when I got them, and...it comes down to a wisdom issue." He explained that tattoos could have cultural or spiritual baggage, such as connections to pagan practices or even grief rituals that "trap you in a cycle of grief."

Similarly, Saldivar reflected on his personal conviction against tattoos, which he attributes to a direct prompting

from God. “The Lord told me if you get tattoos and one person won’t listen to you because of your tattoos, I don’t want you to get them,” he says, stressing that while tattoos aren’t explicitly condemned in the New Testament, they can hinder ministry.

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For Pagani, the issue lies in pastoral responsibility. “I think we might be held to a higher level of discipline,” he said. “So even if I could get a tattoo, I won’t get a tattoo simply because of it could give the wrong message to those who are following me,” noting that a leader’s choices often influence those they shepherd. Signorelli agreed with Pagani’s warning to leaders using tattoos as a way to appear relatable, calling it “peacocking” and [emphasizing the importance of authenticity](#) over outward appearances.

Vlad Savchuk’s Six Questions on Tattoos

Savchuk took a pragmatic approach, offering six questions for anyone considering a tattoo:

1. **Motive:** “Are you doing it to rebel against your parents or follow a trend?”
2. **Modesty:** “Are we directing people’s thoughts toward God or drawing attention to ourselves?”
3. **Marketability:** “Some places won’t hire you if you have a tattoo you can’t hide.”
4. **Message:** “What kind of message are we sending through this tattoo? Is it a gospel message or something else?”
5. **Money:** “Is this the best use of our money? Tattoo removal is more expensive and painful than getting one.”
6. **Medical Concerns:** “Tattoo parlors aren’t medical clinics. You’re exposing your blood to unknown bacteria, and it could lead to infections or diseases like

hepatitis.”

These questions, Savchuk explained, aren't meant to be legalistic but rather to encourage thoughtful reflection.



[Order Isaiah Saldivar's book "How to Cast Out Demons" on Amazon.com!](#)

Tattoos and the Christian Life

The hosts agreed on one key point: tattoos should not be a source of shame for Christians who have them. Signorelli, who often preaches in long sleeves to avoid controversy, said, “Please don't believe that you have to walk into church with your head down low...I can't increase the power of the Gospel by not having tattoos, but I also can't increase the power of the Gospel by having tattoos.”

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Saldivar echoed this sentiment, urging listeners to avoid judgment. “Tattoos might not be a sin, but because I'm convicted that they are for me personally...Paul said if you're convicted about something and think it's sin, it becomes sin for you.”

A Call for Wisdom and Grace

The Demon Slayer podcast highlights the complexity of the tattoo debate within Christianity. While some view tattoos as a potential stumbling block, others see them as a non-essential issue. Regardless of where one stands, the speakers emphasized wisdom, personal conviction, and grace.

For Christians contemplating a tattoo, ensure that you pray

about it, seek God's guidance and consider the implications. And for those who already have tattoos—perhaps as a relic of a different chapter in life—there is no place for condemnation. People grow, change and often regret decisions made in the past. As the hosts demonstrated, the Christian community is called to extend love and understanding, focusing on the heart rather than outward appearances.

In the end, tattoos are just one of many choices where faith and culture intersect. And as with all things, discernment and grace remain paramount.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Tsunami Warning Issued After Major Earthquake Strikes Off California Coast

A tsunami warning has been issued for approximately 300 miles of coastline along northern California and parts of Oregon following [a powerful earthquake](#) off the coast of California. Experts estimate its strength to be between 7.0 and 7.3, raising significant concerns about potential waves threatening the area.

The San Francisco Fire Department has urged residents to move to safety, advising that individuals seek higher ground—at least 100 feet above sea level—or move one mile inland. “You are in danger. Get away from coastal waters. Move to high

ground or inland now,” the emergency alert stated, emphasizing the urgency of the situation. Residents are being asked to avoid the ocean and evacuate low-lying areas immediately.

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Emergency Tsunami Warning Issued In Northern California

“You are in danger.” pic.twitter.com/ZfK1EakUNt

– BAY AREA STATE OF MIND (@YayAreaNews) [December 5, 2024](#)

Authorities are closely monitoring the situation as they prepare for any potential impact. Meanwhile, officials urge everyone in the affected zones to stay tuned to updates and follow evacuation orders promptly.

