

SCIENTOLOGY BETRAY **JEHOVAH'S** DUPE **DECEPTION**
TWO-FACED FICTION **PRETEND** **WITNESSES** **LIES** **MOHAMMAD**
ISLAM **ARTIFICIAL** **BOGUS** **CHEAT** **FORGE** **COPY**
"DESERTING THE ONE WHO CALLED YOU" ~ GALATIANS 1:6 **CORRUPTION** **BLUFF** **FEIGN** **FRAUD**
WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING **MISLEADING** **FRONTS** **SMITH** **SMITH**
"WATCH OUT THAT NO ONE DECEIVES YOU" ~ MATTHEW 24:4 **CHEAP** **POOR REFLECTION OF THE TRUTH** **DUPLICITOUS** **FACSIMILE**
COUNTERFEIT 

HERESIES **DESTRUCTION** **"THEY WILL SECRETLY INTRODUCE DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES" ~ 2 Peter 2:1** **PROSPERITY GOSPEL**
MORMONISM **IMITATION** **UNFOUNDED** **IMPOSTER** **SHAM** **FALSE TEACHER**
"THEY WILL TURN THEIR EARS AWAY FROM THE TRUTH AND TURN ASIDE TO MYTHS" ~ 2 TIMOTHY 4:4 **FAKE** **"EXPLOIT WITH STORIES THEY HAVE MADE UP" ~ 2 PETER 2:3**
MIMIC **CHURCH OF OPRAH** **"YOU HAVE BELIEVED IN VAIN" ~ 1 COR 13:2**
EXPLOIT **NEW AGE** **ILLUSIONIST** **PHONY**
"TRYING TO PERVERT THE GOSPEL" ~ GALATIANS 1:7

The Prosperity Gospel: Responding as Christians



The Prosperity Gospel

Tonight as you go home and turn on your favorite religious network and listen to your favorite minister on television then listen carefully to the gospel that he proclaims. If he is a minister of the Prosperity Gospel then you will hear doctrines like this:

“Every Christian is a god...You don’t have a god in you; you are one.” “It is in your power to release the ability of God.” “You can have what you say...You can write your own ticket with God.” “You are not whole until you get your money.” “Satan conquered Jesus on the cross.” “Man was created on terms of equality with God, and he could stand in God’s presence without any consciousness of inferiority.” “God doesn’t even draw a distinction between Himself and us.”

Is the Prosperity Gospel the same as the Biblical Gospel?

As shocking as it may sound, the Prosperity Gospel is the leading gospel presented all across the world today and it is a false gospel taught by false prophets on TBN and the Daystar network. This false gospel is a warped form of the Biblical Gospel that is leading millions of people to an eternal destruction and robbing them of an eternal hope with the Living God.

Fast Facts on the Prosperity Gospel

- The Prosperity Gospel is the most popular version of the gospel presented throughout the world today.
- The Prosperity Gospel is also known as the “Word-of-Faith Gospel,” “Positive Confession,” “Health and Wealth Gospel,” and the “Name it and Claim it Gospel.”
- The Prosperity Gospel teaches that Christians are equal in stature and power to God and making us little gods.
- The Prosperity Gospel teaches that we can speak items into existence through faith and claiming them out loud.
- The Prosperity Gospel teaches that when you claim an item out loud then God is obligated to give it to you.

The History of the Prosperity Gospel

The Prosperity Gospel movement is a cult that has infiltrated Christianity. It is not classified as one organized group or denomination and there is no specific founder or founding date. The doctrinal basis finds its heritage in Gnosticism but E.W.

Kenyon was the earliest known leader to blend the movement's eastern mystical and New Age elements with Christian teachings. E. W. Kenyon is recognized as the founding father of the modern Word-Faith Movement. Beginning as a Methodist, he became quite ecumenical, associating with the Baptists. Late in life, Kenyon moved into Pentecostalism. At the same time, he combined elements of the metaphysical cults, such as Christian Science, New Thought theology, and Unity School of Christianity (D.R. McConnell, *A Different Gospel*, pp. 31-35). This brought about the modern day philosophy of the Prosperity Gospel.

Definition and Formula of the Prosperity Gospel

The Prosperity Gospel – It is a gospel that declares that each believer has the right to blessings of health and wealth and these blessings come through positive confessions of faith and the faithful payment of tithes and offerings.

Creflo Dollar, a leader in the Prosperity Gospel movement, presents us with another definition of this gospel as he writes in his book *Total Life Prosperity*.

