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Acts 8:20

Matthew 6:24

Luke 12:15 - answer to abundant life claim.

It appeals to people's desires for provision, position, and power.

5. What is the history of this movement?
  - a. New Age, New Thought, Gnosticism
    - i. EW Kenyon Keneth Hagan
    - ii. Keneth Hagin
      1. Kenneth Copeland,

6.

[Ligonier link](#)

Keneth Hagin is in essence the father of this corrupt gospel. He consistently plagiarized in his books from EW Kenyon, whose roots were in the metaphysical cults.

[Examples of plagiarism](#)

The Word of Faith movement, commonly known as "name it and claim it," "[the prosperity gospel](#)," or the "health and wealth gospel"

What are the tenants of the Prosperity Gospel?

Does God promise health and wealth?

Six Keys to Detecting the Prosperity Gospel according to John Piper

1. No robust doctrine of suffering
2. No clear call to deny yourself

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3. No serious exposition of the Word
4. No wrestling with tensions in Scripture
5. Exorbitant lifestyles of the leaders
6. Too much self, not much God

### 3 Major Errors of Word of Faith

1. God is obligated to obey people's words.
2. God's favor always results in riches and good health.
3. Humans are little gods.

The Prosperity Gospel is based on the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

And so while on the one hand we can't say that everybody that it touches is cultic, all of the elements within it are cultic. It has a distorted Christology, that is, a warped view of Christ. It has a distorted view of man, an exalted view of man. It has a theology built on human works. It has a process of sanctification that justifies greed. It has a belief that new revelation from within the group is unlocking secrets that have been hidden from the church for years. It believes that extra-biblical human writings are inspired and authoritative, and it has an exclusivity that compels its adherents to shun any and every criticism of the movement. In fact, as you know, Benny Hinn said if anybody criticizes him, he wants to get a Holy Ghost machine gun and blow their head off.

In the word faith system, God is not Lord of all. He can't work unless we release Him to work. He is dependent on human instruments. He is dependent on human faith.

So, I think it's fair to say that word faith theology denies the sovereignty of God, removes the need to pray to God for any relief from burdens or needs, and gives the

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Christian himself both dominion and creative power. In my judgment, it is human pride at its ugliest. Worse, it is idolatry and the new idol is self; and God is dethroned.

This is what Kenneth Copeland writes: “He imparted in you, when you were born again, Peter said it just as plain. He said, ‘We are partakers of the divine nature.’ That nature is life eternal in absolute perfection, and that was imparted, injected into your spirit man and you have that imparted into you by God just the same as you imparted into your child the nature of humanity. That child wasn’t born a whale; he was born a human, isn’t that true? Well now, you don’t have a human do you? You are one. And you don’t have a god in you, you are one.”

Earl Paulk, another of them, wrote, quote, “Until we comprehend that we are little gods and we begin to act like little gods, we cannot manifest the Kingdom of God.”

Benny Hinn adds, quote, “The new creation is created after God in righteousness and true holiness. The new man is after God, like God, godlike, complete in Jesus Christ. The new creation is just like God. May I say it like this? You are a little god on earth running around.” And then Hinn responded to criticism of such teaching this way: he said, “Now, are you ready for some real revelation knowledge? Okay, now watch this. He laid aside His divine form so one day I would be clothed on earth with the divine form. Kenneth Hagin has a teaching; a lot of people have problems with it, yet it is absolute truth. Kenneth Copeland has a teaching; many Christians have put holes in it, but it’s divine truth. Hagin and Copeland say, ‘You are god, you are gods.’ ‘Oh, I can’t be God.’ Hold it. Let’s bring balance to this teaching. The balance is being taught by Hagin; it’s those who repeat him that mess it up. The balance is being taught by Copeland, who’s my dear friend; but it’s those who repeat what he says that are messing it up. You see there, brother? When Jesus was on earth, the Bible says ‘He first disrobed Himself of the divine form.’ He, the limitless God, became a man that we men may become as He is.” End quote.

Copeland teaches that Adam was created in the god class; that is, Adam was a reproduction of God. Listen to what he says, quote, “He was not subordinate to God. Adam was walking as a god. What he said went, what he did counted, and when he bowed his knee to Satan and put Satan up above him, then there wasn’t

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anything God could do about it because a god had placed Satan there. Adam, remember, was created in the god class, but when he committed high treason he fell below the god class.” End quote.

