

# **Dangerous doctrinal trends that are growing in the Body of Christ.**

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The following is information I've researched in my quest to discern current trends that are growing in the American Christian church. I believe these doctrines are false and are misleading and are deceiving God's people, even the elect.

I've broken this into twenty-one (22) sections, each describing one or more false doctrines, along with quotes and references from those leaders who promote them.

For the past two years, the Lord has brought me to a "spiritual cave" in order to take me out of my past blindness and expose these deceptions for what they truly are – polluted streams.

It is my belief that these false doctrines and teachings must be not only purged from the church, but repented of, and those responsible for promoting them corrected and held accountable.

As I've had no training as a writer, in order to understand the formatting, let me explain. Quotes (both scripture and present-day "prophets") are in italicized fonts. Commentary on these teachings are cut and pasted from internet sites, books, sermons, along with my own observations in normal text. It would be impossible for me to put together a bibliography since the information was collected in note form over the past year.

### **1. New Breed, Latter Rain, Dominionism and Joel's army, Elitism**

#### The Latter Rain Movement

Most Pentecostal history books date the historic Pentecostal revival of the Latter Rain movement to 1948 and attribute its geographical origin to North Battleford, Canada. Its beginning was explosive among the Pentecostals and like a wild fire spread quickly throughout North America and many places around the world.

The movement was characterized by many healings and phenomena . . . There was an emphasis on spiritual gifts which were to be received by the laying on of hands. Leaders felt that God was giving the Church, in these last days, great insight into the mind of God by prophetic revelation and manifestations. With the outburst of the revival the ministry of an apostle and a prophet was elevated to the rank of an "office". "The ministries were not restricted to penetrating the mysteries within the Bible but included the unveiling of people's lives and heart." New revelations into the spiritual world emerged - communication with angels, divine visitations, and out-of-body experiences.

The Latter Rain Movement had a notorious reputation for imparting an assortment of strange teachings. The origin of these teachings, which have no thread of Scriptural foundation except where the Scriptures have been applied out of context, can be traced beyond any reasonable doubt to the occult. These teachings are invariably accompanied by what seems to be supernatural manifestations, which when examined, are characteristically descriptive of the occult. There is evidence that with the Latter Rain revival came a blaze of

subjective theology that centered on man, his senses, imagination and intuition above the objective and scriptural knowledge of truth.

This new emphasis started a shift. The initial paradigm, an orthodox perspective of Christ shifted or changed, and it caused Christians to be receptive to subjective impressions of Christ, experiences and ideas. To maintain the interest of followers, new ideas and new revelations were (and are) continually in the making.

Most people who have had any history in Pentecostalism at all, have been influenced at some time in their lives by the Latter Rain Movement. There have been many sincere people who felt they were part of the move of God for the Last Days and were earnestly partaking of the fruit that was offered. Since 1948 the Latter Rain influence has permeated the churches, Bible Colleges, evangelism and Christian television broadcasting networks. The overall magnitude of its influence makes it more difficult to warn of the inherent dangers that are involved.

As a result of the Latter Rain influence in the Christian Church two basic streams of thought exist side by side. Sometimes it is hard to distinguish the one from the other. Like the tares and wheat they have grown up together. Only through God's written Word can a true separation be discerned

There are many more names and new ways these streams are flowing together now. In spite of these erroneous teachings, many souls around the world have come to receive Jesus Christ as Savior. However, through these aberrant doctrines, many Christians have or are being swept into a form of religion that too often fits the description of the cults and occult.

*This New Breed is “an elite group of believers endowed with supernatural power that would enable them to be part of the army of “dread warriors” that God was said to be raising up in our generation .This is a type of “Joel’s Army” who will overcome all opposition to the gospel and eventually subdue the nations. This teaching is part of what is known as “dominion theology” which teaches that an elite army of “overcomers” will either destroy or subdue all the enemies of Christ until they eventually gain power and authority throughout the world. The government of the nations will be upon their shoulders and when all the secular authorities, governments, princes and kings have finally submitted to them, Christ will return and they will present the kingdom to him. (Prophecy Today, Vol. 7, No. 1)*

*“I believe we’re headed to an Elijah/Jezebel showdown on the Earth, not just in America but all over the globe, and the main warriors will be the prophets of Baal versus the prophets of God, and there will be no middle ground,” ...“There’s an Elijah generation that’s going to be the forerunners for the coming of Jesus, a generation marked not by their niceness but by the intensity of their passion,” ...”The kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force. Such force demands an equal response, and Jesus is going to make war on everything that hinders love, with his eyes blazing fire.” (Lou Engle, March (2008), at a “Passion for Jesus” conference in Kansas City sponsored by the International House of Prayer (IHOP))*

*“An end-time army has one common purpose – to aggressively take ground for the kingdom of God under the authority of Jesus Christ, the Dread Champion,” ... “The trumpet is sounding, calling on-fire, revolutionary believers to enlist in Joel’s Army. ... Many are now ready to be mobilized to establish and advance God’s kingdom on earth.” (Todd Bentley)*

*“Everyone born after abortion’s legalization can consider their birth a personal invitation to take part in this great army,” (John Crowder from his book “The New Mystics: How to Become Part of the Supernatural Generation.” This is a literal how-to guide for joining Joel’s Army and is sold in the IHOP bookstore.*

*“As the church begins to take on this resolve, they [Joel’s Army churches] will start to be thought of more as military bases, and they will begin to take on the characteristics of military bases for training, equipping, and deploying effective spiritual forces; In time, the church will actually be organized more as a military force with an army, navy, air force, etc.” (Rick Joyner “The Warrior Nation – The New Sound of the Church”)*

According to their teachings, the Church is going to conquer the world and is going to establish the kingdom of God on this earth. And when the Church is finished she is going to offer it to Christ, who is currently “held in the heavens” until the Church can accomplish this feat. The Bible clearly pictures the Church in the last days as a shrinking despised remnant of people, holding on until Jesus comes. Certainly there is nowhere in the New Testament a picture of this conquering triumphant Church except in the book of Revelation where we see her pictured as such when she returns with Christ – at the end of the Great Tribulation – to rule and reign with Him during His millennial kingdom.

This Joel’s Army concept totally contradicts the scriptures. Is this kind of earth changing, earth sweeping revival what Jesus meant when He said, “It will be as the days of Noah”? Noah obviously spent those years in which he was laboring to build the ark also laboring to turn men back to God, warning them of the judgment to come - but no one listened. They carried on with business as usual, “*marrying and giving in marriage*” and ignoring or scoffing at Noah’s warnings. In the end, only Noah and seven members of his family were saved in the ark. The world rejected God and His warnings given through Noah. Certainly scripture is clear, that not only the world, but also much of the Church will do the same in the last days!

### **THE TRUE ARMY**

This Joel’s Army is being mistaken for the wonderful, glorious Army that Joel is talking about. In Malachi the Word of God says, “*But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? . . .*” There is no flesh that will be able to stand in His Presence. This Army spoken of by the Prophet Joel is the true end-time army that will return at the Day of the LORD. It is when Christ returns with his Saints (His End-Time Army) at the end of the tribulation. (Joel 2:10-11; Zech. 14:5; Jude 14; Rev. 19:11-21; II Thess. 1:7-10). When our King of Kings sets His feet on the Mount of Olives. When Israel repents and is saved as a Nation in one day. When all the forces of hell are let loose at the battle of Armageddon. Thou “eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered the heart of man the things that God has prepared for them that love him.” This marvelous, terrible Day of the Lord will cause every other day in history to dim in comparison.

A close examination of this prophecy reveals that it is a description of the same army that is prophesied to come in Revelation 9:1-12:

*“The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle.” (Rev 9:7 NKJV)*

*“Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like swift steeds, so they run.” (Joel 2:4)*

*“And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.” (Rev 9:5 NKJV)*

*Before them the people writhe in pain; All faces are drained of color.” (Joel 2:6)*

*So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.” (Rev 9:2 “A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains.” (Joel 2:2 NKJV)*

*“They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.” (Rev 9:8 NKJV)*

*“For a nation has come up against My land, Strong, and without number; His teeth are the teeth of a lion, And he has the fangs of a fierce lion.” (Joel 1:6 NKJV)*

*!“And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.” (Rev 9:9 NKJV)*

*“With a noise like chariots Over mountaintops they leap, Like the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble, Like a strong people set in battle array.” (Joel 2:5 NKJV)*

There are a number of things in Joel's prophecy that make it clear that it is not an army of literal horsemen that is being described. Horses do not climb walls, nor climb up on rooftops, nor enter into windows like thieves. Joel is describing the same army of demons that John describes in Revelation chapter nine. Joel's army is an army of demons!

Then why would, or how could, the Latter Rain proponents see the Church in it? Simply because there is no picture of a mighty conquering Church in the New Testament such as they describe - at least, not until after the Second Coming of our Lord. Thus they are forced to resort to misappropriating and misapplying many of the Old Testament prophecies to create one.

The Latter Rain proponents have had to resort to what is called “Replacement Theology” in order to paint their triumphant picture of the last-days church. Replacement Theology teaches that the church has become spiritual Israel, replacing national Israel in God's plan. Therefore, all of the prophecies that pertain to national Israel in the Old Testament now apply to the Church. These prophecies are “allegorized” or “spiritualized” so that the literal meaning is no longer their primary meaning. They now apply to the Church— and therefore and thereby an army of demons becomes the triumphant Church of the last days.

**Let us examine this teaching further:**

This “new doctrine” which is ablaze in the Church today actually dates back to the 2nd century A.D. It is once again raising its deceitful head. This “new doctrine” is coming in the guise of several other names such as: The Melchizedek Order, New Apostles and Prophets, The New Thing and The Third Wave. Basically, this age-old doctrine has undergirded the cults ever since the inception of the Church. The essence of the philosophy of “elitism” is combined with religion, politics and secularism. History proves that it engenders a form of inspiration that leads to cruel domination, discrimination, anti-Semitism, persecution and bitter wars. the "elitism" concept. This is set out as follows:

*God is forming an overcoming company within the body of Christ called, among other names, "The Manchild Company", etc. (Revelation 12:5). The Manchild is the true church. Those that are the real Christians are the Overcomers (Revelation 2 & 3) and are becoming more and more perfected so that they will be able to drive Satan from the world. This must be done before Jesus can return. "I have called the best of every blood line in earth unto this generation . . . I have elected to bring them forth in this generation . . . the ELECT GENERATION. (Bob Jones)*

*. . . There is a ministry after the five-fold called the ministry of perfection - the Melchisedek Priesthood . . . your children will be moving into the ministries of Perfection . . . coming into that Divine Nature of Jesus Christ . . . they themselves will be that generation that's raised up to put death itself underneath their feet . . . because the Lord Jesus is worthy to be lifted up by a church that has reached the full maturity of the GOD-MAN! (Bob Jones)*

They believe that the church is not ready for the coming of the Lord. They are not looking for His imminent coming. They believe that Christ must come TO His Church before He comes FOR His Church. This spiritual elite, these spiritual “green berets” have been battling territorial spirits for years now to no avail.

The “prophets” make bold boasts that the New Breed of leaders, i.e. the “New Breed of Apostles and Prophets” will perfect the “New Breed of People” and usher in the “New Order” of government on the earth. The question we need to ask is: “What is the source of reference for their claims?” It is certainly not in the pages of Scripture, nor can it be found in the literal interpretation of the Scriptures. There is evidence that with the Latter Rain revival came a blaze of subjective theology that centered on man, his senses, imagination and intuition above the objective and scriptural knowledge of truth.

I find it quite disturbing that when the Word of God pictures the Church as a believing remnant of people with a “little strength” that a spiritual elite is arising within the Church promising victory and triumph instead. What’s most disturbing is the failure of so many “spirit-filled” Christians to discern the truth about this. Instead, they have swallowed the lie of dominion and earthly victory as they follow the lead of this spiritual elite – from “strategic level spiritual warfare” into immortalization and deification as “Joel’s army”. This is the promise of the super apostles and prophets of today. Those who are going to lead Joel’s army – the manifest sons of God, to earthly glory, defeating Satan and his army and establishing the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. This is the ultimate delusion of grandeur”!

*“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”*  
**(2 Th 2:9-12 NKJV)**

Dominionism teaches: The Gospel of Salvation is achieved by setting up the “Kingdom of God” as a *literal and physical kingdom* to be “advanced” on Earth in the present age. Some dominionists liken the New Testament Kingdom to the Old Testament Israel in ways that justify taking up the sword, or other methods of punitive judgment, to war against enemies of their kingdom. Dominionists teach that men can be coerced or compelled to enter the kingdom. They assign to the Church duties and rights that belong Scripturally only to Jesus Christ. This includes the esoteric belief that believers can “incarnate” Christ and function as His body on Earth to establish His kingdom rule. An inordinate emphasis is placed on man’s efforts; the doctrine of the sovereignty of God is diminished.

