An Inquiry Into The Theological Characteristics Of The Word of Faith, Third Wave Movement & The New Apostolic Reformation

Published on www.academia.com & Desperate Imitation of Christ Blog

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April 2016
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1.0 Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all the people who have had input on this project. First of all, my wife Simone Müller-Moore, who has spoken most often into this project with grace and fairness. She sought to make my tone and work more readable. I would also like to thank my colleagues at TeachBeyond who have also given me much wisdom into how this work could be accepted into Germany. Benjamin Rudolph, Björn Wagner, and Curtis Coston. Thanks very much for your thoughts. I must also thank my parents Ray and Gail Moore who have encouraged this work as a necessary contribution to the evangelical landscape. Thanks also to my sister Dorothy Moore, who gave many edits and contributions. I also want to thank Creekside Community Church our Church family. Thanks to John Bruce pastor, and particularly Jeff Bruce who gave helpful contributions in regards to Christological elements within this paper. And finally this paper is written to the glory of Christ. He has given me insight and led me to write this paper to warn His Church about a spirit of error.

1.1 Introduction

God forbid you were one day diagnosed with cancer. Your doctor would quickly make a treatment plan for dealing with this deadly disease. You most likely would not say to your doctor, “I don’t want to follow your treatment plan. I think I will see how things develop, and see if it goes away or just gets better.” Left untreated, that cancer will spread throughout your whole body and eventually kill you. You have to separate the cancer from your body, or your body dies. You cannot live with it and see how things develop, or see if this cancer might just go away, get better, or be helpful to you in some other way. You would never think about trying to take positive things from your cancer. You would do everything in your power to get rid of it, and doctors will help you get rid of it to the best of their abilities.

Likewise, God forbid through an injury or illness you have gangrene in a foot or hand or one of your limbs. Gangrene is a condition that occurs when body tissue dies. It is caused by a loss of blood supply due to some underlying illness, injury, or infection. Fingers, toes, and limbs are most often affected. Gangrene cannot be allowed to grow further in a body and must be addressed immediately, or the gangrene will spread throughout the whole body and eventually the body will die. Gangrene is treated when you remove the affected tissue. Usually people lose limbs if a foot or leg is affected. It is a terribly horrible thing, but absolutely necessary to keep a person alive. No one affected by gangrene would say, ”Well let’s see if it goes away on its own; let’s see if it gets better, or if there is anything good that I can glean from this gangrenous infection.” If you allow the gangrenous condition to continue, you would soon die. The infection would soon invade your whole bloodstream and poison you from the inside out with its deadening toxins.

Paul writes to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:16-19 about false teaching and how it works. He writes,

“But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already
happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. But God’s foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.” (Emphasis mine)

Paul uses the Greek word γάγγραινα (pronounced gang’-grahee-nah), which is from the root word γράινω, which means, “to gnaw.” The word Paul uses, γάγγραινα, can mean ulcer, “gangrene,” canker, an eating sore or cancer. This word is only used once in the New Testament in this case, which makes it that much more crucial by Paul choosing a medical term like this, to which we would in a medical sense respond accordingly. The context in which Paul discusses the need to care for false teaching is in his care for Timothy’s own theological “workmanship.” So Paul previously tells Timothy to watch out for his teaching and ministry and then gives him a prime example of how he can practice that workmanship by avoiding “irreverent babble.” He goes on to describe the poor theological workmanship of two people and names two names. Hymenaeus and Philetus are the culprits. Peter Williams in his book Opening Up 2 Timothy describes these two men:

Here were two heretics who had forfeited God’s approval because they were engaged in empty ‘godless chatter’, and had undermined the truth of God’s Word. Like some gangrenous disease, their false teaching was spreading like a poison, corrupting and infecting the minds and hearts of the people in their understanding of the wholesome gospel. (Emphasis mine)

Furthermore, we see that this ulcer, "gangrene," canker, eating sore, or cancer had spread, was spreading, and “destroying the faith of some.” That was why Paul addressed Timothy and pleaded with him to “shun profane and vain babblings.” Matthew Henry comments on how the spread of these babblings transpired:

“When errors or heresies come into the church, the infecting of one often proves the infecting of many, or the infecting of the same person with one error often proves the infecting of him with many errors.”

The only solution for these gangrenous heresies, according to Paul, was a shunning or avoiding. We would do the same to real cancerous, gangrenous diseases, namely amputation and removal. Paul describes the amputation and removal in 1 Timothy 1:20 of Hymenaeus whom he “delivered over to Satan.” We could understand this

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1 2 Timothy 2:16-19
“handing over to Satan” as the shunning, amputation, and removal of the poisonous heresies that Paul refers to in 2 Timothy 2.

