

Chris Pratt Reminds America What Christmas Is Really About

It is rare these days to hear a Hollywood celebrity speak plainly about Jesus. In a culture saturated with commercialism, distractions and self-promotion, hearing actor Chris Pratt publicly point people back to Jesus at Christmas is refreshing.

In a recent video promoting the Christian prayer app Hallow, Pratt urged viewers to slow down and remember why the season matters. He began playfully: “It’s the most wonderful time of year, Christmas, the joy, the family time, the presents, the cookies,” he said while tossing a cookie over his shoulder.

Artificial intelligence has emerged as the newest frontier for both culture and the church, raising questions that many Christians never imagined they would need to confront.

As apps claim to let people “talk to Jesus” or “chat” with Scripture, theologians, pastors and everyday Christians are wrestling with what role, if any, machines should have in

spiritual formation. The technological acceleration has created genuine excitement, yet also deep concern about deception, misplaced dependence, and the erosion of biblically rooted teaching.

As reported in a CBN News segment, AI-powered spiritual tools are increasingly being marketed as pathways to revelation. But CBN's Billy Hallowell cautioned viewers that "you're not speaking with Jesus. You're not talking with the Bible. This is AI." He warned that the impression of sacred interaction can be misleading, because the experience "isn't prayerful, but it's relying on technology."

Raj Nair, also with CBN and a commentator on the segment, professed a deep affection for Scripture while sounding an alarm over the trend. "I adore this book," he said. "I love to live in it." For him, Scripture comes alive only when engaged spiritually. When people ask how to read the Bible, Nair said his answer is simple: "Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you, to reveal things, to show things."

Nair pointed to biblical precedent, citing John 14:26, reminding Christians that "the Holy Spirit... will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." He affirmed that AI may be acceptable for basic factual questions such as "Who came first, Joseph or David?" or "What were the 12 tribes of Israel?"



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However, he warned that it should not be used for spiritual revelation. "If you're looking for a deeper meaning, a message from God, I'm really worried that this is not that," he said.

The segment drew attention to a theological limitation no amount of code can solve. "The person without the spirit does

not accept the things that come from the spirit of God," Nair quoted from 1 Corinthians. He then added, "News flash, the AI, no matter how powerful it is, does not have the Spirit."

Hallowell took the concern further, drawing parallels to practices Scripture condemns. Using AI to seek mystical knowledge, he warned, begins to feel "like divination or some sort of like, you know, people go to psychics, which they should never do." He argued that these apps are "not Jesus, they are not the Bible," and using them for spiritual advice "can be very dangerous."

The pair also noted growing dependence among pastors themselves. Many leaders now turn to AI tools to craft sermons. Hallowell said it is one thing to request "outlines and ideas," but another to deliver messages written by a machine. "Artificial intelligence is a machine," he cautioned. "How much should we be relying on that?"

Nair underscored a sobering reality: intellectual knowledge of Scripture is not the same as spiritual understanding. "The enemy knows the Bible," he said. "Demons and the enemy believe that there is a God." What separates believers from deception, he argued, is Spirit-led submission.

The future of AI in spiritual contexts is still unfolding. Bible study apps and textual tools may remain helpful aids, but Nair offered a final warning that the church and society will need to heed as technology evolves. "Use the app if you want to ... to intellectually understand Scripture," he said. "But to have a relationship with God, that requires His Holy Spirit."

As AI pushes into moral, cultural, and now theological territory, the church is not alone in facing these dilemmas. Governments, educators, ethicists, and institutions around the world are asking similar questions about how much trust humans should place in machines. For Christians, however, the

stakes are uniquely spiritual, and the answer is timeless: technology may assist faith, but it must never replace it.

James Lasher, a seasoned writer and editor at Charisma Media, combines faith and storytelling with a background in journalism from Otterbein University and ministry experience in Guatemala and the LA Dream Center. A Marine Corps and Air Force veteran, he is the author of *The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man's Commentary* and a contributor to *Charisma* magazine.

UMC Pastor Announces Gender Change During Service

There is a spirit of deception sweeping through churches and culture, pulling millions away from God's design and biblical truth. While society celebrates self-reinvention, Scripture warns that confusion over identity is not liberation but bondage. It is one more symptom of a world exchanging truth for lies.

A Methodist pastor in New York recently announced plans to transition into a woman during a Nov. 23 service, as reported by Fox News. Rev. Phillip Phaneuf of North Chili United Methodist Church publicly declared, "I am transitioning. I am affirming to all of you that I am transgender. The best way to put this is that I am not becoming a woman, I am giving up pretending to be a man."

This claim directly contradicts what the Bible teaches about creation and identity. God declares in Genesis that He made

humanity male and female. Identity is bestowed by the Creator, not self-constructed through feelings or medical intervention. When Phaneuf claims to be “giving up pretending to be a man,” it assumes that God erred in assigning biological sex. Scripture denies that possibility. Psalm 139 says people are “fearfully and wonderfully made,” a truth ignored in the pastor’s announcement.

Phaneuf also claimed to be asexual, saying, “I am in the category of what they call asexual. I have been that way since we have all been together, in that I am not living my life in a way that involves looking for romance.”



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The pastor told Fox News Digital that the congregation has been “overwhelmingly affirming” and that the bishop and church leadership fully support the transition. This exposes how deeply mainline Protestantism has surrendered biblical authority. Instead of calling people to repentance, leaders now bless rebellion. Truth is determined by affirmation, not revelation.

Phaneuf acknowledged that his parents do not support this decision, saying from the pulpit, “They asked me to tell you all that they do not support me.” Ironically, the rebuke from family aligns with biblical teaching far more than applause from denominational leadership.

