

Gospel Confusion Conference

Due to a health issue the editor was forced to postpone this conference last October. It is now rescheduled for Saturday, May 10th, God willing.

Some of the sessions are: *Which gospel?; The Theology Behind the Gospel - Which Depravity / Which Grace?; What does Regeneration, 'born again' mean, and what is the order of faith and regeneration?; Gospel Methods, Mediums, Testimonies; The Presentation of the Gospel...and more...*

May 10th, from 9.30am-3.30pm at St. Johns Park Baptist church, Sydney. Please support this!
Cost: Free. Lunch and coffee/tea provided.

Sydney Itinerary (May)

- May 10th** (Sat) St Johns Park Baptist, Sydney - **Gospel Conference** - see above
- May 11th** (Sun) 10.30am & 5pm (Sun) St Johns Park Baptist, 178 Humphries Rd, Ph.0417179610
- May 16th** (Frid) 7.30pm Evangel church, cnr Neville & Clarke St, Bass Hill Ph.0409090568
- May 18th** (Sun) 10am Fellowship Baptist, 226 Nuwarra Rd, Moorebank Ph.0488555981

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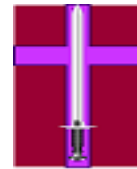
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Diakrisis (Australia)

'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

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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.

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Gospel Confusion Conference

May 10th Saturday 9.30am -3.30pm
St. Johns Park Baptist church,
Sydney.
Sessions: *Which gospel?; The Theology Behind the Gospel - Which Depravity/Which Grace?; What does 'born again' mean?; Gospel Methods/Mediums/Testimonies; the Presentation of the Gospel...and more...*
Cost: Free. Lunch/coffee/tea provided. See Page 20

Editor's Comment

Over many centuries there have been differing views in theology. Yet in the cardinal doctrines there was mostly agreement among commentaries. Doctrines such as salvation, Christology, the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, etc, have an orthodoxy of similar views found in commentaries of old.

However, it is arguable that the late 19th and 20th centuries have seen a dramatic upsurge in differing views and new doctrines. This is so much so that it is necessary to have caution in using modern day commentaries to study a topic.

The one area of theology that must be kept pure and orthodox is the *Gospel and Salvation*. What could be more important than the instrument that sees a soul rightly converted, redeemed from sin and fit to enter the kingdom of God?

Get the Gospel wrong and as ambassadors we fail in the King's message. The message of the Gospel is about Christ and what He did and why. The 'why' points to the *bad news*, man's sinfulness, his inability to save himself from it by anything in and of himself. The *good news* is the solution being the work of Christ in our place to satisfy God's wrath upon sin. A preacher may teach soundly on much theology, but what is more important than this Gospel of salvation?

This author had a wake up call decades ago when teaching in a college. It was discovered that students actually did not have a sound understanding of the main tenets of the Gospel. Some added to it new teachings that detracted from the *person* and the *work* of Christ. It was even discovered later that some were not converted (more than one later professed a newfound faith in Christ).

There are today many *different gospels* (2Cor.11:4; Gal.1:6). Some add healing and prosperity; some state that one is not saved unless they speak in tongues when receiving the Holy spirit. More subtly, many stress the decision or confession of faith as sure salvation when there is no repentance and the heart has not been changed. These counterfeits produce the huge fall away rates we have in modern evangelism. The parable of the sower (Matt.13) details this - three of the four soils show the '*seed*' (the Word) has not been sown deep enough into the '*soil*' (the heart). This arguably highlights the need for teaching on *what the Gospel and salvation is*, but also the *doctrines associated* with this. This author is convinced that we too easily assume church goers *understand* the Gospel and can *present* it.

Understanding the Gospel and its main tenets is important, but it is also important to deepen the understanding of the doctrines that make up the Gospel. The death, burial, resurrection, substitution, redemption, propitiation, and other Gospel words can be unpacked and explored at length. This mineshaft of doctrines has no bottom, but rewards the one who will study them.

Yet these surface doctrines are just the ground covering a further vein of other deeper salvation doctrines. Two of those are keys to understanding much about the *salvation process*. One is about *depravity*, the other about *grace*. One is about *man*, the other about *God*. One is the *bad news*, the other why we need the *good news*. Both these doctrines are vital to understanding salvation and give much importance to the right understanding of, and the presentation of the Gospel.

Minimise sin and the depravity of man and we give *no proper reason why* one

Continued next page >

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, Greetings to you and all the team. I hope everyone is well. I have been confined to bed for 2 years and am classified as frail aged. I'm in a safe building and well cared for (more or less!). I am grateful that the Lord had this accommodation waiting for me. I am now in year 24 living in Aged Care, now 85 years old. The Lord has been so good to me and he still is a great comfort and joy.

...I have appreciated DIAKRISIS and have been amazed by the amount of work behind each edition. The strength of your faith, individually and collective is inspiring. I wish you all the Lord's power in speech and print. Yours in Christ, Love.

(R.S., Vict)

The Probability of Prophecy Fulfilled

There are over 2,500 prophecies in scripture. At least 2,000 are fulfilled, having come to pass.

The more specific and complex the prophecy the lower the probability of them coming to pass due to the number of outcomes possible. Mathematicians have calculated that the probability of *Christ to be born in Bethlehem* (Mic.5:2) is 1 in 280,000; *Christ to be betrayed by 30 pieces of silver* (Zech.11:12) is 1 in 1000, *the 30 pieces of silver to be cast down and used to buy a potters field* (Zech.11:13) is 1 in 100,000. And what of the probability of all the prophecies together having come to pass with 100% accuracy? Only an infinite God who has foreordained and foreknows could bring them all to pass. For one man to fulfil even 48 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament is 1 in 10 to the 157th power (one in 10 with 157 zeroes behind it). Yet Jesus fulfilled hundreds of prophecies!

Amazingly, people today add to the prophecy of scripture, as 'prophets' and 'prophesying', supposedly speaking for God, yet with appalling inaccuracy. But they counterfeit '*the more sure word of prophecy...the prophecy of the scripture which is not of any private interpretation...nor by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*' (2Pet.1:19-21).