### **The 3 sects of evangelical Dominionism**

- 1. SPIRITUAL WARFARE PRAYER** movement: The Kingdom of God must be advanced on Earth through hyper-spiritual “warfare” activities against the devil. A veritable supermarket of verbal and physical prayer techniques such as chanting, walks, and marches are employed in this effort. Believers are told their prayer power creates spiritual “canopies” over regions, preparing the way for “revival.” In this sense, prayer warfare is seen as preparatory work so that the other two movements can build the kingdom. Recently the contemplative prayer movement – which includes meditation, fasting, and labyrinths – has been brought into the spiritual warfare prayer “arsenal.” Prayer serves as a convenient decoy for covert operations. All three sects are utilizing massive statistical data banking resources (e.g., the World Prayer Center in Colorado Springs) and sophisticated psycho-social group manipulations to forge kingdom “transformation.” One key leader of this sect is Cindy Jacobs, who is closely associated with C. Peter Wagner.
- 2. MISSION AS TRANSFORMATION** movement: The words “revival,” “reformation” and “transformation” now carry embedded dominionists connotations. “Fulfilling the Great Commission” (Matthew 28:18-20) no longer means spreading the Gospel message by speaking the Word of salvation from the Bible. The dominionists focus is placed upon the phrase making disciples, with an incorrect exegesis that is disconcertingly compulsory. Traditional mission evangelism, done one-on-one using the Bible, is being replaced with a slew of “kingdom building” corporate activities for cities, regions and nations. The disingenuous phrase “bless the nations” is often used to conceal Dominionism.
- 3. PATRIOTIC AMERICAN** movement: Patriotic dominionists, most of whom are not Reconstructionists, teach that political action will advance the kingdom of God in America. Using the vehicle of Christian media, they have taught evangelicals for the past three decades that America is a Christian nation and needs to return to its roots. Almost every evangelical in the pew has been influenced in one way or

another by this sect. Patriotic dominionist leaders and their organizations have been closely interlocked financially and politically with the conservatives from the political Right. The secular conservatives purport to uphold morality, which appeals to evangelicals. The combined force of conservatives and evangelicals flexes its political muscles in Washington.

Militant rhetoric. There is a notable increase in the stridency and urgency of “strategic level” prayer warfare rhetoric which is linked to global “transformation” (Dominionism). False prophets regularly pump out new “prophecies” and “decrees” to shore up the kingdom mandate. These “prophecies” function like oracles – they are a major avenue for communicating “God’s plan” for the next step in kingdom-building. False apostles have been anointed, appointed as leaders of regions around the globe, and charged with wielding the king’s authority. The doctrines of the New Apostolic Reformation have been promulgated throughout the mission movement by C. Peter Wagner, Cindy Jacobs, Chuck Pierce, Bill Hamon and many others. At the highest echelons these organizations all have interlocking boards of directors. Two noteworthy internal organs for disseminating false prophecies and new doctrines include The Elijah List and Joel News.

## **2. Super Apostles and Prophets (NAR National Apostolic Reformation)**

At the top of the spiritual elite is the National Apostolic Reformation (NAR). Through them, we are hearing more and more about the need to raise up Apostles and Prophets in these last days to edify the Body and bring it to fullness and unity. These end times Apostles and Prophets are far from simple church leaders as we used to understand the meaning of the word. They are seeking the authority to act as Christ Himself in dominion over the Body.

One of the central new teachings of the Latter Rain Movement, of the 40’s and 50’s, was the so-called restoration of Apostles and Prophets to the overcoming End time Church. This restoration teaching percolated on the back burners of the Charismatic Renewal for years. But, it was never promoted heavily and no one attempted to systematically implement it on a worldwide scale. Into this vacuum, G. Peter Wagner has evolved as a central personality. He has given organizational and promoting impetus to this so-called restoration and taken bold steps to implement apostolic restoration to a wider Global Church. Wagner is positioned to have a greater influence than many other promoters of apostolic restoration.

I do believe God is restoring the ministry of the apostle. I just don’t think it’s the way Wagner and his group is saying. They are not “appointed”, they are recognized by the church because of the relationship/friendship/fathering input into churches. A key text is Eph. 4:11-13 which implies that the Ephesians 4 trans-local ministries are essential to the maturing of the church.

The role, function and ministry of the apostle has been rejected, or misunderstood, or ignored for a long time now. God is restoring a Biblical understanding and function in these days, I believe. But they will not be “Super Apostles”, just humble men of God who have been broken and who are faithful! There also should at some point be true signs

and wonders that will follow their preaching and ministry. That's why its so important to recognize the false!

Although Peter Wagner and his apostolic friends (Dutch Sheets and Chuck Pierce) are generally unknown to rank and file pastors and church leaders, they, never the less, are boldly proclaiming their authority in the church. They apparently feel that they are now "positioned" to make authoritative "apostolic declarations" to the wider church. Wagner recently posted, on his Website, an "Open Memorandum Addressing the Twin Towers War."

In the memorandum, dated September 14th from C. Peter Wagner, presiding apostle of the International Coalition of Apostles, he made the following statement: "This is the time for apostolic declarations. The church is in a position now, characterized by active and accepted roles of Apostles and Prophets and Intercessors that is has not experienced in 1800 years." Wagner then quoted Prophet Rick Joyner: "What seemed to so many to be an impossible task of restoring Apostolic Christianity to the earth is about to become a reality."

With such over-reaching optimism, it is not surprising that Peter Wagner and friends have planned to implement their dream.

#### **The New Apostolic Roundtable:**

Wagner is linked with Twenty-five other Apostles who have been invited to form an international leadership of Apostles. These roles are by invitation only.

#### **Apostles to the Cities:**

In Wagner's book, "Apostles of the City: How to mobilize Territorial Apostles for City Transformation," he calls for each major city to elevate a cadre of Apostles to leadership. Mobilize the army of God to receive the great transfer of wealth from the unrighteous to the godly for the purpose of advancing God's kingdom, reforming society and regaining rightful dominion of God's creation.

Mike Bickle and Lou Engle speak of the church at large accepting these Apostles and Prophets and have added the Nazarite office. They said at the 2008 Onething that 16,000 Nazarites were coming forth. So their plan seems to be to turn the young people into Nazarites with vows and all. Where do they see that in the NT Bible?

Traditional Christianity teaches: The Gospel of Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ and His shed blood on the cross. The emphasis is placed upon repentance and conversion of individual souls. The Kingdom of God in this age is *spiritual* and grows through efforts of evangelism based on teaching the Bible. It is "not of this world" (John 18:36), but a spiritual rule in the hearts of men (Luke 17:20-21). Furthermore, the Kingdom of God is only finally realized upon Christ's second return to Earth, whereby He Himself establishes His literal and physical reign.

The evangelism mandate by Word and Spirit.

Christ never intended that His gospel should be propagated by fire and sword or His righteousness wrought by the wrath of man. When the high praises of God are in our mouth with them we should have an olive-branch of peace in our hands. Christ's victories are by the power of His gospel and grace over spiritual enemies, in which all

believers are more than conquerors. The word of God is the two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12), the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17).

### **3. Gnosticism**

Gnosticism is an esoteric religious movement that flourished during the second and third century A.D. and presented a major challenge to orthodox Christianity. Most Gnostic sects professed Christianity but their beliefs sharply diverged from those of Christianity in the early Church. To its adherents, Gnosticism promised a secret knowledge of the divine realm.

The definition of Gnosticism is "a system of religion mixed with Greek and Oriental philosophy (1st-6th century A.D.), intermediate between Christianity and paganism, which taught that knowledge, rather than faith, was the greatest good, and that through knowledge alone could salvation be attained. Basically what is being said here implies that man's redemption and justification is not by faith in God according to the Scriptures, but rather in "mystical knowledge" acquired by a personal experience. Gnosticism was already manifest in John's day. It was called "the doctrines of the depths of God", while in fact it was really the doctrine of the depths of Satan (Revelation 2:24). It boils down to the fact that in Gnosticism man's redemption and justification is not by faith in God according to the Scriptures, but rather in "mystical knowledge" acquired by personal experience.

"A 'Christian Gnostic' is easily identified by his show of piety and especially by his air of humility. The more mystic he appears or sounds, the more spiritual he feels. He takes great pleasure in believing he has attained to a high spiritual level and sees himself as being a member of a special breed of people." Fundamental orthodoxy has been exchanged for a new theological thought. We are being told to learn of God by experience, through the experience, we gain our knowledge of him.

Ever since the inception of the Church, Gnosticism has been the arch enemy. Now, in these last days, it is proving to be one of the most formidable threats to the Church, to the Christian faith and to the written Word of God.

Because a Christian ignorantly happens to hold to some Gnostic views does not necessarily mean he is a Gnostic or that he is not a Christian. However, it does mean he is in serious error and, in certain respects, alien to the simplicity of the Gospel of Jesus. Gnostic views conflict with the sound doctrines of the Bible and for that reason always influence a Christian against the written Word of God.

Why Such an Outcry?

The question may be asked, "Why such an outcry against shades of Gnostic thought in the Gospel presentation? Doesn't the adage, 'unity in diversity' apply in this case? Shouldn't we as Christians show tolerance towards Christians who don't quite believe as we do? Is it not true that within Christianity there should be room for diversity of thought and belief? After all is said and done, is not love the unifying bond over the

doctrines that often prove so divisive? The answer to these questions is two-fold. Yes, within Christianity there is ample room for diversity and tolerance. However, there are limits to creative diversity. When a concept, a teaching or an action in the name of Christianity exceeds the basic tenets of faith, or is utterly different from the "faith which was once delivered to the saints", it becomes a contradiction of Christianity. When that level of contradiction is reached, the church, as well as the advocates of the Word of God, must aggressively contend for the faith. The defense of the "most holy faith" is one of the greatest functions of the Church, without which the Church loses the truth that distinguishes her from error. EXCEPT THE CHURCH EARNESTLY CONTENTS FOR THE FAITH, SHE FORFEITS HER RIGHT TO BE THE VEHICLE OF GOD'S TRUTH.

The worst moments in the history of Israel came when Israel was seduced by false prophets to follow after gods of their own making. It was for this very reason that Jesus rebuked the Pharisees as the enemies of God. Jesus warned His disciples against the religion of the Pharisees. "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees" (which is hypocrisy). The Pharisees claimed to embody the essence of the faith, Jesus called them "hypocrites".

Teachings and practices that are wholly different from the Gospel of Jesus Christ must be opposed, even if they come from within the Body of Christ. Gnosticism plagued the early church. In fact, some of the Paul's and John's epistles were written to address the Gnosticism that was edging its way into the Gospel of Christ. In the writings of the early Church Fathers, Gnosticism was addressed and condemned in the strongest terms. It was on account of Gnosticism that the early church found it necessary to draft the "Apostolic Creed" and form the "Canonicity of Scripture". A study of Church History will show that within the church there has always been the temptation to accommodate Gnostic thought. As in the past, and more so now, it poses a persistent danger to the biblical faith.

#### **4. Mysticism**

*Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia* defines "mysticism" as "an immediate, direct, intuitive knowledge of God or of ultimate reality attained through personal religious experience". Experiences are being set up as the criteria for truth. The danger lies in that when experience is the basis for faith instead of the Word of God, erroneous theological ideas arise. This gives way for a deviance from the Word of God.

I believe that instead of the attention being drawn to the cross of Christ, it is being directed to supernatural experiences which have become the basis of faith.

"The mystical "spirituality" that is so popular in evangelical and charismatic circles today is a yearning for an experiential relationship with God that downplays the role of faith and Scripture and that exalts "transcendental" experiences that lift the individual from the earthly mundane into a higher "spiritual" plane. Biblical prayer is talking with God; mystical spirituality prayer is meditation and "centering" and other such things. Biblical Christianity is a patient walk of faith; mystical spirituality is more a flight of fancy. Biblical study is analyzing and meditating upon the literal truth of the Scripture; mystical spirituality focuses on a "deeper meaning"; it is more allegorical and "transcendental" than literal."

## **Signs and Entry Points to Mysticism:**

- The cross of Christ is not the sole basis for redemption.
- The Holy Scriptures are not the complete single revelation of God to man.
- Experience is the way to perfection and knowledge.
- Experience takes the precedence over the Scriptures.
- Intuition is given preference to Scripture and sometimes a substitute for the Holy Spirit.
- Faith in the Word of God is defected to faith in the Church, man, self, experience, etc.
- Mediators other than Jesus Christ are acknowledged and believed on.
- Self is deified.
- The presence of God is sought in a mystical sense.
- Experiences are sought rather than God's will and His righteousness.
- A euphoric form of love and unity with little or no regard for Scripture or sound doctrine.
- Like Simon the sorcerer, signs and wonders are sought instead of true repentance and a right heart before God.
- The obsession of "spiritual warfare" with a Gnostic and "New Age" slant - allegedly doing battle in the supernatural realm to free cities and areas from the control of spirit beings before the Gospel can be preached effectively or have power to save sinners in the natural world.

## **5. Contemplative Spirituality:**

This is a belief system that uses ancient mystical practices to induce altered states of consciousness (the silence) and is rooted in mysticism and the occult but now often wrapped in Christian terminology. The premise of contemplative spirituality is pantheistic (God is all) and panentheistic (God is in all). Common terms used for this movement are "spiritual formation," "the silence," "the stillness," "ancient-wisdom," "spiritual disciplines," and many others.

## **6. Contemplative Prayer**

There is a prayer practice that is becoming popular within the evangelical church. It is primarily known as Contemplative Prayer. It is also known as centering prayer, listening prayer, breath prayer, and prayer of the heart. The practice is now widely embraced and taught in secular and professed Christian seminaries, colleges, universities, organizations, ministries and seminars throughout the United States. Academic promoters have introduced these practices into the fields of medicine; business and law while countless secular and Christian books, magazines, seminars, and retreats are teaching lay people how to incorporate them into their daily lives. Promoters promise physical, mental and spiritual benefits desiring to bring about positive social change.

The essential function of contemplative prayer is to enter an altered state of consciousness in order to find one's true self, thus striving to find God. Proponents of

contemplative prayer teach that all human beings have a divine center and that all, not just born again believers, should practice contemplative prayer. To achieve the state of emptiness, one uses a "mantra," a word repeated over and over to focus the mind while striving to go deep within oneself. The effects are a hypnotic-like state: concentration upon one thing, disengagement from other stimuli, a high degree of openness to suggestion, a psychological and physiological condition that externally resembles sleep but in which consciousness is interiorized and the mind subject to suggestion.

