

# World Cup Star Attributes Historic Career to God

When World Cup champion Lionel Messi talks, millions, perhaps billions, of people around the world listen intently to what he has to say.

So when he praises God and gives Him thanks for the gift of being arguably one of, if not the, greatest player at the sport of soccer of all time, it exposes people around the world to his testimony on the goodness of God.

Speaking to Argentinian podcaster Juan Pablo Varsky on the “Clank” podcast, Messi described it felt like God gave him “a gift” that he had to use to his full potential.

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“It’s very clear to me that I was born like this because God chose me,” Messi says.

“It was a gift He gave me. I tried to take advantage of it, I did everything possible to squeeze the most out of it. The truth is, although I did many things, I did nothing to become the player that I already was when I was little,” he adds.

This echoes the sentiment found in the popular Bible passage Jeremiah 29:11, when God was talking to His prophet, but this lesson applies to each and every human ever created:

*For I know the plans that I have for you, says the Lord, plans for peace and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

God says in the following verses that He has done this so that we may enter into relationship with Him, and that He resides

with us as our one and only God.

But we must look for God, the verses say, and that is exactly what Messi did in the lead up to his World Cup victory that had eluded him for most of his exceptional career, as reported by Premiere Christian News.

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“I asked God, as I have done all my life in everything,” Messi shares. “Even more so at that moment... I didn’t ask my grandmother or Diego [Maradona], but I did ask God, as always. I knew and sensed that God had something in store for me and it was at a special moment, almost at the end of my career and closing the whole circle of my professional career.

“I thank Him every day of my life for this and for everything He has always given me. I can’t ask Him for anything more because thanks to Him I have everything,” he continues.

We can all take a lesson from one of the world’s premiere athletes, and search, ask and thank God in all things which we are involved in, just as Paul exhorts us to do in 1 Thessalonians 5:18:

*In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

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**James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.**

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# Ray Comfort Discusses the Tough Reality of Evangelism

In a recent interview with Charisma Media, evangelist Ray Comfort of Living Waters Publications opened up about the challenges and motivations behind evangelism, shedding light on why sharing faith remains crucial in today's world. Despite his long-standing reputation for street preaching, Comfort revealed surprising personal struggles and shared practical advice for Christians facing similar hesitations.

Comfort candidly admitted his own reluctance toward evangelism, describing it as a daunting task. "I don't like evangelism," he confessed. "Every day when I go out to preach the gospel or go to witness, I'm going somewhere I don't want to go to say something I don't want to say to people who don't want to hear it." This raw honesty highlights a common sentiment among many Christians, making Comfort's perspective all the more relatable.

Despite these feelings, Comfort emphasizes the moral imperative to evangelize, comparing the duty to that of a firefighter facing a burning building. "He's not excited about climbing a 60-foot ladder with smoke and sirens and a screaming woman and screaming children," Comfort explains. "But he's a firefighter, so what he does is he ignores his fears and thinks about the fate of that woman and her children."

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Comfort's approach to evangelism involves seizing everyday opportunities and engaging with people in unexpected ways. One such tactic includes riding a bike equipped with a platform and accompanied by his sunglasses-wearing dog. "College

students come up and say, 'I love your dog! How does she wear sunglasses?'" Comfort shared.

When Asbury began asking the chatbot some personal, nuanced questions about himself, it started spewing information that is not only factually incorrect, but potentially damaging to his career as a Christian musician.

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The chatbot not only misrepresented his comments from when he spoke about having his three daughters paint his finger nails, but it also claimed he "has publicly spoken about his sexuality and has identified as a Christian who experiences same-sex attraction."

"So I don't know what's going on or where, again, they're getting this information from," Asbury says in disbelief.

"I've never said anything of the sort."

This only spurred Asbury's curiosity further, so he did some digging on other praise and worship leaders such as Brandon Lake and Chandler Moore to see what the Meta AI had to say about them.

Come to find out, according to Meta AI, Lake "...is a Christian musician and worship leader who has been open about his struggles with same-sex attraction and sexuality."

Meanwhile for Moore, "there is no public indication that he is gay."

What public indication is there that Asbury and Lake are gay, though?

Lake is happily married and has three sons, and Asbury is a blessed family man as well.

