
THE FALSE HEALTH AND WEALTH GOSPEL

THE WORD OF FAITH MOVEMENT. That is what it is called but it is no relation to the faith taught in the Bible. It is also referred to as the "Health and Wealth" gospel. This false gospel says man may become a god. Kenneth Copeland says, "*God's reason for creating Adam was to reproduce Himself. He was not a little God. He was not almost like God. He was not subordinate to God even.*" Morris Cerullo: "*You're not looking at Morris Cerullo; you're looking at God.*" I personally heard Paul Crouch say on TBN: "*I am a little god.*" Benny Hinn says of Jesus and believers, "*Is He God? Are you His children? Then you can't be human.*" The truth is, this is nothing more than the devil's gospel, the Mormon gospel, etc. It wasn't God but Satan who said, "*...ye shall be as gods.*" How ridiculous to think that more gods, or Gods, are being made all the time. Joseph Smith, the Mormon founder taught that Adam was a man who became a god and that is the goal for all men. These people are not Bible believers for what they teach is heresy and blasphemous. Unsaved people will believe anything that sounds good and this certainly appeals to the flesh. But Satan's "light" is utter darkness!

OTHER ASPECTS OF THIS BIZARRE PHILOSOPHY. I will deal with the "health and wealth" aspects later. There are too many outrageous teachings to list them all but I will give you a brief idea of the of this philosophy's teaching. According to *Christianity in Crisis*, Benny Hinn said, "*I feel revelation knowledge coming on me...God the Father is a person, and He is a triune being in Himself separate from the Son and Holy Ghost...Each one of them is a triune being in Himself...there's nine of them.*" Kenneth Copeland said that the biggest failure is God! Copeland, Hinn and others teach that Jesus did not save us when He died on the cross, but when He went to hell after the cross where He was captive to Satan. Hinn goes so far to say that "*Jesus knew that the only way to stop Satan was to become one with him.*" Hagin said, "*Spiritual death also means having Satan's nature.*" What blasphemy! In his book Fred Price teaches Jesus died spiritually somewhere between Gethsemane and the cross. Hagin said, "*Every man who has ever been born again is an incarnation...The believer is as much an incarnation as Jesus of Nazareth.*" Every saved person is God come in the flesh! Copeland and others teach that Jesus was only a man on earth. He has said, "*You have to realize that Jesus went into the pit of hell as a mortal man*

made sin." Charles Capps writes: "*The Church started when Jesus was born again in hell.*" The truth is Jesus never went to hell, He went to the place of departed spirits, which was divided into two compartments, hell, and paradise. Jesus went to paradise. Ps.82:6 is quoted to prove men may become gods. Their false interpretation only shows their ignorance of Scriptural truth. God is saying to the ungodly rulers, "**Ye are gods...**" But v.7 says, "**But ye shall die like men...**" They acted like they were "gods" or "lords" over God's people but they were only men and God would deal with them accordingly.

ORIGIN OF THIS MOVEMENT. It is nothing more than the gospel of Phineas Quimby, Mary Baker Eddy (who plagiarized Quimby), and E. W. Kenyon, Kenneth Hagin who is considered to be the father of the present day movement got most of his philosophy from E.W. Kenyon. D. R. McConnell in his book "*A Different Gospel*" shows that Hagin in his book plagiarized pages from Kenyon. Kenyon was strongly influenced by Christian Science, Unity, Theosophy and New Thought mysticism. He taught, as do all of the present day leaders of this movement, that the key was to have "faith in your faith." Whatever you say, if you believe it, it will come to pass. If you are God that is true, but men do not become Gods either in this life or the next. The truth is, this horrible heresy has for its originator, Satan and the first record of it is in Genesis 3. The only difference is that these modern day false prophets are taking it to new extremes.