“Biblical prosperity is the ability to be in control of every circumstance and situation that occurs in your life. No matter what happens, whether financial, social, physical, marital, spiritual, or emotional, this type of prosperity enables you to maintain control in every situation.” (Creflo A. Dollar Jr., *Total Life Prosperity*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1999, x.)

Question to Consider – Does a Christian *really* have the ability to control every circumstance and situation that occurs in your life?

Biblical Response

If this was a Biblical principle then it would make sense that none of disciples, the Apostle Paul, or even John the Baptist would have endured hardship, persecution, or martyrdom for faith in Jesus Christ. If this was a Biblical principle then these men would have only had to claim freedom from persecution, trials, or tribulations and it would have happened. Reflect on what you see in Scriptures and Biblically respond to the definition of the Prosperity Gospel.

- The Apostle Paul understood the Word of God in a different manner. He writes: “It has been granted to you on behalf of

Christ not only to believe in him, but to suffer for his sake” (Philippians 1:29).

- Peter also understood that as a Christian you would have to endure hardship. You would not be able to be in control of all things rather you had to endure all things for the glory of the Lord. “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed” (1 Peter 4:12–13).
- God also promises that you will not be in control of all things. Actually He promises that you must endure suffering as Christians who seek to honor him. “Anyone who wants to live all out for Christ is in for a lot of trouble; there’s no getting around it” (2 Timothy 3:12, msg).
- Jesus declared that John the Baptist was the greatest of men in Luke 7:28. John was imprisoned then beheaded with his head displayed on a platter (Matthew 14:6–12).

The truth is that God has authority over all things under the heavens and earth. He is the Creator and Ruler over the universe and He alone is in control. Mankind is not in control!

The Formula for the Prosperity Gospel

One of the earliest leaders of the modern day Prosperity Gospel movement was Kenneth Hagin (deceased). In the opening chapter of his book entitled, *How to Write Your Own Ticket with God*, Hagin claims that while he was “in the Spirit,” Jesus instructed him to “write down: 1, 2, 3, 4.”

Hagin then claims that Jesus told him that “if anybody, anywhere, will take these four steps or put these four principles into operation, he will always receive whatever he wants from Me or from God the Father.” This formula also includes whatever you want financially. The formula is simply: “Say it, Do it, Receive it, and Tell it.”¹

- **Step 1 – “Say it”** – “Positive or negative, it is up to the individual. According to what the individual says, that shall he receive.”

¹(Hank Hanegraaff, *Christianity in Crisis*. Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1993, p. 74, 75.)

- **Step 2 – “Do it”** – “Your action defeats you or puts you over. According to your action, you receive or you are kept from receiving.”
- **Step 3 – “Receive it”** – We are to plug into the “powerhouse of heaven.” “Faith is the plug. Just plug in.”
- **Step 4 – “Tell it so others may believe”** – The final step might be considered the Faith movement’s outreach program.

Key Doctrines of the Prosperity Gospel

The Prosperity Gospel has always claimed to be part of the Christian movement yet the key doctrines that establish the foundation of this movement are completely unbiblical. Observe these key doctrines of the Prosperity Gospel.

Doctrine 1 – You are a Little God

Prosperity Gospel preachers teach that mankind is equal in power and stature to God. These teaches downplay the holiness and Sovereign nature of the Living God and claim making it easier to claim that Christians are little gods.

- Kenneth Hagin wrote, "man...was created on terms of equality with God, and he could stand in God's presence without any consciousness of inferiority.... He made us the same class of being that He is Himself.... He lived on terms equal with God.... The believer is called Christ, that's who we are; we're Christ" (*Zoe: The God Kind of Life*, pp. 35-36, 41).
- Kenneth Copeland teaches, "God's reason for creating Adam was His desire to reproduce Himself...He was not a little like God. He was not almost like God. He was not subordinate to God even" (Copeland, *Following the Faith of Abraham*, 1989, Tape #01-3001). He also proclaims, "You don't have a God in you, you are one!" (Copeland, *The Force of Love*, 1987, Tape #02-0028).
- Kenneth Copeland also teaches, “When I read in the Bible where He says I AM, I just smile and say, 'Yes, I AM too.'" (*Believer's Voice of Victory* Broadcast, 7/9/1987.)
- **Biblical Response** – There is only One God. We are not little gods. **Isaiah 44:6** – "This is what the LORD says - Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

Doctrine 2 – God Must Obey You

Prosperity Gospel preachers teach that God operates by spiritual law and is obligated to obey the faith-filled commands and desires

of believers. God reveals prosperity teaching to Prosperity Gospel preachers both personally and verbally in order to confirm their unique interpretations of Scripture (Copeland, *Laws of Prosperity*, pp. 60-62).

