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Katt Williams Says He Is Not Religious but Roots His Self-Worth in God

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

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"The Diary of a CEO"

(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

Katt Williams says he is not religious, but he knows exactly where his self-worth lives - not in himself, but in the God he serves. The 55-year-old actor and comedian said it plainly in an interview on "The Diary of a CEO" with host Steven Bartlett, published on 9 November 2026 and reported by the Christian Post on 13 November. "I wasn't basing my self-worth on myself. I was putting all of that on the God that I serve," he said.

Behind that calm sentence sits a childhood most people would not survive intact. A boy tied to a pole in a basement for hours. Beaten weekly, at times until he lost consciousness in a bathtub before school. A thirteen-year-old running away from home to sleep on the streets of Miami. Williams does not tell the story for sympathy. He tells it because it explains the faith he built when the religion of his childhood broke apart.

Williams grew up in a home where his parents were practising Jehovah's Witnesses. Almost everything in the house was Bible-based. There were no holidays and no birthdays celebrated, and the rules were enforced with a severity that still shapes how he talks about those years. He says he was beaten weekly, at times until he lost consciousness in the bathtub before school. He does not soften the details.

Books became his escape. In a house where nearly every activity revolved around Scripture, reading was the one place his mind could go that nobody controlled. He has called books his "pressure valve" - the thing that kept him going when the enviroment around him felt impossible to breathe in. That love of reading never left him, and it shows in how he speaks now: a comedian who thinks in long, careful sentences.

At thirteen, he ran away. He ended up sleeping in the city of Miami, in parks and on streets, a child with nowhere to go and no one to call. It is the part of his story that usually gets told as a punchline in his comedy routines. In this interview, it lands differently - as the beginning of a long search for something solid to stand on, after the home that was supposed to protect him became the place he had to escape.

Katt Williams Faith: "I Ain't Religious, But I Know Who God Is To Me"

The line that will stay with most listeners is the simplest one. "I ain't religious, but I know who God is to me," Williams said. It is not a rejection of God. It is a rejection of the systems that claimed to speak for Him while hurting a child. Williams says he made a separation between religion and a relationship with God, and that separation is the centre of everything he believes now.

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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