The teaching, theology, and practice of the Word of Faith Movement, Third Wave Movement, and the New Apostolic Reformation is also gangrenous, cancerous, and poisonous. It may, like Hymenaeus and Philetus affect much or only a little part of the body of Christ. As with cancer and gangrene, we would not allow those deadly parts of our body to exist unopposed, unchallenged, and untreated. We would be allowing our bodies to soon die, and in regard to the Church we might ruin our faith or the faith of those who we minister to, if we allowed the “irreverent babble” to lie around, and spread in our churches. Let us, like a surgeon, remove the deadly infectious teaching of the Prosperity Gospel (Word of Faith Movement), Third Wave Movement, and the New Apostolic Reformation from our Churches. In this paper I will seek to lay out the dangerous teaching, theology, and practice of these movements, and its leaders, so as to expose the dangerous poison of the three intertwined movements. As the Scriptures say we should expose false teachers, and never take in the poison that they teach. Jesus also instructed us to “beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.” That is why it is important to expose these false teachings, because they are often presented as wonderful new moves of God. However, they are poisonous theologically. They are not presented by sheep, but by ravenous wolves out for their own gain.

I lived in the San Francisco Bay Area for almost 9 years. During that time I was a youth pastor for a Church in the Oakland Area. Throughout my time there, I was introduced to the Word of Faith or Third Wave Movement, also known as the New Apostolic Reformation. I had known from my time in Bible College the very unbiblical and oftentimes heretical teachings of the Word of Faith Movement. We studied the likes of Robert Tilton, Fred Price, Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin, Benny Hinn and Paul Crouch. We were able to study from a theological perspective why these men were false teachers and how their teaching has for many years been gangrenous cancer growing inside of contemporary evangelicalism. We were able to study, from their own words, why they taught heretical doctrines. In my time in California, though, I was reintroduced to what is now being called the “Third Wave Movement” or the “New Apostolic Reformation.” I was able to see how these movements were a development of that deeply flawed teaching.

During our time in California, my wife shared her testimony in a women’s Bible study about how our daughter, born with Down syndrome and later developed a seizure disorder, was doing. In that testimony she said, “We have prayed and prayed for God to heal Ana, and now we are not praying that anymore, but rather we are asking for God’s grace.” After her testimony a woman approached her and gave her a CD of some teaching by Bill Johnson from Bethel Church in Redding, California. The sermon went something like this: “God is good; cancer is bad; Satan is bad; thus Satan is the source of cancer.” I cannot quote it verbatim anymore, and I cannot find the particular sermon on their sermon archives, but as I remember it that is what he said. He equated cancer with a work of the Devil and never a work of or allowed by

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5 Romans 16:17-18; 2 Peter 2:1-3  
6 Matthew 7:15
God. This would be no surprise if you have any knowledge of the Word of Faith Movement. Bill Johnson was quoted in an interview as saying,

"You can only give away what you have. Can God give away sickness? No, He's not sick. You can't give cancer if you don't have it."\(^7\)

Johnson also taught in that same interview,

"No. Two thousand years ago Jesus made a purchase. He does not decide not to heal people today. The decision two thousand years ago was to heal. Either the payment was sufficient for all sin or no sin. Either the payment was sufficient for all sickness or no sickness. . . The brushstroke of God's redemption was to wipe out the root of sin, the root of illness and the root of poverty."\(^8\)

This was not very surprising for me, but it did bring back into my purview how widespread the Word of Faith Movement had become. It reminded me that it was there, and it piqued my interest into what the Word of Faith was morphing into: a more sinister, disturbing and dangerous new breed of heresy. But as I researched this new movement, I could not believe how deep the rabbit hole went. If we understood the scope of how sin has affected the world as seen in the doctrine of total depravity, then we might understand where sickness and death come from. It comes from Adam; in Adam all men sinned, and death came through sin.\(^9\) The faithful Christian doctrine through the ages has been that death, disease and sin are a result of the fall, and will not be fully restored until Jesus returns to make all things fully new. As Millard J. Erickson explains in his seminal work *Christian Theology*,

*We should note that there were other changes as a result of sin. In Eden man had a body, which could become diseased; after the fall there were diseases for him to contract. The curse, involving the coming of death to mankind, also included a whole host of ills, which would lead to death. Paul tells us that someday this set of conditions will be removed, and the whole creation delivered from this "bondage to decay" (Rom. 8:18-23).*\(^10\)

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7 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SehJ0zfJRg&ebc=ANyPxr3i-eyayH8A0LY-HVjmmT16bY1a2D16fV1XkrszQ6MSwgv6bpoytlu2IZZEnj5eimfQ8uYSF-Ug1gbGDnAMpk5q6A (Accessed April 2016).
9 Ibid
10 1 Corinthians 15:21-23; Romans 5:12
As Erickson clearly explains, we are under a “bondage to decay” that we are currently still under until that day when Christ will deliver us and the whole of creation will be set free from those bondages to death, disease and decay. As Christians we wait with great anticipation.

While I was a youth pastor in California, we had so many people come to us from Bethel in Redding, CA who were either totally convinced of the validity of the “signs and wonders” that took place there, or on the other hand that were totally burned and needing recovery from a false teaching, cult-like atmosphere. This also affected us personally as we received a teaching CD from Bill Johnson. It was meant as an encouragement, but rather was received as deeply discouraging because our daughter was not healed. We often had people coming from Bethel who asked us in those years if we had faith that God would heal her Down syndrome. From this teaching, we could have concluded that we did not have enough faith, and/or that the illness that was ravaging our daughter’s body was from Satan himself. There was no such idea that God was in control of these heinous epileptic episodes. It seemed that only guilt and shame was being delivered by Bethel because we could not muster up enough faith for her to be healed of the seizures, or for that matter her Down syndrome as well.