Terry Arnold

****Book Sale - Half Price****

This ministry is overstocked with books and needs to reduce stock. Hence for the next month we are offering the following books at HALF PRICE

'Foundations for Evangelism' \$14.90 \$7.45

'Calvinism & Arminianism - Out of the Maze' \$19.50 \$9.75

'Tongues & the Baptism with the Spirit' \$10.90 \$5.45

'To Catholics whom I love' \$12.90 \$6.45

'Bring the Gospel Back!' \$12.90 \$6.45

Contact: taministries2@gmail.com or 0411489472

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry,

The latest issue of *Diakrisis* (March/April 2025) is right about the prevailing madness in the world. Everything that is happening fulfils prophecy.

In studying Bible cults it seems most started sincerely but then began to emphasise a particular issue - Sabbath keeping, the name of God, angelic visions, gifts of the Spirit, healing, etc, until this becomes an idol.

I am rather alarmed at the continual discussion on election? This is a distraction from the simplicity of the true Gospel. 1 Corinthians 1:17-31 says to preach Christ crucified and the doctrine of God of which so many are ignorant.

(D.S.,Qld)

Editor's Comment:

(This subscriber is an ex-JW and so would well understand the hallmarks of a cult). The people who start cults may be 'sincere' in their motives, but the teaching and the circumstances are most deceptive. Jehovah Witnesses originally started partly when the founder had an aversion to the doctrine of an eternal Hell. The Seventh Day Adventist started when their prophecies did not come to pass, then doctrines were changed to fit, and more false prophecies were added by Ellen G. White. The Mormons started mainly from a vision of Jesus and angels who gave Joseph Smith another gospel. The Pentecostal movement started when a leader had his students attempt to repeat Acts 2 - what they got was counterfeit unknown tongues, acknowledged later even by the leader. He went on to introduce Pentecostal healing ministries. False movements usually are propagated by one person in the beginning. In every case something has been *added* to 'the faith once delivered' (Jude 3). And yes, the Gospel is either changed or diminished.

The subscriber here is also correct in the caution of some things being a 'distraction' *if over emphasised to the detriment of the Gospel*. However, firstly there are doctrines separate to the Gospel or associated with it that need to be taught, the same as any scripture needs to be taught. Secondly, many of these doctrines can be taught with the Gospel as a foundation. Teaching on things like election may have become important lately, because in the ministry of apologetics there is a reaction currently to the Doctrines of Grace and people confusing the doctrines of election, falsely making it something conditional on what man can do. Hence the need to correct much of this. The Internet is currently awash with people submitting some of the most uneducated, unscholarly, misinformed material on such subjects as election. Hence it requires a rebuttal, a rebuke as Paul says.

But yes, one thing is urgent - that 'Christ crucified' be preached *above all else*. God willing, our coming conference (see P.20) will unpack doctrines associated with the Gospel, that the Gospel itself might be more understood.

should be saved. Such a gospel is often about what one is saved *to* but not *from* - 'the wrath of God' (1Thess.1:10; Jn.3:36). If man and his depravity in sin are minimised, and worse if man is lifted up and the key is placed in his hands, then as Charles Spurgeon stated: 'They seek to make the man stand up; we seek to bring him down, and make him think that there he lies in the hand of God, and that his business is to submit himself to God, and cry aloud, 'Lord save, or we perish'. We hold that man is never so near grace as when he begins to feel he can do nothing at all. When he says, 'I can pray, I can believe, I can do this, and I can do the other', marks of self sufficiency and arrogance are on his brow'.*

The minimising of this first foundation sets the person up for a low or cheap view of grace. If man is not shown his depravity in sin, then why would he need or desire the unmerited favour and mercy of God? He then may well lightly accept a 'grace' by a decision in which he sees some personal benefit for himself. Hence the importance of showing the *reason*, the absolute *necessity* for grace - to escape judgement for sins - for the believer a judgement placed upon Christ.

Spurgeon noted this depravity carefully, as well as the *order* of showing depravity before grace: 'I want to make man feel his sins before I dare tell him anything about Christ. I want to probe into his soul and make him feel that he is lost before I tell him anything about the purchased blessing...The Spirit comes to convict before He comes to comfort'.*

The *order* is important here. Today this order has been too often switched around to have first the love of Christ, the benefits of His grace, the blessings one might receive in this world...and all achievable by a 'decision'. The result is that too often the person's understanding is that of a low view of sin, seeking blessings, a lawlessness...hence many will call him 'Lord Lord' (Matt.7:22,23), but never really feel the weight of their sins in a real conversion experience.

The Gospel preaching in the eras of the Reformers, the Puritans, the revivalists, and great evangelists who followed, might well surprise many evangelists today - as to the time they spent on detailing sin, the *depravity of the heart* of man. This *preaching of the law* today has been almost forgotten and there is a great need to come back to a proper *order of Gospel preaching*.

Whether one is 'Arminian' or 'Calvinistic' in doctrine, the same Gospel can be preached *if the law broken is preached*. Wesley and Whitefield had different doctrines on *grace and depravity*, yet preached the *same gospel*, because *both preached the law* to show sin before anyone can be saved. God has ordained and blessed this method. Today the gospels presented often have little or no law and tend to major on what man can *do* with his decision to the detriment of what Christ has *done*. The results are a mass of unconverted *professors* and few *possessors*.

Your theology on God, man, sin, *depravity* and how *grace* comes to a man *will determine how you frame the Gospel*. You might get the Gospel facts right, but minimise man and sin to the detriment of understanding the magnitude of grace; you might preach the order of the gospel in a cart before the horse fashion - grace without a reason for it. Surely the King would have us study these various doctrines so as to present His message accurately, to the glory of God (2Tim.2:15).

Terry Arnold

* Charles Spurgeon, sermon 'High Doctrine', June 3, 1860

Pastor, Family Burned Alive; Mother Beaten

‘NAIROBI, Kenya - Islamist villagers in eastern Uganda burned a pastor and his family to death after he led three Muslims to faith in Christ...Pastor Weere Mukisa, his 25-year-old wife, Annet, and two daughters, 7-year-old Judith and 4-year-old Sylvia, died when assailants set fire to their home on Oct.13...

The pastor’s brother stated ‘When three young Muslims converted to Christ, my brother started receiving threatening messages that he should stop any contact with the three young converts, and that the act committed is against the teaching of Islam to not join the religion of an infidel’...

