

JOURNEY COMMUNITY CHURCH: 'Prophetic Piffle' and 'Russell Brand'

On 13th April 2024 I published an article about a then forthcoming conference being organised by **Journey Community Church Antrim**. The headline speaker was a man called **STEVE WITT** of the **BETHEL Church** in Cleveland. I entitled the article '**PATHETIC PROPHETIC**' and it can be viewed on this link –

<https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2024/April/journey-community-antrim-pathetic-prophetic.pdf>

A few days after the conference ended I received an email from someone unknown to me recommending that I watch the Sunday morning (28th April) 'service' at which **STEVE WITT** 'preached'. I did so and this was my Facebook post of 1st May 2024 –

JOURNEY COMMUNITY CHURCH ANTRIM 'Prophetic Piffle'

On 13th April I warned about an upcoming 'Prophetic' conference being hosted by Journey Community Church in Antrim. The 'headline speaker' was one **STEVE WITT**. This link will take you to video of the morning 'service' on 28th April - <https://www.facebook.com/wearejourneyantrim> (you need to scroll to it)

Much of the early part is taken up with 'praise and worship' so I would recommend viewing from about 42.30 to relate to the comments I will now make. This is not an exhaustive appraisal of all that took place but covers '**red flags**' that stood out on first-viewing.

The woman blethering on about dry bones and a field full of water got her 5 or so minutes of 'prophetic' fame - dreadful.

Steve Witt overall was the embodiment of what we read of in **2 Timothy 4: 3-4**.

No wonder he (and his wife) felt a 'real presence of god' in St Peter's basilica - it certainly wasn't that of the only true and living God. Comments he made seemed to reflect a belief in 'transubstantiation' and with all his crossing of himself and admiration for the Pope he obviously has no problems with Rome.

As for his comments on **Russell Brand**, I posted the following on Facebook some days ago in the run-up to his baptism –

'Remarkable to hear him speaking of Christ but I'm a little concerned that he sounds as if he believes that the act of baptism will effect a spiritual change and cleansing in and for him whereas the reality is that baptism should be a testimony to a spiritual change and cleansing that has already occurred. I would also be very interested to know who it is that is carrying out the baptism.'

It will be interesting to see if Northern Ireland experiences an earthquake this year as confidently prophesied by **Steve Witt**.

All the 'whooping' etc that he does to background music near the end of his talk (it wasn't a sermon) was a manifestation of his close association with those who peddled the similarly-diabolical so-called 'Toronto Blessing'.

Journey Community are beyond the pale as these comments from the person who recommended I view the 'service' said - **"When you get the chance I think you should watch Sunday's Journey Church morning service with Steve Witt. I've been a Christian 30 years and have never watched anything worse at a church service"**

In relation to **Russell Brand** the general thrust of **STEVE WITT's** comments were to the effect that too many professing Christians were being wary of recognising **Russell Brand** as a fellow Christian. One expression he used was **'do we not allow people to be saved?'** He stated Mr Brand accepted the likes of the Apostle's and Nicene creeds and he declared that **Russell Brand** had **'confessed Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.'**

So what do I make of statements like that? His comment **'do we not allow people to be saved?'** was what I would call crass (stupid). We humans have 'no say' in who gets saved but we do have a responsibility to check-out someone's profession of being **'saved.'**

Those in Galatia were claiming to be **'saved'** but the Apostle Paul challenged their beliefs, fearing that they had been victims of **"another (a different) gospel"** (**Galatians 1:6-9**).

From the admittedly brief research that I have thus far been able to make I would say that there are genuine grounds to fear that **Russell Brand** is possibly the victim of **"another gospel."**

I refer back to the comments I made, having watched him speak just a few days before his baptism, and in particular the portion I wrote - **'he sounds as if he believes that the act of baptism will effect a spiritual change and cleansing in and for him whereas the reality is that baptism should be a testimony to a spiritual change and cleansing that has already occurred.'**

I then added **'I would also be very interested to know who it is that is carrying out the baptism.'**

Well it would appear that currently **RUSSELL BRAND** is keeping details of that close to his chest as the article on this link states –

<https://www.catholicarena.com/latest/2024/4/30/baptism-in-the-river-thames>

If it had been **‘Roman Catholic’** it would certainly have claimed to have been the means of ‘spiritual regeneration’ of being ‘born again’ –

‘Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission. Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word’ (Catholic Catechism: Para: 1213)

Likewise, if it were **‘Anglican’**, as the article ‘floated’ that as a possibility, this is a sample **Anglican** wording located on this link - <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/christian-initiation/holy-baptism-5>

‘Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again of water and the Spirit, and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth. Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean. Here we are clothed with Christ, dying to sin that we may live his risen life. As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life ... Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever.’