1.2 Background for Writing

I write today because it seems that the tentacles of this false Gospel have made their way around the globe. We moved to Germany almost two years ago and have found the Bethel influence is far and wide across Germany. For instance, recently I was preaching somewhere, and afterward a young man came up to me and said he would like to pray for my daughter that her Down syndrome would “go away,” and that Jesus had paid the price for her health on the cross. I was able to patiently guide this guy into a right teaching of the atonement, and also let him know that it was not a sickness and did not need to be healed. God would not just have to heal her; he would have to change her cellular structure, every single one. Down syndrome people are born with three chromosomes on the twenty-first strand of every single cell. Most recently, too there was an event in Nürenburg, Germany called the “Awakening Europe.”12 The speakers were Todd White13, Ben Fitzgerald (Bethel Church)14, and Heidi Baker15. This event is put on by God First Ministries, and is also endorsed by Bill Johnson, pastor of Bethel Church. I know many people who attended the event in Nürenburg, and also many who plan on attending the coming Stadion-event in Freiburg. I have also seen many more places and churches using Bill Johnson sermons and materials from Bethel in Redding. I realize these movements are powerful and nothing I might write may change what is happening, but if I can change one person’s mind or sway someone away from involvement in these dangerous events and teachings I will have achieved my goal then. I want to explain my background in theology and approach to scripture. I

believe in Full Inerrancy as described in statements such as the 1978 Chicago Statement on Inerrancy. Millard Erickson gives a simple definition of Full Inerrancy:

*The Bible, when correctly interpreted in light of the level to which culture and the means of communication had developed at the time it was written, and in view of the purposes for which it was given, is fully truthful in all that it affirms.*

To that we can add 2 Timothy 3:16-17, which gives us a good basis for understanding applying the scriptures, *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”* For the sake of theological clarity, I have been very influenced by Calvinism in my Soteriology, Luther in my Christology, the early church fathers and Apostles in my Ecclesiology, and the greater reformed movement in my larger Theology Proper. I have also been very influenced by the Keswick ideas of sanctification and the victorious Christian life but also find some weaknesses within it. I also hold to all the Church Creeds from antiquity. These theological systems are, however, manmade and in many ways limited theological systems that have tried to systematize and make sense of the word of God for us. They have in many ways succeeded because these men were brilliant, and somehow had a God given aptitude for creating these theological systems. These particular views have influenced me. To read further my specific beliefs you could refer to my article titled *“Here I Stand I Can Do No Other, So Help Me God!”* This paper will reflect on teaching, theology, and practice of the Word of Faith, Third Wave Movement, and New Apostolic Reformation mostly from a scriptural point of view and I will do that by addressing historically condemned heresies.

I also want to be clear that I believe in the supernatural. I believe in the deep and mysterious work of the Holy Spirit. I believe that sign gifts can and are able to be exercised today. I am not a complete cessationist, who says that the sign gifts ceased with the twelve Apostles and the finalization of the Scriptural Canon. I am also neither a full non-cessationist who believes that all sign gifts are to be practiced fully as they were in all their fullness in the book of Acts, etc. I find myself somewhere fully in between the center of biblical tension. In that tension, I do believe that these gifts should be practiced, in accordance with the epistles and how the New Testament clearly lays out how these gifts ought to be practiced. There is clear precedence on how they ought to be practiced in an orderly way, never in chaos, confusion or disarray. I believe that people are healed by the power of Jesus, and God can use these supernatural acts to build a bridge over a “gospel threshold” (usually in relation to crossing cultural lines). I know many people who have obviously been healed and/or delivered from crippling illnesses and oppression.

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17 2 Timothy 3:16-17
I have personally on many occasions, in the powerful name of Jesus, been freed from spiritual oppression and seen his work and power over oppression in my years of ministry, and I have seen it in others. The story of our daughter was that of healing, but it was not immediate. We prayed often, and as I said earlier we began to pray for grace, and God gave it, and now we can say she has been seizure free for many years, but she still has Down syndrome and will for the rest of her life. This is where I try to stand with brothers and sisters on both sides of the “sign gifts” camp as well as I know how, all the while seeking Biblical integrity. However, the Word of Faith, Third Wave Movement, and the New Apostolic Reformation I believe are not in the theologically Orthodox Christian camp. I will go forward in this paper seeking to be consistent with historical Biblically accepted theological assertions.