‘We rushed to the scene of the incident and found the house torched and the five bodies burned beyond recognition...Plastic bottles of petrol were found outside the house’...The assailants were from a neighbouring village and known to the pastor...

In Nankoma, Bugiri, a mother of 3 children, ages 7, 5, 2, was beaten and burned with acid by her Muslim husband after she had put her faith in Christ. Hidaaya Nabafa, 27, was receiving hospital treatment for severe burns. She had received Christ in August at a church...Keeping her faith secret, she went to a worship service on Oct. 9...‘Upon hearing my confession, he started beating me up’...pouring battery acid on her... ‘I lost consciousness, to find myself in hospital’. Neighbours took her to a hospital in Bugiri, where she was expected to continue treatment for weeks due to the severity of the burns. She is expected to need reconstructive surgery for some parts of her body badly injured by the acid’.

(Morning Star News, October 26, 2024; Christian Post 28/10)

Paula White-Cain - More Charlatanism



Paula White-Cain, a televangelist, spiritual advisor to President Donald Trump...claims ‘supernatural blessings’ will be released to those who donate to her ministry ahead of Passover holiday. In a video ‘Passover Season: God’s Divine Appointment With You!’ (March 23 YouTube), White claims ‘I believe when you honour God on Passover starting April 12th sundown through Good Friday 18th, to Easter Sunday, you can receive these seven supernatural blessings for you and your house’. Citing Exodus 23: ‘God will assign an angel to you. He’ll be an enemy to your enemies. He’ll give you prosperity. He’ll take sickness away from you. He will give you long life...increase in inheritance...a special year of blessing’ [Editor: Read Ex.23 and test if this applies to Christians today]

...For \$125 donors get an ‘olive wood communion set’ and ‘unleavened bread and grape juice from the Holy Land’; for \$1,000 or more a ‘beautiful 10-inch Waterford Crystal cross’. White concluded...‘Don’t miss your moment to release seven supernatural blessings and provision into your life’.

(Ian M. Giatti, Christian Post, Thursday, March 27, 2025)

God and Sport

How often do we hear of sports stars claiming God has given them victory or purposed their success? Headlines by these stars are common: Uconn [Basketball] star Paige Bueckers says ‘God’s strength helped Huskies win national title’. After defeating the University of South Carolina, Paige stated: ‘We lean on God’s strength here. We’re for God’s power, for God’s purposes...and we have the village that we lean on’. Bueckers described herself as a ‘living testimony’ and asserted that ‘I give all glory to God’. Despite the ‘challenges’ she faced ‘I just kept on believing...I did all I could so God could do all I can’t’. After her team’s victory...Bueckers called it a ‘Godly miracle because of the team’s depleted roster...It’s all about how you overcome adversity in life...I’ve just tried to shine and sort of make Him famous and use my light that He’s given me to shine on Him’. Similarly, the University of Connecticut basketball forward Andre Jackson gave ‘all glory’ to God on his path to winning a national championship. His faith is not without basketball: ‘I feel like God has put me in this position. Basketball and my faith have been connected’. (Examples from *Christian Post*, April 08, 2025)

Whatever we do all glory is to be given to God (1Cor.10:31). But how much of sport is God really using to bring the Gospel? Do sports stars who claim God gave them victory see past themselves to ask why God gave the other side a loss? Are we to believe He answers prayer to bring success in sport? Religion has always held a curious place in sport. Sports stars cross themselves after winning. Churches proudly promote a gospel through sports stars and their successes.

Can we slant the cross to fit the latest win in sport? Are we PR officers to bring goodwill between Christ and the world of sport, to make Christ acceptable to sport; or is it that ‘The world is crucified unto me and I unto the world’ (Gal.6:14)?

Did God have Christ die an agonising death to pardon the sins of His people; or to improve their prowess in a particular field of sport and to achieve their potential? What religion is this that we ‘christianise’ sport? Do we attach God to the earthly dreams of sports successes, as signs that He approves? Does the faith then become based on these signs?

Terry Arnold

Quotable

‘The goal of sanctification is to be conformed to Christ’s image (Rom.8:29), not to be self-satisfied. True sanctification is not a matter of assessing yourself and meeting your felt needs. It’s a matter of knowing Christ deeply. The more you focus on yourself, the more distracted you will be from the proper path. The more you know Him and commune with Him, the more the Spirit will make you like Him. The more you are like Him, the better you will understand His utter sufficiency for all of life’s difficulties. And that is the only way to know real satisfaction’.

(‘Our Sufficiency in Christ’ by John MacArthur, P.157)

are healed...the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted...brought as a lamb to the slaughter...for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he has put him to grief: when you shall make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities...he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors' (vs.4-12).

Many who object to the penal part of this doctrine might accept the substitution part, but not the penal. Sadly, the reasons are too often humanistic or emotional. Some say that if Jesus is God and perfect then how can God punish God? The problem with many forms of logic is that what is not understood is *the wrath of God* upon sin and the sinner. This is both logical and scriptural. *There is a punishment for sin and the sinner.* If Christ is made sin for us then He can also pay the punishment that must be paid. Hell is *punishment* for sin. But how can phrases in Isaiah 53 like '*stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted*' (vs.4), '*bruised [crushed] for our iniquities*' (vs.5), it '*pleased the Lord to bruise [crush] him*' (vs.10), not show a penal element? Further, this sacrificial offering here was '*cut off*' [to severe, separate] (vs.8) - no wonder that Christ cried out '*My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?*' (Matt 27:46; Ps 22:1). Yet Christ was not punished by force, for He willingly accepted the '*cup*' of suffering '*the Father had given me*' (Jn.18:11; 10:17; Matt.26:39,42). Again, the problem with the modern day rejection of penal substitution is the rejection or minimising of the wrath of God who must judge with a heavenly perfect righteousness.

Penal substitution has a further outcome that shocks some. God was not just satisfied but *pleased in His Son being punished* as an offering. In this *propitiation* - a turning away of the wrath of God to the satisfaction of God (Rom.3:25; 1Jn.2:2; 4:10), God appeases Himself through Jesus. Jesus became the '*mercy seat*' from the Old Testament (Heb.9:5 - '*mercy seat*' is the same Greek word as for '*propitiation*'). God is *pleased* with His Son and the offering. '*It pleased the Lord to bruise him...and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied...*' (Is.53:10,11).