On the cross, according to Copeland, Jesus won the right for believers to be born again back into the god class. Adam was created, not subordinate to God, but as a god. He lost it, and in Christ, we are taken back to the god class. In saying that, Copeland believes that Jesus, quote, “Won healing, He won deliverance; He won financial prosperity, mental prosperity, physical prosperity, family prosperity. He said He’d meet my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus, and I’m walking around and saying, ‘Yes, my needs are met according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.’ Glory to God. I’m coveting to the need meter, I’m coveting to the I am, hallelujah, and I say this with all respect so that it don’t upset you too bad, but I say it anyway. When I read in the Bible where He says I am, I just smile and say, yes, I am too.”

**Thus have the word faith teachers agreed to depose God and put us in His place.**

The tenants of the Word of Faith Movement, The Prosperity Gospel

1. Our new nature makes us a god. Proof text Psalm 82:6
2. God has given over sovereignty to man.
3. Health and prosperity are every Christians divine right
4. Believers words have creative and determinative force
  - a. Positive Confession: If you say it and believe it, it will happen.
  - b. Your confessions based upon your faith in faith will bring things to pass. And God has to act because it’s a la
  - c. In fact, positive confession encourages people to absolutely ignore their sins and deny their reality, doesn’t it? You don’t want to mention anything negative. It has produced multitudes of people who perpetually wear these emotionless smiles out of fear. Fear that a negative confession might bring them bad fortune and so they may be piling up sin which is never, ever dealt with.
  - d. To talk of sin is a negative confession, so it is not talked about.

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**Word faith theology makes the healer a hero when miraculous cheers are claimed, but always blames the seeker for lack of faith when the healing doesn't happen.**

**God is not the object of their faith and God is not the force in their life.**

They have a

1. Distorted Christology: Jesus was not divine while on the Earth. He died as a man and was reborn as a man. No different than what we can do with our new nature. He accomplished, not because He was God, but because he knew the Word of God. Christ's death was an offering to Satan.
2. Exalted view of man
3. Erroneous view of God
4. The wrong view of faith: They teach that faith is some kind of law, some kind of inviolable, immutable, unchanging, impersonal law, that it's like gravity, that anybody who gets involved with it gets the same results. What the error of this is, simply stated, is that this puts confidence in the nature of faith rather than in the object of faith. It assumes that there's something inherent in believing, that enacts something, when it isn't true at all. It is not the nature of faith that is effective; it is the object of faith. It is my faith in God that gets results, not my faith in faith.  
As the name word faith implies, this movement teaches that faith is a matter of what we say more than in whom we trust, or what truths we embrace and affirm in our hearts.
- 5.
6. Theology based on human works
7. New revelation
8. Extra-biblical human writings, deemed inspired and authoritative

I suggested to you last time that all of the elements that are common to the cults exist within the prosperity movement or the health wealth movement, a distorted Christology, an exalted view of man, an erroneous view of God, a theology based on human works, a belief that new revelation is coming and unlocking secrets that have been hidden for years, extra-biblical human writings that they deem inspired and authoritative.

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Word faith teachers say, “Jesus gave up His deity and took on Satan’s nature in order to die for our sins.” Let me say that again. They say that “Jesus gave up His deity and took on Satan’s nature in order to die for our sins.” Kenneth Copeland, who is a worldwide proponent of this, defends his infamous prophecy that called doubt on the deity of Christ by saying, “Why didn’t Jesus openly proclaim Himself as God during His 33 years on earth?” For one single reason: “He hadn’t come to earth as God, He’d come as man.” End quote.

New Thought and Word of Faith manipulating Scripture

### **John 10:10**

**I have come that they may have life, and life abundantly.**

The “word of faith” concept focuses only on the temporal! This is a cheap knock off of what God wants for His people. It is an imitation.

### **BIBLICALLY ACCURATE INTERPRETATION**

Luke 12:15,23

Our abundance does not consist of our possessions. Life is more than food and clothing,

John 17:3

Eternal life is an abundant life. It is an eternal relationship with God.

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Philippians 3:7-11

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**Acts 20:35**

**It is more blessed to give than to receive.**

It's not about giving in order to get. If this were the case, then Acts 20:35 is really just stating give to get, because getting more than you give is the blessing.