Fox News noted that the United Methodist Church recently reversed policies condemning LGBTQ identities and now claims sexuality is a “sacred gift” for all, regardless of orientation or gender identity. This is not compassion but compromise. Love does not confirm confusion. It confronts deception with truth.

The Bible teaches that Satan masquerades as an angel of

light, offering counterfeits that feel affirming but destroy. A pastor standing in a pulpit, declaring, “I am not becoming a woman, I am giving up pretending to be a man,” is a public example of this deception. It is the fruit of a church that has abandoned Scripture and replaced holiness with applause.

God does not make mistakes. Men are not women in disguise. Identity is not fluid. Followers of Jesus must speak truth with clarity. The tragedy is not merely one pastor’s confusion, but the silence of pulpits that should be calling people back to the Word of God instead of applauding self-reinvention.

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Global Cycle Meets Prophetic Pattern: Glenn Beck Warns a Reset Is Imminent

Dreams and sudden impressions are more than background noise. As John and Lisa Bevere explained in their recent podcast episode, they can be a battleground—where God speaks, the mind processes life, or the enemy tries to intimidate.

“Not every dream is from God,” Lisa said. That distinction

matters. Some dreams reflect daily stress or information the brain is sorting. Others stem from fear and accusation. Still others, like in Scripture, carry genuine direction or warning from the Holy Spirit.

The Bevere's emphasize that the first step is discernment.

Ask, What is the source? Fear-based imagery should be resisted, not absorbed. John shared how a young pastor was tormented by visions of dying early. Nothing changed until he began "using the word of God" against the fear instead of passively hoping it would go away. Once he stood on Scripture, the torment lifted.

Biblical examples reinforce this posture. Daniel and Joseph both insisted that "interpreting dreams is God's business," meaning believers must involve God rather than assume instant meaning. Sometimes revelation comes quickly; other times, like Daniel's 21-day struggle for interpretation, it requires patience and persistence.

The Bevere's urge believers to write things down when they sense God speaking. Daniel documented his dreams, and Jesus told John in Revelation to "write in a book everything you see." John admitted many divine whispers are forgotten because people assume they will remember. Journaling protects clarity and honors God's voice.

They also warn against trying to force fulfillment. John recalled nearly resigning his job to make a vision happen—only to later realize God had His own timing and method.

Above all, Scripture remains the filter. If a dream

contradicts God's written Word, John said, "reject it." If it aligns but remains unclear, set it aside and pray for understanding.

Their message is practical and hopeful: God still speaks, but spiritual maturity requires discernment, resistance to fear, and a willingness to record and wait on His direction.

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Lee Strobel: 5 Shocking Proofs the Supernatural Is Real

Doreen Virtue once stood at the center of the New Age movement. Now she is warning Christians that the same practices that made her famous are leading multitudes into spiritual danger.

"In the New Age, I was very famous. I went on Oprah, all the talk shows, CNN, The View, everything," she recalled. "I was writing about mediumship, teaching it, practicing it." For decades she believed she was helping people and even thought she was serving God.

That illusion shattered when Scripture confronted her.

Preaching from Matthew 7:21-23, she said, "I came so close to hearing those words," referring to Jesus' warning, "I never knew you." Virtue admitted, "I thought I was a Christian my whole life. I was saved at age 59."

Her story begins in New Thought churches that taught that "your thoughts create your reality." From there she moved fully into New Age teaching, touring the world, filling convention centers and mentoring celebrities. "I thought that was my life," she said. "And that whole time I thought I was doing God's will because people told me that the New Age materials that I produced comforted them."



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Virtue now describes New Thought and New Age as spiritually deadly because they shift the focus from God's sovereignty to human self-exaltation. "New Thought is this belief that you can create through positive thoughts, positive feelings, positive actions," she said. "The New Age, New Thought glorifies self and Christianity glorifies God."

Behind the feel-good language of "you deserve it" and "follow your heart," she sees a deeper appetite. "This is what we see in both New Thought and New Age is this desire to have power," she said. People wounded by abuse, abandonment or betrayal are especially vulnerable. "They turn to New Age, New Thought because, again, it glorifies self and it makes you feel like a million bucks."

Virtue warns that this quest for power quickly pulls people into occult practices the Bible explicitly condemns. She lists three pillars of New Age deception: "The first one is idolatry... the second thing is you see witchcraft or sorcery... and the third thing is divination." These can appear in seemingly harmless forms such as crystals, essential oils marketed for "abundance," energy language, astrology,

numerology or vision boards.

She insists the spiritual power behind many New Age “results” is real but demonic. Speaking of manifestation tools, Virtue says, “Let me tell you, it does work. I did vision boards for decades and seemed to manifest fancy cars, fancy vacations, relationships, houses, everything. But it is sorcerers’ counterfeit. These things do work because demons are behind the scenes using them as Trojan horses for further deception.”

Confronted by passages such as Deuteronomy 18:10-12 and the New Testament warnings against sorcery and idolatry, Virtue walked away from the empire she had built. “I had to say to the whole world I was wrong. I’m sorry,” she said, after touring globally for 25 years and publishing in 38 languages. The cost was high: lost income, lost friends, estranged family members and selling her home. Yet she describes a peace she never found in the New Age.

Now she issues an urgent warning to the church about blending Christian language with New Age ideas. Citing Revelation’s warnings about idolaters and sorcerers, she says, “Idolatry could keep someone out of heaven into the lake of fire and destruction forever.” Virtue warns that “New Age, New Thought is sinful” and “cannot be blended with Christianity at all.”

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