Testimony

16 November 2026 | English article

Pastor Says His Daughter Died on Her Naming Day Then Came Back to Life After His Wife Cried Life

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

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Life! Life! Life!"

(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

Pastor Seyi Odeyemi says his baby daughter died on the morning of her naming ceremony - and then came back to life after his wife repeatedly cried, "Life! Life! Life!" Odeyemi, Lead Pastor of Universal Christian Center in Nigeria, recounted the testimony publicly, and GistReel published his account on 15 November 2026. The daughter is alive today, more than seven years after the incident, according to the pastor.

It was supposed to be the happiest morning of the family's life. A naming ceremony in Nigerian Christian tradition is a joyful milestone - family gathered, food prepared, a new baby presented to the community with a name and a blessing. This was the couple's first naming ceremony, and on that morning, Pastor Odeyemi says, he and his wife were trying on outfits for the celebration when an urgent message called them to the baby's room.

They found his mother-in-law holding the child, after trying everything she could to revive her. The baby had, in the pastor's own words, "turned black. Our fair baby." His wife took the baby from her grandmother with one hand and repeatedly cried, "Life! Life! Life!"

"It didn't take long. The baby sneezed back to life. It has been over seven years now. She's still sneezing," Odeyemi said, in the account reported by GistReel. That one sentence - a baby sneezing back to life - is the whole story, and it is the sentence the family has carried for more than seven years.

Seyi Odeyemi Daughter Miracle: A Mother's Cry On The Naming Day

Odeyemi describes his wife's response as an act of faith. He says he believed the devil was waiting for her to break down in tears and accept that the child was gone. In his account, the tears would have been an acceptance - a surrender to the loss - and his wife refused to surrender.

He added that if his wife had started weeping, she would have accepted the child's death rather than standing firm in faith. Instead, she took the baby in one hand and shouted life over her, again and again, until - in his words - the baby sneezed back to life.

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?

READ THE FULL STORY

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