### **BIBLICALLY ACCURATE INTERPRETATION**

The blessing is giving to give. Love others by giving to them, so that others will be blessed. This is an act of love.

If we give to get, then that is not an act of love.

I Timothy 6:5,6

And constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

**Matthew 21:22**

**And all things you ask in prayer, believing you will receive**

### **OTHER VERSES TO SHAPE OUR UNDERSTANDING**

James 4:3

You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

John 14:13,14

Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

What does it mean to ask in the name of God?

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I John 5:14,15

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

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### **Mathew 7:1-2**

Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure it will be measured to you.

### **JUST KEEP READING**

Matthew 7:3-5

### **Matthew 7:7**

Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Whatever you want, just want it enough and you can get it.

### **BIBLICALLY ACCURATE INTERPRETATION**

This is a very challenging verse.

Does God give us everything we want? Do our motives play any role in this? Does the will of God play any role in our prayers and what God does? Can I bend God to my will? How does the model prayer connect with this? What about Jesus' prayer about the cup passing?

II Corinthians 12:7-9

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Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this, I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness," Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

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### Proverbs 23:7

**For as he thinks within himself, so he is, He says to you, "Eat and drink!" But his heart is not with you.**

Context:

Proverbs 23:6-8

Do not eat the bread of a selfish man. Or desire his delicacies. **For as he thinks within himself, so he is, He says to you, "Eat and drink!" But his heart is not with you.** You will vomit up the morsel you have eaten, and waste your compliments.

The real you is the inner thought life" It's not the outward expression, but what is inside. Your desires and thoughts, even if you keep them hidden, are the genuine person. It is in the thought life!

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### John 10:34-35

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**Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law, I said you are gods? If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken, do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, “You are blaspheming because I said, I am the Son of God?”**

Psalm 82:1-8

Summary: The leaders of government, nations, or cities are being rebuked for ruling unjustly, not protecting the weak or the fatherless. God is going to destroy them and take over the nations Himself! Jesus will inherit all nations. This implies the deity of Christ.

Their authority comes from God. All authority is from God

Isaiah chapter 44

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**Romans 4:17**

**As it is written, “A father of many nations I have made you” in the presens of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.**

God is talking about what He is going to do! He can declare the future, and we should trust Him.

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**I John 4:17-19**

**By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love;**

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**but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.**

The context is a fear of eternal judgment from God. Christians who are fearful of judgment still, do not have an understanding of the love of God. Love hasn't been completed, perfected, in them.

Luke 12:4-5

Summary: Those who are not in Christ SHOULD have fear of God, because He will destroy both body and soul.

**Galatians 6:7,8**

**Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.**

According to Mike Winger:

It's about eternal things, not temporal things.

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**Proverbs 18:21**

**Death and life are in the power of the tongue. And those who love it will eat its fruit.**

Context:

Proverbs 18:20,21

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With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied: He will be satisfied with the product of his lips. **Death and life are in the power of the tongue. And those who love it will eat its fruit.**

We will eat our words, for good or bad.

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### **John 14:12-14**

**Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.**

**Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.**

What does greater mean?

- Quality or Quantity

Our heroes in Scripture, Paul, Peter, ect, did not do greater qualitative miracles than Jesus!

He's leaving, so the number of works He is doing physically on the Earth is coming to an end for now.

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It is quantity. The number of works is quantitatively more, exponentially more because of the number of years and the number

**If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.**

Romans 1:9,10

For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the Gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you, always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

Paul is praying to be able to see the Romans, but recognizing this may not be God's will.

Also, Paul praying about the thorn in his flesh.

**Philippians 4:13**

**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

**Jeremiah 29:11**

**For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope.**

### **BIBLICALLY ACCURATE INTERPRETATION**

Putting Philippians 4:13 in context

Phillipians 4:11-14

Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.** Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction.

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**BIBLICALLY ACCURATE INTERPRETATION**

Written by Jeremiah to the captives in Babylon, so they would know that He wasn't done with them. That there was still hope and a future for them where they were, but better yet, even to come back to the promised land of God, the land of Israel.

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**Romans 12:2**

**And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore I urge you brethren by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

**And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**

Sacrifice myself, my desires, my actions to God