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In light of this developing emergency, let us come together in prayer [for the safety and protection](#) of all those in harm’s way. May the first responders, emergency teams, and residents find strength and shelter as they navigate this crisis.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

The Bible's 9 Rapture-Type Events Explained by Rick Renner

The rapture remains a hotly debated topic within the Christian faith, with believers divided on what it entails, its timing and its scriptural foundation. Rick Renner of Renner Ministries recently addressed this subject in a video where he outlined [nine rapture-type events described in the Bible](#). Renner emphasized his firm belief that the rapture is a future event clearly detailed in Scripture, offering a comprehensive study to affirm its biblical basis for Christians.

Below are the nine rapture-type events listed in the Bible as Renner explains them:

1. Enoch was supernaturally, physically caught up into heaven and never tasted death (Gen. 5:24, Heb. 11:5). “He was snatched [up]. He was seized. He was taken into heaven and never tasted to death. That is the first rapture recorded in Scripture, and my friends, it’s in the book of Genesis, so the Bible’s been talking about raptures from the very beginning of time,” explains Renner.

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2. Elijah was supernaturally, physically caught up into heaven and never tasted death (2 Kings 2:11). “We find it in 2 Kings 2: 11 where the Bible says, ‘and it came to pass as they still went on and talked that behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire and parted them both and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.’ That’s a rapture. Elijah was raptured from the earth into the presence of God, and Elijah never tasted death,” says Renner.

3. Jesus was supernaturally, physically caught up into heaven after His resurrection (Acts 1:9-11). “We read about this in Acts chapter 1 beginning in verse 9 which says: ‘then when He had spoken these things while they beheld, He was what taken up.’ That is a rapture. Jesus was literally taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight,” Renner explains.

4. Philip the evangelist was supernaturally, physically caught away from one location to another location (Acts 8:39, 40). “It was a rapture-type event, when someone was in one place and suddenly they disappeared and they reappeared somewhere else,” says Renner. “He had just baptized the Ethiopian eunuch; the Spirit of the Lord caught away Phillip. That word ‘caught away’ is the Greek word *harpadzo*, the same word which is described as being the rapture of the church in 1 Thessalonians 4:17. It is a supernatural snatching, or catching away, and suddenly the Spirit of the Lord caught away Phillip that the eunuch saw him no more. That means Philip just vanished. He disappeared from sight and he went on his way rejoicing.”



[Pre-order Rabbi Kirt Schneider's book "The Book of Revelation Decoded" on Amazon.com!](#)

5. Paul was supernaturally, physically caught up to the third heaven and received unspeakable divine revelations (2 Cor. 12:2-4). “We read his (Paul) own testimony about this in 2 Corinthians 12: 2-4,” shares Renner. “He repeats it again, the Greek word *harpadzo*. He was caught up into paradise and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter, so Paul himself testified that he experienced a rapture-type event.”

6. John was supernaturally, physically caught up in the spirit realm to heaven and given the Revelation (book of Revelation). “We see that the apostle John was literally caught up, he was snatched or he was raptured, into the very presence of God in

heaven,” exclaims Renner. “My friends, there are so many examples of raptures in the Bible; I don’t know why anybody could argue with the idea of a rapture.”

7. Believers alive on Earth will one day be supernaturally, physically caught away into the presence of the Lord in the future (1 Thess. 4:17). “There it is: the Greek word *harpadzo*, to seize, to catch, to suddenly snatch away. It’s something that is supernatural. We shall be caught up with Him in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord, which means a day is really coming when faithful saints are simply going to vanish. And just like all of these other examples, we’re going to be seized and suddenly snatched into the very presence of the Lord,” says Renner.

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8. Two end-time, prophetic witnesses will be supernaturally, physically caught away into heaven during the time of the Great Tribulation (Rev. 11:11,12). “When you come to Revelation 11, it tells us in verse 11 that they were killed by mobs. In verse 11 says, ‘and after three days and a half, the Spirit of life from God entered into them and they stood upon their feet and great fear fell upon all them which saw them,’” Renner reads. “Verse 12, ‘and they heard a great voice from heaven saying saying unto them, “Come up thither,” and they ascended up to heaven in a cloud and their enemies beheld them.’”