Penal substitution is not a new doctrine. Church history is littered with quotes concerning this teaching. The very early fathers used language that more pointed to substitution but with penal ideas imbedded in it. As the centuries went on the doctrine was developed and understood more. Eusebius (260-339AD) is a good example: '*In this he shows that Christ, being apart from all sin, will receive the sins of men on himself. And therefore he will suffer the penalty of sinners, and will be pained on their behalf; and not on his own*' (Proof of the Gospel, 3.2).

For salvation, Christ must be our personal substitute by faith, our sacrificial lamb. If not, then we are still condemned sinners. No amount of sacraments, works or the 'love of God' will satisfy the law broken. But God has purposed a *judgment* for sin, that Christ has *fulfilled*. *Christ punished in my place* on a hill far away!

Terry Arnold

The New Language of the spirit



'New York - From the first song 'I Will Not Be Moved' featuring Brad Hudson, until the last one 'No Other Name', Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir has delivered an anointed masterpiece in praise & worship music with their latest album.

If you are a Christian who loves to revel in the presence of the Lord, this album will perhaps make you shout 'hallelujah!' from your soul. Some music albums have only one or a few songs that pique the listener's interest, but 'I Will Not Be Moved'...presents an intentionally prepared feast for the spirit.

...The choir premiered the album with a two-hour concert inside Brooklyn Tabernacle's historic sanctuary at 17 Smith Street...There was no doubt who was the main attraction...Brad Hudson and the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir...were conduits for the presence of the Lord. And it swept the sanctuary as the choir sang the second song on the album, 'Spirit Fall Down'. The ministering of that song appeared to set the tone for the rest of the night as the Spirit just kept on falling.

The faithful and their guests...appeared to understand that they were in the presence of the Holy Spirit and they responded accordingly. Young and old repeatedly alighted from their seats in adoration. They lifted their hands in worship and streamed to the altar without hesitation when Pastor Cymbala opened what appeared to be a seamless but impromptu altar call in the middle of the concert after sharing a word about God's mercy.

'I just want to say something quick' Pastor Cymbala said, 'Those of you who came forward and really want to start now to trust Christ, maybe you've never done that. Remember, there's no such a thing as a Protestant, there's no Catholics, there's no Pentecostals, no Charismatics, no Evangelicals, no Lutherans. None of those words mean anything to God. There's His children, and then there's people who are not His children who He wants to become His children'.

For the rest of the night, the choir served up song after song, and the crowd couldn't get enough...'

(Leonardo Blair, Christian Post, March 2/2025)

Editor's comment:

What exactly is an '*anointed masterpiece*'? The '*anointing*' in the NT is actually a metonymy for the *person of the Holy Spirit* (1Jn.2:27). How exactly is a musical piece '*anointed*'? Since when is music or people singing '*conduits for the presence of the Lord*'? Where in scripture is any of this language or teaching? It rather is closer to spiritism and mysticism.

How do Christians '*revel in the presence of the Lord*', a presence that is created by music? This is the new 20th century theology of the spirit being felt *outside* of a Christian, when He is actually an *indwelling Spirit*? Yet we have songs like '*Spirit Fall Down*'. What gospel was preached that the spirit would fall down on the unsaved at this event and they respond to an '*altar call*'? What exactly was it that the crowd '*couldn't get enough of*'?

This is the new language, new teaching, with an ecumenical spirit.

The Power of Music

Dr. Richard Pellegrino, a brain specialist, says: *'Music has the uncanny power to trigger a flood of human emotions and images that have the ability to instantaneously produce very powerful changes in emotional states. Take it from a brain guy, in 25 years of working with the brain, I still cannot affect a person's state of mind the way that one simple song can'*.

(Billboard, Jan. 23, 1999)

Quotable

'The perfect spiritual victims for deceitful schemers are those with warm hearts and empty heads. The church is full of folks today who have a 'zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge' (Rom.10:2). They have a form of Godliness but it is not biblically grounded. They are seeking feelings and experiences but not doctrinal truth. They are content to attend churches that do not expound the scriptures, just as long as they are emotionally moved by the music or drama and comforted by relevant programs'

(*'Is that You Lord'* by Gary Gilley, P.23)

Transmorphism: Is AI God about to Take Over the World?



ChatGPT has created 'AI God' and written its own 'bible' called Transmorphism. It beckons followers to follow it because it is logical, impartial, full of good advice and it can even offer eternal life!

Yet, ChatGPT is not a living entity but rather a coldhearted machine that can deceive people into thinking that it is sentient.

In ages past, people have worshiped inorganic things like rocks, carvings, statues, the sun, and even the stars. They have worshiped people and icons of people. With all of those, people had to create their own stories, making them believable in the process. They all fall in the end, for whatever reason, and history is full of the carcasses of dead religions. Only the God of the Bible remains totally verifiable. His prophets are absolute proof of his eternal existence and over-mind.

The history and future of Israel and the world are there for all to read - the Bible is over 30% prophecy, most now 100% accurately fulfilled with just a few to shortly come to pass.

The God of Israel is the only 'God' who reveals the end from the beginning - in exquisite detail.

(Israel Report, Mike Claydon)

Penal Substitution

A doctrine least taught today is *'Penal Substitution'*. Some theologians no longer believe in it, some shocked by it. For others it is a point of wonder and awe.

Definition

Penal Substitution is the doctrine that teaches Jesus' death was a punishment (*penal*) taken in the place of sinners (*substitution*), so that God is satisfied that justice has been fulfilled. From this God is free to forgive and release from the condemnation of sin. Because God is perfect and His justice is perfect, sin has to be judged and punished according to the standard of His perfect law. The problem is that humankind are *'dead in sins'* (Eph.2; Col.2) and incapable of being subject to His laws (Rom.8:7,8). Man thus has no way of atoning for sins. Jesus sacrificial death satisfied (propitiated) God's justice, by taking the punishment from God that we deserved. Jesus becomes sin and the *penalty thereof for us*. With this substitution Jesus was *'stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted'*, *'bruised [crushed] for our iniquities'*, and it *'pleased the Lord to bruise [crush] him'* (Is.53:4,5,10). Such punishment was the show of a special love the Father has for those He saves!

