

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?!

– 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'

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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Bishop TD Jakes Suffers Medical Emergency During Service

Prayers are being raised up worldwide for Bishop T.D. Jakes, senior pastor of The Potter's House megachurch in Dallas, Texas.

During the service on Sunday morning, Nov. 24, Jakes suffered what The Potter's House labeled "a slight health incident" in a statement released later that day:

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During today's service, Bishop T.D. Jakes experienced a slight health incident and received immediate medical attention following his powerful hour long message. Bishop Jakes is stable and under the care of medical professionals. The entire Potter's House family is grateful for the outpouring of love, prayers, and support from the community.

Thank you for your understanding and continued prayers.

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Let us join the more than 30,000 members of The Potter's House in lifting up Jakes in prayer for healing and complete restoration from this medical episode.

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6 Prophetic Events That Will

Usher In the End of the Age

In a world marked by escalating conflict, natural disasters and social unrest, Joseph Morris of Joseph Morris Ministries calls attention to the prophetic significance of current events.

In his latest update, Joseph Morris delivers a compelling analysis of global happenings, tying them to biblical prophecies and urging believers to recognize the signs of Christ's return.

Morris presents a sweeping overview of geopolitical tensions, celestial phenomena and scriptural fulfillments, emphasizing their interconnectedness. "The signs aren't there to scare us; they're there to show us we're getting closer to our destination," he says. Below is a breakdown of the major topics he addresses:

1. Israel's Precision Strikes

Morris discusses Israel's recent targeted operation against Iran's nuclear capabilities. By striking a key facility used for manufacturing warhead components, Israel sends a clear message. He remarks, "This is how cool Israel is—they hit one little location that produces the plastics that encase the...warhead."

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2. Hamas and Hezbollah Activity

Ongoing tensions in Gaza come into focus as Morris highlights the firing of 160 rockets into Israel and the movement of terrorist group headquarters to Turkey. He notes the boldness of these actions: "Israel woke up to 160 more rockets being fired...Hamas's headquarters and Hezbollah's headquarters went

from where they were, to Turkey.”

3. Russian Troop Deployments

Russia’s strategic positioning near Israel’s border raises alarms, particularly in the context of Ezekiel 38. Morris warns, “You’ve got Russian troops positioned on the border of Israel in Southwest Syria...The boldness of Russia to do that—now why is that a big deal? After the Rapture, Russia comes down on Israel.”

4. Pope Francis’ Provocative Remarks

Morris criticizes Pope Francis for suggesting Israel’s actions in Gaza could constitute genocide. He contrasts this stance with Hamas’s documented atrocities, stating, “Notice he didn’t say a thing about [what Hamas did].”



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5. Biblical Evidence in Archaeology

Artifacts like a recently unearthed First Temple-era seal affirm Israel’s historical claim to the land. “It’s comical hearing people say there’s no Israeli tie to the land...bit of evidence after bit of evidence every single week,” he observes.

6. Natural and Celestial Events

Morris draws connections between natural disasters, such as a bomb cyclone on the U.S. West Coast, and biblical prophecy. He also highlights celestial phenomena like asteroids and past blood moons, remarking, “The heavens were saying, ‘I died for you; I’m coming again.’”

7. Sweden’s War Preparations

Sweden's government distributes pamphlets on surviving war, reflecting heightened tensions with Russia. "Sweden sees the setup for war happening," Morris says, drawing parallels to historical precedents like Hitler's troop movements.

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8. Prophetic Fulfillments in Israel

From the revival of the Hebrew language to the red heifer preparations to Israel's agricultural prosperity, Morris identifies numerous prophetic milestones occurring simultaneously. "It'd be one thing if these things happened over time, but we're the generation that has all of those," he says.

Through these observations, Morris paints a vivid picture of a world rapidly aligning with biblical prophecy. These signs are not random; they are God's way of showing humanity how close we are to Christ's return. "From the heavenly things that are happening now, and from things happening in the 're just about to see the King," Morris proclaims, calling on believers to lift their heads and run the final stretch of their race with urgency and hope.

As tensions rise and signs multiply, Morris's prophetic updates challenge both believers and skeptics to consider the spiritual dimensions of current events.

