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Wes Huff Admits Plagiarism, Calls It Sinful and Steps Back

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

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"My guilt at times has felt like it will swallow me whole,"

(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

Wes Huff admitted on Thursday 19 November that he extensively plagiarized the work of other scholars, called his conduct "wrong" and "sinful," apologized to the authors whose work he copied and to everyone who trusted his teaching, and stepped back from his ministry and church work. The Canadian apologist, 35, said he is submitting himself fully to Apologetics Canada's in-depth review and to any academic disciplinary process he will face.

For two years Huff had been one of the most visible defenders of the Bible in the English-speaking world - debating on The Joe Rogan Experience, explaining ancient manuscripts on Steven Bartlett's Diary of a CEO, building a YouTube audience of more than a million subscribers. Now the man who taught millions to trust the text says the words that built his platform were not all his own. "My guilt at times has felt like it will swallow me whole," he wrote.

"I have plagiarized the work of others. This was wrong, and it was sinful," Huff wrote in a lengthy statement posted to X. He went further than an apology for one paper, saying the patterns had affected far more of his work than he ever wanted to acknowledge - and admitting his first response had been defensive and dishonest.

Dan McClellan Video: How The Wes Huff Plagiarism Case Began

The allegations began on 8 November, when Dan McClellan, a Mormon biblical scholar, published an hour-long YouTube video comparing a paper Huff had posted to Academia.Edu in 2016 with a paper written six years earlier. Huff's paper, "Christological Claims: A Textual Consideration of John's Gospel," was written while he was studying at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto.

McClellan showed that it overlapped extensively with "Jesus as ????: A Textual Examination," a 2010 paper by Brian J. Wright, senior pastor of Redeemer Community Church in Pensacola, Florida - without citing him. More allegations followed fast, including viral footage showing Huff repeating someone else's sermon almost verbatim during his address at Liberty University's convocation earlier this year.

Other online critics posted further comparisons involving his YouTube presentations, including one from December 2025. What started as a question about one student paper had become a question about the whole body of work.

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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