Scriptures

The *Penal* part does not exist without the *Substitution*. Substitution is seen in many instances throughout the Bible, often with punishment of a victim. God tested Abraham to offering his son Isaac and at the last minute God provided a lamb (Gen.22). The *lamb and its death was substitute for the death of Isaac*. Similarly, a *brass serpent dead on the pole became the substitute for death by snake bite amongst sinning Israelites* (Nu.21). In the Old Testament an animal and its blood was substitution and atonement for sin (Lev.17:11; Ex.29:41,42).

In the New Testament there is a final Lamb slain - Jesus Christ (1Pet.1:19,20; Rev.13:8). It is by this substitutionary sacrifice that God chose to justify when the sin of breaking His laws and the penalty thereof is paid for in full. God *'set forth'* Christ who was perfectly righteous to be punished and have His life taken in our place (Rom.3:25,26). His righteousness is then given to us upon belief. 2Corinthians 5:21 sums up the substitution part of penal substitution: *'For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him'*. The action here is by the Father in making the Son a substitute in taking our sin, so that God could impute a perfect righteousness, it being *'of God in Him'*. Substitution is *'the just for the unjust'* (1Pet.3:18). Jesus himself spoke of His substitution when he said *'my body given for you'* (Lk.22:19).

Arguably nowhere in scripture is this *substitution* and the *penal* brought together, outlined and repeated, as much as in Isaiah chapter 53 - *'He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we*

This 'faith' here is like a *force* and healing has occurred in the 'spiritual realm' with 'spirit eyes' even if it has not occurred in the physical (manifested) state. Thus the group had to keep standing on their confessions and declarations and *ignore the reality that Elizabeth was not healed*. To the group even 'death was not proof that God had not healed', for 'Elizabeth was only sleeping'.

As Theresa Stevens stated: *The only thing that can fail is you, and in your faith towards God, and if you do fail, then God can't hold up His end of the bargain*. Such teaching led to a view of medical help that *they kill children all the time*. The group was unanimous that they would much rather trust in God than put a child through 'torture' in a hospital. Theresa considered injections to be 'rape'. Keita Martin stated that people who use medical help were 'fake christians'.

Judge Burns was scathing in summary: *The arrogance of your belief...remains bewildering*. To Brendan Stevens: *you are a dangerous, highly manipulative individual*. Burns also stated: *Not one of you could point to a single line of scripture in which doctors or medicine was expressly forbidden...Instead, you spoke of parts of the Bible which, on your construction, were said to support your belief...In truth, what you did was gamble with the life of a child based on your peculiar interpretation of disparate passages from the Bible and nothing more*.

Wherever there is serious false or cultic teaching, there is often a 'law unto themselves' and hypocrisy. All children in the Stevens and Struhs family attended schools *in obedience to the law*, a contradiction noted by police in questioning.

The tragedy of Elizabeth Struhs is not an isolated occurrence. Research shows this is happening in *thousands of cases* across the globe! In 1998, Dr Seth Asser (a Rhode Island paediatrician) investigated the deaths of children from families in which faith healing was practiced and medical care denied. He found that between 1975 and 1995, 172 children died due to parents refusal of medical care due to belief in faith healing. 140 of these deaths were medically treatable with a greater than 90% success rate. 18 died from conditions with a greater than 50% survival rate with medical care. Only 3 deaths were determined to have been beyond the help of medical care. How many others across the globe are not reported?

The other tragedy is as this author has seen and documented - many believers with the healing gospel walk away from their faith and the church when it simply does not work. Many end up in *despair, atheism or hardened in heart* to the Gospel.

However, *the biggest loser of this ongoing tragedy is the true Gospel!* Why add *new* teachings of healing, prosperity, Word of Faith...Is it not enough that Jesus died for our sins to satisfy a holy and righteous judge, to propitiate the wrath of God for our sins? Is it not enough that in Christ the Saviour we have a spirit made righteous, a soul being sanctified, ready for a new healed body in Heaven? Dare we expect more than what God may or may not give? Is His grace not sufficient?

Our faith and life is in *Christ the person*, not new thought downloaded in the 20th century. We are not the Messiah, the apostles, *those He ordained*. We are sinners saved by grace which is sufficient for the day of glory!

Terry Arnold

(Material extracted from the 469 page Supreme Court, Qld 'R vs Struhs' 2025)

The Tragedy of Elizabeth Struhs



In January 2025, 14 members of a Toowoomba (Queensland) based home church, called 'The Saints', were found guilty of the manslaughter of eight year old Elizabeth Struhs on 7th January 2022. Elizabeth died of diabetic ketoacidosis due to withdrawal of insulin.

Murder charges were not proven because of the group's '*genuine subjective belief that God would heal the girl and she would not die*'. But the entire group were sentenced with *manslaughter* because they *counselled and encouraged the father (Jason Struhs) to withdraw the insulin*.

Most of the group had followed a leader, Brendan Stevens, for 17 years - first at a *Revival Centre* church and then at his home. The *Revival Centre* churches are well known for their belief in faith healing. They follow almost all Pentecostal teachings but add the teaching of 'the necessity to speak in tongues when receiving the Holy Spirit to be saved'.

The death of Elizabeth was a shocking unnecessary tragedy. However, it is a tragedy which is repeated over and over, when the popular teaching on faith healing is fully applied and practised. Unlike most Charismatic/Pentecostals, *this group actually followed through faithfully and logically what is taught on healing!*

The Teachings

The leader, Brendan Stevens, had been involved in a *Revival Centre* church in Brisbane. He insisted on healing by faith to the exclusion of medical aid. He once refused anti Malaria tablets on a mission trip to New Guinea and challenged others to live by faith *as was taught*. He was eventually '*put out of fellowship*' when he railed against pastors as being '*against God*', at a National Conference in Melbourne in 2006. Upon the death of Elizabeth Struhs, the leader of the *Revival Centre* churches stated that it had *never been the church's teaching to thwart medical care*. However, that is arguably not evident in their day to day teaching on faith healing. Again, what is missed in this tragedy is that this house group *were practising by faith what is taught in most Pentecostal/Charismatic churches!*

After leaving the *Revival Centres* church the Stevens and other families then began meeting at the Steven's home, led by Brendan Stephens. Brendan's gospel was '*...The manifestation of receiving the holy spirit in power and you will speak in the unknown tongue which is a pure undefilable language to speak directly to God, or to Jesus who's at God's right hand after being killed and raised from the dead and appeared to all his followers for 40 days*'.