9. The saints saved during the Great Tribulation will be supernaturally, physically caught away into the presence of the Lord (Rev. 7:9-14). “When people say, ‘Come on, you can’t really believe people are just going to disappear can you?’ Yes! I certainly can. We have nine examples of it in Scripture. Some of it’s already happened, some of it’s about to happen, some of it’s going to happen in the future, but the

Bible really talks about nine specific raptures,” Renner declares.

While opinions on Renner’s interpretation of the rapture may vary, one truth unites all believers: [the call of Jesus to be ready at any moment](#). Paul’s warning that the day of the Lord will come “like a thief in the night” (1 Thess. 5:2) serves as a reminder to live in constant preparation for His return. Whether the rapture occurs before, during or after the Great Tribulation, the urgency for Christians remains the same—faithfully anticipating the day when He will come again.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Supernatural Connections: Exploring Nephilim and Scripture

In a world increasingly fascinated by the unexplained, the supernatural and the bizarre, Tony Merkel’s recent interview with Charisma Media offers a unique lens through which to explore age-old mysteries. With topics ranging from Bigfoot to Nephilim, Merkel unpacked theories that challenge conventional thinking, raising questions about what lies beneath the surface of our modern, rational worldview.

“There are people who believe that their [bloodline comes from Nephilim](#),” Merkel states. He referenced the Rh-negative blood type, found in about 15% of the global population, noting that

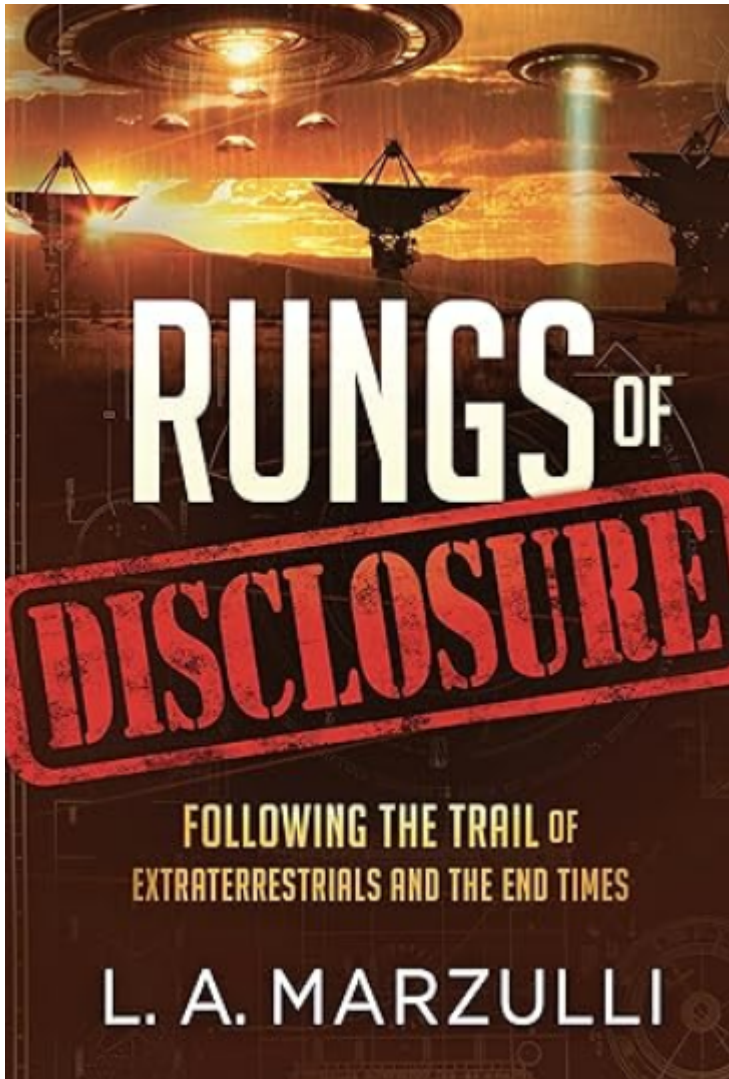
“90% of those people tend to have paranormal encounters.” Is there a connection between ancient accounts of the Nephilim and modern-day experiences of the supernatural? Merkel, and many others who study the matter such as L.A. Marzulli, certainly think so.

