

Greg Laurie Urges Church to Have Compassion After Jarrid Wilson's Suicide

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Pastor Greg Laurie urged his grieving congregants at Harvest Christian Fellowship on Wednesday (Sept. 11) to have compassion for people dealing with mental health issues as the church copes with the news that one of its pastors died by suicide.

"Sometimes we want to just say, 'They're just not spiritual or they don't love the Lord,' and that's just a ridiculous thing to say because they may have a struggle you know nothing about," Laurie said.

Hundreds filled the pews at the church's midweek service, two days after the death of preacher and mental health activist Jarrid Wilson.

Wilson, co-founder of the mental health nonprofit Anthem of Hope, was open about his own depression. He often posted on social media about his battles with mental illness.

Just hours before his passing, Wilson had posted a series of tweets that dealt with suicide, including one encouraging followers to remember that loving Jesus doesn't always cure illnesses such as depression, PTSD or anxiety.

"But that doesn't mean Jesus doesn't offer us companionship and comfort," he wrote.