1.3 Orthodox or Not?

For the rest of the paper I will take deeper look at Bethel and the wider Prosperity Gospel so as to sway your opinion of them, as wholly unchristian, apostate, and heretical. The Third Wave Movement (TWM) and The New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) in my opinion, which is enlightened by research, do not hold to historically orthodox theologies. I will attempt in the rest of this paper to explain which historical heresies that Bethel, Bill Johnson, his leadership, and the greater Third Wave Movement teach. Furthermore, I will also show the linkages to occult practices that this movement engages in. First I would like to define Prosperity Theology. Prosperity Theology is the belief that financial blessing is the will of God for all Christians, and that faith, positive speech, and donations to Christian ministries will increase one’s material wealth. This view is based on non-traditional interpretations of the Bible. It views the Bible as a contract between God and humans: if humans have faith in God, he will deliver his promises of security and prosperity.

1.4 Historical Heresies

I will begin by explaining all the historical heresies that these movements are linked to. The term heresy is thrown around with some degree of ease in our day and age. So, I would like to define terms that will be used, so as to bring clarity to the subject.

“The term “heresy” refers to a false doctrine, i.e. one that is simply not true, and that is, in addition, so important that those who believe it, whom the church calls heretics, must be considered to have abandoned the faith.”

This paper will go forward with this term in mind. I will refer to those false teachers who I believe have left the faith in regard to their documented teachings and quotations. I will give a breakdown of historical heresies. It is not my intent in this paper to look at the positive aspects of the Word of Faith, Third Wave Movement, and New Apostolic Reformation. There very well could be some

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positives, like passion for Jesus, passionate worship, excitement in ministry and vibrant church life, which is appreciated and the greater church could certainly learn from. However, my purposes are to point out the poor theology found in the teaching of these leaders so as to warn people not to participate. In so doing, my hope is that many more will not be poisoned with false teaching and profoundly inadequate and heretical theology. The positives that exist in these congregations, and the movement as a whole, can be found or practiced in other congregations. In other words take those positive aspects such as passion, and practice it elsewhere. From here on I will refer to Word of Faith as WOF, Third Wave Movement as TWM, and the New Apostolic Reformation as NAR.

1.5 Gnosticism

Gnosticism was an early Christian movement that was a blend of self-worship and philosophy. It was the overvaluing of knowledge with respect to faith.

"The Gnostic position asserts that over and above the simple Gospel, which is all that the ordinary spirits can understand, there is a secret, higher knowledge reserved for an elite. It is natural enough for people to ask more questions than the Gospel answers; the gnostic movement attempted to give the answers, and it did so by drawing on religious sources alien to Christianity and amalgamating them with elements of the Gospel faith."21

The elements of Gnosticism creep up in many places within the modern Church, but none more prevalent than in the Third Wave Movement (TWM), Word of Faith (WOF), and/or New Apostolic Reformation (NAR). The elements of Gnosticism are especially strong at Bethel Church in Redding. In a pretty thorough newspaper article from Redding, California, the writer documented the practice of gold dust (a glory cloud filled with gold dust and God’s presence) appearing in their meetings, Angel Feathers (Falling from heaven on Bill Johnson and in meetings), and diamonds appearing on people (during intense worship throne room sessions).22 These practices are wholly unbiblical, and never mentioned in scripture but rather mirror some sort of New Age, Eastern Mysticism, or what I would like to call “Neo-Gnosticism” (New Gnosticism). What makes this so devastating is that they have syncretized or combined Pagan practices with Christianity. Christendom has struggled with this and continues to need to rid itself of “insider secrets” that Gnosticism purports. These syncretistic streams of Gnosticism were originally condemned as heresy and are creeping back in to mainstream Christendom in these new movements. Bethel and others have taken up the practice of syncretizing, itself with Pagan, occult, and other bizarre practices. In so doing they have created a “Neo-Gnosticism and they apostate themselves as the Gnostic predecessors have done.

Some of the other Neo-Gnostic practices are what they label “signs and wonders” such as the ‘glory cloud’ and ‘gold dust,’ angel feathers falling, gems

21 Ibid, 39
appearing, conjuring angel orbs, fire tunnels (in which they employ Kundalini methods), spirit travel, out-of-body experiences, and ‘healings.’ They also practice prophecy, portal travel (where people can travel through portals to other places physically, so they claim, which is obviously a New Age/Occult practice), extra-biblical revelation, raising the dead, charismatic praying in tongues (I do not condemn tongues if done in order as the Bible explains in 1 Corinthians 14:26-40), soaking, new wine movement, drunken glory, visualization, laughter (Toronto Blessing), animal sounds while filled with the Spirit. Other practices are contemplative or meditative (where they teach to empty the mind or repeat one word from the Bible, which is not historical Christian meditative practice where we fill our minds with scripture), practices such as chanting, and soaking etc., which are taught in their school’s SOZO class. Bill Johnson’s wife Beni uses tuning forks as a prophetic act, and also believes she is called to the ‘prophetic act of waking up angels.’ She says one of her friends, “‘gets pretty wacked’ when the angels are around.”