Both of these ‘formats’ would tie in with the concerns I voiced in my comments as they do constitute **“another gospel,”** believing that some form of religious ritual is integral to salvation, and Paul pronounced God’s **“anathema”** upon such teaching and beliefs (**Galatians 1: 6-9 & Acts 15: 1**)

Until we know for sure who carried out the baptism of **Russell Brand** then I think there are legitimate grounds for being wary of any profession by him to being a Christian now.

Steve Witt stated that **Russell Brand** had **‘confessed Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.’** As I said earlier, my research to date has been ‘brief’ and I have not personally come across such a ‘confession,’ but again, I think we must keep in mind the words of the Saviour in **Matthew 7: 21** **“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven.”**

My second observation in relation to **Russel Brand** relates to what some view as **‘New Age’** terminology used by him. Former **New Ager, DOREEN VIRTUE**, has posted several items relating to **Russell Brand** and here are details of them. The first post –

‘MY THOUGHTS ABOUT RUSSELL BRAND’S BAPTISM’

I listened to Russell’s description of his baptism today. I could relate to some of the things that he was saying, based upon my past. Russell needs our prayer, the gospel, and discipleship right now, not criticism. Here’s why:

Jesus started calling me out of the new age in January 2015 when I heard a sermon that convicted my heart of my false new age teachings. My husband and I started attending various churches, seeking the truth, but not yet finding it.

We joined a progressive Episcopalian church, and that's where I was baptized in February 2017. Episcopalian is often called "Catholic-lite," because it's similar to the Catholic Church in many ways.

In that church, we were taught unbiblical theology such as modalism, ecumenicalism, praying to dead saints, and a broad woke path to heaven where everyone is welcome. I was sent to an Episcopalian female priest for spiritual director counselling, and she told me it was fine to keep using my divination cards and crystals. So is there any wonder that when I announced my baptism on social media in February 2017 that I was met with scepticism in the Christian community?

I didn't realize that I wasn't yet saved. I had no idea what "being saved" was! I'd heard the gospel, but the part that didn't resonate with me back then was that I was a sinner in need of the only Savior there is: Jesus Christ, the co-equal co-eternal Second Person of the Holy Trinity, Who came to earth and lived a sinless life so that He could die in our place and take the wrath for the sins that we've all committed.

I was raised in the false Christian Science religion and got into the new age from there. Both Christian Science and new age teach that we humans are perfect, whole and complete, because God is perfect, whole and complete, and we are made in His image. I was taught that God is sinless, and I am like God sinless also. God is love. God doesn't judge. These were the mantras of my life up until the age of 59.

Then I began reading the whole Bible, and God used Deuteronomy 18:10–12 to show me that I was a detestable sinner for practicing divination, mediumship, and interpreting omens. Reading that Bible passage broke me, and finally I was able to see the gravity of my sin and I repented and gave my life to Jesus as my Lord and Savior. So I was saved in September 2017, seven months AFTER I was baptized.

I left the New Age right after that. If my books and cards were self-published, I would've immediately pulled them off of the bookshelves. They have been licensed unfortunately to others and some of those publishers are not being cooperative and continue to sell them. There are also bootleg printers in India and China, which illegally print and sell the whole catalogue of cards from my former publisher, and nobody is being paid for those bogus heretical products. You can tell the bootleg products because they have a QR code on them, promising a booklet that doesn't exist.

Anyway, soon after salvation my husband and I moved and joined a biblically solid local church and I went to seminary to learn how to rightly divide God's Word. During my early sanctification period, it seemed like Christians online were insisting that I had to immediately be theologically sound. I felt rejected because I was still learning Christian theology. I was begging the Christian online community to please show me grace, because I was a senior citizen when I was saved out of a lifetime of New Age and metaphysical deception. I would make videos, saying: "If I'm doing anything unbiblical, please tell me to my face. Please don't gossip behind my back, I need your help!" And then I'd get nasty social media messages telling me how bad I was in my sinful past, implying that I could never be good enough.

Praise the Lord, finally some brave biblically solid online Christians started to befriend me. And to them I will always be grateful! Some of them even started to disciple me online and with phone calls. I was hungry to learn the biblical truth - I just needed someone to help me.