Contemplative prayer claims for itself the experience of God, while setting aside external realities and overcoming the "otherness" of God. It takes these characteristics not from Christian tradition but from Hinduism, through the medium of Transcendental Meditation. The practice of TM is Hinduism adapted by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, a Hindu guru, for use in a Western cultural setting. Fr. Pennington, one of the authors of centering prayer and an ardent supporter of TM, says, "*Mahesh Yogi, employing the terminology of the ancient Vedic tradition, speaks of this 'to plunge into deep, deep rest for fifteen or twenty minutes twice a day' as experiencing the Absolute.*" The prayer technique may also incorporate the Buddhist Zen practice of Zazen, or sitting meditation, which involves the detached observation of the thoughts.

Paul writes in scripture, "*So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.*" (I Corinthians 14:15 NIV). He does not say that he will pray with the spirit and clear the mind, but with the spirit and the mind. Clearing ones mind as to be vacant, and trusting God to fill it with whatever He desires, not only has no biblical grounding but also is an open invitation to spiritual invasion of unfriendly familiars. Buddhists call this state Nirvana or Satori, the New Age calls it "at-one-ness", and Christian mystics perceive they have experienced some kind of ecstatic union with God.

"Mike Bickle, director of the International House of Prayer claims that God is restoring contemplative prayer to the church. He goes on to claim that contemplative prayer is a God ordained means of entering into the fullness of God, and that the brightest lights in church history have been Roman Catholic mystics who lived during the dark ages. He went on to say the western church had much to learn from these mystics ... [ Mike Bickle states]: 'Everybody is called to live in the contemplative lifestyle. Everyone! Everyone! Everyone! That's one of the great strongholds we have to overcome resistance to contemplative prayer.'" "The Protestant wing of the western church, which is a tiny percentage of the Body of Christ..., is nearly completely (98%) unaware that the Holy Spirit is restoring contemplative prayer—center stage—to the church... The Holy Spirit is restoring this *precious jewel* (contemplative prayer) to the body of Christ. This is the God ordained means of attaining the fullness of God." *audio message Contemplative Prayer pt1 by Mike Bickle*

He quotes from the contemplatives (his word for mystics) and announces that he will be teaching from the *Sacred Pathways* (which promotes the carrying of symbols or icons, choosing a mantra and visualizing God). Each one of these things is contradictory to the Word of God, which forbids imagery and vain repetitions in prayer.

He insists we need to study the lives and writings of the Roman Catholic mystics, and because the bookstore chain of Barnes and Nobles has carried so many books in this regard, he says (in all earnestness) that B & N is prophesying to the church that we need

the mystics, and he wants to know why the church isn't picking up on the fact that God is calling the entire Body of Christ to live lifestyles of contemplative prayer?

Mike Bickle says the *most inspiring light* in all of Christianity came from the Roman Catholic mystics during the dark ages.

**These are all quotes from Bickle on the mystics:**

*“mystics is a legitimate term... I don't want to fight the war...so I'm just saying contemplative prayer, but I mean the mystics—even here at IHOP I say, lets just stay with contemplatives ...I don't have time to argue... so I call them the contemplatives.... I don't want to go into the semantics, the debates...so, I'm calling it the contemplatives... I don't have time to argue... but I need the mystics.”*

*“They are Some of the brightest lights in all of history... there has been the brightest lights in all history for men and women of abandonment in the dark ages... somewhere we have to say the dark ages were the luminaries in the grace of God...they were Catholic priests.”*

*“...a study of the lives of the mystics, the contemplatives, through history, and clearly the most inspiring, compelling examples of history, in my world, have come out of the Catholic dark ages. I can't find anything like it in modern times, in America, in the protestant world.”*

*“...we need a little Holy Spirit catalytic jump start. We need to see where a few have gone before us, and say if they did we can, and we can go further... and if you're going to go deep into that well, I'm sad to say, the vast majority of them are going to have Catholic roots in history.”*

The writings of Father Thomas Keating (the modern day father of contemplative prayer) are also promoted at IHOP. Mike Bickle says he is an example for us of “*a way to a deeper life in God.*” He went on to say, “*The protestant world is in great need of examples like these that will beckon us to the fullness of God.*” - **audio message Contemplative Prayer pt1 by Mike Bickle**

So essentially, what I believe Mike Bickle is telling the Body of Christ is that we are woefully deficient in having lost God's fullness and need to look to New Age Eastern philosophy and to Roman Catholic mystics as examples in how to restore it!

And his advice to questioning, spiritually languishing, and anguishing souls (who didn't know their real problem was that they wanted more of God—until he told them so) is this, “*Don't evaluate yourself, don't evaluate others. Just keep going after it.*” - **audio message Contemplative Prayer pt1 by Mike Bickle**

In plain language that means don't read or listen to anything discerningly or analytically. Don't question anything or anybody—not even yourself (except evangelicals of course). Just go with what feels right.

There is such a thing as meditation in Scripture. It means literally “to mutter”, or to repeat truth over and over to yourself. But its focus is the Word of God, not some abstract, ethereal, nothingness.

**From IHOP’s web-site:** The Bethany Room is designated for the critically and terminally ill. The same healing model is used in the Bethany Room except that contemplative prayer is used during the prayer time. Contemplative prayer is silent prayer communing with the Holy Spirit who dwells inside of believers in Jesus. This style of prayer provides a peaceful and restful atmosphere while those ministering cry out to the Lord in silence for healing.

## **7. Tapping back into Roman Catholicism**

Many in the church are recommending reading Roman Catholic Mystics. I believe that the Catholic mystics were sincere men and women who loved the Lord. However, I also believe that they were deceived. It can be seen in the connection which they made between suffering and intimacy with God. They give a distorted picture of the nature and character of God.

Catholics are not the only mystics. There are also Hindu mystics, Buddhist mystics, and Muslim mystics. Therefore, mystical experiences do not necessarily indicate that a person has encountered the God of the Bible. They do not even indicate that a person is a Christian. Thomas Merton was an influential monk. He taught that every form of mystical experience is valid, no matter what its source. He praised Hinduism and Buddhism.

More and more traditionally evangelical congregations are now experimenting with advent candles, sampling practices associated with Lent, and marking Holy Week with special services like Tenebrae—an evening service featuring songs, readings, and the gradual extinguishing of lights to represent Christ's death. The trend has extended to retreats at Catholic monasteries, recovery of Celtic spirituality, and observance of the divine hours. Not surprisingly (given the biblical focus of evangelicals), the slow, meditative monastic prayer technique called the *lectio divina* has captivated many.

Catholic mysticism's outright invasion of Evangelicalism and its commandeering of New Age verbiage and paraphernalia, should cause serious individuals to examine carefully the foundation upon which his or her hopes are built. Mystics have not scrupled openly to equate the true God with "the god" within. They have thought to divest themselves of God Himself by turning to inward self-realization and enlightenment. Rather, the values that they set are based on personal inner feelings that are often incapable of reasoned explanation. The Gospel is the exact opposite, the historical message of the Cross of Christ for a lost world. The Gospel proclaims Christ Himself, and the God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who in His love gave His Son to die for sinners. This is the “Good News” the foundation of the Christian faith.

True believers in Christ must take to heart solemn warnings of the Apostle Paul, *"Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? ... be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the*

*unclean thing; and I will receive you." "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."*

*(Catholic priests were onstage at "the Call" in San Diego)*

### **Rick Joyner, knighted by The Knights Of Malta:**

The Knights of Malta, has its headquarters in the Vatican of Rome and is clearly controlled and operated by the Catholic church. Their official website gives their name as the "Sovereign Military Order Of Malta." They state of themselves that this "is a lay religious order of the Catholic church." It was founded in Jerusalem in 1099 and it was approved formally as an order by the Pope in 1113.

They also say of themselves, "The Order of Malta was admitted to the United Nations as a permanent observer on August 24, 1994." They also claim "official diplomatic relations with over eighty states and international organizations." The Order of Malta is clearly a Catholic order, controlled by the Pope and totally committed to the Pope, the Virgin Mary, and service to Roman Catholic ideas and causes. It is a powerful and massive organization.

This begs for the question Why is Rick Joyner, Mike Bickle and Lou Engle embracing the mixture? Is not Catholicism a false gospel and a great deception? How far will we take a stand on these issues?

## **8. Bridal Paradigm**

CBN news reported "Some 20,000 mostly young people packed the Kansas City Convention Center on New Year's Eve for a wedding ceremony unlike any other... as each person who came embarked on a marriage covenant with the Bridegroom of Heaven... From noon until midnight they danced and sang, fasted and prayed, and got ready to get married to Jesus. One by one, thousands of men and women, young and old, made their vows and walked under the prayer shawl symbolizing their commitment to Jesus." Why would we be creating a marriage ceremony to Jesus ahead of time by our own effort? It reminded me of the catholic nuns in my family who said they were married to Jesus and even wore a wedding ring.

This marriage ceremony also took place at Lou Engle's, "The Call" .

While it is true that the metaphor of the bride is used for the church as a whole, this same metaphor is never used for the individual believer. It is the entire church that is the "Bride of Christ". Each believer is a part of the bride as a group, but is not the complete bride themselves.

The concept of a "mystical marriage" was promoted by Roman Catholic Teresa of Avila who through this experienced "spiritual ecstasy" which was defined as "divine intimacy." Not coincidentally, many elements of Catholic Mysticism have been incorporated into the beliefs of those espousing the Bridal Paradigm today.

The Bridal Paradigm becomes the grid through which all Scripture is interpreted and through which all spiritual activity is engaged. Thus we have teachings like Bridal Intercession, the Global Bridegroom fast, the cross in the bridal paradigm etc.

All of the scripture is seen as the relentless pursuit of the heavenly lovesick groom for the bride of His hearts desire. This message truly stands the gospel on its ear. No longer is the emphasis on a God who is working for His own glory and displaying His majesty in redeeming a lost and unworthy humanity. Now the story of redemption is on God seeking a suitable mate for His Son with the cross being the dowry.

This teaching, while drawing upon a legitimate metaphor and the language of Scripture, pushes the metaphor beyond the boundaries of its proper understanding leading to an improper and unbiblical picture of God and His relationship to the Church.

The first problem is the emphasis on the metaphor of the Bride to the exclusion of all other images used to describe the Church. Yes, the church is the Bride of Christ, but that is not all that is said of the Church. The Church is also called the Body (1 Cor. 12), the children of God (Eph 3:14, 1 Jn 3 and others), an olive tree (Rom. 11), a field (1 Cor. 3:6-9), a temple (1 Pet. 2:5), a royal priesthood (1 Pet. 2:9), a holy nation (1 Pet. 2:9), God's house (Heb. 3:6), the flock of God (1 Pet. 5:2), and an inheritance (Eph. 1:18). And this is just for starters!! Consulting any good systematic theology book will yield a veritable host of metaphors, titles and images of the church.

Therefore right from the beginning we should understand that any teaching that focuses almost exclusively upon one metaphor is necessarily out of balance. Each of these titles is meant to teach us some important truth concerning the people of God.. This teaching is out of balance. This imbalance is a prime source of doctrinal error.

A second issue is that the statement is a metaphor. It is not a literal statement. The metaphor is meant to teach us the truth about God's love and commitment to us and our need for holiness and submission and yes, love for Him and a number of other things. But it is not meant to be literalized and physicalized (If that's not a word, it should be.) This third issue brings a host of problems into play. It should be noted that, as with teachings on Contemplative Prayer, the source of much of this teaching is Roman Catholic mysticism.

Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross and Madam Guyon, along with many others, have provided the foundation for this thought. This, in and of itself, should be a problem. Why would we go to those whose overall understanding of God is so poor expecting to find truth? Why would we draw from the polluted well of Roman Catholic mysticism hoping to find pure water? I have been told that it is because of their passion and certainly these authors can write passionately about God, but they can and did write just as passionately about the Virgin Mary! And many of the "passionate" statements written by these mystics are squarely unbiblical. The fruit of this has been sensual worship.

## **9. Sensual worship:**

It is not uncommon for those at IHOP to speak of being ravished by Jesus. This goes on much further than what could be deemed appropriate. Here's another quote from some required reading for students at IHOP: *"She lifted her arms wide to the Lord and said with all of her strength and her love, 'Enjoy me. Right here, right now, in my absolute weakness, enjoy me.'"*

Heather Clark:

I want to be laid down lover,  
I want to be laid down lover,  
I want to be laid down lover, here with you;

I want to be laid down lover,  
I want to be laid down lover,  
I want to be laid down lover, filled with you; filled with you;

I want to be laid down lover,  
I want to be laid down lover,  
I want to be laid down lover, filled with you; filled with you;

And another one:

"O Gaze Eternal,  
How penetrating are Your Fires  
Rushing through my darkest places  
With the burning streams of Desire  
Leaving me naked, purged and bare  
... Yet embraced...  
You take hold of my weakest places  
And kiss them with Your mercy  
Lifting up my low grounds  
With your mighty love so holy..."

## **10. Harp and Bowl**

What must be understood about the Harp and Bowl idea is that it is firmly planted in the soil of Sonship/Manifested Sons of God (MSOG) doctrine.

The key is the "Tabernacle of David" idea. This is central to all the Harp and Bowl work. "David built a tent, a physical place where God's glory dwelt and where people could go to meet with God...Solomon erected an actual temple building in the pattern of his father David's tabernacle and on two occasions, the Weight of the Glory of God filled the temple as the priests ministered in prayer, praise and prophecy...This is what God is asking us to do today. ... We along with all of creation are longing for the unveiling of God's power

as God waits in heaven for the bowl of the prayers of the saints to be filled up so He can show His power. Prayer is directly related to the release of Gods power in scripture."