Merkel’s curiosity about the Nephilim began in 2017 when he encountered the work of Gary Wayne, an author who connects biblical history to accounts of giants and supernatural beings. “I never was taught about Nephilim in church,” Merkel admits. “I went into Bible College and never heard about it ... and it wasn’t until I started looking at Enoch that things started clicking in my head.”

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Merkel also explored the possibility of lingering [traits of Nephilim ancestry](#) in certain individuals today. Reflecting on DNA and physical anomalies, he shared: “I have a brother and sister who are twins ... one looks like a white girl with blonde hair, and her twin brother is darker than me. Could it be that some people have characteristics and traits of their supernatural fathers of long ago, while others don’t? Maybe I lack the proper scientific understanding, but it makes you think.” He connected this to reports of individuals with extra teeth, six toes or even supernatural experiences that could point to ancient origins.

The book of Enoch, though not part of the canonical Bible, has intrigued many over the years for its references to fallen angels and their hybrid offspring. Merkel noted that “there are parts of Enoch that are actually quoted in the New Testament,” which he says led him to take its accounts more seriously. The book describes not only the corruption of humanity but also of animals and plants—a comprehensive defilement of God’s creation.



[Order L.A. Marzulli's book "Rungs of Disclosure" on Amazon.com!](#)

The interview took a fascinating turn when Merkel discussed paranormal phenomena, such as Sasquatch sightings and encounters with beings like the so-called "Catman." Merkel shared a story from Southeast Ohio about a woman who claimed to have seen a black panther transform into a humanoid figure. "She thinks this might have been a demonic entity ... it disappeared into a black mist," he says, highlighting how the supernatural often defies logical explanation.

Connecting these accounts to Scripture, Merkel pointed out that [Nephilim are mentioned post-flood](#) in Numbers 13:33, when the spies of Israel, of which Joshua and Caleb were among the number, report seeing giants in Canaan. This raises the question of how these beings could have survived or reappeared

after the flood. Merkel speculates: “Could they have gone into other realms during the flood? Or could there have been a remnant that survived in a supernatural way?”

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The stories Merkel shared are undeniably intriguing, even compelling in their scope. But they also prompt a deeper question: how do we, as finite beings, discern truth amidst the supernatural? Merkel himself acknowledged the challenges of sifting through accounts that blend historical, spiritual and mythical elements.

When confronted with ideas that challenge our understanding, turning to Scripture is essential. The Bible provides a clear foundation, urging believers to seek God’s wisdom in times of uncertainty. James 1:5 reminds us, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men liberally and without criticism, and it will be given to him.”

In a world filled with both wonder and deception, God’s Word remains a steady guide. Whether exploring ancient mysteries or navigating modern challenges, seeking His wisdom and discernment is the surest way to avoid confusion and find clarity in the truth.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Pastor Confronts Axe-Wielding Intruder in Thanksgiving Church Break-In

Attacks and break-ins at churches across the United States have surged in recent years, reflecting a troubling trend of [hostility toward Christian institutions](#). Vandalism, theft and violent incidents have risen sharply, often driven by spiritual forces and diminishing respect for houses of worship. In early 2023, nearly 70 incidents were reported in just three months, underscoring the vulnerability of these sacred spaces and the challenges faced by communities trying to protect them.

This growing trend culminated in a dangerous encounter on Thanksgiving morning when an axe-wielding burglar attempted to break into the First Family Church in Antioch, California.

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Pastor Nick Neves responded to the church's alarm system and encountered the suspect smashing windows with an axe. Using his martial arts training, Neves subdued the intruder in a physical altercation in the parking lot, ensuring the safety of the property until police arrived, as reported by News Nation and The Christian Post.

"I shouted at him to stop, and that police were on their way, and he ran and I grabbed a hold of him, and we ended up wrestling in the parking lot of the church," Neves recalled, according to NBC News.

"I was able to pin him to the ground, and he got up and tried to get away several times, but basically just trying to wear him out because I knew I could outlast him. It was very

helpful to be able to grapple with this gentleman without having to do much harm to him," he added.