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The Christian Influence Behind SpaceX's Journey to Mars

In an era often described as post-religious, Dr. Steve Turley's recent commentary on SpaceX's Starship Flight 6 offers a compelling counter-narrative.

Beneath the sleek façade of technology and innovation, Turley argues, lies a "profoundly mystical vision" driving Elon Musk's interplanetary aspirations—a vision deeply rooted in historical and spiritual traditions.

Turley begins by placing Musk's SpaceX endeavors within the context of mythic times. Drawing from Oswald Spengler's observations on civilizations under threat, he notes how such eras often elevate heroic figures to carry their hopes and ideals.

"We are living in the midst of what German scholar Oswald Spengler called mythic times," Turley says, asserting that Musk and his contemporaries, including President-elect Donald Trump, have assumed the roles of modern-day "heroic avengers" fighting to preserve civilization.

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Central to Turley's argument is the legacy of Wernher von Braun, the German rocket scientist who became a pivotal figure in America's space program. Von Braun, Turley explains, saw space exploration not merely as a scientific endeavor but as a moral mission.

"We knew that we had created a new means of warfare," von Braun is quoted as saying, "and the question is to what

victorious nation we were willing to entrust this brainchild of ours.” For von Braun, surrendering such power to a nation guided by biblical principles was essential to ensuring global peace.

Z points to the repeated warnings from Putin about the potential consequences of the West’s actions, and has built a reputation as a man who carries out the threats that he makes.

“[Putin] has said you have, basically, until the holidays, until Christmas. ‘If you don’t stop, I’m going to push the button,’” Z says, believing that Putin is trying to wait as long as possible, because he knows who will assume the mantle of President of the United States next. Donald Trump has also made a name for himself as a man who is willing to use action over words.

“I have a great concern about this,” Z shares. “...I gotta tell you, if they push too fast too soon, they could let one off the leash. And the outcome of this, is devastating.”

Playing right into Z’s worst fears, Ukraine has reportedly continued to launch long-range missiles, this time using British-made ‘Storm Shadow’ missiles, into Russia.

According to the UK’s media outlet, “The Mirror”:

British-made Storm Shadow missiles have allegedly been fired into Russia for the first time today, just hours after British officials joined their U.S. counterparts and suggested they may lift an existing missile ban.

Unconfirmed reports on Russian Telegram channels cited by the Kyiv Post have alleged that 12 of the missiles flew over the border from the Kursk region today. The claims come less than a day after Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer vowed that Ukraine must have “what it needs” to counter the threat posed by Russia.

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“The concern I have is what I’ve seen,” Z says, “this is why we’ve got to pray.... now we’re in a place where suddenly they’re going to try to trigger something that could turn into a domino effect.”

The potential destruction from such a trigger event is staggering, according to Z. Revealing information from analysts with whom he has communicated, an estimated death toll from a nuclear-driven World War 3 event would reach upward of 7 billion lives lost.

“This is on our front step. This is serious,” Z warns. “That they could let these tactical nukes go, or bigger ones, or any of it. I believe this is something the church, just like we had to pray about the hurricanes, just like we had to pray about the election, just like we had to pray about everything, now we’ve got to pray about this. Because this is very serious.”

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Evangelist Overcomes Violence and Jail, Continues

Proclaiming Jesus

Hatun Tash, a former Muslim turned Christian evangelist, has faced violent persecution for her bold proclamation of the Gospel. From being chased by angry mobs to enduring stabbings, unlawful arrests and the constant threat of death, Tash's story is a chilling reminder that even in a nation like England, standing for Jesus can come with a high price.

Tash embraced Christianity after moving to England. Her conversion began with a critical examination of Islam and the life of its prophet, Muhammad. "As I read [Muhammad's] biography, it was very disturbing to me. So, the man you grew up to love and honor suddenly turns out to be like, yeah, not good, not good. And I decided, I can't be Muslim," Tash explains, as reported by CBN News.

Her search for truth ultimately led her to the Gospel, where she discovered a God unlike any she had known. "As you dig into it, you get to meet with a God who is not silent or far or distant from you, but you meet with a God who loves you, who pours out Himself on you. And not only that, He just puts Himself on the cross and then says, 'I love you from everlasting to everlasting, Come to Me,'" she says.