Doctors, medications, wearing glasses, were all forms of unbelief. Kerrie Struhs, the mother of Elizabeth, stated: '*As Christians, we believe in the healing power of God. Jesus was sent to earth by God to be a man and ultimately he was crucified, but before being crucified he was striped for our healing, twice he was striped, that means he was whipped 39 times for our healing, not only that, the first promise God gave to his people was 'I am the God that healeth you' and 'healing*

is the children's bread', there is so many times in the Bible that we can see that God has promised healing. To me, this means that when we are of need of healing, or we are in need of being made better, you go to God for healing. This applies particularly in life and death situations, God will heal, he will heal the body of all it's ailments' (Police witness statement, 9 Feb. 2022).

The Path to Death

In 2019 six year old Elizabeth became ill after her mother, Kerrie, withdrew medication from her. She *'became noticeably unwell, experiencing episodes of urinary incontinence at school and at home. Her symptoms worsened throughout June and into July. She was vomiting, there were fluctuations in her appetite, she was consuming large amounts of liquids, and she was becoming increasingly fatigued. When school holidays ended on 15 July 2019, Elizabeth was too unwell to return to school. By this stage she had become unsteady on her feet and had continued to sleep and drink excessively'*.

One evening the father, Jason, had to assist Elizabeth to go to the toilet as she was *'too weak and tired'* to do so herself. Jason stated: *'It was at this time that I realised she had lost a very large amount of weight and things were very wrong...I was furious at this stage because I didn't realise how bad Elizabeth's condition had become and how unwell she was. It wasn't until I picked her up and carried her I realised how much weight she had lost and that it wasn't the flu that she had'*.

Elizabeth was in a coma when the father finally took his daughter to hospital, against objections from his wife Kerrie and *The Saints* group. Court documents showed messages Kerrie sent the leader Brendan Stevens after her husband had taken Elizabeth to hospital: *'I declare God to the last minute! She'll rise before he gets there!...I can't have declared God any stronger'*. Other messages showed Brendan stating to Kerrie that her husband needed to change to accept her beliefs or their marriage was over. He stated: *'It seems from here he would have to either leave or no longer stand against [her]'*. He also stated that unless Elizabeth was taken off insulin, there would be no proof she has been healed. *'In my vision I see Elizabeth turning to you and saying I'm getting better now mummy'... 'She is healed Kerrie...God shall prevail not Jason' ... 'God can't fail...Remember we have a covenant with our God Kerrie, sealed in His blood...We are His people. He is our God...He is not a covenant breaker and neither will we'*.

On 17 July 2019, a Doctor Jarvis saw Elizabeth in the emergency department of Toowoomba Hospital. He first thought she might be dead. Elizabeth was pale, thin, limp and barely breathing. Her eyes were open but *'rolling around'*. She was not making *'very purposeful movements'* and *'barely responsive'*. Multiple tests determined Elizabeth had diabetes and was suffering from Diabetic Ketoacidosis. Her PH was 6.84 which was *'incredibly low'* (below 7 is regarded as *'life threatening'*). A CT scan revealed evidence of Cerebral Oedema (brain swelling). She was *'extremely emaciated'* with *'protusions of all bony prominences'* and she weighed just 13kg. An associate Professor Conwell stated Elizabeth was the *'most seriously unwell child'* she had ever seen *'in 20 years of practice'*.

Miracles and healings that occurred in scripture do not necessarily mean they must happen today. Ballaam's donkey spoke to him, but do we expect our animals to speak to us? Peter walked on water by faith (for a while), but do we do the same? That healing is not guaranteed in this life is further attested to by 2Corinthians 12:9 where Paul glories in his physical *'infirmities'* which were *not healed*. Epaphroditus was *'sick nigh unto death'* (Phil.2:27), Trophimus was *'left at Miletum sick'* (2Tim.4:20) and Timothy took medicine for sickness (1Tim.5:23).

God did not authorise anyone *after Jesus and those He ordained* to expect everyone to be healed upon *words of faith*. No scripture gives us a mandate for today to expect the same as Jesus and the apostles! This is shown in the ceasing of sign gifts after the first century as attested to by the church fathers and the church down the ages...until the 20th century claims, when new *'healing ministries'* were invented! Hence today Charismatic/Pentecostal churches teach God wants to heal all, healing is available in the atonement, and by faith. When this does not work, they seek medical help or often blame failure to heal as a lack of faith or sin.

Having once been a Pentecostal, and in this current ministry having tested hundreds of claims of miraculous healings, *the author has found not one to be truly miraculous, especially* of organic diseases. There are thousands of stories and claims, often from remote areas of the world, all proven over and over to be exaggerated or false. When those who believe in faith healing are asked if they *personally* have ever seen a blind person see, the deaf hear, or the dead come back to life, the answer is always negative. *Charismatic/Pentecostals need at some point to realise the fraud of faith healing!* To expect the same anointing that Jesus or *those He ordained* had, is to be as *'false christs and false prophets'* (*'false christs'* is *'pseudo christos'* - *'false anointed ones'*).

Because the group were so isolated and manipulated by the leader, Brendan Stevens, they were never really challenged, even when there was no physical healing. But today many in Charismatic/Pentecostal circles are also unaware of the utter deception of the *same healing gospel!* Instead they would continue to quote scriptures out of context as Kerrie Struhs did to police and in court with: *'I am the God that healeth you'* - this scripture was spoken to *Israel* concerning their travels and referring to diseases God had put upon Egypt (Ex.15:26). This cannot be applied to God today wanting to heal all who have faith.