- These false teachers trace the promise to command God back to the Abrahamic Covenant. They will claim that God must do His part in the covenant as we respond to Him in faith. Robert Tilton teaches, "we make our own promises to do our part, then we can tell God, on the authority of His word, what we would like Him to do. That's right, you can actually tell God what you would like His part in the Covenant to be" (*God's Miracle Plan for Man*, p. 36).
- Kenneth Copeland teaches, "as a believer, you have a right to make commands in the name of Jesus. Each time you stand on the Word, you are commanding God to a certain extent, because it is His Word" (*Our Covenant with God*, p. 32). Copeland even claims that "God was the lesser party and Abraham was the greater" in the covenant between them (Copeland, *Legal and Vital Aspects of Redemption*, 1985, Audio Tape #01-0403).
- **Biblical Response** – God is the ruler over all things and He is not controlled by anyone. **Matthew 4:7** – Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

Doctrine 3 – Atonement

The third false doctrine taught by the Prosperity Gospel preachers is the distorted version of the atonement of Christ. These false preachers teach that Christ had to die spiritually not physically to atone for the sins of mankind.

- Kenneth Hagin taught, "Physical death will not remove sins" (Hagin, *The Name of Jesus*, p. 29). Hagin taught that it took the spiritual death of Jesus to atone for sins.
- K.C. Price wrote, "Do you think that the punishment of our sins was to die on the cross? If that was the case, the two thieves could have paid our price. No, the punishment was to go into hell itself and to serve time in hell separated from God" (K. C. Price, *Ever Increasing Faith Messenger*, June 1990, p. 7).

The doctrine of atonement is even more warped than initially presented in the preceding paragraphs. The Prosperity Gospel preachers also teach that when Adam did not just sin against God at the fall of mankind but he also took on the nature of Satan.

These teachers claim that to redeem mankind from Satan's control, then Jesus had to die both physically and spiritually. They also teach the blasphemous doctrine that Jesus not only bore our sins on Calvary, but also took on the actual nature of Satan himself.

- "Just as Adam died spiritually, Jesus died spiritually. The spiritual death He suffered caused His physical body to die.... When Jesus accepted the sin nature of Satan into His Spirit He cried 'My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?' He was separated from God... He was ushered into the bowels of hell" (Kenneth Copeland, *Classic Redemption*, p. 13; emphasis added). "Spiritual death means having Satan's nature" (Hagin, *The Name of Jesus*, p. 31).
- Just a man on earth, and taking on the nature of Satan at the cross, Jesus becomes just a sinner in need of redemption. At the resurrection Jesus is a born again man from the pit of hell. "Jesus was born again in the pit of Hell....The Church started when Jesus was born again in the gates of Hell" (Charles Capps, *Authority In Three Worlds*, pp. 212 13).
- **Biblical Response – 1 Peter 2:24** – He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Doctrine 4 – Positive Confession

The Prosperity Gospel preachers teach the theology of the spoken word or thought actualization also known as **positive confession**. This teaching stresses the power of words and thoughts. Each person has the ability to predestine his own future by what he says verbally and by how well he uses spiritual laws.

- Kenneth Copeland teaches, "What you are saying is exactly what you are getting now. If you are living in poverty and lack and want, change what you are saying.... The powerful force of the spiritual world that creates the circumstances around us is controlled by the words of the mouth." (The Laws of Prosperity, Kenneth Copeland, Ft. Worth: Kenneth Copeland Publications, 1974).
- **Biblical Response – 2 Corinthians 5:7** – We live by faith, not by sight.

Doctrine 5 – The Gospel of Health

The next doctrine that the Prosperity Gospel preachers proclaim comes from the manipulation of Isaiah 53. They use this passage to justify coverage for the physical healing of every Christian who has enough faith.

- Kenneth Hagin taught, "...it is the plan of our Father God in His great love and His great mercy that no believer should ever be sick, that every believer should live his life full span down here on earth and that every believer should finally just fall asleep in Jesus" (Hagin, *Seven Things You Should Know About Divine Healing*, p. 21).
- Joel Osteen teaches, "Maybe Alzheimer's disease runs in your family genes, but don't succumb to it. Instead, say every day, 'My mind is alert. I have clarity of thought. I have a good memory. Every cell in my body is increasing and getting healthier.' If you'll rise up in your authority, you can be the one to put a stop to the negative things in your family line.... Start boldly declaring, 'God is restoring health unto me. I am getting better every day in every way.'" (Joel Osteen, *Become a Better You* (New York: Free Press, 2007), 45, 114.)
- **Biblical Response – 2 Corinthians 12:7-9** – ⁷To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Doctrine 6 – The Gospel of Wealth

The final teaching of the Prosperity Gospel is that God desires the financial prosperity of every Christian. If a believer lives in poverty then they are living outside God's intended will.

- "You must realize that it is God's will for you to prosper" (Copeland, *Laws of Prosperity*, p. 51).
- "We established last night that you are not whole until you get your money. Amen." His church members cheer when they hear him say "Well, you need to hear about money, because you ain't gonna have no love and joy and peace until you get some money!... You got to get some MONEY!" (Creflo Dollar, TBN, July 20, 1999)
- **Biblical Response – 1 Timothy 6:6-7** – ⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

Comparison between the Prosperity Gospel & Biblical Christianity

We have been warned through the Word of God that false teachers and false prophets would arise in the last of days to lead many astray. We must arm ourselves with the truth in order to be able to respond to these false prophets. Observe the following comparison chart and arm yourself with the Word of God.

	Biblical Christianity	Prosperity Gospel
God	The one God is a Spirit who is the personal, eternal, infinite Creator of all that exists. He is the only God and necessary for all other things to exist. He exists eternally as a Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (see Deut. 6:4; Isa. 43:10; 44:6-8; Matt. 28:19; John 4:24; 17:3)	Every Christian is a god. ... "You don't have a God in you; <u>you are one</u> ," (The Force of Love. Fort Worth: Kenneth Copeland Ministries, 1987, audiotape #02-0028, side 1.) "Am I a god? Man was created in the god class, was not created in the animal class, it was the gods class. He has a uniqueness about him that even angels do not have...Now Peter said by exceeding great and precious promises, you become partakers of the divine nature. Alright, are we gods? <u>We are a class of gods.</u> " (Copeland, Praise the Lord, TBN, 2/5/1986)
Jesus Christ	Jesus Christ was the virgin born God incarnate who existed in all time with the Father and Holy Spirit in the eternal Trinity. As a man He possessed two natures -human and divine. He lived a sinless life and willingly died on	"Man...was created on terms of equality with God, and he could stand in God's presence without any consciousness of inferiority.... He made us the same class of being that He is Himself.... He lived on terms equal with

	<p>the cross as a sacrifice for the sin of all humanity. (see John 1:1-18; 8:56-59; Phil. 2:6-11; Col. 1:13-22; Heb.1:3; 13:8)</p>	<p>God.... The believer is called Christ, that's who we are; we're Christ" (<i>Zoe: The God Kind of Life</i>, pp. 35-36, 41).</p> <p>Jesus did not openly proclaim Himself as God during His 33 years on earth because He didn't come to earth as God, He come as man." (Copeland, <i>Believer's Voice of Victory</i> magazine, Aug. 8, 1988. p.8)</p>
<p>Salvation</p>	<p>Men are saved from their sins only by a personal faith in Jesus Christ. Christ's death on the cross was an atonement for God's wrath against sin so that God could freely forgive those who trust His son (1 Jn. 2:2; Jn. 3:16).</p>	<p>"The Spirit of God spoke to me and He said, 'Son, realize this...'.A twice-born man whipped Satan in his own domain (<i>Jesus</i>).' He said, 'You are the very image, the very copy of that one.' I said, 'Well now you don't mean <u>that I could have done the same thing?</u>' He said, 'Oh yeah, if you'd had the knowledge of the Word of God that He did, you could've done the same thing, 'cause you're a reborn man too." (Copeland, <i>Substitution and Identification</i>, 1989, tape #00-0202, side 2.)</p> <p>When I read in the Bible where He says I AM, I just smile and say, 'Yes, I AM too.'" (Believer's Voice of Victory Broadcast, 7/9/1987)</p>

“Watch out that no one deceives you...”

- Jesus (Matthew 24:4)

How Now Shall We Respond?

We have exposed and responded to the false claims made by the Prosperity Gospel movement by bringing these beliefs into the light of God’s Word. It is important for us to understand that there are many more false religions, false prophets, and false teachers all around us. We conclude this booklet by asking this question:

How will you respond to the Prosperity Gospel as a Christian?

1 Peter 3:15 – But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

Now is the time for Christians to rise up and respond to the false religions that we are encountering in this world. Prepare your heart and mind by implementing the following steps.

- **Step #1** – Study and memorize the Word of God.
- **Step #2** – Apply the Word of God in your life.
- **Step #3** – Guard your heart and mind through prayer and the Word of God.
- **Step #4** – Always be ready to give a response for the Hope that you have through Christ alone!

Scripture quotations are New International Version, taken from the Holy Bible, NIV Version,
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