



# New Apostolic Reformation evangelicals see Trump as God’s warrior in their battle to win America from satanic forces and Christianize it

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President-elect Donald Trump, joined by Melania Trump and Barron Trump, on Nov. 6, 2024, in West Palm Beach, Fla. AP Photo/Alex Brandon

**A growing movement believes President-elect Donald Trump is fighting a spiritual war against demonic forces within the United States. Trump himself stated in his acceptance speech on Nov. 6, 2024, that the reason that “God spared my life” was to “restore America to greatness.”**

I have [studied various religious movements](#) that seek to shape and control American society. One of these is the New Apostolic Reformation, or NAR, whose followers believe that they are waging a spiritual battle for control of the United States. NAR is an offshoot of Protestant Christian evangelicalism.

NAR advocates claim they receive divine guidance in reconstructing modern society based on Christian spiritual beliefs. In 2015, an estimated 3 million adult Americans attended churches that were openly part of NAR. Some scholars estimate that the number of [active NAR adherents may be larger](#), as the movement may include members of Protestant Christian churches that are not directly aligned with the NAR movement.

## The beginning of the movement

NAR emerged in the late 1990s when theologian C. Peter Wagner popularized the term “New Apostolic Reformation.” Wagner argued that God was [creating modern-day apostles and prophets](#) who would lead Christianity in remaking American society.

The [roots of the New Apostolic Reformation](#) can be traced to the broader charismatic movement that sees spiritual forces as an active part of everyday life.

This view does not separate sacred experience from regular everyday life. For the much larger [network of charismatic Christians](#) and Pentecostal movements that emphasize a personal relationship with God, the world is full of the active presence of the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts and direct divine experiences.

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## Core beliefs

Central to NAR is the belief that Christian religious leaders should be the main source of cultural and political authority in America.

NAR proponents argue that select leaders receive direct revelation from God, guiding the direction of churches and fighting spiritual warfare against demonic influences, which they believe corrupt the behavior of individuals and nations.

NAR advocates for a hierarchical structure in which religious leaders and their [political allies hold authority in society](#).

They believe in “[The Seven Mountains Mandate](#),” a way to represent Christian control of society through a strategy that Christians should infiltrate, influence and eventually control seven key areas in society – business, government, media, arts and entertainment, education, family and religion – to bring about [cultural transformation](#).

By doing so, NAR proponents believe they can establish a pure and true form of what they believe is a society ruled by divine guidance and strict adherence to biblical ideas.

[Lance Wallnau](#), a prominent Christian author, speaker, social media influencer and consultant associated with NAR, has promoted the idea that such engagement where NAR Christian leaders hold authority through a government tied to divine will is essential for advancing societal transformation.

Wallnau has been a [vocal supporter of Trump](#), viewing him as a significant figure in NAR’s vision.

## Spiritual warfare

Followers of the NAR believe that they must engage in [spiritual warfare](#), which includes prayers and actions aimed at combating perceived demonic influences in society.



Evangelist Lance Wallnau speaks during a September 2022 rally for Republican gubernatorial candidate Doug Mastriano in Chambersburg, Pa. Doug Kapustin/For The Washington Post via Getty Images

This practice often involves identifying “strongholds” of evil, around cultural issues, such as gay marriage, transgender rights and LGBTQ+ activism, and working to dismantle them. An example of this is a recent series of religious-based political rallies led by NAR leaders known as “The Courage Tour” that [advocated directly for Trump’s second election](#).

The NAR emphasizes that Christians should expect to see miraculous signs, where extraordinary events, such as [Trump’s survival of an assassination attempt](#), are interpreted to be explained only by divine or spiritual intervention.

The movement’s adherents also [believe in faith-based healing and supernatural experiences](#), such as prophetic utterances and speech.

## Trump as divinely ordained

Many NAR leaders and followers support Trump, viewing him as a divinely appointed figure who would facilitate NAR’s goals for societal reconstruction, believing he was [chosen by God to fulfill a prophetic destiny](#).

They position Trump as a warrior against a so-called demagogically controlled – and therefore corrupted – “deep state,” aligning with NAR’s emphasis on spiritual warfare and cultural dominion as outlined in the “Seven Mountains” mandate. NAR leaders followed Trump’s understanding of a corrupt government.