Bill Johnson in a YouTube clip also recounted a story where people from his church attended a psychic fair in Northern California. He claimed a woman from his church painted a portrait of three people. She “pressed into it” as he said and asked the Lord for the names of the people she had painted. She placed the names of the people onto the back of the painting. She then hung them up in their “prophetic booth.” People would come into the booth and see themselves painted on the paintings and then the woman who painted the paintings would prophesy over them. This is at best very naive and at worst working in cohort with psychic and occult practices. I could understand going to a place like this and ministering the gospel, or praying with people, but to engage in “prophetic” activity that could easily be understood as psychic or seer activity is very dangerous and too near to the practices of those at the psychic fair. In Johnson’s story there was actually no real prophetic value to what happened, just that this woman could see the people and paint a picture of them before she knew them, which sounds very psychic in nature.

Bill and Beni Johnson have also appeared several times on Sid Roth’s extremely controversial TV show called “It’s Supernatural” where Roth has dealt with topics such as angel worship/visitation, portal travel, heaven tourism (eavesdropping on conversations between Jesus and the Father God), the Bible Code controversy, teleportation, “downloading the mysteries of money,” Seeing the invisible spirit world, language/worship of heaven, dream interpretation, and blood moon prophecy. Again at the very least this is a lack of discernment on the part of Bill Johnson, but more likely he and his wife Beni are in league with Roth and his agenda of accessing the supernatural realm at any cost whether it is biblical or not.

### 1.6 Gnostic Syncretism bordering on the Occult

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25 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdYEzoIShG4&index=4&list=PLCZFj_Ex2zmrGii8ndK8tpvuNLqP7lwmm (accessed April 2016).

It is clear also from several documentaries and Bethel’s own YouTube channel how their syncretism and occult practices work.\textsuperscript{27} By Bill Johnson’s own admission, they have experienced and practice fire tunnels, gold dust, and have seen Angel Feathers falling, which he claims have fallen on him and in their meetings for many years. In this clip he himself explains what is happening, and he invites more of these manifestations.\textsuperscript{28} Johnson claims that God is “intensifying” the manifestations. Similarly, many of the early Gnostic movements put a high premium on the experience of God at the expense of solid Biblical teaching or orthodox doctrine. So also Bethel and Johnson place a high value on the experience at the expense of orthodoxy. Syncretism is the mixing and matching of many other mystical practices with that of Christianity. These are just a few of the practices that Bethel and the NAR employ. Let us have a look now at the teaching that also falls under heretical Gnosticism.

Bill Johnson has said in his own words that there is a special type of spirituality: a sort of insider intimacy,

> “Jesus stood before His disciples, before Nicodemus in John chapter 3, and He made this statement, He said, “No one has ASCENDED into heaven except He that descended” [John 3:13]. Now this is before His death, before His Resurrection; so He was describing here a lifestyle of intimacy with the Father where even though He was standing on earth He had ascended into heavenly realms in His relationship with God. The point being, that is an invitation for every believer...”\textsuperscript{29}

Johnson’s Neo-Gnosticism goes several steps deeper where he describes a special spirituality bestowed on the faithful, or as he says the “obeying the rules of this kingdom.”

> “Here’s what I’m believing for – I know it’s never happened; but I know that it must before the end There must be, not just individuals – I’m thankful we have individuals that are rising up with such anointing, such strength, we have people scattered all over the planet right now that are just making a mess of things in all the right ways. We are so encouraged. But, what I’m believing for is a generation – a generation that’ll rise up with a corporate faith, a corporate anointing to press into realms because it’s my conviction that as much as God put on a William Branham, or a Kathryn Kuhlman, or a Wigglesworth, He’ll put far greater anointing on a company of people than He ever would on an individual. To do that, there must be that corporate sense of, we have to deal with the issue of obeying the rules of this kingdom to tap into the resources of this

\textsuperscript{27} https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivJMPccZR2Y (Accessed April 2016).
\textsuperscript{28} https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcPkOR4Lwj0 (Accessed April, 2016).
kingdom’…we cannot use the principles of this world and expect to tap into unlimited resource of the kingdom of God...  

In this view there is a special way to access the unlimited resources of the kingdom of God as Gnosticism has taught since its inception. The danger here is the Bible makes it clear that anyone can access God through Jesus Christ our one true mediator, not special anointing or corporate obedience to the rules of His Kingdom. And in Christ we already have everything we need because “His Divine power has given us everything we need for living a godly life (2 Peter 1:3).”

1.7 Jealous Gnosticism: Inside Secrets of the Kingdom

Bill Johnson further teaches that we define the measure of the presence of the Lord we have access to. On his own blog he writes,

“As we become faithful to host the presence of the Lord, we find a tension between two realities—that He has been given to us without measure but that we set the limits of that measure. Though all of the measurements are set up on our end of the equation, we can experience the measure of presence we are willing to jealously guard. Whatever you will jealously guard, that is the measure you will have on a consistent basis. All measurements in the Kingdom exist for us to pursue increase. The whole Kingdom is based on this principle: the faithful use of what you have been given is what qualifies you for more.

This jealous guarding of God's presence is the secret formula to receiving more of it. Is this Biblical in any form? Absolutely not! God is in control of his glory, presence and revelation, not any man. As Colossians 3:3-4 says, “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” Jesus is the exact image of the glory of God and when you have Jesus, you have all the access to the manifold glory of God that you need. There is no secret formula for protecting the glory. God does not need us for protecting or jealously guarding his glory either, but rather He allows us access to God through Jesus Christ, and only through Jesus Christ is His glory revealed.