The Antioch Police Department backed up Neves' account of the matter, and lauded his handling of the situation on Facebook:

BUT THE RIGHTEOUS ARE AS BOLD AS A LION.

When the pastor at First Family Church on Contra Loma responded to check an alarm in the early hours of Thanksgiving he was not expecting to confront a burglar, but that's what happened. When the burglar saw his wicked deeds had been discovered he decided to fight with the pastor instead of repent. What he did not know was the pastor would win this battle of good and evil and he held down the perp until APD arrived and placed the man in custody. We are thankful today that the pastor was uninjured during this incident and hopeful that with amazing community members like we have been highlighting lately, we can turn the tide on crime in our city. (The axe in the photo was used to break a window on the church which is how the burglar entered.)

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It is commendable that Pastor Neves had the skills and courage to defend himself and his church against the axe-wielding intruder. However, as Christians, we must also remember that Scripture warns us about the inevitability of persecution. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," (Matt. 5:10). When faced with trials or attacks, as believers, we are called to respond with faith, perseverance and love, trusting that God is our ultimate defender. While practical preparedness is extremely valuable in this day and age, our greatest strength lies in our unwavering commitment to Christ, even in the face of opposition.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Pro Football Hall of Famer Turns to Prayer Amid Health Concerns

No matter how powerful or popular a person may be, health has a way of humbling us all. When illness strikes, it disregards wealth, status or influence, forcing us to confront our deepest vulnerabilities. In these moments, what we truly believe is revealed—not in the accolades we've earned or the followers we've gained, but in the foundation upon which our hope rests. Health crises often strip away the distractions of success, exposing whether our belief system is built on fleeting comforts or enduring truths.

This is what [NFL Hall of Fame wide receiver Randy Moss](#) is now facing, as he requested prayer for an undisclosed health scenario he is facing alongside his family.

Moss revealed that he is “battling something internally” on ESPN’s “Sunday NFL Countdown” before a national audience, and that this may lead to him wearing sunglasses in the studio.

Randy Moss opens "Sunday NFL Countdown" by sharing with viewers that he and his family are "battling something internally" and he will be wearing glasses throughout the show. pic.twitter.com/7b0Y6LGcWJ

– Awful Announcing (@awfulannouncing) [December 1, 2024](#)

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“I just wanted to let the viewers know that me and my wife, me and my family, we are battling something internally,” Moss shared. “I have some great doctors around me. I couldn’t miss the show. I wanted to be here with you guys. I feel great.

“But if y’all see me with these Michigan turnover glasses that I have on, it’s not being disrespectful because I’m on television, man. I’m battling something. [I need all the prayer warriors.](#)”

As reported by The New York Post:

While Moss didn’t reveal what specifically he’s battling, he did encourage people to “do your checkups, get your bloodwork done” in the Instagram video—adding that this has occurred “throughout the week of the holidays.”

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God reveals Himself as Jehovah Rapha, the Lord who heals, offering His compassion and power to all who turn to Him in faith. Whether someone is a celebrated figure like Moss or an unknown individual without family, God’s love and healing touch are not limited by stature or circumstance. He sees every person, hears every prayer and responds to those who call on His name. In His presence, we find the assurance that no one is beyond His care.

Let us unite in prayer for Randy Moss and his family as they navigate this undisclosed health challenge. May the Lord, in His mercy, bring healing, comfort and peace. We ask that through this trial, God’s glory would be revealed and His name lifted high, demonstrating His power and love to all who

witness His work.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Leading by Example: Faith, Speech and Integrity in the NFL

[Houston Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud](#) is no stranger to the spotlight. But the young NFL star is determined to use his platform for more than just football.

In a recent interview with Sports Spectrum, Stroud opened up about his journey of faith, the struggles he faces as a Christian and how he's working to align his actions with his beliefs—especially when it comes to his words.

Stroud shared how he first encountered Christ growing up in a faith-based home and later deepened his personal relationship with God during his time at The Ohio State University. “He’s my everything,” Stroud says. “He’s Alpha, He’s Omega... He keeps me really focused, and it’s a certain peace that I have when I’m on track.”