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“I don’t know what to say. This is crazy,” laughed Asbury. “So apparently Brandon also struggles with same-sex attraction, but Chandler does not.”

Going a little further into how corrupted, biased and flat-out incorrect Meta AI is, Asbury asked it if Jesus is gay, as the radical Left has a history of trying to make the Lord out to be something He most certainly is not.

To the app’s credit, it did not try and make Jesus out to have lived a homosexual lifestyle, but instead gave a rather vanilla answer that skirted any potential controversy.

“I don’t think what I’m reading on this ‘Ask Meta AI’ is true, is it getting this from and how can it be definitive about this?” Asbury wonders.

We live in a time of great deception, and the enemy is only going to strive harder to lead people away from the truth of Jesus Christ. That is why it is of paramount importance to be biblically literate and have a firm foundation built upon the Word of God, faith in Jesus Christ and the baptism of the Holy Spirit to war against Satan and his agenda.

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***James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.***

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# Trump Joins NFAB Leaders for Special Prayer Event

The National Faith Advisory Board is having a special call-in event in prayer for America at a time when the country desperately needs the Lord's intercession.

Former President Donald Trump will join faith leaders such as Paula White-Cain, Jentezen Franklin, Jack Graham, Dave Kubal and many others at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26, as they pray for America in the lead-up to the first presidential debate of the year.

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As described on their website, NFAB "is a national collaboration of faith-based leaders and organizations creating generational change with a strong, uncompromising voice on the issues and policies that matter most to the faith community."

Some of the topics NFAB has circulated to its fellow intercessors to pray for over the nation are:

- Worldwide anti-Semitism targeting the Jewish people with violence.
- The "Take Back Title IX" tour to support women and girls sports.
- Illegal immigration and the danger it poses to the American people.
- The many cases the Supreme Court has agreed to hear which will help shape the future of our nation.
- Radical Islamic terrorism that is targeting Jews and Christians around the world.

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Let us join together as Americans to lift up and pray for this nation in the spirit of Matthew 18:19-20 which reads:

*“Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three are assembled in My name, there I am in their midst.”*

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***James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.***

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## **Is God Being Written Out of American Culture?**

It seems that each election cycle is the most important, that the fate of the nation hangs in the balance.

Yet the last four years have shown undeniable proof that American exceptionalism is slipping away into the past, as well as the nation's faith in God.

Many politicians today are warning of the dire economic, social and political ramifications of this upcoming election, but few are standing up and warning of the spiritual implications that will also come with the next elected president and their administration.

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A proponent for faith-based voters turning up to the polls this November is former congresswoman, as well as former Democrat, Tulsi Gabbard. She feels that the modern-day Democrats are “trying to erase God from every facet of our public life.

“We will play a critical role, especially at a time where we have the Biden-Harris administration and the Democrat elite who are fundamentally against freedom, including freedom of religion, and have a long track record that threatens people of faith and spirituality,” Gabbard says.

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“You look at those things that happened several years ago, and you look at how that has escalated at a much higher level, an abuse of power, a targeting of people of more than ever people of faith, people of spirituality need to stand up, to defend this fundamental, God-given right and stop those who are trying to take it away from us.”

God has sent the message to Americans through a variety of channels, and we have seen His warnings come to pass. Persecution of Christianity has come to the West, are Christians ready for it?

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***James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.***

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# Trump Declines Franklin Graham's Request Before Debate

People of all backgrounds said 2024 was going to be a crazy year, and so far, it has lived up to that expectation.

And we haven't even arrived at the first presidential debate, yet.

This year's first, and potentially only, presidential debate is rapidly approaching as former President Donald Trump looks to continue his high-octane campaign against President Joe Biden since being criminally convicted of 34 felonies in New York City.

As reported by CBN News, "Concerns abound in both camps. Trump supporters are confident in his ability to win the debate, but some are upset that he so willingly agreed to what they call 'Biden rules,' to be moderated by a network and CNN co-hosts they believe are clearly biased against the 45th president."

Giving in to potentially one-sided debate demands is not the only area of concern among Trump supporters at this time, either.

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While the former president will be sentenced shortly before the Republican National Convention, faith leaders such as Rev. Franklin Graham, son of world-renowned evangelist Billy Graham, have allegedly requested that Mr. Trump clean up his language at rallies.