Johnson also teaches something he calls a “corporate throne room experience” which he says is necessary to experience more of Jesus than ever before.

“The church will receive a fresh revelation of Jesus, especially though the book of Revelation. That revelation will launch the church into a transformation unlike any experienced in a previous age. As we see Him, we become like Him! The coming

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30 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHcRl60j0HI (Accessed April, 2016).
31 1John 2:1; Hebrews 12:24; 9:15, 24-28; 5:1-10; 4:14-16; Ephesians 2:13; 1 Timothy 2:5;
increase in revelation of Jesus will be measurable through new dimensions of worship - corporate throne room experiences.”

These corporate throne room experiences are in direct contradiction to Hebrews 4:14-16. There we read that every believer through Jesus Christ has direct access to His throne room and that it is a throne of grace and mercy.

“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

1.8 Gnosticism Run Amok

The bizarre practices seem to not end, but rather go further and deeper. These strange practices seem to be unhindered, or at the very least not reigned in by these leaders. These strange Neo-Gnostic practices seem to rather be encouraged. People’s emotions in these movements are rather whipped up into frenzy. Things have somehow “run amok” in the WOF, TWM, and NAR movement. Among these many peculiar Gnostic teachings of the “inside secrets of the kingdom,” Johnson also practices, with his pastoral staff and associates, something called “grave sucking” (or grabbing). Youth Apologetics training website describes it as; “the belief and practice of pulling the supposed Holy Spirit powers from the dead bones of a previously empowered believer.” And the aforementioned evangelist Ben Fitzgerald, who is a pastor and associate of Bill Johnson and Bethel, and who is also putting on the coming Stadion-event in Freiburg Germany, is seen here traveling to the graves of former revivalists and seeking to get the Holy Spirit anointing from their graves. If this were the only bizarre thing that these followers of Johnson practiced, it would be enough. This single occurrence would be enough to label him a false teacher. There is no evidence of contrition or renunciation of these practices, but rather deeper and further practice by Johnson and his wife.

Calling up the spirits of the dead is clearly condemned in the Bible. It is called necromancy. It is the conjuring of the spirits of the dead for purposes of magically revealing the future, influencing the course of events, or bringing benefits to the conjurers. Leviticus 19:26; 31, Leviticus 20:6, Deuteronomy 18:10, Galatians 5:19-20, Acts 19:19, 1 John 4:1 and many more places in the scripture disallow and strongly condemn this practice. Even the famous act of necromancy that King Saul practiced in 1 Samuel 28 where Saul called Samuel’s spirit after his death is

34 Hebrews 4:14-16
37 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrHPTs8cL1s (Accessed April 2016).
condemned by Samuel when he is called back from the dead. After the witch of Endor calls back Samuel from the dead, he pronounces judgment on Saul for disobeying the Lord by seeking a medium. All throughout scripture we see that God has condemned this practice as an abomination. Why does God hate this practice? God disallows this because we will put more value on the word of the spirits than the word of God. Jesus is enough, and His word is enough. For this reason Ben Fitzgerald, an associate of Bill Johnson and a pastor at Bethel in Redding, is unequivocally a false teacher. If you have thought about being involved in the Stadion-event in Freiburg, Germany please reconsider. You might be unintentionally affected by practices and theology that are wholly unbiblical.

1.9 Christological Heresies: Adoptionism

Moving on from the Gnostic heresies to the rather important ones regarding the divinity of Christ, the first Christological heresy that I will address is Adoptionism. Adoptionism was a view that “Jesus was born as a mere (non-divine) man, was supremely virtuous and that he was adopted later as “Son of God” by the descent of the Spirit on him.” It is also known as Dynamic Monarchism. Bill Johnson and many other WOF, NAR, and TWM Teachers believe and teach this view. Bill Johnson himself said, “He was born through Mary the first time and through the Resurrection the second time. He was ‘born again.’” In a sermon in 2009 he is quoted as saying, “Did you know that Jesus was born again? I asked... the first service and they said, ‘No.’ But I will show it. It’s in the Bible. He had to be. He became sin.” He has also written in his influential book, When Heaven Invades Earth, “Jesus laid aside his divinity ... the anointing Jesus received at his baptism was the equipment necessary to make it possible for Jesus to live beyond human limitations.”

Earlier in that same book, he writes

“Jesus Christ said of Himself, ‘The Son can do nothing.’ In the Greek language that word nothing has a unique meaning—it means NOTHING, just like it does in English! He had NO supernatural capabilities whatsoever!...He performed miracles, wonders, and signs, as a man in right relationship to God...not as God.”