One of the standout moments of the interview was Stroud’s honesty about his efforts to tame his tongue. “I can’t proclaim that I love God and have a wild mouth; that just doesn’t make sense to me,” he admits. Stroud has been intentional about this area, recently seeking guidance from

his pastor after recognizing how profanity didn't align with his desire to honor Christ.

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["I was reading James 3 yesterday,"](#) he shares. "That's something I've been working on—cursing—and it's hard... But I want to get better with it." Stroud described how watching a TikTok video featuring a man who struggled with similar challenges inspired him to change. "He said, 'How can I lead others to Christ if I talk like they do?' That stuck with me."

Stroud also reflected on the responsibility he feels as a public figure to represent his faith authentically, acknowledging the tension between being bold about his beliefs while recognizing his imperfections. "I'm not perfect," he says. "We all are striving to be more Christlike, but that's why God is who He is... I'm blessed enough to serve a merciful God."

The quarterback credited mentors like former NFL quarterback Dylan Thompson, Houston-area pastors and teammates for encouraging him in his walk with Christ. He emphasized the importance of being rooted in God rather than letting his identity become solely that of an athlete. "My identity isn't just quarterback; it isn't just Houston Texans," he said. "First of all, I'm rooted through Christ and who He thinks I am."

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Stroud's transparency about his spiritual struggles and growth sends a powerful message to fans, especially young people looking up to him. It's a reminder that faith isn't about achieving perfection but striving to reflect Christ in everyday actions, including speech.

In a world often marked by negative influences, public figures like Stroud who openly pursue a biblical life offer a countercultural example of hope and integrity. Proverbs 18:21 states, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” Stroud’s commitment to taming his words is a practical application of this truth, demonstrating the value of using one’s influence to build up rather than tear down.

As Stroud continues to grow in his faith and career, his journey reminds us of the importance of seeking God’s grace daily and striving to be a light to others. For fans, especially the younger generation, it’s an encouraging reminder that living a godly life, while challenging, is both rewarding and transformative.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Russell Brand Explores Public Prayer and Speaking in Tongues: What Does the Bible Say?

Russell Brand, a comedian-turned-cultural commentator, is no stranger to asking hard questions. In a recent video, he delved into the Spirit-filled territory, grappling with two vital questions for believers: “Is it OK to pray in public?” and [“What about speaking in tongues?”](#) As a relatively new

Christian, his earnest pursuit of truth reflects a heart eager to grow in faith. Let's explore what Scripture says about these questions and why they matter for all of us.

*Is it okay to pray in public? SPEAKING IN TONGUES?!
pic.twitter.com/6N5t88wqyj*

– Russell Brand (@rustyrocks) [November 25, 2024](#)

Speaking in Tongues: A Heavenly Gift

Russell shares candidly, “Hey, I’ve been speaking in tongues. I’ve been praying in tongues... I thought, ‘Anyone can do that, it’s just babbling incoherent nonsense.’ But I’ve been doing it.” His initial skepticism mirrors that of many who have encountered this practice for the first time. However, speaking in tongues is not mere “babbling”; it is a spiritual gift described in 1 Corinthians 12 as one of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

Paul writes, “To one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge... to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues,” (1 Cor. 12:8-10). This passage shows that tongues are a legitimate spiritual gift meant to edify the believer and, when biblically interpreted, the broader church.

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Yet, Paul also advises balance: “He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church,” (1 Cor. 14:4). Speaking in tongues is primarily a private communion with God unless interpretation is provided in a corporate setting. Russell’s sense that “praying in tongues... seems like some private thing” aligns with Paul’s teaching. This intimacy is one reason many believers cherish the

practice as [a deeply personal way to connect with God.](#)

Praying in Public: The Heart Matters Most

Russell's second question, "Do you think it's okay to pray publicly?" is equally important. He acknowledges both the beauty and potential pitfalls of public prayer, referencing Jesus' caution in Matthew 6:5: "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men."

Here, Jesus critiques those who pray for the sake of attention, not the act of public prayer itself. The key is the heart's motive. When prayer becomes a performance, it loses its power. However, corporate prayer and public expressions of faith are vital to the Christian witness. Jesus Himself prayed publicly, such as at the tomb of Lazarus (John 11:41-42), demonstrating that public prayer can glorify God and inspire faith.