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Driven by this newfound hope, Tash often took her message to Speaker's Corner in London's Hyde Park, a well-known hub for vigorous debates on faith and philosophy. There, she openly challenges Islam, declaring Muhammad a false prophet and exalting Jesus as the Son of God. Her words often spark intense reactions. In one instance, a man slashed her face with a knife, leaving her physically scarred but spiritually resolute.

While police have compensated her for wrongful arrests, such

as a humiliating strip-search and jailing two years ago, they have yet to apprehend those who have attempted to kill her. Andrea Williams of Christian Concern, which has defended Tash, criticized the lack of justice. "The truth is that those who have attempted to kill her have been caught on camera. The police know who they are, but they have not been arrested. She is feared by and targeted by Muslim groups because she is fearless for the Gospel. She loves Jesus so much that nothing will halt her."

Tash's determination remains unshaken. She continues to stand outside mosques, debating with Muslims, even as danger lurks. "I would simply stand in front of the mosques, and I'd say, 'Muhammad is a false prophet. Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Tell me, what are your objections?' Hundreds of Muslims just stop and then they want to talk to you. Sometimes you get harmed, sometimes it gets dangerous. Sometimes you end up in hospitals, sometimes you end up in people's homes for a cup of tea," she reveals.

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Her mission is simple: to share the Gospel regardless of the cost. "I don't care whether people reject me or not. They need to hear the Gospel," Tash stated.

Tash knows her life is in constant jeopardy but finds solace in her faith in Jesus Christ. "Things are dangerous. Should I choose to stay silent? Like when people are spending 5,000 pounds to buy a gun, to shoot you and shoot your loved ones? The Gospel is so glorious, I cannot be silent. And the Lord is the giver of life. So, when it's my time, He will take me home. But until He gives me breath, we continue to preach."

Tash's story exemplifies the promise Jesus made to His followers: persecution is inevitable for those who live and

speak the truth of the Gospel. She stands as a modern witness to Jesus' words in John 16:33: "In the world you will have tribulation. But be of good cheer. I have overcome the world."

While Tash's bravery inspires Christians to declare their faith boldly, it also serves as a sobering reminder of the persecution that often accompanies it. In a world hostile to truth, she clings to our Savior who endured the ultimate persecution so that others might find eternal life.

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7 Powerful Tips for Aspiring Preachers

Pastor Vlad Savchuk of HungryGen Ministries has shared a stirring and practical message for aspiring preachers, offering guidance rooted in his own journey and the teachings of the apostle Paul.

In his video, Savchuk highlights the foundational aspects of a preacher's calling, emphasizing humility, grace and a Christ-centered focus. Drawing from Scripture and his own personal experiences, he outlines essential steps for those feeling the call to proclaim the gospel, while providing encouragement for navigating challenges such as self-doubt and the pressures of ministry.

Here are Pastor Savchuk's seven essential tips for aspiring preachers:

1. God wants to reveal Jesus to you so that He can reveal Jesus in you. “Paul says in Galatians that ‘God revealed,’ meaning he experienced the gospel through the revelation of Jesus. He didn’t learn Jesus, he actually encountered Jesus and it’s important that your ministry, your call of preaching, starts with the revelation of Jesus Christ,” Savchuk shares.

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2. God has separated you for this call from you mother’s womb. “I think every preacher, every man, woman of God carries this sense or carries this idea even they have this conviction that God had this thing for me to preach. God had this thing for me to be devoted to this call way before even I heard the call to salvation. This doesn’t mean that you were saved from your mother’s womb. It’s just [that] God already had a plan for your life,” Savchuk explains.

3. The calling to preach is through grace, not works. “It’s difficult for some people to feel that when you went to six years of college and you have a degree, and you’re like ‘yeah, I’m called to preach because I have a master’s degree’ or ‘I have a bachelor’s degree,’ that’s amazing that you have a degree, but that is not why you’re called to preach. You’re called to preach through God’s grace and if you ever forget that, you will become proud and entitled and you won’t make a difference in the world,” Savchuk says.