The NAR led a “[Million Women](#)” worship rally on Oct. 12, 2024, to Washington, D.C., in which the organizers sought to encourage 1 million women NAR adherents to come to pray, protest and support Trump’s campaign. The event was promoted as a “last stand moment” to save the nation by helping Trump [win the election as a champion against dark, satanic forces](#).

Several prominent politicians, legislators and members of the judiciary, such as [House Speaker Mike Johnson](#) and [Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito](#), have flown the NAR-based “Appeal to Heaven” flag.

For NAR evangelicals, the presidential election is interpreted through a Christian apocalyptic rhetoric. In this rhetoric one candidate is a force for good, a warrior for God – Trump – and the other is led by demonic forces such as Harris. Trump’s 2024 win is [seen as a critical moment of spiritual warfare](#) where the forces of God defeat the forces of evil.

## Criticism from many Christian denominations

Despite its growing popularity, NAR faces substantial criticism. Many mainstream Christian churches argue that the movement’s teachings deviate from traditional Christian orthodoxy.

Critics highlight abuse of authority by [people who claim God is directing their actions](#) and the potential for abuse of authority by those claiming apostolic roles. The embrace of Trump raises concerns about baptizing evangelical faith and political ambition.

Critics argue that the NAR’s support for Trump compromised the integrity of the gospel, prioritizing political power over spiritual integrity. The events surrounding the [Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol](#) further complicated this relationship, exposing the potential dangers of conflating religiousness with partisan politics.

Moreover, the NAR’s emphasis on spiritual warfare and the idea of taking control over society has raised other Christian groups’ concerns about its potential to foster an “us versus them” mentality, leading to [increased polarization within society](#).

The New Apostolic Reformation represents a significant development, blending charismatic practices with a strong emphasis on politics and cultural transformation.

However, a large majority of Americans disagree that society should be remade [based on religious theology](#). Thus, for now, the NAR movement’s fundamental views about religion and government are starkly at odds with most Americans.

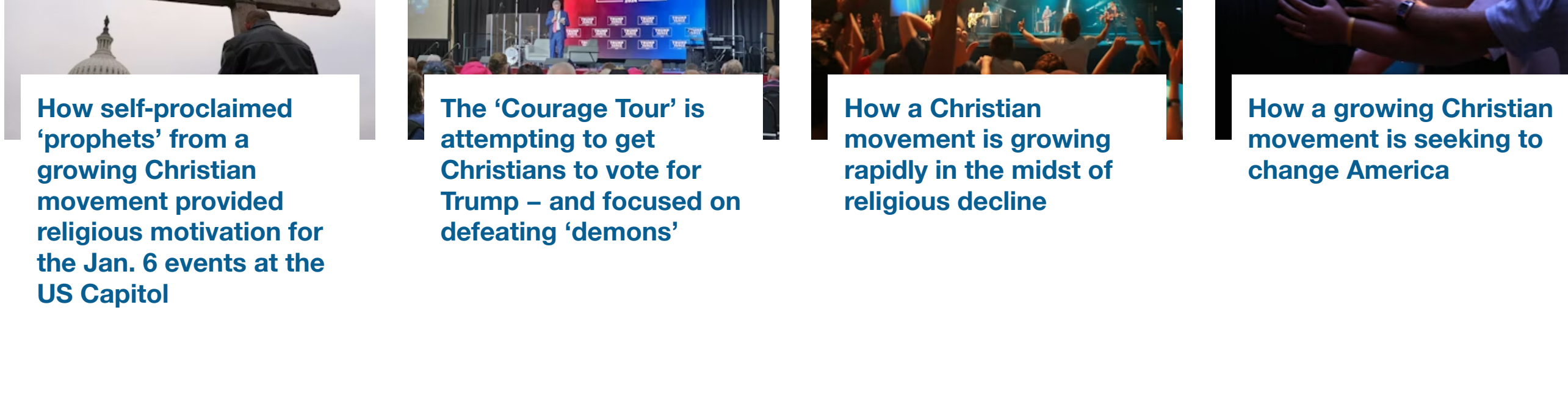
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