And one week ago on April 21, 2024, after the Holy Spirit convicted me and following discussion with my Baptist pastor, I got baptized! Some might say that I got rebaptized, but I realized that I was not yet saved when I got baptized the first time.

It goes without saying that we are not saved by baptism. I think most people know that baptism doesn't save us. Yet baptism is a commanded ordinance, that is to follow salvation as signifying our unity with Christ's death and resurrection.

My first baptism was profound, and so I can relate to Russell Brand saying that his baptism was profound. I pray that Russell is like I was, being called out of the new age, and that he will be discipled by a biblically solid man or group of men who will patiently share the Gospel with him and teach Russell why we must denounce new age beliefs and practices.

I've watched several of Russell's shows over the years, and it seemed that he was seeking the truth. That's how I was also, and I finally found the truth when I read the whole Bible. The truth is that Jesus is the way, the life, and the truth, and no one comes to the Father except through Jesus - John 14:6.

Right after my first baptism in 2017 (which my pastor explained, wasn't really baptism; It was just me getting dunked in water because I wasn't yet saved), I was still using cards in my videos, and I was trying to be woke and inclusive by saying that everyone goes to heaven, and then I would read the Bible in my videos. I was trying to blend Christianity with the new age, I was confused about theology, and I didn't want to offend anyone. A bad combination.

I remember being met with all kinds of hostility and scepticism publicly by the Christian community online. I was very confused and hurt by this reaction. The new agers were also rejecting and hating on me for becoming a Christian, and the Christian online community didn't seem to welcome me. I was in a nowhere land for a while.

The only Christian fraction that came to fellowship with me online, turned out to be hyper-charismatics. They were incredibly hospitable, and welcomed me into their prayer-soaking circles, and pointed me to their heroes, such as Smith Wigglesworth. See why it's important to disciple confused people coming out of the new age?

I was being discipled at my church, and started listening to discernment videos by Pastor Chris Rosebrough of Fighting for the Faith. From Pastor Rosebrough, I learned to compare what teachers were saying to what the Bible says.

His videos taught me things that I should've known obviously, like not to follow Joyce Meyer, who I'd been watching daily and sending monthly money to.

And even more embarrassingly, I'd followed the false prophetess, Jennifer LeClaire and was considering attending her "certified prophet" school so that I too could be a "Christian prophetess."

My continued Bible studies, seminary classes and Pastor Rosebrough's videos opened my eyes. I also joined an NAR-heresy discernment group on Facebook, where I was blessed to learn which false teachers to avoid through their posts and the group Admins' discipleship.

There have been a lot of celebrities who've claimed to be Christians, and they've been huge disappointments. Yet only God knows someone's heart. I was absolutely sincere when I got baptized in February 2017, but my theology was terrible and I didn't yet know that my new age cards were a sin.

Please pray for Russell Brand. It's wise to be sceptical, yet we need to also be hospitable and pray for his walk with Christ. And if he like me, got baptized while he was being called but not yet saved, he needs to hear the gospel. He probably needs the gospel explained to him like Ray Comfort does, so that Russell can understand why Jesus died, and how we are all sinners. I needed to comprehend the gravity of my sin before our holy God. Perhaps Russell needs this explained to him also.

Ultimately, salvation is a work of God's grace and mercy. We plant the seeds by sharing the gospel. And the rest is up to God.

I don't know whether or not Russell is saved. But I do know that I'm praying for him! I hope you will too. Please also pray that his fans are not influenced to use cards, since Russell is still using them. Please disciple Russell about the reason why God condemns divination.

This was a second post then by **DOREEN VIRTUE** –

'More thoughts about Russell Brand's baptism, with Chad Davidson of Good Fight Ministries – and this YouTube link was then given - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k0tN_RKYBk

THIS VIDEO IS A MUST SEE

Unlike **STEVE WITT**, I believe the approach taken by **DOREEN VIRTUE** and **CHAD DAVIDSON** is biblically sanctioned, unlike that glibly posited by **Steve Witt**.

With all the high-profile interest in **RUSSELL BRAND** I believe Christians should be praying much for him that he will come under the influence of sound, biblical teaching that will lead to him being clearly converted and saved.

My closing thought on **STEVE WITT** is summed up in the words of **Romans 16: 17**

"Now I beseech you brethren, MARK them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned and AVOID them."