*The words "We along with all of creation are longing for the unveiling of Gods power" refer to the "manifestation of the sons of God"*

*For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. Rom 8:19-23*

In MSOG teaching this scripture is taken to mean a powerful end times revelation of believers as glorified, transformed and perfected, and possessed by Christ to such a degree that they become One with him and become a living corporate Son of God on the earth, ruling with him. This will be accomplished by the descent of "the glory" in a final overwhelming event that will transfigure all those who receive it. (Other less heretical versions have this event as a progression into spiritual perfection and holiness in the end times.)

But, the passage is actually about the Second Coming and at that time the faithful of all generations will be revealed to the world as those who are one in Christ, his Bride and His Chosen. They will be revealed to take their place beside Jesus on the throne, as he promised. Thus, righteous rule and order will be restored to the world even during the millennium. When Jesus comes in triumph to set up his Kingdom, at that time nature will be restored to the fertility and beauty God intended, thus releasing creation from its bondage. THIS is what all creation longs for, and all mankind - NOT for a spiritual invasion of love, a transfiguration of believers in the end times, a glory cloud or a latter rain anointing.

In any case, scripture says that we are ALREADY "sons of God" so the teaching that we have to attain sonship and "the adoption to sons" is off base from the very beginning.

*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

**I Jn 3:2**

Notice, too, that this "manifestation of the sons of God" takes place at the same time as the "redemption of our bodies" and that will not take place until the Resurrection. (Rev 20:6/John 6:40)

Nonetheless it is commonly taught today that we should work our way by levels up to sonship, and/or expect a massive anointing that will perfect and glorify the church (that is, just the prepared ones.)

Whichever way you look at it, the symbol of David's Tabernacle figures large in the teaching. So let's look into that.

**IHOP quote:** *Psalm 132 states that David could not rest until a dwelling place was established. Isaiah 62:6 states, we are to give God no rest until Jerusalem becomes a praise in the earth. Jesus told us to watch and wait day and night until he comes. We are to establish continual prayer vigils: watching, warring and waiting. There will be no rest until God truly has a dwelling place and our Jerusalem becomes a praise on the earth, Acts 1:8.*

As we see from the quote above, the Tabernacle of David is taken as a symbol of God's Manifest Presence on earth. According to this teaching, we are to expect it.

They base this on a verse taken out of context:

*Acts 15:16-17 "After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things."*

This verse is of course a quote from the Old Testament. The original prophecy is found in Amos 9:8-15.

Notice carefully the context: *In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this. Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.*

Taken in context the scripture is about the restoration of the Remnant of Israel to their land and to God's blessing! It is speaking about the Messiah (of whom David was a type) coming to repair all things and to restore the glory to Israel. That he did accomplish and we are the living proof of it. The "glory" - the Holy Spirit" - DID at that time return to inhabit the "temple" of the Body of Christ and we are not still waiting for that event to take place. This scripture is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Notwithstanding, the Harp and Bowl vision is to copy the "blueprint" of the OT Tabernacle in order to return to the experience of David - kingship, ruler ship, priestly dominion and heavenly glory!

**IHOP quote:** The Lord has given us a heavenly blueprint to enable us to tap into the throne room of God. ....When David established his tabernacle to God he re-instituted the Melchizedek priestly, kingly anointing. Melchizedek was a King and Priest; David was a King and a Priest... Scripture declares all Christians to be Kings and Priests. Jesus restored the Melchizedek priesthood and kingship combined into one office and thus we as the Body of Christ are vessels of restoration for the Melchizedek Priesthood. (Ibid.) This "priesthood" is seen as dominion and ruler ship, as the Government of God on the earth. How is it to be achieved? By non-stop worship, music and intercession.

**IHOP quote:** in the House of Prayer worship releases the kingly spiritual authority to go out and demonstrate the power of Christ. We as New Testament Christian function in our kingly role through ministering in our priestly anointing of prayer, intercession, praise and prophecy.

**IHOP quote:** If we are to have global revival and awakening we need to have a restoration of 24 hour praise and intercession all over the world, Its time that the fulfillment of the prophecies of Old to become reality. It is time that we fulfill the word of God and obey the commands of Jesus, to make it an occupation of occupying the enemies camp, "to occupy until He comes." ...The church is to be the vessel, the temple through which Gods beauty, glory and power manifest in the earth today. (ibid)

Further portions from my study show how David's Tabernacle is a model for the Dominion of Apostles and Prophets in the church today:

**IHOP quote:** the tabernacle of David, known of and planned by God from eternity past, was now beginning to be rebuilt. But what exactly is this "House" that God said He Himself would rebuild in the last days?...In the days of King David's dominion, righteousness ruled out of Zion.... David's rule on earth represented God's rule through man....A restoration of David's fallen tabernacle is not only a return to worship, but a return to God's rule among men.

**IHOP quote:** While David is known as a prophet, he can also be viewed as a type of apostolic government through his service as a righteous king. The House of David, in fact, is destined to rule forever throughout eternity..... The significance of this "House" is much greater than most realize as pertaining to the characteristics, dominion and commission of the last days Church.

Now therefore we have leapt straight out of the Old Testament into the New, seeing a direct symbolic parallel between the Tabernacle of David's day and the Church of today. To some extent this is accurate, since we are indeed "God's House" and the dwelling place of His Spirit. However, did the writers of the NT mean us to understand that we would RULE as kings and priests (before the Second Coming) in the same way as the OT King David?

We see this "house" described in several sections of New Testament Scripture. Paul described it in his letter to the Ephesians....WE are the house of God. We are the tabernacle being restored. We have become the expression of kingdom dominion after the order of David, a "nation of kings and priests"...

**IHOP quote:** It is our destiny and purpose to be extensions of God's rule in the earth.... He desires to rule THROUGH US. He desires to grant apostolic authority - His rule - to His church. He wants to extend His scepter of righteousness through us. That scepter is bestowed and utilized as we take up the ministry of the harp of praise, and the bowl of prayer and intercession. Then through the authority of righteousness we will reign on the earth - extending his rule as "the fullness of Him who fills all in all." (Eph. 1:23)

Since dominion and governmental rule is expected (accomplished by continual praise and worship in the Harp and Bowl model) there is an element of judgment upon sinners and the rebellious who fail to conform to this Davidic Rule. This means that Christians today are anticipating their role as judges before the return of Jesus!

**IHOP quote:** When we are releasing the ministry of the harp - worship and praise to the King of the Kingdom; and the ministry of the bowls - prayers from the saints for His kingdom to come and His will to be done; we then see His rule as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah begin to happen in and through his people. We have known Jesus as the Lamb of God, our Savior, but soon we will see Him manifested as a Lion, a ferocious Warrior and the King and Judge of all the earth. ... He is about to be revealed as Ruler and Judge. With that revelation will also come the realization that the last-days church is being called with Him and through Him into that same role of ruler and judge...

It is clear that there is MUCH more behind the Harp and Bowl idea than simple intercession for our localities and the desire to see people blessed and saved! While it's never a bad idea to pray, the concept of 24-hour prayer and worship is rooted in revivalist dogma. It is supposed, somehow, to impel God to "come", to "judge" and to "rule" on earth - with his Church as his governmental Agency! This is far from scriptural.

### **11. Over-emphasis of seeking Power and Anointings**

There is an overemphasis on power, rather than on righteousness. There is an overemphasis on the gifts of the Spirit – rather than on the Lordship of Christ.”

Today people are so "experience" oriented and so busy looking for a "new anointing" and "new thrills" that they are willing candidates for just about anything!

### **12. Spiritual drunkenness**

Is spiritual drunkenness really a sign of God's favor? Or is it in reality a clear sign of God's judgment? In looking at the scriptural references to drunkenness one can only conclude the latter. In Jeremiah chapter 51, in a prophecy of judgment upon Babylon, we read:

*“Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand, That made all the earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; Therefore the nations are deranged...In their excitement I will prepare their feasts; I will make them drunk, That they may rejoice, And sleep a perpetual sleep And not awake, says the LORD... And I will make drunk Her princes and wise men, Her governors, her deputies, and her mighty men. And they shall sleep a perpetual sleep And not awake, says the King, Whose name is the LORD of hosts.”*  
**(Jer 51:7;39;57 NKJV)**

Here we clearly see that drunkenness is a direct judgment from God. Is it possible that God is judging His apostate Church (Mystery Babylon) with spiritual drunkenness even now? It is my belief that is exactly what is happening through these Latter Rain revivals” today.

In Isaiah 63:6, a prophecy of the last days, we read *“I have trodden down the peoples in my anger, made them drunk in my fury, and brought down their strength to the earth.”*

The Bible nowhere contains a suggestion that to be drunk, spiritually or otherwise, is a good thing for God’s people. In fact, in the Word of God, we are constantly exhorted to sobriety and self-control.

“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit...”  
**(Eph 5:18)**

Proponents of spiritual drunkenness like to point to Acts, chapter 2, and what occurred on the day of Pentecost, particularly the response of some of the people to it:

*...Cretans and Arabs; we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God. So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?” Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.” (Acts 2:11-13 NKJV)*

Having seen videotape examples and attended conferences of people who are supposedly “drunk in the spirit”; staggering around, struggling to talk (or preach), talking with slurred speech, and falling down, as well as behavior that is unseemly or immodest, I am totally convinced that this is not God’s Spirit at work. This kind of behavior is identical to the type of behavior exhibited by literal drunks - drunk on alcohol. There is absolutely no reason to infer from the book of Acts (Chapter 2) that the disciples of our Lord were exhibiting even one of these “symptoms” of drunkenness. If you read Acts, chapter 2 you realize that what the populace was responding to was the supernatural sign that was in evidence – they were speaking in tongues.

Unable to explain this sign in any other way, some mocked and accused them of being drunk. That this charge was spurious and not even considered by the majority can be seen in the fact that 3,000 listened and responded to Peter’s (coherent) presentation of the gospel, repented of their sins, and were added to the Church that day.

There is a “party spirit” loose in the Church today. Thousands are dying and slipping into an eternity in hell every day. Occultism and New Age beliefs, not to mention secular humanism and the myriad of new cults arising daily are leading millions down the wide road that leads to destruction. Yet I’m supposed to believe that God would have me sit back, relax, and enjoy some “Holy Ghost drinking party”? This is just the very thing that our Lord warned us about:

*“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.”*  
**(Luke 21:34 NKJV)**

A conference in San Jose had Che Ahn, Stacy Campbell, Jim Goll and many others who were so drunk they could not stand up for hours. They had imaginary big bowls that they were drinking the “new wine” from and teaching that it was a blessing from the Lord that he was so happy with us that he wanted to pour out this bliss on us. Also present there were “fire tunnels” which upon going through the tunnels, the people came out significantly more messed up!

While researching spiritual drunkenness, I ran across this web site.

Our first church plant is officially launched and will start at 7pm Friday May 22nd. For several months I've gotten several calls a week for people wanting to come get drunk and receive drunk teaching and revelatory drunk theology and now the needs will be met with great intoxication at "Joel's Bar." A first of its kind prototype of churches to come. The wine is not a weird side dish, it is the main course in salvation history. The intoxication is not a means to an end, IT IS THE END THING IN ITSELF. It is the bridal wine of intimacy with the person Jesus Christ. The intoxication of God's Spirit brings refreshment to the entire person, spirit, soul, and body. I heard a prophet say lately that drunkenness is one of the highest levels of wisdom in the Kingdom. So come out to this glory revolutionary church plant and drink your fill o' lovers!

Come in costumes ready to drink or just come as you are! This is the craziest drunkiest messiest revival of all time. Come get pickled in the wine cellar of heaven with some of Minnesota's wildest mystics! Caution: extreme drinking in progress. Believers appear to be intoxicated on alcohol and high on drugs, but "WE ARE NOT DRUNK AS YOU SUPPOSE!!!" Just show up empty headed and heart hungry for God.

Jim Goll and John Crowder teach "Tokin the Holy Ghost" from national platforms. I believe these two men are promoting this teaching and it is polluting the Body of Christ and people are becoming demonized. See the link at the end of this paper for Red Letter Ministries and I am sure you will be convinced of this.

### **13. False Prophecies**

(From article "Facing the reality of Mixture in the Church!" by Peter Horrobin.) When a "prophet" proclaims "God said it", there is rarely any room left for discernment and testing. Such words are usually accepted uncritically by all and rapidly emailed round the world. The prophet gets affirmation, and even acclamation, from the crowds and few people seem willing to ask the hard questions. And those who do are put down with responses such as "If God has said it, isn't that enough?"

Unfortunately it's not enough, for there are many verses in Scripture warning about the dangers of false prophecy. And they are there for a reason. The vessel through which all prophecy is given is fallible and both he and his words need to be tested.

In Deuteronomy 13 a prophet may give an accurate word, but he may still be leading people away from the real truth about God. Amazingly, Scripture does not always commend prophetic accuracy! Psychic powers can parade as prophetic words of knowledge – they may even be right, but that doesn't necessarily mean they are from God. I have seen accurate words being given by a so-called "prophet" while he was inviting donations to his offering. The words were not from God.

Similarly, accurate words of knowledge, about someone's healing need, can be used to encourage someone to submit to receiving a false anointing.

Ezekiel 13 warns that when prophets say "Hear the Word of the Lord", they may be prophesying out of their own imagination. Such words are described as lying divinations. Jeremiah 23:16 even tells the people not to listen to what the prophets are saying! For those prophets were filling the people with false hopes, speaking visions out of their own minds.

*God said "I did not send these prophets, yet they have run with their message."* (Jer.23:21). In all these cases the severest judgment of God is spoken out on those who lead the people astray through false prophetic words.