Evangelism and Edification: Finding the Balance

Russell's closing remarks reflect his desire to reconcile the personal intimacy of prayer with the public necessity of evangelism: "Praying together and preaching His word and bringing people together is so important... Let me know what you think about praying in public and the intimacy and privacy of our prayer, but also the necessity of evangelism."

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Scripture affirms the need for both. Acts 2 provides a powerful example of public proclamation when the apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke in tongues and preached to a crowd, leading to the conversion of thousands. At the same time, Jesus' frequent retreats for private prayer (Luke 5:16)

remind us that intimacy with God fuels our public witness.

Encouraging Russell's Journey

Russell's willingness to explore these questions so publicly is commendable. His humility and honesty are refreshing in a culture that often avoids spiritual matters altogether. To Russell, we say: Keep seeking. Scripture assures us, "You will seek Me and find Me, when you shall search for Me with all your heart," (Jer. 29:13).

Praying in tongues and public prayer are not opposing practices but complementary facets of a vibrant Christian life. As you navigate these questions, Russell, know that your journey inspires others to deepen their understanding of faith. Thank you for reminding us that asking questions—and seeking answers in Scripture—is a vital part of growing closer to God.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

T.D. Jakes Prayer: 'Let Him Go in Peace'

Bishop T.D. Jakes, one of the most prominent voices in modern Christianity, [experienced a medical emergency during his sermon last Sunday.](#) Reports suggest he suffered a seizure, leaving many within the faith community pondering the spiritual and physical implications of such an event. As his sermon transitioned from a heartfelt prayer to instructions

for giving, Bishop Jakes' vulnerability seemed to surface, culminating in the abrupt health crisis.

The moment was poignant, especially given his closing words: "I still love to preach. I ain't tired of preaching. I miss you, I miss you." This sentiment shines a light on the paradox that many in ministry face—the deep love for their calling weighed against the demands that come with it. For Jakes, who had recently returned from ministering in Zimbabwe for The Jubilee Conference earlier in November, the strain of global ministry likely compounded the exhaustion.

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In the aftermath of the incident, Bishop Jakes' daughter, Sarah Jakes Roberts, and her husband, Touré Roberts, provided an update on his condition through social media. They assured the faith community that Bishop Jakes is in stable condition and recovering well from the incident.

"We felt those prayers," Roberts says. "Obviously today could have been a tragic day, but it wasn't, by the mercy of God, by the grace of God. Bishop is doing well. He is recovering well...he is strong."

The Spiritual and Physical Toll of Ministry

The Bible calls for leaders to shepherd their flocks with diligence (1 Peter 5:2-3). However, even the most anointed leaders are human, vulnerable to the stress, exhaustion and physical toll that come with full-time ministry. In the spiritual realm, some might interpret health challenges as a form of spiritual warfare—an attack meant to derail their mission. Others see it as a wake-up call, a nudge from God to rest and recalibrate.

Bishop Jakes' recent travels highlight the often-overlooked

intensity of ministry. Preaching to thousands, interceding for others and navigating the hardships of being a name known around the world all demand extraordinary energy. This, combined with the spiritual burden of leading a congregation, can deplete even the strongest leaders.

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Stress, Exhaustion and the Role of Sabbath

Scripture reminds us of the importance of rest. Jesus Himself modeled retreating to solitude for renewal (Mark 1:35). For leaders like Bishop Jakes, the call to rest is not just about physical recovery but also spiritual alignment. Stress and overwork weaken the body, creating vulnerabilities that manifest in health crises.

This moment serves as a reminder for all believers to intercede for their spiritual leaders. The demands of ministry are immense, and the pressures can erode health without proper balance.



A Call for Reflection and Prayer

As The Potter's House community continues to process this incident, let it also serve as a moment for self-reflection. How often do we expect our leaders to pour out without giving them the grace to refill their own cups?

Let us pray for Bishop Jakes' full recovery, asking God to strengthen and [heal him in the coming days.](#) May this be a moment when spiritual leaders everywhere recognize the importance of rest and renewal, and may the body of Christ commit to supporting them with prayer, grace and understanding.

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James Lasher *is staff writer for Charisma Media.*