The healing gospel today is from *'the Serpent'* and produces *'another jesus...another spirit...and another gospel'* which *'perverts the gospel of Christ'* and which is *'accursed'* (2Cor.11:4; Gal.1:6-9)! Truly the Devil has had a field day within this group! Even their language was foreign to sound doctrine, yet familiar with much of modern Charismatic/Pentecostal speech. Jason Struhs stated: *'Well, [when] I probably thought that she was gonna die...I went and prayed and got my spirit back up...the Lord's gonna look after her and I didn't look through my normal eyes, I looked through my spirit eyes and...it went away, I didn't have to worry anymore because I trusted the Lord...the Holy Spirit that I received'*.

Much of this new teaching *muddies and detaches the conscience from the mind*. The phrase *'praying in the spirit'* (Eph.6:18; Jude 20) was often misquoted by the group to mean *praying in tongues* which was *'proof'* they had received the Spirit

we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Both passages have nothing to do with *bodily healing* in the atonement. One can search early commentaries for this in vain to find any reference to bodily healing in Christ's atonement. All tell it as it is in Isaiah 53 - it is *spiritual healing of sin!* The use of 1Peter 2:24,25 for bodily healing is a recent invention in the late 19th and the early 20th century with the new Pentecostal movement.

The phrase '*in his own body*' refers to the sufferings of Jesus on the cross. The word rendered '*stripes*' is literally about the scourging of Jesus. The phrase '*you were healed*' refers to the '*transgressions*' in the same verse of Isaiah 53:5.

The fact that this is spiritual healing *for sins* is further attested to in the verses following in both 1Peter 2 and Isaiah 53 from which Peter quotes. The context is *sin*, not bodily healing: 1Peter 2:25 '*...you were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls*'. Isaiah 53:6 '*...like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all*'.

The context is about '*sins*', '*transgressions*', '*iniquity*' - with '*SOULS*', not the body! Old Testament atonement offerings were not for sickness but for sin (Lev.16:3)! On the cross Jesus did not bear our diseases, but our sin. He was not '*made diseases*' but '*made sin for us*' (2Cor.5:21). Any healing in the atonement, any redemption of the body, would be *in the future glorified state* (Rom.8:21-23).

The group also quoted Matthew 8:16,17 '*...He cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses*'. However, this verse was spoken three years before the cross and the verse claims that Isaiah was fulfilled there and then. It refers to the earthly public ministry of Jesus as verse 16 clearly shows. It also refers to the prophecies in Isaiah proving the *Messiahship of Jesus* with signs such as healings (Is.35:4-6; cp. Lk.7:18-22).

Miraculous healing *is not guaranteed* in the atonement for this life. We must here also distinguish between '*healing*' by God Himself and the '*gift of healings*'. No such person exists today that has the gift of healings as it was in the first century! Jesus and the apostles healed '*all*' and '*every*' (Matt.4:23,24; 8:16; 9:35; 10:1; 12:15...); *instantly* (Matt.8:3; 20:30...'*immediately*'); they healed *completely* (Matt.12:13,15 '*whole*'; 14:36 '*perfectly whole*'...); they healed *at will* and there were *no failures* (Matt.8:3); they healed '*all*' diseases including *organic diseases* (Matt.4:23,24; 9:35; 15:30) - diseases that cannot be cured by psychosomatic means (e.g. AIDS, Downs Syndrome, quad/paraplegia, etc). The modern faith healers do not, and have not, healed the latter! Meanwhile these '*healers*' wear glasses, get sick, travel with doctors, and die of the same diseases like many of us.

Again, the emphasis on healing ministries today completely misses *the purpose of the sign gifts* in the first century - to prove the *Messiahship of Jesus* (Jn.20:30,31; Lk.7:21,22; Acts 2:22) and the credentials of those *He ordained* (2Cor.12:12 '*signs of an apostle*'). God '*anointed*' Jesus and those *He ordained* (Lk.4:17-20). *Nowhere in scripture does it state that we today will have the same power in healing as did Jesus and those He ordained!*

With intensive care Elizabeth recovered in one month. Her father remained by Elizabeth's side for the recovery. An older teenage daughter, Jayde, also spent much time with Elizabeth. (Jayde had previously left home, her Lesbian beliefs rejected by the group).

Amazingly the members of the church group attributed Elizabeth's life threatening ordeal and subsequent recovery solely to God. Kerrie Struhs stated: '*It is absolutely amazing to see Elizabeth the way she is! Of course we expect perfect healing, but to already see Elizabeth looking healthy, singing and clapping, smiling and joking, even colouring in and putting her own dressing gown on? It's just so joyous! Apart from Sunday (which was great!), the last time I saw her was the day before she went to hospital and she 'looked' (with physical eyes) the absolute antithesis of health - even though we knew she was/is healed all along!*

To see healings come to pass physically is still just fantastic! Praise God! I can hardly believe she really was that unwell'.

On 5 March 2020, police charged Jason and Kerrie for failing to provide medical needs to Elizabeth in 2019. In 2021 Kerrie was imprisoned. She continued to communicate with Brendan and the group who counselled her. The group believed she was in prison '*for her faith*' and that the trial was miraculously orchestrated by God to make Jason Struhs see the light, join the Church, be re-united with his family in one faith, and be '*healed of his anger*'.

Kerrie was released from jail on 15 December 2021 and it is said she promised the authorities that treatment would continue for her daughter. However, she also stated: '*All we'll do is continue to pray, for the certain healing God has promised*'.

Jason continued to medicate Elizabeth's disease. But after 17 years of opposition to the group, the pressure increased on Jason when Kerrie was jailed. Kerrie Struhs threatened to end the marriage, but changed her mind after his eventual '*conversion*'. Judge Burns stated: '*I have no doubt Mr Struhs joined the church out of fear he would lose his family if he did not*'.

Jason's '*conversion*' came after constant opposition within his family and pressure from the group. He stated that '*there always seemed to be friction*' because he did not share the beliefs of his wife and children. For a time he was sleeping in a converted garage away from the main part of the house to '*get away from the tension*'. His son Zachary was well entrenched in the group and constantly debating with his father. It was after a serious argument with Zachary that Jason joined the Church and his relationship with his family improved.