A request the former president has expressly refused.

Trump explained that he likes Graham, but he couldn't agree to this request Graham allegedly sent to him in a letter.

"He said, 'President, I love your speaking. Your ability to speak is incredible. Your storytelling is great, but it could be so much better if you didn't use foul language,'" Trump told the crowd at a rally in deep-blue Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

"He's wrong," he added.

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Trump insisted that his speeches lose impact without strong language, and as the debate rumbles closer, he does "not want to underestimate Biden" and has to keep the momentum going.

This strategy is being emulated by supporters of the current president as well, with the Associated Press saying, "Perhaps nothing matters more than the level of energy and strength the Democratic incumbent projects on stage."

Energy levels seems to be a big topic of conversation, as the debate set to take place on Thursday, June 27 at 9:00 p.m. EST will feature the two oldest presumptive nominees in history. Donald Trump recently turned 78, while Joe Biden is 81 years old.

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# Is Pope Francis Truly a ‘Servant of Satan’?

The spiritual warfare taking place around the world continues to manifest in more ways, as the Roman Catholic Archbishop who called Pope Francis a “servant of Satan” now faces excommunication from the Catholic Church.

Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò posted on X that he has been summoned to the Vatican for an extrajudicial trial and is accused of “the crime of schism.”

Il Dicastero per la Dottrina della Fede mi ha informato, attraverso un semplice email, dell'apertura di un processo... (art. 2 SST; can. 1364 CIC)

*Le Dicastero pour la Doctrine de la Foi m'a informé, par un simple courriel, de l'ouverture d'un procès...*

– Arcivescovo Carlo Maria Viganò (@CarloMVigano) June 20, 2024

“I have been summoned to the Palace of the Holy Office on June 20, in person or represented by a canon lawyer,” wrote Viganò.

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“I assume that the sentence has already been prepared, given that it is an extrajudicial process,” he continues.

Viganò served as the Vatican’s ambassador to the United States from 2011 to 2016, and considers it “an honor” to be persecuted by what many consider a rogue Vatican who has abandoned biblical doctrine.

“I believe that the very wording of the charges confirms the theses that I have repeatedly defended in my various

addresses,” Viganò wrote.

“It is no coincidence that the accusation against me concerns the questioning of the legitimacy of Jorge Mario Bergoglio and the rejection of Vatican II: the Council represents the ideological, theological, moral and liturgical cancer of which the Bergoglian ‘synodal church’ is the necessary metastasis.”

Viganò is not the only conservative member of the Catholic Church to face the wrath of the Vatican in recent years.

Pope Francis removed Bishop Joseph Strickland of the Diocese of Tyler, Texas, a conservative critic of Pope Francis and claimed that the Pope’s words and actions were “undermining the deposit of faith.”

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At the center of Strickland’s criticism has been Pope Francis’ perceived acceptance of LGBTQ+ lifestyles, which strictly go against the teaching of the Christian Bible.

As reported by the Texas Tribune:

*Strickland’s removal has sparked further backlash among the Pope’s conservative critics: Michael J. Matt, editor of the traditionalist Catholic newspaper The Remnant, declared the move was “total war” and said Francis was “actively trying to bury fidelity to the Church of Jesus Christ.” Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, who has previously called on the pope to resign, wrote that Strickland’s removal was “a cowardly form of authoritarianism.”*

Perhaps the tipping point for the Vatican’s patience was an op-ed that Viganò wrote in LifeSiteNews, which accused the Pope and his lackeys of being servants of the evil one.

“The delirious Declaration Fiducia Supplicans, recently published by the parody of the former Holy Office renamed the Dicastery, definitively pierces the veil of hypocrisy and deception of the Bergoglian hierarchy, showing these false shepherds for what they really are: servants of Satan and his most zealous allies, beginning with the usurper who sits—an abomination of desolation—on the Throne of Peter,” wrote Viganò.

Time will tell the consequences of the Pope’s actions, but as it stands, there are many siding with voices like Viganò and Strickland.

Perhaps there is another schism coming for the Catholic Church just as there was in the days of Martin Luther.

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**Dragons in New York a Harbinger of Judgment, Says Jonathan Cahn**