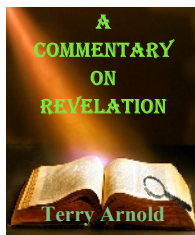


**\*\* New Books \*\***



The author has in recent years completed commentaries on *First Corinthians* and *Revelation*. God willing we will soon have these books as PDF documents for a donation, and later an e-book version. (Hard copies are currently not available).



‘*A Commentary on First Corinthians - Exegetical and Expositional*’ (330 pages)  
‘*A Commentary on Revelation - Exegetical and Expositional*’ (150 pages).

The First Corinthians commentary is exhaustive and includes chapter study questions. It is designed for the preacher and student, and contains detailed exegetical, expositional and pastoral notes.

The Revelation commentary likewise is expositional and adapted from the series published in *Diakrisis* between 2020 to 2023.

The following endorsements have been given for the books:

‘*With meticulous exegetical precision...the author carefully navigates through the entirety of 1 Corinthians providing a thorough verse-by-verse explanation...a highly recommended resource for readers seeking deep understanding and application of the text*’. (Todd Stanton, Pastor-Teacher, Sydney)

‘*...Terry reveals the heart of the Apostle John’s revelation...by ‘leaving no stone unturned’ approach to the interpretation and meaning...This work will encourage, excite, and motivate the reader to a greater appreciation of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ...I heartily recommend this commentary on Revelation*’ (Pastor Keith Henderson, Qld)

**Subscription Form**

I am interested in receiving the *free* bi-monthly  
TA Ministries newsletter ‘*Diakrisis*’ by  
 *hardcopy*  by *e-mail* (tick boxes)

Send this form to:

**TA Ministries**  
**PO Box 432,**  
**Babinda, Qld, 4861, Australia**

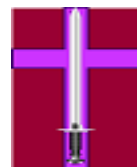
Name-----Address-----

E-mail-----Phone-----

Signed-----Date-----

(Optional) I enclose \$----- as a donation for costs and postage.

**For transfer deposits: National Bank, BSB 084 705 Account No. 02737 1856**



# *Diakrisis* (Australia)

‘*But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern [diakrisis] both good and evil*’, (Heb.5:14)

**PO Box 432, Babinda, Qld. Australia, 4861.**  
**E-mail: taministries2@gmail.com Ph. 0411489472**  
**Website: www.taministries.net**

---

**Newsletter of TA Ministries Vol.4, No.41 Aug/Sept/Oct 2024**

---

TA Ministries is a non-denominational faith ministry,  
***Teaching, Informing and Equipping*** the church.  
Editor: Terry Arnold (Dr.Th; MABS; Dip.Bib.&Min.)

The editor may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed by subscribers in this newsletter.

We welcome comments or items contributed by readers. Unless otherwise requested, these may be included in following newsletters at the discretion of the editor.

Articles in this newsletter may be copied or reproduced provided it is in context and proper credit and references are given. We encourage distribution of this newsletter that others might be *taught, informed* and *equipped*.

This newsletter is distributed bi-monthly *free* of charge. The cost to this ministry is approximately \$20.00 per subscriber annually. Any donation to help with these expenses is received with gratitude.

**Contents**

- P.2** Editor’s Comment
- P.3** Africa - Deadly Persecution; 11 Christians Sentenced to Combined 90 Years Go Missing
- P.4** More Vaccine Reports
- P.5** Women in Ministry - Divisions
- P.6** The Forgotten Peace Talks
- P.7,8** God’s Purpose in ‘*all things*’
- P.9,10** The ‘Anointing’
- P.11-13** The Prosperity Gospel-The Roots, Fruit
- P.14** The ‘*Body of This Death*’ (Rom.7:24)
- P.15** The ‘*Prophecy of the Scripture*’ (Is.65:1; Rom.10:21); Do Methods Affect the Message?
- P.16** Promise of Christ/Justice of God; Quotable-True Revelation; P.17 Comments/Questions

**Newsletter Changes**

**Due to the upcoming travelling itinerary, this newsletter covers three months (Aug/Sept/Oct).**

**Please note changes to itinerary.**

**Pray for safe travel and Spirit led meetings.**

---

***Gospel Confusion***  
***Conference***

**See P.17,19 for details**

## Editor's Comment



I would lose count of the number of times I have heard Christians say ‘*God told me*’, howbeit in differing forms.

Recently the U.S. Senate candidate, Kari Lake, spoke at a Christian activists conference, stating ‘*It was God’s plan not her own that she run for public office*’. Referring to God as ‘*him*’ she state”: ‘*I want to bring Him back...into our culture, into our lives, into our hearts and souls*’.

To this many would say ‘amen’. But Kari then added that when she quit her job, she prayed and asked God to ‘*give me some answers...I literally opened the Bible, I didn’t know where I was opening it*’. Lake opened to 1 Timothy 6:7 ‘*You bring nothing into this world and it is for certain you take nothing out*’. Can you believe that is the answer God gave me?’ Lake envisioned living a ‘*quiet life...out of the public eye...but God said, ‘No, no, no, I’ve got a few things I have planned for you before that quiet life. I’m going to throw you into the...middle of the political world...You’re going to help lead a movement in Arizona, you’re going to fight for election integrity, you’re going to be called every name in the book. The media’s going to hate you, the media’s going to write 100% negative coverage of you’...God is amazing, He gives you what you ask for*’ (Christian Post, 24/6/2024).

I might admire many of the moral things this woman stands for, including her stand against a corrupt mainstream media, but why is God attributed to words *He did not speak*? How are these words different to words spoken by the many professed ‘prophets’ today? How many times do these ‘prophets’ have to be wrong before we realise God is not speaking these words?

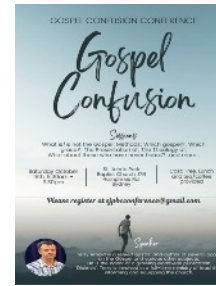
God ‘*spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son*’ (Heb.1:1,2). The word ‘*spoken*’ in verse 2 is a Greek tense showing a snapshot of something that *has occurred* in the past (‘*in time PAST*’), at a set time, and spoken by God alone. *There is no room for any continuing revelation here!* This Word became ‘*the faith once delivered to the saints*’ (Jude 3) from the prophets and apostles who were the ‘*foundation*’ of the church (Eph.2:20). Again here the Greek tense has no continuing element, it being given to men *past*. Indeed, that ‘*canon*’ of scripture was *closed*. It has survived many attacks, but none so subtle as the ‘*God told me*’ doctrine of modern times!