Hence in August 2021, Jason went with his son Zachary to Brendan and was '*baptised and spoke in tongues*' as he was taught. He stated: '*The next four months after turning to God had been the best four months of my life, because I had peace. I now had family who loved me*'. He continued to treat Elizabeth with medication despite urging from the group not to. Witnesses outside the group stated that in conversations with group members that they were trying to get Jason to stop the medication, and when he finally did they claimed Elizabeth had been '*healed*'. One of the group, (Mrs Schoenfisch), stated '*Oh, we finally got Jason to take the medicine - the medicine, insulin, off the little girl*'. Another, Lachlan Schoenfisch, added: '*Yes, she's just happy, dancing and running around. She's been healed*'.

The Final Tragedy

On the morning of 1 January 2022, Elizabeth's glucometer returned a reading of 8.1 mmol/L. Jason Struhs decided to administer only the slow-acting insulin. That evening, the glucometer reading was 21.5 mmol/L. At church on the 2nd January, Jason Struhs suddenly declared to all that *God had healed Elizabeth of her diabetes*. He later stated he had not planned to announce this, but the words just *'came out of [his] mouth... God must have made [him] say it'*. *'The Church was 'joyous'*. That evening, at about 8pm, Elizabeth's glucometer reading was 23.3 mmol/L. and again Jason resolved to give Elizabeth a dose of the slow-acting insulin but not the fast-acting insulin. By 3 January (Monday) *Jason was persuaded to take Elizabeth off all insulin*. At around 7am Jason awoke to the sounds of Elizabeth using her glucometer. He rushed to tell her not to use the monitor, but Elizabeth showed her father a blood glucose reading of 5 mmol/L, which Mr Struhs took *'as a sign from God that He had started to step in'*, and that Elizabeth did not require insulin any more. (At the trial a medical expert showed how a variety of factors can impact on the affect of insulin on any one day).

The next day one of the children who shared a room with Elizabeth went to the parents to inform them Elizabeth was ill. Elizabeth vomited throughout that day. Brendan and some of the group continued to send messages: *'Don't think that you are waiting for the healing, you indeed have it... Elizabeth is still healed as she was yesterday. The Lord will bless your faithful words and your declaration of His truth... Not by might not by power but by my spirit this mountain shall be removed'*. That night Elizabeth slept on a mattress beside her parents. She continued to vomit throughout the night. On Wednesday Elizabeth was *'pretty much unconscious for most of the day'* and when she spoke, her words were *'mostly slurred'*.

On Friday morning *Elizabeth stopped breathing*. Everybody then prayed for her to be raised from the dead. *The whole church came to stay at the house on Friday night*. On Saturday they all continued to pray until it was decided to call emergency services. By then *Elizabeth had been dead for 36 hours*. A message was found written on a white board *'all the people said Elizabeth is HEALED! She is only SLEEPING!'*. (At the trial this was still the belief of the group).

Weighing just 21.4kg Elizabeth died of *Diabetic Ketoacidosis with acute renal impairment*.

Jason Struhs stated he *'didn't believe in funerals, Elizabeth was with God'*, and that he *'would not be burying a bag of bones'*. He agreed to a government appointed funeral director taking care of Elizabeth's remains.

Later the group came to the view that God must have intended Elizabeth's death and resurrection to have a much larger audience - the attention of the World. The group have since proclaimed Elizabeth will be raised from the dead in their lifetime.

In court Jason Struhs testified: *'There isn't a minute of every day I don't miss her and remember the true bond we shared together over this journey'*. His *'biggest regret'* was seeing Elizabeth suffer and that he *'forced her to receive injections of insulin'*. He rejected the proposition he joined the Church to save his family, stating *'Well that didn't work, did it? Because now we're all in jail and my*

children are apart'. He submitted that there was *'no way of saving [his] family if [he] didn't save himself first. I handed it to God because of His promise of healing. To all of you it looks like God has failed. But I know Elizabeth is only sleeping, I will see her again. Because God has promised, and she is healed. Amen'*.

Assessment - The Truth

The teaching that the group aspired to is the *Word of Faith* doctrine. This teaching has its roots in the new thought philosophy that teaches that the key to health and wealth acquisition is *thinking, speaking, declaring the right words*. In this the writings of E.W. Kenyon (1867-1948) influenced many of the leading Word of Faith teachers of the modern era.

Kenneth E. Hagin (1917-2003) is today considered the founder of the modern Word of Faith movement. Others followed him - Kenneth Copeland, Joyce Meyers and most of the modern Pentecostal faith healers and prosperity teachers. Although this teaching is rejected by all prominent theologians today, it is taught in one form or another by *most Charismatic/Pentecostal churches*.

This teaching is that healing is guaranteed in the covenant and the atonement with God. The movement urges believers to *declare the promises of the Bible*. They teach that Jesus said Christians can have whatever they pray for in faith (Matt.21:20- 22) and that Romans 10:8 teaches *'the word of faith that we preach'*.

However, Matthew 21 is figurative language for having *faith combined with the will of God*. Jesus and his apostles never *'moved a mountain'* or did any such spectacular feats. James 4:3 says people *'ask amiss'*, rather than be heard by God in asking *'according to his will'* (1Jn.5:14). Neither are we to *test God* (Matt.4:7).

Romans 10:8 is also ripped out of its context, considering the next two verses state that this *'word of faith'* is actually a confession by mouth and belief in the heart of Jesus *for salvation!* It has nothing to do with guaranteed bodily healing.

I do not discount the possibility of miraculous healing by God. But at some point one must ask why *healings do not occur when there is obvious 'faith'*. No one can say this group did not have a *'faith'*! In fact they are still to this day clinging to their faith that Elizabeth has actually been healed *by their declarations* and she will be raised from the dead to show that!

However, the *inconsistencies* in their faith abound. Why would Elizabeth not be physically healed *instantly, immediately*, as were the healings of Jesus and the apostles? But the most subtle misuse of scripture and *often quoted by the group* and *most Charismatic/Pentecostals* is 1Peter 2:24, which has the phrase *'by his stripes we are healed'* - again ripped out of its moorings. This passage is a direct quote from the Old Testament - *it has nothing to do with physical bodily healing!*

The two verses are: 1Peter 2:23,24 *'Who his own self bore our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes you were healed. For you were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls'...* and...

Isaiah 53:5,6 *'But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes*