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Alice Cooper: "Christianity Is Not Worshipping the Church" - Shock Rocker's Return to Jesus

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"As far away as you could get"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

In a Virgin Radio UK interview clip shared on 1 November 2026, 78-year-old rock legend Alice Cooper has opened up about being raised a pastor's son, running "as far away as you could get", getting sober, and coming back to Christ. "Christianity is not worshipping the church," he says. "It's worshipping Jesus Christ. One-on-one relationship."

It is worth being precise about what is new here. Cooper did not convert this month. His return to faith and his sobriety happened years ago.

What is new is the November interview - a clip from Virgin Radio UK's "TFI Unplugged" - in which he says it all again in his own words, at 78.

He built a 50-year career on guillotines, boa constrictors and horror-movie makeup. He calls himself the prototypical prodigal son, and the label fits the story he tells: raised in a Christian household - his father was a pastor, all his friends "were Christian kids" - then drifting away through years of rock-and-roll excess and alcohol, and then the long walk home.

Alice Cooper Christian Faith: "One-on-One Relationship" With Jesus

The line that has travelled furthest from the interview is the one about the church.

"First of all, Christianity is not worshipping the church. It's worshipping Jesus Christ. One-on-one relationship. One-on-one, and that's where I am now. That's what you should be: one-on-one."

"Of course, you're going to fail, you know? But you have a Father going, 'I know. Let's try it again.' That's a great, great thing."

It is a definition of faith that will resonate with anyone who has ever sat in a pew and wondered whether the institution had become the point. Cooper is not dismissing the church - he is putting it in its place, behind the person of Jesus. The relationship, he insists, is direct, personal, and forgiving.

He is equally direct about what Christianity is not.

"I think people see Christians as, 'Oh, we all hate gays. And we all hate this, and we all hate that.' That's really not, at all, what Christianity is, at all. You don't hate anybody. You pray for them."

Alice Cooper Prodigal Son: Getting Sober And Finding His Way Back

The turning point, as Cooper tells it, was sobriety - and the question sobriety forced him to ask.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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