LEADERS OF THIS FALSE GOSPEL. That this is a false gospel just like that of the Mormons, Christian Science, Unity, etc. there can be no doubt. Followers of these cults are not simply misguided Christians but deceived unbelievers. The same can be said of preachers of the Faith Movement. Some we have quoted, but here is a list of the most well-known ones: Kenneth Hagin, Oral Roberts, Kenneth Copeland (and his wife Gloria), Charles Capps, Fred Price, Benny Hinn, Morris Cerullo, Paul Crouch (and wife Jan), Robert Tilton, Marlyn Hickey.

EXPERIENCE IS EVERYTHING. To the true believer the Bible is everything; anything that contradicts it is not true. That is not the case with the Word of Faith revelators. Their dreams, visions, personal experiences are everything and when the

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Scriptures are used, they are abused and misused to prove the *prophet's* revelation. If a man gets a revelation from God (which God is not doing today) it cannot contradict the Word of God. You'd not only have confusion, it makes God out to be a liar or at least in error! When Benny Hinn said God revealed to him that each of the Godhead was in Himself three, could that have come from God who teaches He is three in One? Did God also tell him Jesus became one with Satan? Blasphemy! Jesus supposedly told Copeland, "They crucified me for claiming to be God but I didn't claim I was God." I have read of different men who supposedly been to heaven and back and they saw horses, a room where aborted babies are kept, a room with all the body parts anyone might need (they are waiting only to be claimed), Jesus who is six foot tall with sandy hair, a stadium with the "cloud of witnesses," the river of life where the *prophet* had a water fight with Jesus, ad infinitum. I personally heard one such preacher say that he was transported to heaven where he bowled with Jesus.

GOD WANTS YOU HEALTHY & WEALTHY.

Practically all charismatics teach that all healing for the believer is in the atonement and all you need to be always well is faith. They teach this basically from one verse of Scripture that says, "By his stripes we are healed." Of course, they have no real understanding of the Bible; that portion clearly refers to Israel and it is for a time yet future. But that matters not to these people. Benny Hinn says, "God is not going to heal you now - He healed you 2,000 years ago. All you have to do is receive it." Hagin declares, "I know I am healed because the Word says I am healed." Copeland said, "God intends for every believer to live completely free from sickness and disease." Christianity In Crisis records Fred Price saying, "'We don't allow sickness in our home,' but the reality is that his wife has been stricken with cancer and has profusely thanked her doctors (not her faith healing husband) for the painful radiation and chemotherapy." According to these people Paul must not have had enough faith to get rid of his "thorn in the flesh," and that mighty man of God, Elisha, must have been backslidden for he died from a disease, II Kings 13:14. (parenthesis mine)

Wealth is also a right of the child of God according to these false prophets. Robert Tilton said, "Being poor is a sin," and "New house? New car? That's chicken feed." Fred Price says Jesus and His disciples were not poor... "The Bible says that He has left us an example to follow in His steps. That's the reason I'm driving a Rolls Royce. I'm following in Jesus steps." This despite the fact that Jesus said He had not where to lay His head. The whole thing is so ludicrous we need say no more. These charlatans (what else can you call them) are wealthy because most of those who support them just want to be well and rich also.

THE GOSPEL OF GOD. All who have never been born again are children of the devil according to Jesus, John 8:44. Satan does all that he can to keep his children from believing God and being saved; everything from atheism to religion, all kinds. The truth is in God's Word and it is simple. God created Adam (and Eve) and put him in a garden where man disobeyed God and became a sinner. But God loved him still and in the fullness of time God Himself took a body - Jesus Christ was God and man in one. Then He went to the cross of Calvary to pay the price of our sin and rose again the third day. That's the Gospel of God! See I Corinthians 15:3,4. Notice, Christ died for our sins, he didn't go to hell and become one with the devil to pay for them. When the sinner believes what God says, with the heart; when he truly sees his lost condition and desires to be right with God and trusts Christ as Savior, he is saved. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Rom.10:9,10. When you do that, you become a saved sinner, a child of God, John 1:12. But you are still a man and one day will be a glorified man; but still a man and not God! If you have never trusted Christ as your Savior, believe God's Word and receive Him now. If you do not receive Him, you will have to pay for your sin in hell! "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16.

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