If new words were to continue then why did God not give more prophets and apostles? Why the silence for 2,000 years? Why did the church fathers, the Reformers and church leaders *unanimously* acknowledge revelation as ceased?

There are consistent warnings in scripture not to *add* revelations to the all sufficient Bible (Deut.4:2; 12:32; Prov.30:6; Rev.22:18,19; 1Cor.4:6). It warns of ‘*fables*’ to ‘*itching ears*’ from *false teachers* (2Tim.4:2-4). In 2 Peter 1:19,20 it speaks of the ‘*more sure word of prophecy...the prophecy of THE SCRIPTURE*’. That prophecy is pure and all sufficient for the spiritual life (Ps.12:6; 2Tim.3:16).

*We do not limit God here, as some say, for He has limited His own words!* The prophesy of ‘*God told me*’ should be answered with ‘*No, He has not*’!

**Terry Arnold**



## **\*\* Gospel Confusion Conference \*\***

**Date:** Saturday October 19th, 9.30am - 3.30pm

**Venue:** St. John’s Park Baptist, 178 Humphries Rd, Sydney

**Sessions:** *What is/not the Gospel; Which gospel; Which Depravity; Which Grace; Methods, Mediums...and more...*

**Cost:** Free. Lunch and tea/coffee provided

### **Interstate Itinerary (Updated)**

**(Please note changes to some churches)**

#### **Qld**

**Aug 11th** (Sun) 10am Ayr Presbyterian church 109 MacMillan St, Ph.0458174880

#### **NSW**

**Aug 18th** (Sun) 10am Tumut Grace and Faith Fellowship, Franklin public School, Forrest st. Ph.0447722008

#### **Victoria**

**Aug 21st** (Wed) 7.30pm Numurkah Gospel, 60 Meiklejohn St. Ph.0407040820

**Aug 25th** (Sun) 10.30am Numurkah Gospel Fellowship (details as above)

**Sept 1st** (Sun) 10am & 1pm Mt. Cathedral Baptist, 37 Grant St Alexandra, Ph.0409382041

**Sept 8th** (Sun) 10am & pm, Hamilton Presbyterian 29 McIntyre St, Ph.0412327170

**Sept 15th** (Sun) 10am Kangaroo Flats Baptist, 32 Church St, Ph.0488100204

**Sept 22nd** 10am & 11am (Sun) Open Doors Baptist (Melton) Botanica Springs Community Centre, 249 Clarkes Road Brookfield Ph.0432862979

#### **NSW**

**Sept 25th** (Frid) 5pm Eden Aboriginal Evangelical church Cnr Moorehead & Clare St. Ph.0401340393

**Sept 28th** (Sat) 5pm Eden Aboriginal Evangelical church, details as above

**Sept 29th** (Sun) 11am & 5pm, Aboriginal Evangelical church, Eden (details above)

**Oct 6th** (Sun) 10am Fellowship Baptist, 226 Nuwarra Rd, Moorebank Ph.0488555981

**Oct 6th** (Sun) 5pm Central Mountains Baptist, Sydney, Hazelbrook school hall 159 Great Western Highway Ph.0466590132

**Oct 11th** 7.30pm (Frid) Evangel church, cnr Neville & Clarke St, Bass Hill Ph.0409090568

**Oct 13th** 9.30am (Sun) Evangel church (details as above)

**Oct 19th** (Sat) St Johns Park Baptist, Sydney - Gospel Conference - see this page

**Oct 20th** 10.30am & 5pm (Sun) St Johns Park Baptist, 178 Humphries Rd, Ph.0417179610

#### **Qld**

**Oct 27th** (Sun) 9.30am Hervey Bay Bible Church (Urangan Community Hall, Elizabeth St. (entrance opposite Miller St) Ph. 0411051118

**Oct 27th** (Sun) 6pm Gin Gin Baptist, English St, Ph.0428385852

## Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor)

Dear Terry,

I read with interest the letter on P.17 of July 'Diakrisis' by the person whose name was withheld.

There were many people who were well informed of the Corona Virus and its patent with the patent office at and before the (yes the pandemic) was announced.

A simple test to evaluate the accuracy of any proceedings is to 'follow the money'. In this case the Blue Cross Blue Shield pays doctors \$40,000 bonus for fully vaccinating 100 patients under 2. If he vaccinates 200 patients it increases to \$80,000. Paediatricians lose the lot if they only vaccinate up to 63%

The truth will set us free and the 'safe and effective' hype was to instil and provoke fear into the nations.

God set us to be watchmen, and many there is and are who have not recognised the truth.

(E.V. Qld)

---

### U-tube Clip Worth Looking At!

U.S. Apologist, Justin Peters, has for some time accused Bill Johnson and the Bethel church of lying. He has challenged them to produce evidence of their multiple claims of 'angel feathers' and 'gold dust' falling on their congregations, (apparently 'hundreds of times' since about 2014 'in several different buildings'). The claims have been made in several different videos by different leaders. The 'angel feathers' have apparently fallen in many services and in homes. Psalm 91:4 was quoted for this (out of context).

Justin Peters has asked for one feather to test, or even a video or picture of one. (This would not be difficult considering the technology and the media they have in their many services and meetings for these 'hundreds of times').

Justin has stated that if he is wrong he will himself shut down his own ministry and apologise publicly.

Bethel church has not responded after contacting them multiple times and in different ways to different leaders of Bethel, including with emails from other email addresses, and now a public letter by Justin Peters ministry, again asking for just one feather, one picture.

See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUSAwF8bxGA>

Justin Peters ministry also has many worthy videos on various topics.

See also our 'Diakrisis' articles concerning Bethel teachings and their lying claims of signs and wonders: March/April 2020, P.4; Sept/Oct 2022, P.4; May/June 2023, P.3)

## Africa - Deadly Persecution

Raiders with heavy weaponry attacked a predominantly Christian village in Kwall District, Bassa County, killing Pastor Dauda Dalyop, 63, of the Assemblies of God Church; his wife, Chummy Dauda, 57; Chwe Ajuhs, 26; Joshua Kusa, 45; and Rikwe Doro, 43...

...Nigeria remains the deadliest place in the world to follow Christ, with 4,118 people killed for their faith from Oct. 1, 2022, to Sept. 30, 2023, according to 'Open Doors' 2024 World Watch List (WWL) report. More kidnappings of Christians than any other country took place in Nigeria, with 3,300. Nigeria was also the third highest country in number of attacks on churches and Christian buildings such as hospitals, schools, cemeteries, with 750 according to the report'. (Christian Post 13/6/2024)

The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for killing dozens of people in violent attacks lasting days in several villages in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with at least 80 Christians reportedly among the dead... Militants from the Islamic State-affiliated Allied Democratic Forces launched coordinated assaults on villages in the Beni territory of the Christian-majority North Kivu province.

...Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack that killed over 40 people in the village of Mayikengo in Lubero territory...

...Nearly 150 people have been killed since the beginning of June... 'Christians are forced to flee... churches in the affected villages have closed as a result... These unabated attacks come at a time when Christian farmers were preparing for harvest,' said Open Doors U.S. CEO Ryan Brown... 'The rate at which Christian communities continue to be attacked... is horrifying. These attacks... are displacing thousands of people from their homes, farmlands and livelihoods'... On the night of June 7, 41 people were killed and several injured, underscoring a grim tally of over 80 fatalities in just four days... The villages of Masala, Mapasana and Mahini bore the brunt of the onslaught, with armed men using guns and machetes in a brutal rampage... In addition, 11 bodies were discovered in the villages of Kabweli, Mamulese and Mununze... 13 more in the village of Makobu...

(Christian Post, 17/6/2024)

---

### 11 Christians Sentenced to Combined 90 Years Go Missing

Eleven Vietnamese Christians, sentenced to a total of 90 years and eight months in prison for their religious activities, have mysteriously disappeared... six Protestants and five Catholics, now unaccounted for in the [Indonesian] prison system... for accusations of 'undermining national unity policy'... refusing to renounce their faith... [one was] detained for his refusal to close his church.

...In 2018, Vietnam enacted the Law on Belief and Religion, which ostensibly regulates religious practices...

(Anugrah Kumar, Christian Post, July 08, 2024)



## More Vaccine Reports

*Covid vaccines may have contributed to a rise in excess deaths observed across the western world since the pandemic...Researchers from the Netherlands analysed excess all-cause mortality in 47 countries between 2020-2022, when just under 3.1 million total excess deaths were recorded...The highest number of excess deaths, 1.26 million, was recorded in 2021 when both containment measures and vaccines were used... This is compared with 1.03 million in 2020 prior to the vaccine rollout and 808,400 in 2022 when most lockdown measures were lifted but vaccination continued. 'This is unprecedented and raises serious concerns'.*

*'During the pandemic, it was emphasised by politicians and the media that every Covid-19 death mattered and every life deserved protection through containment measures and Covid-19 vaccines. In the aftermath of the pandemic, the same morale should apply. Every death needs to be acknowledged and accounted for, irrespective of its origin' ...[Yet] Authorities have denied any link between vaccines and excess deaths.*

*The authors noted previous research 'confirmed profound under-reporting of adverse events, including deaths, after immunisation', and a lack of consensus in the medical community 'regarding concerns that mRNA vaccines might cause more harm than initially forecasted'. They pointed to secondary analysis of data from Pfizer and Moderna vaccine trials that previously identified heightened risk of serious adverse events such as ischaemic stroke, acute coronary syndrome and brain haemorrhage, all of which are common clinical conditions...*

*'Both medical professionals and citizens have reported serious injuries and deaths following vaccination to various official databases in the western world...These reactions included cardiovascular diseases, coagulation, haemorrhages, gastrointestinal events and thromboses.' Numerous studies reported Covid-19 vaccination may induce myocarditis, pericarditis and auto-immune diseases. Post-mortem examinations have ascribed myocarditis, encephalitis, immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia, intracranial haemorrhage and diffuse thrombosis...The Food and Drug Administration noted in July 2021 the following potentially serious adverse events of Pfizer vaccines: pulmonary embolism, acute myocardial infarction, immune thrombocytopenia, disseminated intravascular coagulation.'*

*The Dutch researchers...also suggested it was 'likely' that containment measures such as lockdowns, stay-at-home orders...curfews and quarantine had contributed to the rise in excess deaths...via interrupted medical treatments...*

*...The Australian government rejects any link between vaccines and excess deaths...They simply do not want to even consider these studies as their reputations are tied with the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccines in Australia'.*

*(News.com 5/6)*

**Editor's note: The recent Channel 7 live audience Covid Vaccine injury show edited out several segments. See <https://rumble.com/v5541ba-must-watch-what-australias-7news-edited-out-of-their-volatile-covid-vaccine.html>**

## **Your Comments and Questions**

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor)

*Terry...re Tongues speaking - what Paul said is not understood by many Charismatics - 1 Corinthians 14:20-22, where Paul states Tongues are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers. Many Charismatics see tongue speaking as initial filling with the Holy Spirit for believers, but most I come across see it as a private prayer language for believers. But what did Paul say? It is a sign, not for believers. Apply Paul's sign principle back to Pentecost, the unbelievers were the Jews, it was a sign for the Jews re Gentiles coming into God's kingdom, and a judgement on Israel if they did not repent...(70 AD!)*

*Also in the same chapter 14:35, Paul states it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church...Paul relates this back to Adam and Eve, and her horrendous decision to disobey God. She was deceived, and churches these days that allow women in ministry over men get deceived as well...*

*...It seems no coincidence that all churches and denominations that I know of, who have accepted homosexual marriage, first accepted women in ministry over men...Anglican and Uniting Churches, some big denominations in America, with Methodists now with homosexual marriage. Even some Baptists in southern states in Australia are accepting it. As far as I know, no church that has accepted male leadership in the church has accepted homosexual marriage.*

*Bad theology bears bad fruit!*

**(E.D., Qld)**

## **\*\* Gospel Confusion Conference \*\***

**Please support this conference!**

This conference is a most important one considering the times we live in and with so many new gospels being now openly propagated.

Please support in at least two ways:

If you are near the area or can travel, please support by attending (if possible let us know for numbers).

If you cannot attend, please *pray* for this conference - that the truth of the Word would be taught and explained clearly, and that there would be understanding and application from the teaching.



The teaching will include the necessary theology, the doctrines behind the Gospel. Our view of 'depravity' and 'grace' will often determine how we present the message, the methods we use, and what we think the response should be! See P.19 for details of date, venue, time...Please register [sjpbconference@gmail.com](mailto:sjpbconference@gmail.com)

## The Promise of Christ and The Justice of God

*‘God has laid himself under no obligation, by any promise, to keep any natural man out of hell one moment. God certainly has made no promises either of eternal life, or of any deliverance or preservation from eternal death, but what are contained in the covenant of grace, the promises that are given in Christ, in whom all the promises are yea and amen.*

*But surely they have no interest in the promises of the covenant of grace who are not the children of the covenant, who do not believe in any of the promises, and have no interest in the Mediator of the covenant.*

*So that, whatever some have imagined and pretended about promises made to natural men’s earnest seeking and knocking, it is plain and manifest, that whatever pains a natural man takes in religion, whatever prayers he makes, till he believes in Christ, God is under no manner of obligation to keep him a moment from eternal destruction’.*

(Jonathan Edwards - *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God* - July 8th, 1741 - the most famous American sermon that ignited a revival within the ‘Great Awakening’ in the 18th century)

---

### Quotable - True Revelation

*‘Several years ago, one of the great Bible expositors of our day was teaching a pastors’ training school on the value of using various Bible study tools for sermon preparation. During a discussion time a young man posed an important question to him, ‘Sir’, he asked, ‘don’t you think it’s important for me just to get alone with God and find out what the Holy Spirit is saying to me?’*

*The preacher’s answer was shocking. ‘Young man’, he replied, ‘I’m not interested in what the Holy Spirit is saying to you. In fact, you may be surprised to know that I’m not interested in what the Holy Spirit is saying to me’. Then he explained. ‘All I’m interested in is what the Holy Spirit is saying, and the Holy Spirit has been saying the same thing through a passage of Scripture since the day He inspired it. And I’m going to use every available means that I have to find out what that is’.*

(Jim Shaddix, *The Passion Driven Sermon* (Nashville: B&H, 2003))

---

*‘Once it was the blessing, now it is the Lord;  
Once it was the feeling, now it is His Word;  
Once his gifts I wanted, now the Giver own;  
Once I sought for healing, now Himself alone’.*  
(‘The Pentecostal Error’ by Cyril Maskrey)

## Women in Ministry - Divisions Continue

*While the majority of Southern Baptist messengers were left disappointed Wednesday by the failure of a proposed amendment to the Southern Baptist Convention’s constitution to permanently ban women from serving as pastors ‘as qualified by Scripture’, groups like Baptist Women in Ministry applauded.*

*The Texas-based advocacy group, which supports women who pursue ministry and leadership in Baptist churches, represents a coalition of women connected to denominations such as the Southern Baptist Convention, Alliance of Baptists, American Baptist Churches USA, Baptist General Association of Virginia, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, National Baptist Convention, USA, National Missionary Baptist Convention and Progressive National Baptist Convention.*

*Some 5,099 - or 61% of messengers who cast ballots at America’s largest Protestant denomination’s Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana - voted in favor of the proposed amendment to the SBC’s constitution, known as the Law Amendment. The proposal needed 66.66% of the votes to be ratified. About 38%, or 3,185 messengers, opposed the motion.*

*‘Baptist Women in Ministry offers appreciation to all...who voted against the Law amendment BECAUSE of their commitment to support and affirm women serving as pastors of all kinds in the SBC...Women have equal value to God’.*

*...The amendment received much less support than it did when it was [originally] proposed by Pastor Mike Law of Arlington Baptist Church in Virginia in June 2023, which passed with approximately 80% of the vote from more than 12,000 messengers...Some openly have discussed leaving the denomination on social media because of what they see as a liberal drift.*

*...Law noted that as of June 2023, there were more than 1,000 SBC churches with female pastors in ‘direct contradiction to both God’s Word and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000’... ‘Many of these churches don’t understand that the same interpretive method that leads to female pastors also leads to practicing homosexual pastors...history shows that once a denomination has female pastors, it’s usually just a matter of time until they ordain homosexual pastors’ Law said. Law pointed out [examples]...the American Baptist Churches USA allowed female pastors in 1985 and by 1999 they were allowing homosexual pastors. The Episcopal Church USA made that shift in 1976 and by 1996 they began allowing homosexual pastors. He pointed out that the ELCA, the PCUSA, and the United Methodists all followed a similar trajectory.*

*‘The reality is this issue has been a canary in the coalmine for many denominations. If we cannot be clear and unashamed about what the Bible says a pastor is now, then there is little hope that we will stand firm on other teachings of God’s Word that are out of step with the standards of the world...We must believe what the Bible teaches and go wherever it leads regardless of cost or consequences’.*

(*Christian Post*, 13/6/2024)

## The Forgotten Peace Talks

*Throughout Israel's history, the Jewish state has attempted to make peace deals with Palestinians. Five times peace negotiations have broken down.*

**United Nations Partition Plan (1947)** *Before the founding of the modern State of Israel, the United Nations approved a plan in 1947 to separate the British Mandate territory of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states...establishing a national home for Jewish people, as in the 1917 Balfour Declaration...The U.N. passed a resolution 33 votes for, 13 against, 10 abstaining...Arab leadership rejected it, leading to the 1948 War...Military forces from 7 Arab countries invaded to annihilate the Jewish state. Israel declared independence on May 14, 1948, and signed agreements with Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, ending the war.*

**Oslo Accords (1993 and 1995)** *The Oslo Accords were...agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)...with the PLO recognizing Israel and Israel recognizing the PLO as a legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Israel agreed to withdraw troops from parts of Gaza and the West Bank and allow Palestinians to live under their own government...Peace was short-lived...In 1995, an Israeli extremist assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. A series of terrorist attacks by Hamas also undermined support for the peace camp in Israel...In January 1997...Israel and the PA signed the **Hebron Protocol**, which provided for the transfer of most of Hebron to Palestinian control...in 1998...they negotiated an agreement calling for further Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank...Negotiations broke down further after Israeli leader Ariel Sharon visited The Temple Mount, a holy site for Jews and Muslims, resulting in a violent uprising from Palestinians dubbed 'Al-Aqsa intifada'.*

**Camp David Summit (2000)** *U.S. President Bill Clinton hosted former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat at Camp David...Barak offered an Israeli redeployment from at least 95% of the West Bank and 100% of Gaza Strip [and] creation of a Palestinian state in these areas...[and] 'religious sovereignty' over the Temple Mount and for the Palestinians to have control over parts of Jerusalem...Arafat refused Israel's offer...*

**Israel's withdrawal from Gaza (2005)** *In August 2005, Israel...disengaged from the Gaza Strip and North Samaria...Israel evicted 9,000 Israeli citizens living in 25 settlements by Sept. 2005. In 2007 Hamas gained control of the Gaza Strip, and...frequently launched rockets and mortar shells into Israel...*

**Peace and Prosperity Plan** *In January 2020...[by] U.S. President Donald Trump...Israel agreeing to a 4 year 'land freeze' to secure a two-state solution and a \$50 million economic plan to 'spur the Palestinian economy'...Most of the international community rejected the plan, and the Palestinians as well...*

*(Christian Post, 13/6, 2024)*

## The 'Prophecy of the Scripture' (Isaiah 65:1; Romans 10:21)

*'When Paul spoke of his own mission to the Gentiles, the Jews lifted up their voices and cried out, 'Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live.' The Apostle, therefore, knew that Isaiah was very bold when, in former ages, he made Israel know that God would save a people who were not called by His name while the favored people would die in their sins because they would not listen to the entreaties of their God.*

*It becomes the servants of God to be bold in rebuking sin and protesting against pride - indeed, in all their messages it behooves them to be fearless. They do not deliver their own words, otherwise they might apologize for their speech. They speak the words of the living God and it is not for them, for fear of feeble men, to soften their words and smooth their tongues.*

*Ah, no! He that is ashamed to speak the Truth of God has need to be ashamed of himself! It is treason against the King of Kings to tone down the Word of the Lord. Surely, among all cowards, he is the worst who is afraid to be true to God. Such preachers must be especially pointed at in the text - 'But the fearful and unbelieving shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death'.*

*This text has the clear ring of Free Grace about it and, for this reason, it may be called bold. He had need be bold who, in this day, would preach fully and plainly the Doctrine of the Sovereign Grace of God.*

*This cultured age repudiates the Doctrines of Grace which are the heart of evangelical teaching! Men are vexed when we declare that God is first in human salvation and seeks men before they seek Him. Many grow red in the face if we testify that the Lord, in His gracious Sovereignty, meets with persons who have never sought Him and brings them to Himself, changing their hearts by His own eternal Spirit - while He leaves others to perish in their sins because they resist His Spirit and refuse the invitations of His mercy.*

*Yet we shall not cease most joyfully to sing unto our God - 'No sinner can be beforehand with Thee - Your Grace is most sovereign, most rich, and most free'.*

*(Extract from a sermon 'The Very Bold Prophecy', by C.H. Spurgeon, September 12th, 1886 at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington*

---

## Do Methods Affect the Message?

*'Some will maintain that if biblical principles are presented, the medium doesn't matter. That is nonsense. If an entertaining medium is the key to winning people, why not go all out? Why not have a real carnival? A tattooed acrobat on a high wire could juggle chainsaws and shout Bible verses while a trick dog balanced on his head. That would draw a crowd. And the content of the message would still be Biblical. It's a bizarre scenario, but one that illustrates how the medium can cheapen and corrupt the message'.*

*('Ashamed of the Gospel', John MacArthur P.69)*

(Warning: This article contains a graphic illustration from scripture).

Many scriptures, when the Greek words are studied, contain ‘word pictures’ or an image or reference to something the author has in mind. The Greek word ‘*harmatia*’ (translated ‘sin’) literally is ‘missing the mark’. Later in old English the word was used with the word picture of an archer firing an arrow at a target and missing the mark. Indeed sin is missing the mark of the perfection of God.

In Romans 7 Paul refers to the believer’s battle with the sin nature that still remains while in our earthly bodies. He speaks of the sin ‘*that dwells in me...in my flesh*’ (vs.17,18,) and there is a war between two laws, ‘*the law of God...in the mind*’ (vs.22,25) and ‘*the law of sin...in the flesh*’ (vs.23,25).

In verse 24 Paul expresses his passionate desire to be delivered forever from this war: ‘*O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*’ Paul here is expressing a spiritual dilemma and a resolve of something that was actually a physical reality.

Paul read the philosophers - he quoted Menander (in Acts 17:28; 1Corinthians 15:33) and Epimenides (in Titus 1:12). In Romans 7:24, although it is arguably not a quote, it is likely Paul knew of some writings referring to a cruel Roman punishment for murderers or prisoners. The philosopher Virgil described the horrific account of this - when they would strap a dead body to a prisoner and have them carry it around until they themselves died from the putrefaction of the corpse.

Virgil writes: ‘*The wounded captive...to render his state more miserable, is ...chained to a dead body...an allusion to an ancient custom of certain tyrants, who bound a dead body to a living man, and obliged him to carry it about, till the contagion from the putrid mass took away his life!*’ (Virgil’s account of the tyrant Mezentius in Aeneid, lib. viii. ver. 485).

‘*...He bound the living to the dead: These, limb to limb, and face to face, he joined; O! monstrous crime, of unexampled kind! Till choked with stench, the lingering wretches lay, And, in the loathed embraces, died away! Roasting, burning, racking, crucifying, etc., were nothing when compared to this diabolically invented punishment. We may naturally suppose that the cry of such a person would be, “Wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from this dead body?”*’ (Clarke quoting on Rom.7:24).

The release begins in the next three verses: ‘*I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit*’.

Although the battle continues in this life, one law - the law of, and the life of Christ, sets us free from the other law which leads to death. The lordship of sin no longer has its rule. ‘*The spirit is life because of righteousness*’, redemption of the soul accomplished, the future redemption of the body promised (Rom.8:10,23).

Victory is assured!

**Terry Arnold**

*‘And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose’.*

Romans 8:28 seems to bring mixed understandings among Christians. Some here see good itself eventually overcoming evil, others see God causing both evil and good, or some see God using good and evil to a purposeful end.

Regardless, this verse is one of the most treasured promises in all of scripture - that God has a definitive plan, a purpose in everything (‘*all things*’), for His beloved ones!

But is it the *things working*, or is it *God working the things*? The translation may appear to some that ‘*all things*’ are by themselves working out for good. The order in Greek is literally: ‘*We know and that to those who love God all things work together into [for] good to those who according to his purpose are called*’

### **The Context**

The context before and after verse 28 clearly has God working or causative of the ‘*all things*’. The verses before have the Spirit helping us in times of weakness and when ‘*we know not what to pray for*’ and then ‘*interceding for us according to the will of God*’ (vs.26,27). The verses after have God from the very beginning enacting a chain of salvation events from His foreknowledge and predestination, to Him calling, justifying, sanctifying (‘*conforming to the image of his son*’), and finally glorifying (vs.29,30). And these events are God acting in the past tense, and God having *seen the chain as completed* (Greek aorist indicative active).

*The passage is as much about the eternal security of the believer as it is about God’s sovereignty in his workings.* Hence although most versions follow the KJV here, some translate the verse, or have marginal translations of: ‘*God causes all things to work together for good...*’. (It can also be argued grammatically from the Greek that it is God who is at work in *all situations* to accomplish His good).

### **The ‘All Things’**

To limit the verse to ‘*all things*’ by themselves working out for good, opens the door for the force for good being in the things themselves, or that all is somehow good. But we know that ‘*all things*’ by meaning has to include both good and evil things. The Old Testament has God’s people in evil slavery conditions in Egypt for many years before God moved with His plan. Joseph endured evil from his brothers and then slavery, but ‘*God meant it for good*’ (Gen.50:20). Job lost his family, goods and health - yet all decreed by God *to prove God*. David was attacked by king Saul, betrayed by a close friend, lost the throne and his child, enduring shocking treatment by Saul and Shimei. Most of the martyrs and heroes of the faith down the centuries endured sickness or evil.

God uses suffering and evil to test his saints *as part of sanctification* (Ps.119:71,75; James 1:2-4; 2Cor.6:6-9; 1Pet.5:10). God ordained that Jesus would

be crucified, the greatest evil ever (*'proorízo'* - predestined, Acts 4:27,28)!

The *'all things'* is everything in the believers life, *both good and bad*. The difficulty might be in defining what is 'bad' or 'good' when viewing both as a means to sanctify, mature and build the Christian in their faith.

## The Purpose

Both good and bad *'work together'* in contributing to an end result. The end result is shown by the *'for'* of the next verse 29, which shows the cause, and God working in all. Part of that work is at least the sanctification of the believer - being *'conformed to the image of his Son'* Jesus Christ. Here the purpose of the *'all things'* both good and bad is for the end result of Sanctification for the believer to be 'glorified', and thus God is glorified as the Lord and Saviour of His people.

Seeing the person of God working in all things, rather than just the inanimate things working, should be a source of comfort in the midst of trials, suffering or pain. God is sovereign, nothing surprises him and nothing happens to us that He has not allowed. He also promises to not allow us to be tested or tempted beyond what we can handle (1Cor.10:13). But with that He also warns us not to allow anything to come before God (vs.14).

A look at the lives of the heroes of the faith in scripture and in history will show God's purposes in *'all things'*. Paul had a lot of *'things'* in his life that most of us would find horrific. He was beaten several times, imprisoned, shipwrecked three times, once *'a night and a day in the deep'* and many other *'perils'* as well as hunger, thirst, cold and lacking clothing (2Cor.11:23-28). Other historic Reformers and Puritans also suffered at the hands of religious leaders and governments, being tortured, burned or imprisoned. But all took the *'all things'* with an attitude of knowing God working them for to an end. Just a few verses before, Paul mentions the *'all things'* included afflictions which were *'not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us'* (Rom.8:18).

This is not to say that something that is obviously evil is any good at the time. A person addicted to drugs and then crime is involved in evil, yet the author knows of some who were driven to Christ in these circumstances. God does work even in the midst of evil and suffering. Perhaps in this God hardly wants us to define 'good' and 'bad', since it all works for the good.

It must also be remembered that the promise for God working in *'all things'* is *'to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose'*. (The Greek word order starts with *'those that love God'*). This is not for those who will not believe, those who he did not foreknow and predestinate (vs.29,30).

Finally, in the *'all things'* we are to be *'glad with exceeding joy'* and *'in everything give thanks for this is the will of God'* (1Pet.4:13; 1Thess.5:18). This is the real test of Romans 8:28 in which Paul led by example (see Phil.4:11-13)! But it is here that the *understanding of the work of God* in *'conforming us to his son'* and bringing us home to be *'glorified'*, surely should give us *assurance* and then a *joy* in His sovereign purpose.

Terry Arnold

*strengthens me'* and *'My God shall supply all your need...'* (vs.19), but leave out *'according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus'*. And Philippians was also written by Paul while in prison!

Other scriptures to note are: *'And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us'* (1John 5:14); *'For that you ought to say, if the Lord will we shall live, and do this or do that. But now you rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil'* (James 4:15,16). (See also Psalm 40:8; 143:10; Matthew 8:2 and 2Corinthians 12:20,21).

Sometimes the Lord will not hear or answer prayers (Ps.66:18; James 4:3), the latter scripture the W. F. teachers would like to forget: *'You ask and do not receive because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts'*.

## The Fruit

The Prosperity teachers make merchandise of God's people and are thus themselves extravagantly rich. Paula White is estimated to be worth \$5 million, Joyce Meyer (has a \$10 million jet, several homes costing up to \$2 million each and a \$107,000 silver Mercedes and more), Kenneth Copeland (has a \$17.5 million jet and other aircraft. He wrote a book titled *'How To Write Your Own Ticket With God'*), Benny Hinn (assets include a Gulf stream G4 jet. His net worth approximately \$42 Million (figures date back to June 4, 2015).

At *Hillsong Australia* much time is spent on teaching about prosperity and giving. Brian Houston wrote and published a best selling book titled *'Want More Money?'*. The *Australian* wrote: *'The buckets have holes in the bottom, presumably to discourage parishioners from giving coins...[But] the rivers of cash keep flowing: donations and salary tithes to Hillsong were \$15.3 million in 2004; merchandise, CDs, books and DVDs, returned a further \$6.93 million, while total church revenue has now passed the \$50 million mark - all tax-free thanks to Hillsong's charitable status. The message of Hillsong's prosperity gospel is: the richer you are, the more you can help others'*. (Jennifer Sexton, 2006/05/04)

Our western society is selfish and materialistic, and the health/wealth Gospel of the W.F. teachers is bound to appeal to such a society. The success/motivation gospel appeals to two basic instincts of man: *money* and the love of *power*.

The true Gospel never has mention of wealth! The prosperity gospel works against understanding human sinfulness and turns people to a false reality of self rather than *Christ crucified*. *'This temptation to dilute the gospel has produced a new recipe for a trendy sermon. We start with some great motivational speaking ('Your past does not define your future!'), add a few quarts of cheap grace ('Don't focus on your sin!'), pour in some prosperity gospel ('Run to this altar, grab your financial breakthrough!'), flavor it with some trendy pop psychology ('It's all about you!') and voila! - you end up with a gloopy mess of pabulum that not even a baby Christian could survive on'* (Russell Woodbridge, Gospel Coalition).

***'For such are false prophets apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ'*** (2Cor.11:12,13).

Terry Arnold



and the motivation movement, of which there is now no end of speakers and ‘influencers’. This new trend has attracted multitudes who are *seeking a better state of reality than what the Word of God offers*.

Many cult groups and religions such as Christian science (Mary Eddy Baker), Hinduism and New Age movements, teach this New Thought. Mary Eddy Baker taught one could get rid of ill health by *visualising* health. The same thought process is in the Word of Faith movement except it is replaced with a *verbalising* of faith. The physical is caused by the spiritual which can control reality.

It is arguable that much of this is rooted in gnosticism, a second century heresy which split man into parts, spiritual and physical. The Word Faith teachers emphasise the spirit, soul and body as separate parts, but the scriptures rather teach a wholistic person - ‘*I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*’ (1Thess.5:23).

## Scripture

The Word of Faith teaching emphasises the ‘inner man’, the heart and spirit rather than the mind. Hagin stated: ‘*One almost has to by-pass the brain and operate from the inner man (the heart or spirit) to really get into the things of God*’ (‘*Right and Wrong Thinking*’ by Hagin, P.27). But this contradicts many scriptures concerning the importance of the mind in sanctification (Is.26:3; Ps.19:14; Mark 12:30; Rom.12:1,2; 2Cor.10:5; Phil.4:8).

The prosperity gospel emphasises giving which is scriptural, but they stress to *give to get*. The money invariably does not go to churches but to the Word Faith teachers and their own ministries. Leading exponent of this teaching, Kenneth Hagin, once stated ‘*I’m going to let you in on a little secret. Somebody is going to give me \$50,000. Because you can have what you say*’ (‘*Mountain Moving Faith*’).

These prosperity teachers try to say Jesus was rich, and poverty is evil. The brazen absurdity of this is despite Jesus himself stating He had nowhere to lay His head (Matt.8:20); and Paul similarly was far from rich, being often in ‘*hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place...*’ (1Cor.4:9-13). Many heroes of the faith were likewise poor (Heb.11:37,38).

The W.F. teachers make much of the word ‘*prosper*’ in the Bible. 3John 2 is quoted: ‘*Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers*’. Yet the word literally means ‘*to have a successful journey*’ or more loosely ‘*to be successful*’. The same Greek word for prosper is used in Romans 1:10: ‘*...I might have a prosperous journey*’. The word ‘*prosper*’ is never used in a financial sense in the New Testament.

The W.F. teachers fail to distinguish between *needs* and *desires* in regard to prosperity. Jesus said: ‘*...for your Father knows what things you have need of, before you ask Him*’ (Matt.6:8). The W.F. teachers also ignore so many scriptures concerning the poor (Lk.6:20; Mk.10:21; Mk.12:43,44; 1Cor.11:22, etc.) and concerning being rich (Lk.6:24; Mk.10:25; Matt.6:25; 6:19-21; Mk.4:19; James 5:1-3, etc.).

They sometimes quote Philippians 4:3 ‘*I can do all things through Christ which*

## The ‘Anointing’

Peculiar among the language of today's churches are phrases such as: ‘the anointing’; ‘the anointing was strong’; ‘touch not the anointed’. Commonly one hears that a preacher was ‘anointed’. Many Charismatic teachers and TV evangelists have ‘misused the word also to warn those who might expose them as false, ‘not to touch the ‘anointing’ on their lives’.

The common misunderstanding is that this ‘anointing’ is a special *power* or force from God. Such misinterpretation of this word is surprisingly also evident in many more conservative and biblical churches.

## The Word

The two main Hebrew words for anoint are ‘*Mashach*’ and ‘*cuwkto*’. The latter is to smear the body after a bath (2Sam.12:20; Ruth 3:3), or for medicinal purposes (Ezek. 16:9 cp. Luke 10:34)].

‘*Mashach*’ is where we get the word ‘Messiah’ from and the Greek derivative ‘*Christos*’ (Christ, see Jn.1:41). The word is used in 1Samuel, 2Samuel, Psalms and Daniel. The ‘*anointed*’ in Psalm 45:7 is in Hebrews 1:9 prophetic of the Savior’s anointing.

To ‘anoint’ is primarily in a *physical sense* to rub with oil (Ex.25:6, 35:8,15,28; 37:29; Amos 6:6). By implication in a *spiritual sense* it means to *set apart*. The word is sometimes used with ‘*consecrate*’ or ‘*sanctify*’ which again shows the meaning as a setting apart or a purifying as the result (Ex.28:41; 29:36; 30:26). To ‘anoint’ was to *consecrate* a priest into the ministry (Ex.29:7; 30:30, Lev.16:32) or a king for Israel (1Sam.9:16; 15:1; 16:3,12; 1Kngs 1:34; 19:15,16).

*Objects* as well as *people* were ‘anointed’, such as weapons, sacrifices, temple furniture, altars, the tabernacle, priests (Ex.40:9-15; Is.21:5). Even the Persian king Cyrus, an unbeliever, was ‘anointed’ to do God’s tasks in releasing the Israelites from Babylon (Is.45:1). Lucifer was also ‘anointed’ (Ezek.28:14).

In the New Testament the Greek words are ‘*aleipho*’, ‘*murizo*’ and ‘*chrío*’ (anointed) or ‘*chrisma*’ (anointing).

‘*Aleipho*’ is used of physical rubbing of oil and burial (Matt.6:17; Mk.16:1; Lk.7:46). ‘*Murizo*’ is used for burial (Mk.14:8).

However, ‘*Chrío*’ and ‘*Chrisma*’ are used in a more limited spiritual sense. God anointed Jesus ‘*above your fellows*’ (Heb.1:9) with the Holy Spirit to do miracles (Acts 10:38), to be crucified (Acts 4:27), and to ‘*preach the gospel to the poor*’ as prophesied (Lk.4:18 cp. Is.61).

## What Is The ‘Anointing’ for Christians?

In comparison to the numerous references to kings, prophets and objects being anointed, there are a few references to God ‘*anointing*’ every Christian: ‘*Now he which establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, is God*’ (2Cor.1:21). But the passage that arguably teaches and expounds what this anointing actually is

and refutes the false use of the word, is in 1John 2:20-27. *‘But you have an unction [‘chrisma’] from the Holy One, and you know all things. I have not written unto you because you know not the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he that denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denies the Father and the Son. Whosoever denies the Son, the same has not the Father: but he that acknowledges the Son has the Father also. Let that therefore abide in you, which you have heard from the beginning. If that which you have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, you also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. And this is the promise that he has promised us, even eternal life. These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But the anointing [‘chrisma’] which you have received of him abides in you, and you need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing [‘chrisma’] teaches you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it has taught you, you shall abide in him’.*

The ‘anointing’ here is the *PERSON of the Holy Spirit*. ‘Anointing’ is used by metonymy for the Holy Spirit.\* Those hearing John’s words knew what the anointing meant from the scriptures. The allusion here is to the consecration of priests, and they were ‘priests’ in a spiritual sense, set apart, anointed (1Pet.2:5,9).

The context of the passage too is of being seduced by false teachers, who denied the Messianism and the deity of Christ with the Father (vs.22,23), hence ‘*you need not that any man teach you*’ (vs.29), because you have *the indwelling Holy Spirit*.

The passage states we received the Holy Spirit from ‘*the holy One*’ and ‘*of Him*’ (vs.27) - *from God*. No ‘anointing’ ever comes from another person or is passed on. Yet that is what many Pentecostal/Charismatic teachers teach. The blasphemy of this should be obvious. Such ‘impartations’ have long been used in the New Age, cults, and this opens the door for other spirits.

The ‘*have received*’ also is Greek aorist indicative active - the reception was done in the *past* at a *set time* and given *by God*. It is not repeatable, for it ‘*abides IN you*’ - a permanent *indwelling*. *It is not something outside of us* floating around as some force or power, but is ‘*in you*’ and is *a person*. Every believer has the *same anointing* because we have the same Holy Spirit received as a sovereign act of God *at salvation!* No Christian has any more anointing than any other Christian. Those claiming to be specially anointed are in imminent danger of being ‘*false christs*’ (Matt.24:24), since the Greek word ‘Christ’ refers to the ‘anointed one’. Christ is the only specially anointed one! Some charismatic teachers also misuse the phrase ‘*touch not the Lords anointed*’ (1Chron.16:22; Ps.105:15), as being for themselves. However, the reference is clearly to *kings* or *prophets*.

You cannot divide up or measure out the *person of the Spirit*. We must not confuse what many falsely perceive as *power* with what is taught with the word ‘anointing’. Some pray for a special ‘anointing’ on a preacher or for the sermon to be ‘anointed’, when the person is *already anointed* and *the Spirit which is the anointing* will use the message of God according to God’s will.

### **Terry Arnold**

\* A metonymy is a figure of speech in which the name is replaced with another word suggested by the original, (eg. ‘*The pen is mightier than the sword*’).

### **What is it?**

The prosperity gospel is part of what is called *Word of Faith* teaching. It teaches that Christians can speak with faith and attain what they wish, they have authority by a faith in words that causes God to act with laws of success in healing and prosperity. Kenneth Hagin described this teaching as ‘*Having Faith in Your Faith*’ and ‘*What I confess, I possess*’.

This turns faith into a force and is essentially New Age teaching. It is this same ‘force of faith’ that caused three girls from Yongi Cho’s church (south Korea) to drown when they attempted ‘by faith’ to cross a river by walking on water.

The Word Faith teachers teach we can create through our own power our own circumstances by verbal confession. Yongi Cho says: ‘*You create the presence of Jesus with your mouth. If you speak about salvation, the saving Jesus appears. If you speak about divine healing, then you will have the healing Christ in your congregation. If you speak the miracle performing Jesus, then the presence of the miracle performing Jesus is released. He is bound by your lips and by your words. He is depending on you*’. ‘*...Your word is the material which the Holy Spirit uses to create*’ (*The fourth Dimension* by Yongi Cho, P.3,83).

### **History**

The prosperity gospel is rooted in the late 19th and early 20th century ‘*New Thought*’ movement. The philosophy teaches that the key to health and wealth is *thinking* and *speaking* the right words. Ralph Waldo Trine (1866-1958) was an early teacher of this and Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993), pastor of a Church in New York, popularized it in his book ‘*The Power of Positive Thinking*’ (1952).

These ideas infiltrated Christian circles with E. W. Kenyon (1867-1948), a pastor and founder of Bethel Bible Institute. His theology echoed speaking words with a certain kind of faith to create a successful response. Confession is possession.

Oral Roberts (1918-2009) developed this teaching further, but it was Kenneth Hagin (1917-2003) who popularized it the most. He plagiarised many writings from E. Kenyon (documented in ‘*A Different Gospel*’ by D. McConnel).

The prosperity gospel became most popular in the second half of the 20th century, being taught more widespread by popular TV preachers Kenneth Copeland, Benny Hinn, Charles Capps, Creflo Dollar, Jesse Duplantis, Paul Crouch, Joyce Meyers, Joel Osteen, and Hillsong leaders and other TV evangelists.

Joel Osteen, pastor of the largest church in America, in his 2007 book, wrote: ‘*Become a Better You*’ wrote, ‘*Start thinking, feeling, and speaking positively about yourself. The Scripture says, ‘Our faith is made effectual when we acknowledge everything good in us... Our faith is most effective when we acknowledge the good things that are in us. Declare affirmations such as ‘I have a bright future. I am gifted. I am talented. People like me. I have the favor of God’.*

This New Thought philosophy is also mixed with metaphysical mind science