News 18 November 2026 | English article

Kirk Cameron Says His Parents Kept Him Grounded as a Teenage Star Before Faith Found Him at 17

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

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Kirk Cameron on the Dark World of Child Actors - And How He Survived,"

(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

Kirk Cameron says his parents kept him grounded as a teenage star on Growing Pains - and that faith found him at 17, after years as an atheist who mocked belief in God. The actor told the story on Allie Beth Stuckey's Relatable podcast, in episode 1421, "Kirk Cameron on the Dark World of Child Actors - And How He Survived," released on 16 November 2026.

The conversation began with the question every former child star gets asked: how did you survive it? Cameron's answer was not about talent or luck. It was about his mother. "Fortunately for me, I had a very protective mom who loved me very much and took me to work every day and was there on the set," he said.

His family had not entered show business with plans to live off his success. His father taught mathematics and physical education, Cameron said, while his mother first imagined that a commercial might help put money aside for college. The money was never the point. And his parents had a line they would not cross: they would have taken him - and his sister, actress Candace Cameron Bure - out of the industry if they believed it was hurting them.

That is rarer than it sounds. In the episode, Cameron described a world where children can become the centre of an entire industry, with parents, agents, managers and directors depending on them for their livelihood rather than protecting them. His parents did the opposite. They protected the child and let the career take care of itself.

"I've had a north star by which I can navigate the challenges of life," Cameron said, looking back on the people and convictions that kept him steady. For years, though, that north star was not faith. He did not begin his teenage years looking for God at all.

Kirk Cameron Atheist To Christian: How Faith Found Him At 17

Cameron played Mike Seaver on Growing Pains, one of the biggest sitcoms of the 1980s, and he has been open about what he believed back then. "I did not have faith in God," he said. He considered himself an atheist during the show's run and mocked belief in God. He thought Jesus belonged with the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy and Santa Claus - a crutch for people who needed one, and he did not need one.

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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