I passionately believe in prophecy – but because I do so, I also want to test a prophetic word and its source very carefully, so as not to run the risk of being deceived. This is not doubting God, and it is being obedient to Scripture. It is in the context of prophecy that Paul commands his readers to "*Test all things and only hold on to that which is good*" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Testing is not a sin. There is a dearth of real understanding about both Old and New Testament prophecy in the Body of Christ. (end Peter Horrobin quote)

In the church today it is being taught that if you are a prophet you can prophesy to anyone you want at will because you are a prophet. This doctrine violates the Word of God. The Word of God says in 1 Corinthians 12:11 the gifts of the Spirit operate as God wills, not as we will. 2 Peter 1:21 says that prophecy never comes by the will of man. When a person operates the gifts of the Spirit by his own will he opens the door to familiar spirits that are demonic to give him information. That person now becomes a Christian medium for demonic power. Even Jesus could not operate the gifts of the Spirit as He willed because He was operating as the son of man on the earth.

*"Beware of false prophets"* (Matthew 7:15, KJV). These well-known words of Jesus immediately imply two things: there are false prophets - and they are dangerous.

The existence of true and false and the danger of deception in the Christian life were not limited to the life and times of Jesus Christ. Moses, before Him, also warned the people of Israel against false prophets (Deuteronomy 13 and 18).

Though a great many who are familiar with the Old and New Testaments are aware that there are false prophets, not as many realize that there are two major kinds of false prophets.

- The first, the lying false prophet, announces events or says things that do not come true. He is obviously a false prophet (Deuteronomy 18:20-22). The penalty in Old Testament times was death for false prophets (18:20). This kind of false prophet is the most easily recognized and least dangerous of the two.
- The second kind of false prophet is more deceptive (Deuteronomy 13:1-3). He is impeccable in his words at first. An exhortation comes to pass. No fault can be found with his speech. Nevertheless, over time he draws the hearts of the people away from the Lord God Almighty. Finally, he leads them off to serve other gods. This kind of person is very dangerous, indeed the more dangerous of the two.

## Four Kinds of False Prophecy

Most of us are inclined to forget that there are false prophets. However, the frightening facts are these: there are at least two kinds of false prophets and four kinds of false prophecies. The details of these false prophecies are listed in Jeremiah 14:14.

- *False Visions.* These may come from the evil heart of the false prophet, or they may come from an evil spirit that controls him. The false visions are truly "seen" by the false prophet, but their source is devilish.
- *Divinations.* This is another form of false prophecy. Diviners may examine the entrails of animals or how rice floats in water. Or they may use a thousand other ways to divine. But their information is finally false even though some things may appear to be true, and entrapment of the simple is made easy. True prophets of God do not read palms or witch water.
- *Idolatry.* This breaking of the first of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3) is the third form of false prophecy. Idols in themselves are nothing, nothing at all (Jeremiah 10:1-5). However, if they are seized by demons, then the idols reflect the power of the demons involved. The Ten Commandments explicitly forbid idols or graven images of any kind. When demons empower the idols, it is not long before prophecies emerge from the demons. We dare not have anything with such demons (1 Corinthians 10:21). Their prophecies are false.
- *Delusions.* These are the final kind of false prophecy - delusions of the mind. They are not necessarily from the devil; they may simply be fabricated by the persons themselves. They are still false, however, and very dangerous. And we recall again that false prophets were under severe judgment in the Old Testament. Jeremiah reminds us that even though false prophets prophesy and say all kinds of fascinating things, the Almighty is saying, "I did not send them" (Jeremiah 14:15).

## 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

### *Paul and the False Apostles*

<sup>1</sup>I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness; but you are already doing that. <sup>2</sup>I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. <sup>3</sup>But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. <sup>4</sup>For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough. <sup>5</sup>But I do not think I am in the least inferior to those "super-apostles." <sup>6</sup>I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way.

<sup>7</sup>Was it a sin for me to lower myself in order to elevate you by preaching the gospel of God to you free of charge? <sup>8</sup>I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you. <sup>9</sup>And when I was with you and needed something, I was not a burden to anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed. I have kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so. <sup>10</sup>As

surely as the truth of Christ is in me, nobody in the regions of Achaia will stop this boasting of mine. <sup>11</sup>Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do! <sup>12</sup>And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. <sup>13</sup>For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup>It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

### **Matthew 7:15-23**

<sup>15</sup>Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. <sup>16</sup>Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? <sup>17</sup>Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. <sup>18</sup>A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. <sup>21</sup>Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? <sup>23</sup>And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

### **Four Characteristics of False Prophets**

False ministers exhibit a number of peculiar characteristics. Though not every false prophet necessarily displays all of the traits mentioned here, these are common.

- *The Love of Preeminence.* They like to be important and to have others believe and follow them. Diotrephes is a case in point. He loved to have the preeminence, but his heart was wholly evil (3 John 9). If someone has an inordinate desire to be a leader, if he thrusts himself forward to gain ascendancy, ask yourself a very important question: Is that person a false prophet?
- *The Love of Money.* We know from Scripture that the love of money is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10). The early Christians wrote that if a man asked for money, he was surely a false prophet.<sup>2</sup> Those writings did not get into the New Testament, and certainly godly pastors and evangelists should encourage God's people to give their tithes and offerings. However, if someone is always pressing for money and seems likely to benefit personally from that gift or offering - beware!
- *The Love of Immorality.* Adultery and fornication are never too far removed from the doors of most false prophets (Jude 4; Revelation 2:20). Some may appear to be holy, even sanctimonious, but their apparent "purity" does not negate the rule (2 Corinthians 11:15). If you have doubts about someone, watch that person's interpersonal behavior.
- *The Love of Miracles and Spectacles.* The God of the Bible is certainly a God of miracles. No one can read the New Testament and come to any other conclusion. Faithful preaching of the Word of God even today will be followed by miracles and deliverances (Hebrews 13:8). At the same time, Jesus clearly warned that the presence of

miracles and the casting out of demons are not necessarily authentications of true prophets. Rather, some who do those things, according to Scripture, may be the ones who will hear Christ's words: "I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME" (7:23). He will say this even to those who have been using His name in the doing (Matthew 7:15-23, NASB). As the return of Jesus Christ nears, we may expect an abundance of false prophets and ultimately the appearance of the Antichrist. He will be a man of lying signs and wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:9). We are not to be deceived.

### **The Fourfold Message of the False Prophet**

False prophets never speak all lies. Rather, they speak mostly truth, but woven in and through the many true statements is a lie - probably a major lie. Paul was amazed that the Corinthian church had been taken in by pseudo-apostles (2 Corinthians 11:1-15).

The message of the false apostle may demonstrate and/or be characterized by a number of things.

- *He has his own gospel.* Are you surprised at that? Don't be. If the prophet is false, and inspired by the devil, he will have a special message. It will make sense. It will have its own reasons and rationale. It is also likely to be accompanied by its own miracles, and providences. This was exactly the case among the Corinthians. But do not be deceived - it is a different gospel, a different message. Even though the Corinthians knew the Apostle Paul and had been taught by him, they loved the new gospel, and it went down smoothly (2 Corinthians 11:4; see also Galatians 1:6).

- *He has his own Jesus.* If a false prophet comes to a Christian, he will need a Jesus of some kind. He will never deceive any Christian unless he has a Jesus (2 Corinthians 11:4). There are many beings called Jesus in the world, just as there are many antichrists (1 John 2:18) and many false Christs (Matthew 24:24). I learned many years ago that when someone comes to me talking about Jesus, I must wait. I wait for the verbal use of His full title. I want to discover which Jesus is being talked about. Is he the Jesus of the New Testament, of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? Is He the Jesus Christ described by the Apostle Paul? Did He come in the flesh (1 John 4:1-3), and is he Lord of all (1 Corinthians 12:3)?

- *He has his own spirit* (2 Corinthians 11:4). There is a reason why Christians must never invite false prophets into their homes (2 John 10). It has to do with doctrine, yes, but it has much more to do with spirits and contagion. Evil power is contagious. Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses have another gospel, true. And they preach an alternate Jesus, true. But they are most dangerous because they have another spirit, an evil spirit which can do great damage in the life of a Christian. "So behind every prophet is a spirit, and behind each spirit either God or the devil."<sup>3</sup> The apostle did not bother to say, "Do not believe every prophet." Rather he went straight to the point: "Do not believe every spirit. There is an urgent need for discernment among Christians. We are often too gullible, and exhibit a naive readiness to credit messages and teachings which purport to come from the spirit-world.

There is such a thing, however, as a misguided charity and tolerance toward false doctrine. Unbelief (*believe not every spirit*) can be as much a mark of spiritual maturity as belief. If Christians are discerning, they will have learned the habit of disbelieving all

spirits. That, in fact, is what the Apostle Paul had in mind when he said, "Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21, KJV).

- *He has his own anointing.* False prophets are sometimes very exciting and colorful. They speak with power. They may be interesting and dramatic. There is a reason for that; being false does not mean being without an anointing. He just has another kind of anointing, an alternate anointing (1 John 2:18-27). Antichrists in the New Testament are those who have substitute anointings. It is not just that they are against Jesus Christ - they are sometimes powerfully, dramatically and excitingly so. They have an alternate anointing that gives them power. The true prophet is supposed to have an anointing from the Holy Spirit of Almighty God. The false prophet has another kind of unction.

False teachers appear to know the mind of God and they appear to be fighting on the right side. They have the ability to have others marvel at their personal accomplishments but Christ calls it iniquity. It is an amazing thing. It is self focus. I appeal to you as a church and to the church in America to examine these words in Matthew 7. Jesus Christ calls self focus iniquity. Every message no matter where it comes from where the whole purpose of the cross is just about me, it's just about how I can better myself, it's about how I can build six more steps to a more powerful destiny

The false teachers cover it all up by prophesying, they cover it all up by seemingly having power and authority over evil, cover it all up by doing marvelous works that cause unthinking men to stand back and marvel. Jesus looks and say No it's iniquity. The definition of iniquity in the Greek is lawless, it's presumptuous, it's wicked, it's full of self-assertion. It's in absolute contempt to the will of God. Taking the people and focusing them inward when Christ says that the treasure of heaven is for those who focus outward. As we seek first the kingdom of God, as we seek the kingdom of God to advance as men and women find Christ as Lord and Savior he says I will add to you all the things that you need. He knows what we need before we even ask him. That why he said don't worry about where shall we live and what shall we eat all these things. So why do these teachers focus us inward? Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteous and all these things shall be added to you.

*<sup>24</sup>Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: <sup>25</sup>And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. <sup>26</sup>And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: <sup>27</sup>And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

If your whole focus is upon yourself, when everything around you starts to shake, of course your house is going to fall. If your focus is on others nothing changes. Not for my sake but for theirs. I'm going to heaven but there are people in this storm that don't know you Lord.

## 14. Lakeland.

One present day example of false prophesying happened in Lakeland, Florida at the Todd Bentley meetings last year. I am going to assume that you have heard of the Lakeland meetings. There could also be a book written on Lakeland and I am sure it would not be positive.

As for me, the first time I watched Todd Bentley speak at the Lakeland Outpouring in early April while away on a trip. Todd Bentley came on stage after worship and began talking. In that time he did not once pick up a Bible. In that time he did not once mention scripture even loosely paraphrased - he barely mentioned Jesus and certainly did not preach on Jesus. I never heard the gospel, even done badly.

With that in mind I then started paying close attention to him just physically since there really was nothing else of substance. His eyes seemed absolutely insane, his voice had a very mocking tone and his body was manifesting in ways I have seen people do during a deliverance. So instantly (red flags) I knew this was going to be a major problem to the Body of Christ.

I figured that the people that I love around me would see this as a major problem and we could pray about it together. I ended up being wrong about this. When I returned from my trip, most every one of my marvelous comrades were on board with this being a move of God. I was devastated. I went into a 3 week heavy grieving period.

I spoke with my friends about how this could be okay with the Lord? Many seemed to think it was the next big move of God. We debated back and forth about this and my making any headway into this deception was over when Lou Engle took the pulpit from IHOP live on a stream broadcast and said these words.

**(Lou Engle speaking from IHOP)** I stand here today ..I've been on the phone with Rick Joyner and Bill Johnson. They have never seen anything like the coming of the glory. People are being delivered from additions during worship. Frankly I have to confess that I struggled in my own heart with this whole thing. Yet I've known it's the Lord. I felt like the Lord said today Lou..."Don't just stand back". Bob Jones is saying "this is the Third wave that I saw". Then I felt like the Lord saying "Don't just stand aloof from this outpouring pray that it intensifies...it spreads through the whole land and people start getting saved. We have to be careful this could be a manger and you don't want to miss the birth place of something that offends your heart. I just feel I'd like us to stand and cry out to God. They said it's coming here...let it intensify....let it spread.

Bill Johnson said "It's beyond miracles. It's the glory realm that's coming". We're learning to stand in the glory....and I don't understand it but I felt like the Lord said "Don't let your heart be offended" I want you to pray that it spreads and intensifies and out of KC we should not just stand aloof but we should pray that it intensifies. I want you to pray with me.

Father we say it's the Latter rain...it's signs of the glory that is on us...We believe for more and more and more. Bring it here to KC...intensify it nationwide until people are being delivered of every kind of demon, every kind of mental disease...God we call on you...Jesus what about doing good and healing all who are oppressed of the devil. Lord breakout with your goodness and mercy all across America...come to KC...come in the way you wan to come....but come send the Latter rain...take away our arrogance and any pride in our heart. Lord if we are somehow something different...oh God open the healing of our children....for every sickness and disease we are now calling on you. Thank you God. Rick Joyner said that God is answering the prayers of the Call. I say God ...could it be that you are answering the cries of eight years of day/night intercession out of KC? Lord....MORE...MORE...Come Come Come Come Come.

It's already on us and we are believing for more....stadiums will be filled with signs and wonders...but your hand on Todd Bentley mightily....pour out in Lakeland....spread it around the whole nation. You should pray for the rain...in the time of the Latter Rain... at the Call in KC we began to pray that 2008 would be the beginning of the great awakening. I don't want to miss it...what we been praying for..

Father a prayer reformation...that leads to the greatest awakening in the history of America...Lord rip through the nation...amend NBC and ABC...shock the news ...shock the media with your glory...Oh Jesus we saying you're the one...come and offend our pride,,,but come...come...come with the latter rain of glory...deliver us from our additions...deliver the men of America...they are groaning under their addictions...set them free God...come with a fast deliverance Jesus.

The debate was over ...Lou Engle had said "it was God" and many of my friends packed their bags and left for Lakeland. Upon returning, people seemed even more positive it was a great move of God. They came to our home and tried to lay hands on all to receive the anointing that they had received from Todd Bentley. We were forced to stop this from happening in our home.

One morning during the Joseph Company set the leadership rubbed people with handkerchiefs they had received at Lakeland.

After days of fasting and prayer my husband and I decided to talk to the leadership of our church. We really wanted to know where the leadership of our church stood on this issue.

We were assured by the pastors that Lakeland would not be preached from the pulpit. That they would not be endorsing it and we were not to worry. The church was a safe place. We believed them, even though, we were dumbfounded about how the leadership could have stayed silent and not given a warning (said publicly 'stay away') about this deception occurring.

Sorry to say, it was not even 48 hours later, that we were sitting in the third row in the church sanctuary. Graham Cooke was speaking and telling people that there were people in the Body of Christ who were complaining about Lakeland and did not think God could use a biker man with tattoos and piercings. That Lakeland was a mighty move of God

and if those people with a “pharisaical spirit” could do any better then go right ahead. That afternoon I saw person after person fall off of the fence and into the arms of the Lakeland deception. Also, we never thought that Todd’s appearance was the problem it was the lying, false prophesying, occult practices, angel worship, Branham worship etc etc....

Now we will look at the following prophecies that were made during the commissioning service of Todd Bentley on June 23rd. I guess we can assume now that these are all false prophecies. These are word for word transcripts.

**(Peter Wagner over Todd Bentley as he stepped onto the stage):** "This commissioning represents a powerful spiritual transaction taking place in the invisible world. With this in mind, I take the apostolic authority that God has given me and I decree to Todd Bentley: Your power will increase. Your authority will increase. Your favor will increase. Your influence will increase. Your revelation will increase. I also decree that: A new supernatural strength will flow through this ministry. A new life force will penetrate this move of God. Government will be established to set things in their proper order. God will pour out a higher level of discernment to distinguish truth from error. New relationships will surface to open the gates to the future."

**(John Arnott over Todd Bentley):** "We bless you today, Todd Bentley. You're a friend. You're a man of God. You're a man of prayer. You're a man of the spirit. You love the anointing. And I would say that it's not just the Lakeland revival, but the whole world that goes into revival. And you're leading an amazing charge. And, multitudes are getting in behind you and saying, 'Come on. I'm gonna go with you.' And so we bless all of that. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for raising up this young man, to lead such a mighty charge around the world, and to partner with God TV in all that has happened here in the last, uh, several months now, three months almost. We bless it in the name of Jesus, and we stand with you, and we encourage you, and we honor you."

**(Che Ahn over Todd Bentley):** "Recognizing that God has chosen you and appointed you to bear much and lasting fruit in this Lakeland revival, and revival around the world. Recognizing that He has called you as an Ephesians 4 evangelist and a revivalist moving in signs and wonders. Knowing that you have walked in a manner worthy of the Lord, pleasing Jesus in every way, bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in the intimacy and knowledge of God, we as your brothers and your friends, who have a deep love for you, Shonnah, your whole family, we just esteem you. We are here to stand with you, support you. And we are here to commission you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — in the power of His name — with special oil from Chuck Pierce. It's called 'Revival Oil.' Chuck could not make it, so he sent this Fed-Ex. Special oil for you. He's in Africa. And so we anoint you and commission you in Jesus' name."

**(George Banov over Todd Bentley):** “Todd on behalf of the Eastern European nations and former Communist Countries, we want to tell you that we acknowledge and honor what’s upon you. And, we give you the keys for Eastern Europe — especially the poor, the rejected, the gypsies. “And The Lord says that because you’ve

loved his personal presence there are two anointings that are released on His presence and I just want to release those two anointings on you from the LORD.

By the way, the Lord says 'you are well pleasing son.' The Father, Abba, says that to you personally. The first anointing is the anointing of the pleasure of the LORD. 'Surely He has borne our grief, sickness and weakness and carried our sorrow and the pain and the punishment of us all. He was considered stricken, smitten and afflicted by God; but, He was bruised for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities and chastisement that brought our peace came upon him and by His stripes we were healed and made whole.' [Isaiah 53:4-6] And, yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him and in His presence there is fullness of joy and pleasure for evermore. And, God's releasing his pleasure of what He did to Jesus upon you Todd.

**(Rick Joyner over Todd Bentley):** "Todd, your ministry is very appropriately named Fresh Fire. And you have certainly been bringing fresh fire. And even when you were going through the dark night of the soul, I thought you had more fire on you than many. The worst state we can every fall into is Luke warmness and God has sent you as an antidote for that lukewarm spirit.

And the fire has been birthed here; it has been released here. You've unstopped a well. You have other wells to unstop in other cities and other places; this is just the beginning. And there is longevity too. There is increase, but there is also longevity coming. There are many wells, but they are oil wells, and they catch on fire when you unstop them.

**(Wesley Campbell over Todd Bentley):** Todd, as a fellow Canadian, there is the word HONOR written over you tonight because of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. You have honored the generations that have gone before you. As a son, you have reached out to the fathers and you have said, 'Bless me.'

And you have blessed us tonight and so we honor you. You've honored the word of God, you've honored the Spirit of God, you've honored the moving the Holy Spirit, and the ways of God. So, tonight, we just affirm that the rest of honor that is upon your life will follow you now in every nation that you go. And you will draw men and women to you that seek honor and want to walk together and want to be what God wants them to be in this generation.

**(Todd Bentley speaking from the Lakeland pulpit about his conversation with Bob Jones)** I just spoke with Bob Jones again, and he told me several things.

First, he was not expecting that the glory would fall this soon.

Second, Bob said the angel named "Winds of Change," is bringing the change NOW, and that this outpouring would break out internationally. He said this outpouring, the very tangible healing anointing, is for the world and would go everywhere. (God told me that every night in the meetings I was to impart it to ministries, and as I write this, several hundred pastors, evangelists and ministries have already come.)

Third, Bob said, and I agree, we have never seen such notable miracles. (Distinctively, scars and burn marks have been removed from bodies, and there are testimonies coming in of cancers, tumors, deaf ears, diabetes, lupus, autism, and a vast array of other sicknesses and diseases, all being healed. I'm talking hundreds of healings so far! There are dramatic salvations, and heavenly visitations especially coming to the children.)

Fourth, Bob said that our interns would become "doctors," quickly, and take this to the world, and that our associates are needed to spread the fire. (Since many associates are in the meetings here, right now, if you would like to book any of these associates to bring the fire and revival to your city, church, or ministry, call the Fresh Fire office: 604-853-9041 or go to our website.)

Todd Bentley says he has been told by a prophet, Bob Jones, that 13 wise virgins would carry the revival forward. So Mr. Bentley then calls teenager girls up to the stage and "anoints" them.

**(Rob DeLuca from the Lakeland pulpit):**

**May 4, 2008 - Rob Prophecies to Paul Cain**

I saw a vision of you Paul sifting through mail and you found a letter and the address said 'this one is for you Paul'. You opened up the letter and I saw thousands upon thousands of letters flying out like a flock of birds going all over the world and going into people.

The Lord was showing me that the prophetic Anointing that was placed on you (from William Branham) as you prayed is now being imparted to the world. I really believe that God's people will begin to prophesy as never before. As they begin to speak God's words the world will be changed by it. I pray that the Lord will bless you Paul.

**May 13, 2008 - Prophetic Word for The Bride Of Christ**

I saw the Lord Jesus stand up from His throne and I saw Him take off His crown and place it on the arm of His throne. He proceeded to get down on His knees and take a ring off His finger and He began to place this beautiful ring on His bride and she stopped and began to weep. She looked down and her dress was torn and then I saw Jesus touch her dress and immediately it was made right.

The Lord told me that what I am doing here (in Lakeland, Florida) is going to bring forth the preparation of the wedding. I am about to marry My bride and this is going to fix that which is torn. This is the beginning of the arrangements of the wedding feast.

Rob DeLuca even has Jesus taking off his crown and coming off his throne? What are we to do in the Body of Christ with all of these false prophecies?. Should not all of these men be repenting to the Body at large, for their lack of discernment during these meetings? Many people were lead down a path of destruction. They trusted these men to be hearing from the Lord since they call themselves apostles and prophets of the most high God. Trusting them proved to be a mistake since they were completely off .

Jesus calls Christians to be "fruit" inspectors. True prophets bear good fruit (true prophecies); false prophets bear bad fruit (false prophecies). And Christians are to judge the prophecies accordingly.

***Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world (1 John 4:1; NASB).***

Besides all the false prophecy there was outright lying happening from the pulpits on a nightly basis. It was reported that there had been over 30 people raised from the dead and countless physical healings. It was completely discredited after roughly 100 days into the meetings the media showed up and Todd Bentley could not come up with one documented case for the media to review.

After this expose' Todd Bentley got exposed for many other things including adultery and drunkenness. I was so amazed that not one of the prophets could see all the false doctrines, the occult influences, the necromancy ...these meetings had most all of the things that are covered in this paper. In fact as we speak Rick Joyner and Bill Johnson have been successful in getting Todd Bentley back in the pulpit. As of January 2010 he is starting another "outpouring at Morningstar....using his same old ways....nothing has changed with him. It is mind boggling.

How can these men still be considering Todd Bentley or themselves to be hearing from the Lord? I completely believe that the Lord has exposed these men as false and anyone who is still in denial that the Lord has spoken regarding Lakeland being completely a lie, needs to wake up and smell the coffee.

All of the people who appear on the website "Elijah list" have endorsed and many are still endorsing Todd Bentley. Also, what about God TV? They are in serious question to me presently. The prophecies regarding Lakeland from Wendy Alec were 100% off base. We had no choice but to remove Elijah list and all of their prophets from access to our computers and Godtv is no longer streaming into our home.

Since, there has been no repentance or awakening from this deception in these men and they continue down the same paths we had no choice.

Did they not learn anything from this disaster? The first week in May 2009, Che Ahn, Heidi Baker and a few other Elijah list prophets were over in the Netherlands doing the exact same thing as they did in Lakeland. It was called "Heaven invades Earth" with a group called TRIN. There was even a commissioning service identical to Todd Bentley's. Same bunch of false prophecies over the lead man in charge of the meetings. I cannot even understand one word in Dutch and could see it was the same false stuff. You can find it on Utube?

## **15. Training people to prophecy:**

There is this popular teaching there that God is constantly sending out messages, like radio waves, and you just have to have your “bunny ears up” to receive and that sometimes you should just say what pops into your mind because it “might be God.” I guess there’s no fear of it just being presumptuous flesh being put on the spot to perform?

Why not wait until God gives assurance of a word, just as He gives us assurance of salvation (1 John 5:10)? Didn’t Jesus say that the Spirit of God would guide into all truth (John 16:3)? That’s not just doctrinal truth, but ALL truth. He doesn’t guide us into vagueness and require, much less *desire* us to speak without knowing He’s in it *first*. Romans 14:23b says that “anything not done in faith (absolute assurance that God is okay with it) is sin.

Playing guessing games with the souls and minds of men and women should be a frightening and sobering proposition for us and is serious business to God. This makes me think back to Jeremiah 23:16 where the Lord said that these kinds of prophets “*speak visions from their own minds and not from the mouth of the Lord.*” In other words, they just guess or shoot out whatever they think is fitting or “might be” from God.

Just as a side note, many different scholars that I’ve read up on define “prophecy” in an interesting and frightening manner. It seems that its meaning has two natures; one for the true prophet, one for the false. For the true it simply means to speak forth the word of the Lord. But when this word *na’ba* (prophecy, in Hebrew) is used regarding the false prophet it means, “to rage, to play the madman, to act insane accompanied by loud shrieks and spasmodic jerking of the body.”

When you begin to open your mouth and speak things in a prophetic fashion, yet you are not absolutely convinced of its origins as proceeding from God, you numb your discernment so that the next time its easier to say what is not of God, then its easier after that and so on, and so on until you finally cannot distinguish the difference between your soulish nature and God. When that happens and you continue to speak for God, though not really from His actual council, the Liar is just around the corner asking to have a place in your speaking and this should cause you to have much sobriety as you ponder the potential outcomes of speaking words that some will follow, permanently altering their lives and possibly diverting their lives from God’s eternal purposes.

Speaking for God about the future is more critical than just teaching because it represents God in his accuracy and it can be tested by both believer and unbeliever alike. It is God's reputation at stake when someone falsely prophesies

If you speak for God out of doubt and “guessing”, stop now while you still have time and repent!! Get alone with God and get away from this wrong teaching and hold your peace. Learn to obey the voice of God in your everyday mundane life, in your marriage, regarding your fathering/mothering, in your workplace as it relates to integrity. These are the true training grounds of a prophetic spokesman, not spouting off conjecture to fulfill a quota for your prophetic training class. You won’t find your giftings and God’s unction being ultimately lessened, but increased...though you may experience times of what seems like a silence from God.

This is normal; God took 40 years to make Moses into a man to lead Israel out of Egypt, who knows how many for Elijah, 30 years for John the Baptist, 30 years even for Jesus, the very Son of God! (uh, and actually very God Himself), and altogether about 17 years to make Paul the man who could be a “sent one”. This, I believe, is the big temptation for us. We all want to be out *doing* instead of *being*. Let your *doing* come forth from your *being*. Be patient. Let God distill your soul and ferment your spirit.

Remember what it was first like when you knew you were born again? Remember that absolute, unshakeable knowledge in your inner man? That is the same criteria for speaking for God. That same assurance that let’s you know you’re saved is from the Spirit of God, and it’s the same assurance from the same Spirit that must proceed all prophetic speech and spiritual gift operation.

True prophetic speech is that kind of speaking that brings the reality, truth and majesty of God to bear upon the hearer. It brings weight, conviction and power to shake the inner man no matter what he thinks he believes, religiously, philosophically or otherwise. The true prophetic speaker has stood in the council of God in the secret place and carries about in him a kind of deposit of those times with God where He has revealed His holiness and His character, and anything spoken that does not proceed from that Holy God is instantly detected and rejected.

### **16. Communication with angels, divine visitations, and out-of-body experiences including third heaven encounters**

The Apostles and prophets stories about angels and the Lord visiting them and them visiting heaven are far too numerous to cover except in a book. You can put all the Holy prophets of Israel together and they do not measure up to the frequency and revelation these present day prophets have received.

They are encountering a spirit that sounds exactly like what Joseph Smith was confronted with. No doubt they have convinced themselves of it being God, as so many before them. They replace truth with illusions which lead people away from the ways of God.

This is the common experience from Kundalini power and other occult manifestations to the open adept. They also claim they went back in time (another experience they went to the future) We can go back by faith –by reading the word, but instead they are tickling the ears of people to experience this. Their desire for more, being unsatisfied (contentment is what the Bible describes) has opened themselves up for counterfeit spirits that bring visions and experiences.

To desire a supernatural experience is never taught nor encouraged in Scripture. In fact, it is the very thing Jesus warned of, as he called those *“This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet”* (Luke 11:29). We believe the resurrection by faith in the word delivered by the apostles, we are not to seek signs or experiences of the supernatural Hebrews 13:5 *“Let your conduct be without*

covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

**(Quote from Todd Bentley from Lakeland stage)** "I told the Lord why can't I just move in healing and forget talking about all that other stuff?" "Because Todd, you've got to get the people to BELIEVE IN THE ANGEL"... "And I said God, why do I want people to BELIEVE IN THE ANGEL? Isn't it about getting people to BELIEVE IN JESUS?"... "And He Said, "People already believe in Jesus, but the church doesn't believe in the supernatural."

The issue here, as I see it, Todd's reported conversation with God, in which God instructs Todd to "get the people to believe in the angel." That is not a valid commission by God, it is "another gospel."

## **Lou Engle and The Call with Shawn Bolz**

### **(Shawn Bolz speaking)**

*"On February 24, 2009 two significant things happened to us. Lou Engle and approximately 50 members of his team from "The Call" came to my house in Hollywood to pray. We prayed over Hollywood and California, and during this time, I felt led to talk to them about the "Angel of Breakthrough".*

*I began to see that Lou Engle, who has been an intercessor for California for over 20 years, was about to see a breakthrough in the answers to many of his prayers. We were also reminded of a word he gave me at Harvest Rock Church in 2003. He had prophesied the following to me: "Son of California! Come home! You will be one of the main inheritors of my prayers for the last 17 years of revival in California!"*

*This was a few years before I moved out to California. As we reminisced about the word he previously gave me, Lou and The Call team prayed again for us to inherit the prayers that went before us. I knew I was not only standing for myself, but for Believers in the land who have hoped for radical things to happen in their lifetimes and for California to be ripe for revival again.*

*On the same day we all prayed with Lou Engle, our friend from England and I shared about the breakthrough angel with our church body in Studio City, California. I loved the language because it put total emphasis on this angel being empowered to release a breakthrough so we can see Jesus and bring Him everything He deserves—the fullness of His reward!*

*What if God is about to break through again in a historic revival? Bob Jones had prophesied to us that by 2010 we would begin to see a measure of revival, and by 2012 revival would be historic! When I was with Lou Engle and his team, I realized that 2009 is a countdown year toward promise. I really felt this word was for them personally, but now I also see a corporate dimension to this prophetic parable. We are in a countdown year."*

Back to their theories of Astral travel into the "Third Heaven" this is not what the Bible teaches. To use the few who went in the Old Testament as examples is not adequate—there were only two that never came back. They were not visiting, they were taken by God, and are types of what will happen to the Church corporately on the day of the resurrection/ rapture. There were three in the New Testament, two who both came back to write Scripture and one who is coming back- Jesus. Paul only was brought to heaven once, he did not repeat this nor did he desire it again. Paul went to heaven and called it illegal, a crime (unlawful) to speak about the things he saw. He waited 14 years to even mention it (2 Cor.12:12), he only spoke of it because he had a purpose in doing so. Along come all these false teachers that speak freely. And what of the apostle John when he went to heaven? What did John do when he met Jesus in His GLORY.

He knew Jesus on earth but this was different. He fell as dead before Him seeing him in a glorified state, he did not have Jesus hold his hand or walk with him giving a tour of heaven as so many others have. Jesus did not show him rooms of extra body parts to be claimed, or a room filled with gold coins for the offering. What a whole lot of nonsense. Yet people want to believe this over the Bible.

Now the church is "reclaiming" eastern-esque "spirit travel," as an ordinary means of transportation. It has been spoken from the stage at Lakeland many times, on a daily basis from John Crowder/Joshua Mills (sons of Thunder) and it has been recently brought to my attention that it is happening from the pulpit at IHOP.

There is a major lack of reverence for God, lack of emphasis on Jesus or God's Word, and lack of any reference to repentance in the meetings.

In the writing, teaching, and preaching of many of these men (not all of them), the emphasis is centered upon the Holy Spirit, and the Church – instead of Jesus and the cross. Jesus told us that when the Spirit came He would lift up and glorify our Lord – not Himself. While some of these men do speak of Jesus it often seems more of an afterthought. The main emphasis is always on the Holy Spirit or the Church – on us!

It used to be that the goal of salvation was taken as assurance to be with the Lord in Heaven. Once the expectation and hope of the Church was the physical Coming of Jesus in power and glory. Now, however, the goal of believers is mystical enlightenment and supernatural empowerment that will transport them into an altered state of consciousness beyond this mortal world. And, likewise, the physical coming of our Lord Jesus is now overshadowed (or even replaced) by the spiritual coming of "the glory" - when the Church enters into "fullness" and God in spirit inhabits his earthly Temple, the Church. The biblical Gospel of Salvation has been transformed into the "Gospel of the Kingdom."

### **17. Necromancy**

(Dictionary definition of necromancy-) a method of divination through alleged communication with the dead; black art. Magic in general, esp. that practiced by a witch or sorcerer; sorcery; witchcraft; conjuration. The practice of supposedly communicating with the spirits of the dead, in order to predict the future.

There are many examples of necromancy in the prophetic movement but lets just look at Todd Bentley and Rick Joyner they claim they have had conversations with dead Christians — including Paul the apostle and Abraham. Is this within the bounds of Christian experience, or is it necromancy?

Let's look at Joyner's descent into necromancy (communication with the dead) that he freely expresses in this book *The Final Quest*. Mr. Joyner supposedly goes to heaven and meets all the greats of Biblical revelation. Listen as he, according to his book, meets the Apostle Paul.

**(The Final Quest, Rick Joyner, Morning Star Publications, 1996, pp. 131-132.)** "I then felt compelled to look at those who were sitting on the thrones we were passing. As I did, my gaze fell upon a man whom I knew was the apostle Paul. As I looked back at the Lord, He motioned for me to speak to him.

"I have so looked forward to this' I said, feeling awkward but excited by this meeting. 'I know that you are aware of just how much your letters have guided the church, and they are probably still accomplishing more than all the rest of us put together. You are still one of the greatest lights on the earth.'

"'Thank you,' he said graciously. 'But you do not understand just how much we have looked forward to meeting you. You are a soldier in the last battle; you are the ones whom everyone here is waiting to meet. We only saw these days dimly through our limited prophetic vision, but you have been chosen to live in them. You are a soldier preparing for the last battle. You are the ones for whom we are all waiting.'

### **18. Lying Signs and Wonders:**

Satan has power and he uses it to great effect. Power is a drug which can even seduce Christian leaders. And when there is an unhealed heart, which gets its affirmation and significance through being a person with power, then the enemy can have a field day through using demonically inspired soul power to put on a very impressive show. "Minor miracles", which have the saints reeling, such as alleged gold dust and gold fillings are welcomed as being evidence of a visitation of the glory of God.

Anyone who has researched even the fringes of occult power knows there are many deceptive things the enemy can do – even healings. No wonder Jesus warned that in the end times "*false Christ's and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect*" (Matthew 24:24).

I was asking the Lord about the gold dust phenomena. This is what he showed me. I was stunned . I am thinking it is pretty clear. And it has to do with idolatry.

*Exodus 32 (King James Version)*

*1And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the*

*land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.*

*2And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.*

*3And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.*

*4And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.*

*5And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD.*

*6And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.*

*7And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:*

*8They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.*

*9And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:*

*10Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.*

*11And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?*

*12Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.*

*13Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.*

*14And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.*

*15And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written.*

*16And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.*

*17And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp.*

*18And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear.*

*19And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.*

*20And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.*

*21And Moses said unto Aaron, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?*

*22And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief.*

23For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.  
 24And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.  
 25And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)  
 26Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.  
 27And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.  
 28And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.  
 29For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.  
 30And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.  
 31And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.  
 32Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.  
 33And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.  
 34Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them.

Verse 20. He took the calf-and burnt-and ground it to powder. How truly contemptible must the object of their idolatry appear when they were obliged to drink their god, reduced to powder and strewed on the water! "But," says an objector, "how could gold, the most ductile of all metals, and the most ponderous, be stamped into dust and strewed on water?" In Deuteronomy 9: 21, this matter is fully explained. I took, says Moses, your sin, the calf which ye had made, and burnt it with fire, that is, melted it down, probably into ingots, stamped it, that is, beat into thin laminae, something like our gold leaf, and ground it very small, even until it was as small as dust, which might be very easily done by the action of the hands. I cast the dust thereof into the brook, and being thus lighter than the water, it would readily float, so that they could easily see, in this reduced and useless state, the idol to which they had been lately offering Divine honors, and from which they were vainly expecting protection and defense. No mode of argumentation could have served so forcibly to demonstrate the folly of their conduct, as this method pursued by Moses.

## **19. William Branham worship**

What did Branham believe and teach:

- A) Serpent's Seed: Branham taught that Eve's sin in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3) was sexual in nature. According to Branham, Eve was seduced into a sexual relationship with the serpent and became pregnant with Cain. He explained, "Here is what actually happened in the Garden of Eden. The Word says that Eve was beguiled by the serpent. She was actually seduced by the serpent. He was as close to being a human that his seed could, and did mingle with that of the woman and cause her to conceive" (The Original Sin, pp. 2, 3). The serpent's seed was Cain and all his descendants. They are predestined for Hell. The Godly seed is Seth and his descendants who have been revealed by their call to Branham's ministry. A third group, represented by those still in denominational churches have free will to choose Heaven or Hell. The Godly seed are the Bride of Christ and will be raptured before Tribulation. Denominations are or eventually will be the Mark of the Beast and those who remain therein will go through the Tribulation. (Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements, p. 96).
- B) Last Days Prophet: Branham's followers claim that he held a special role as God's uniquely empowered end-time prophet. "Now, I'm just your brother, by the grace of God. But when the Angel of the Lord moves down, it becomes then a Voice of God to you...But I am God's Voice to you... Now, see, I can say nothing in myself. But what He shows me" (Footprints On The Sands Of Time, p. 214). The angelic visitor told Branham that he would be given two gifts and that he would restore Bible truth.

Branham's followers identified him as the prophetic Elijah of Malachi 4 and the seventh angel of Revelation 10. Speaking of himself, Branham said, "...we are promised a return of that Spirit [Elijah] just before the end-time. He won't start another church, because there is no more church ages to come... because the Laodicea Church Age is the last age, and the messenger of the Seventh Angel,... is the fellow that is going to reveal, by the Holy Spirit, all of these mysterious things.... Notice. This last message of the last church age is not a reformer, he is a PROPHET!" (The Seven Seals, pp. 144, 45).

According to his disciples, Branham is not just a prophet but a major prophet. "A MAN SENT FROM GOD. That the ministry of William Branham qualifies to be that of a major prophet and thus fulfill Malachi 4, 5 and 6 and Revelation 10:7 should become abundantly clear to any who take time to conduct even a brief investigation..." (The Message, Bible Believers, Inc., p. 7).

The man taught serpent seed doctrine and that he was Elijah. Further, Branham taught that the Word of God was given in three forms, the zodiac, the Egyptian pyramids, and the written scripture.

Many in the Movement idolized Branham and are teaching the youth that this the man to model themselves after.

I have personally seen the mantle of Branham being imparted at IHOP and Call events. Also, Branham is reported to have started the Latter Rain movement.

## **20. Unbiblical transference of anointing.**

Luke 4:18 *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,* The anointing and the person of the Holy Spirit cannot be separated. The charismatic teachers have made the anointing a separate power that God bestows on people. There is a direct connection between the Holy Spirit and the anointing. He is the One who enables all Christians to fulfill their ministries.

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. **Acts 10:38***

God the Father anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power. Again, note the correlation between the anointing and the presence of the Spirit.

*And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. **Luke 1:35***

It is very simple and plain. The Holy Spirit and the anointing are inseparable. You cannot have one without the other. With this obvious understanding it becomes very clear why what the charismatic teachers are presenting is false doctrine.

It is impossible for me as a believer to *impart* God to someone else. If one is a believer they have all of the person of the Holy Spirit they will ever have. He is God. If one has any of Him, then, they have all of Him.

It is impossible to increase the amount of the Spirit an individual possesses. Which means it is equally impossible to increase the "anointing" of another person by laying hands on them!

We do not command or direct the Holy Spirit. He is not a commodity to be given away, nor is His divine power!

*But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. **1 John 2:27***

How can the "anointing" teach a person anything? The only way this is possible is if the anointing is in fact the Person of the Holy Spirit. Personalities teach, impersonal powers do not.

Charismatic Christians, by in large, are driven by a thirst for spiritual power. They are constantly seeking methods by which they can either obtain the anointing or increase whatever anointing they think they possess.

The manner in which they *transmit* their mystic power and the resulting manifestations in the bodies of those receiving these powers leads me to believe that whatever is transpiring is more akin to the world of the occult versus orthodox Christianity.

Scripturally “the Torah regards as an abomination any attempt of someone giving his anointing to another. Moses was told it was grave sin even to mix the oil of one's anointing in the same measure for another, and anyone who puts it on a person not so designated was to be cut off (Exodus 30:33). The Hebrew text says that the oil is in Heb.*mekudesh lacha*, literally 'set apart', or 'sanctified specifically unto you.' This prohibition was evident When Elisha asked Elijah for his mantle in which he told his protégé it is not mine to give. He was told to wait and see if the Lord would place it on him ( Kings 2: 10) If he saw him taken to heaven he would receive the blessing. Yet he had to leave for it to be placed on him. 2 Kings 13:21.

Simon the sorcerer was the first to presume one can get the anointing by buying it or by knowing an apostle. In Acts 8:19-23 Simon asks: “Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter responds saying unto him, ‘Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.’”

Peter summed it up by saying Simon was “bound by iniquity.” Peter’s response was a rebuke. He cursed Simon for his presumption that the Holy Spirit was like any other power he dealt with, and that he could buy this ability.

There is only one anointed “ The Christ”, and we need to be under him. Which means to obey him and present the truth, the way it was written.

Today there is a lot of spiritual guruism in Christianity right now. People go to teachers to get their revelation and have others lead them into their relationship with God. They ask for their prayers, as Protestants we never would buy into a single Pope, so instead we now have several of them, they are called the anointed, the new apostles and prophets. A Mediator is someone who stands between an individual or group and God, he is essential to their relationship, just as the guru is to his devotee.

They wait for him to impart a word or a technique to them. Fresh words touted as if they supersede the Bible itself, and are accepted as new knowledge. The Bible says we don’t need human mediators we can instead go directly to the Lord by the merit of His blood. (Heb10). This is the whole point of a personal relationship! Besides, Jesus is the baptizer not man. Only God can give the Holy Spirit, so whatever is being passed on is not Him. Something to seriously think about for those who have received IT from man.

A popular proof text that is used to justify the transference is where Paul told Timothy to “*fan into flame the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*” (2 Tim. 1:6) We have to define the word “gift”, which is the Greek word “charisma”. It is the gift of divine grace whereby we have confidence before God, not a “spiritual gift” as commonly taught and understood.

## **21. A theology that teaches you should aspire to be Kings rather than servants**

The Bible speaks of a latter day heresy called "mystery Babylon" which is a merger of Commerce and Church. This unholy dominionist mixture is what appears to be forming before our very eyes.

The Joseph Company is less about "ministry in the marketplace", and more about provision for the end times. The JoCo organization has its roots in Kingdom Theology (Dominion Now!)

**"Their greatest joy is plundering the wealth of the world for their lord." -Bob Fraser, director of The Joseph Company**

The "Great Transfer of Wealth" (GTOW) is another hallmark of this program. Seen by many names, the concept is the next logical progression from the now-stale Charismatic prosperity gospel. The concept behind GTOW is that God will ordain the transfer of wealth (from the wicked) to the Godly.

Joseph Company founder Bob Fraser calls those who take money from the wicked the "treasure bringers." According to Bob Fraser, "The Treasure Bringers are those with an anointing from God to facilitate this massive wealth-transfer." "They are spiritual 'Robin Hoods.' Their greatest joy is plundering the wealth of the world for their Lord."

I have heard of common, everyday people in churches who receive these swelling words from someone assumed to be "prophetic". How can all these 'prophets and prophetesses' give out such unproven words? This is akin to leading the simple astray with psychotic delusions of grandeur. Many, many sincere seekers have received wild 'promises' within these prophecies. They are usually guaranteed very powerful (and exaggerated) things, such as important ministries, visits to heaven, angelic visitations, great influence over lands,...riches, relationships, healings, etc. I have witnessed people losing everything, waiting for these kingly prophecies to be fulfilled. Remember: 'Someone else' also promised great things; 'All this can be yours'...if you just bow down and worship him Satan.

Finally, it is worth noting the Latter Rain concept of "cities of habitation" promoted by the Joseph Company as noted in the vision statement. This is a central theme in the third-wave movement.

The concept of "Cities of refuge" or "Cities of habitation" is common within the third-wave movement; Rick Joyner has been embroiled in controversy in North Carolina with county officials who are seeing their tax-base eroded as more and more property becomes exempt. Charlotte Observer

Eschatology is important, even if many do not want to discuss it. I think it is interesting that the last time the church was involved in plundering was when it thought that the millennium was finished. In 1095, a thousand years after Christ, the Church started a series of holy wars known as the Crusades. A prominent feature of the Crusades was the plunder of wealth from the ungodly. Now we have a church that thinks, once again, that things are coming to an end and that we must somehow establish His kingdom on earth. The call to plunder, ultimately to finance the "cities of habitation" is the natural

evolution of such a mindset. In King James, the word "natural" is typically rendered "carnal."

There is a subtle difference between "The Lord wants to bless your business for the Kingdom", and "the Lord wants to take the wealth of the wicked and give it to the righteous." Both may be true at the same time, although I wouldn't go as far as stating the latter dogmatically. Dominionism in any form in this life is unbiblical.

After this year's Joseph Company meetings at Lion Gate which I did not attend, I sent out a call for prayer for our new business and many responses came back in answer to my prayer request. All of the responses back to me were prayers with the focus of asking God to make us kings in the city. It was very disturbing for me. Since we thought we were in pursuit of being servants of the Lord to the cities, now people in my sphere were praying with the exact opposite spirit. When praying about this the Lord showed me this scripture:

*Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another. <sup>7</sup>For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?*

*Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have become kings—and that without us! How I wish that you really had become kings so that we might be kings with you! <sup>9</sup>For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men. <sup>10</sup>We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! <sup>11</sup>To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. <sup>12</sup>We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; <sup>13</sup>when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world. (1 Corinthians 4)*

The kingdom of Christ is not a kingdom of this world, otherwise would his servants fight! It rests on a *spiritual* basis and is to be advanced by *spiritual* means. Yet Christ's servants gradually slipped down into the notion that His kingdom *was* of this world and could be upheld by *human* power.<sup>67</sup>

**Rev. Charles Spurgeon, circa 1880**

## **22. Emerging Church**

At some point in the mid-1990's the moniker "Emerging Church" surfaced out of the Young Leadership Network. It came from the notion that because the culture has changed a new church should emerge in response. Claiming to be the answer to reach the so-called postmodern generation, Emergent's claim to have explored all of the avenues of what the Church has historically been only to find that little or none of it satisfied them.

The common bond of the Emergent's was and still is a general dissatisfaction for Bible believing Christianity - *though nearly all of them claim to be "Evangelicals!"*

**To Emergent's, Christianity is:**

- Experience over Reason
- Images over Words
- Spirituality over Doctrine
- Subjective Feelings over Absolute Truth
- Earthly Justice over Salvation
- Social Action over Eternity

*The church has been preoccupied with the question, 'What happens to your soul after you die?' As if the reason for Jesus coming can be summed up in, 'Jesus is trying to help get more souls into heaven, as opposed to hell, after they die.' I just think a fair reading of the Gospels blows that out of the water. I don't think that the entire message and life of Jesus can be boiled down to that bottom line." - **Brian McLaren***

*Repentance is not turning from sin. It is a 'celebration' of life in Christ. Anyone who tells you that you need to repent is not talking about Christianity." - **Rob Bell***

"This is part of the problem with continually insisting that one of the absolutes of the Christian faith must be a belief that "Scripture alone" is our guide. It sounds nice, but it is not true...When people say that all we need is the Bible, it is simply not true." - **Rob Bell, Velvet Elvis, p.68**

In emerging church leader, **Scot McKnight's book, The Real Mary:** Why Evangelical Christians Can Embrace the Mother of Jesus, McKnight says that Protestant Christians are the only Christians who do not honor Mary. He recommends that Protestant churches all practice an "Honor Mary Day" (p. 144), saying she "leads us to a Jesus who brings redemption ... To listen to Mary is to hear the message of Jesus' death and resurrection as a mega-event whereby God established a new kind of power, a new kind of family, and a new kind of kingdom" (p. 145). McKnight describes this great event as a time when the world will come together and worship Mary.

Which is more proof for the section [Tapping back into Roman Catholicism](#).

The foremost error of the Emerging Movement is that it has reduced Christianity to a Conversation. This is exactly what Lucifer pulled off with Eve in the Garden - i.e. "hath God said?" (**Genesis 3**)

If we would protest that none of this is biblical, the emergent leaders have a retort: God is doing a new thing, something not revealed in Scripture. It would not be the first time God has broken out of religion, which carries his message, and made something new. If God found it good for his followers to break out of the confines of a religion two millennia ago, why should we expect God not to do such a thing in our time? Maybe Christianity should be thinned out and broken up, spent like Christ who gave himself for this world.

Of course, in response Hebrews 1:1-2 comes quickly to mind, "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days

has spoken to us in His Son..." (NASB). When God chose to replace the dispensation of Law with that of the church age that change was communicated to us through His Son and those who wrote the New Testament (Hebrews 2:1-4). Why should we not expect God to dump the Christian faith and give us something new? Because God "in these last days has spoken to us in His Son." The final revelation to mankind has been given. There is no further revelation forthcoming, no new era to be started by the actions of men; rather the next era will be initiated by the return of Jesus Christ.

The emergent church has badly misunderstood the biblical teaching on the kingdom of God. Actually, it has chosen to ignore what the Scriptures teach and has chosen to impose its own understanding of the kingdom in order to set forth its own agenda for the church and the world. One is reminded of Jesus' warning to the Pharisees in Matthew 15:3, 6, "Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?" Then he said, "By this you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your traditions." Without question the emergent church is doing something very similar today.

In fact, the Messianic kingdom of God is not on the earth today but awaits the return of Christ. People's good deeds toward one another and the planet are welcomed, but they do not form the kingdom, advance the kingdom or hasten the kingdom. The church's mandate is not to clean up the planet, wipe out illness, eradicate poverty and injustice and call for peace treaties, as worthy as these actions are in their place. Our mandate is to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). We are not to set up Christ's kingdom on earth; that is His job. We are instead to call sinners to Christ that they might join us in proclaiming "the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). By rejecting the biblical teaching on the kingdom, a teaching dispensationalist have long championed, the emergent thinkers are leading their followers down a path Christ does not choose to take us. In so doing they have wrapped the emergent movement around a superimposed doctrine of the kingdom that agrees neither with Scripture nor reality.

## **Conclusion:**

My only hope in writing this is that some will read it, heed it, and come out of these Latter Rain revivals and The Emergent Church movement. There is no "new paradigm" as far as Christianity is concerned, just the same old narrow road that leads to eternal life in Christ.

No immortality or streets of gold on this side of heaven - just the Truth, the Way, and the Life - and that "old rugged cross".

It comes as no surprise that we are in the midst of a terrible apostasy in these last days as we have clearly been warned that it would come. I must confess that I did not believe I would see it in my own lifetime. It is still a little frightening that so many of God's people today could fall for the same old lie that first deceived Eve so many thousands of years ago.

We are told that one of the main things that will characterize the end of the age is deception. Jesus warns us that the deception will come in his name and will be

accompanied by miracles signs and wonders. He further tell us that these mighty feats will be so convincing that even those who truly know him (God's elect) will find it nearly impossible to tell the difference! This will set the stage for the "lawless one" (*2Thessalonians 2:8, 9, 10*) and the coming one world church. In fact the revelation of this lawless one will be accompanied by all manner of miracles!

The Bible tells also tells us that coming one world church will shares the same mindset of as that of the Great Harlot! The Bible says they will be drunk with the wine of her fornications. Why was she called a fornicator? She had not remained true to her Husband (GOD) and had run after other deities! Her drunkenness was therefore equated with idolatry. Thus the end time church will be literally drunk on idolatry.

## **VIDEO LINKS**

### **A. The "anointing" is for sale:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3osW9iwbFU>

### **B. John Crowder & Ben Dunn Get Arrested:**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5YJPGaH\\_no](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5YJPGaH_no)

### **C. John Crowder - Ecstasy of GOD:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ec91wvUY7Yo>

### **D. The False Revival (Kundalini comparison):**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtVGxJU-j2I>

### **E. Todd Bentley with Paul Cain "I've been celibate all my life":**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o25jTVb5Bj8>

### **F. Lakeland Baptisms:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnXMMp-oyGo>

### **G. Heather Clark - Tribal / Hypnotic Worship Music**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52ACWzbuMBU>

### **H. Spiritual Drunkenness**

<http://www.redlettermin.com/links.html>