Johnson further recorded heresy in regard to Adoptionism when he writes in his book The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind,

“Jesus had no ability to heal the sick. He couldn’t cast out devils, and He had no ability to raise the dead. He said of Himself in

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41 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzAwFYKe3h0 (Accessed April, 2016).
44 Ibid, (Page 29)
John 5:19, “the Son can do nothing of Himself.” He had set aside His divinity. ... He put self-imposed restrictions on Himself to show that we could do it, too. Jesus so emptied Himself that He was incapable of doing what was required of Him by the Father – without the Father’s help.”

1.10 Christological Heresies: Kenosis View

If this were not bad enough, Johnson goes on to have an improper view on several other historically theologically orthodox positions of the Kenosis and Jesus’ Divinity. Arianism was an early heresy propagated by Arius in the 2nd and 3rd centuries. Arius was declared a heretic at the first Council of Nicaea. Arius taught that the divinity of Jesus Christ took various specific forms. He taught specifically that the Father created Jesus Christ, that he had a beginning in time, and that the title "Son of God" was a courtesy one. This is unmistakably against the orthodox view of that of the pre-existent Christ. Johnson wrote in his book When Heaven Invades Earth, “He (Jesus) performed miracles, wonders, and signs, as a man in right relationship to God...not as God. If He performed miracles because He was God, then they would be unattainable for us.” This does not mean that Bill Johnson and other WOF, NAR, or TWM teachers are Arians. But this quote and other teachings within this movement are very close to Arianism. At the very least he himself and his associates teach Jesus was somehow not God or pre-existent.

In the same vein Johnson and other Bethel Pastors and associates teach a dangerous view called the Kenosis view. The word Kenosis is derived from the Greek word κενόω, which is pronounced ken-o’-o which means to make empty, i.e. (figuratively) to abase, neutralize, falsify, make of none effect, of no reputation, void, be in vain. Which is used in relation to what Jesus did in the incarnation in Philippians 2:7. He made himself of “no reputation,” “made himself nothing,” or “emptied himself.” What this is really getting at is that Jesus gave up his divine rights privileges or prerogatives, but never His divinity itself. The widely accepted view is that Jesus emptied himself of his claims as God, of which he had sole rights to. He did this as an example of how we can live humbly in this life. Colossians 1:15-20 further elaborates on who Christ was as fully God and fully man in one glorious person Jesus Christ. It says, “for in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.” Kenneth Copeland is known to have taught this view of Kenosis that Jesus emptied himself of his divinity while here on earth as an example of how we can be in right relationship with God. Copeland says,

“Christians mistakenly believe that Jesus was able to work wonders, to perform miracles, and to live above sin because He

49 Colossians 1:15-20
had divine power that we don’t have. Thus, they’ve never really aspired to live like He lived. They don’t realize that when Jesus came to earth, He voluntarily gave up that advantage, living His life here not as God, but as a man. He had no innate supernatural powers. He had no ability to perform miracles until after he was anointed by the Holy Spirit as recorded in Luke 3:22. He ministered as a man anointed by the Holy Spirit.”

Johnson intensifies the views of the WOF predecessors like Copeland: as previously quoted Johnson reveals a Kenosis teaching in his book When Heaven invades Earth Johnson wrote, “He performed miracles, wonders, and signs, as a man in right relationship to God...not as God. If He performed miracles because He was God, then they would be unattainable for us.” It would certainly be understandable if in the heat of an emotional sermon that Johnson said something like this, and maybe either taken out of context, or said something he did not mean, or misspoke, he didn’t. This was not in a sermon. He wrote it in a book, it was edited, and then published as such. And not just in one place in this book, but several other places he has clearly said Jesus was not God, and has confirmed this WOF profoundly flawed Kenosis view of Jesus.

2.1 Christological and Soteriological Heresies: View of Atonement

There are many different theories and views of what happened in the Atonement of Christ and his death for mankind on the cross. The different views are the Socinian Theory or the atonement as an example, The Moral Influence Theory or the atonement as a demonstration of God’s love, The Governmental Theory or the atonement as a demonstration of divine justice, The Ransom Theory or the atonement as victory over the forces of sin and evil, and finally The Satisfaction Theory or the atonement as compensation to the Father. Just by way of information and candidness, I adhere to the view of Penal Substitution, and elements of the other views. I also want to clarify that the atonement is deeper, wider, and vaster than we could ever fully know or comprehend. However, the Scripture reveals enough for us to know the deep and wide details that are sufficient for our understanding. I also want to be generous if others adhere to other views than Penal Substitution, or also take several views of the atonement, but I do believe that there are views of the atonement that are wholly unbiblical, and the WOF, NAR, and TWM teach these various unbiblical views.

The view that the WOF movement has for many years accepted is the view that Christ also accomplished our healing and is as primary an act as the forgiveness

of sins. Kenneth Hagin, who was undoubtedly influenced by E.W. Kenyon, first espoused this view, and Hagin is often considered the father of the WOF movement, and furthermore is recognized throughout the movement as a teacher and prophet. McConnell in his book A Different Gospel: A Historical and Biblical Analysis of the Modern Faith Movement clearly established lines from WOF movement to Christian Scientists and Unity School of Christianity through E.W. Kenyon and Kenneth Hagin. Word of Faith Theology and particularly the view of atonement have been marred by this influence. With that in mind let us look at the specifics of what has, and is being taught in the WOF movement in regards to the Atonement.

WOF teaches that Jesus had to die spiritually on the cross, not only that but he had to go to hell to suffer for our sins, and then to be born-again in hell. If that was not outrageous enough that the eternal God in Jesus Christ had to die spiritually, it gets crazier. Hagin wrote in his book The Name of Jesus, "Spiritual death means something more than separation from God. Spiritual death also means having Satan's nature." Hagin elaborates on the development of this outrageous view on the Atonement later on in that same book, "We need to know that healing for our physical bodies is part and parcel of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He not only took our sins; He also took our infirmities and bore our sickness." The WOF Movement was started in the imaginations of the Christian Scientist E.W. Kenyon, who imparted it to Hagin, who then delivered it as the father of the fledgling WOF movement.

In investigating the atonement view held by Bethel Church it is hard to find much on their website regarding the cross. To be fair they do have a little excerpt regarding salvation, "Salvation frees us from the power of the devil - sin, lies, sickness and torment." The cross is however woefully omitted from this whole page. Especially noticeable in this statement of faith, there is nothing about wrath, judgment, repentance, atonement or reconciliation. That omission is even more worrying than all of the outward heteropraxy (false or unchristian practices). Essentially, the governing center of Bethel's framework is Pentecost, not Calvary. Any statement of faith that omits the cross is terrifying.

Upon further review one statement can be found about the cross on the iBethel website, which has more to do with their TV ministry, but buried deep in this website a fuller statement of faith and more about the cross can be found. "He was crucified for our sins, died, was buried, resurrected and ascended into heaven, and is now alive today in the presence of God the Father and in His people. He is "true God" and "true man." This hidden site further talks about restoration into fellowship with God through repentance. Although the iBethel website does regard the cross of Jesus in this singular occurrence as the means of salvation, it is obvious that Pentecost and the supernatural are central to life and ministry at Bethel. It is fairly obvious that the cross is woefully ignored in gospel proclamation. It is plain that

57 Ibid, (Page 122).
Bethel and Johnson have been influenced in their view of the atonement by the WOF movement.

The development from the early inception of the WOF view of the Atonement has been faithfully handed down to the next generation of Tel-Evangelists, Prophets, and Apostles from Hagin to what we see currently in the WOF, TWM, and NAR. There has been some progression in this theology, but the core of the purpose of Christ’s atonement has remained undoubtedly as much about healing as the forgiveness of sins. It is clear the TWM has picked up where the WOF left off. Not only were your sins paid for as Christ suffered the punishment of Satan in hell, but because he had not sinned God got him out of Hell on a technicality, and as God infused the resurrection power back into the spirit of Jesus he overcame all your sickness, pain, suffering, and in the mean time even secured your financial success! Bill Johnson and Bethel echo this terribly inexplicable theological view of the atonement.

“No two thousand years ago Jesus made a purchase. He does not decide not to heal people today. The decision two thousand years ago was to heal. Either the payment was sufficient for all sin or no sin. Either the payment was sufficient for all sickness or no sickness...The Brushstrokes of God’s redemption was to wipe out the root of sin, the root of illness and the root of poverty.”60

If this was not absurd and inconceivable enough, it gets worse. The deficiency of God not healing is not on God’s end but rather on our end. Bill Johnson writes on his blog,

“How can God choose not to heal someone when He already purchased their healing? Was His blood enough for all sin, or just certain sins? Were the stripes He bore only for certain illnesses, or certain seasons of time? When He bore stripes in His body He made a payment for our miracle. He already decided to heal. You can’t decide not to buy something after you’ve already bought it.
There are no deficiencies on His end – neither the covenant is deficient, nor His compassion or promises. All lack is on our end of the equation.”61

And there it is the control, the hurt, the pain, the guilt, and shame that this cult like message that comes out from Bethel and Bill Johnson produces. This was so offensive to us as a family so many years ago, when he told us through his teaching that our daughter was infused with a disease from Satan, and that our faith was too weak, the lack was on our end, and that is why she was not healed. The covenant is not deficient; all lack is on our end of the equation. If this were true, then all

60 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0IXrX9eSHWA (accessed April, 2016)
believers as soon as they put their trust in Christ would immediately be free from illness, poverty, and death, because Christ bore our illness and poverty on the cross. However, the reality is that we die and death is the ultimate illness. Most people die of some sort of illness very few people just die of old age. The only way that he can get away with this disconcerting view is that he qualifies it with the phrase “all lack is on our end of the equation.” So if we die of cancer as a Christian the lack must have been on the cancer victims end. But that is exactly where the perspective breaks down. We all die at some point. Death is the ultimate disease, which takes this perplexing theology out of the realm of the logical and moves it into the realm of the absurd.

This view certainly pours on the guilt, shame, and hurt when God often does not heal in regard to deep faith, and hopeful prayers. Surely God can and will heal us when we pray in faith, but does God do it as a rule? Or is it connected to our forgiveness of sin as tied into the atonement of Christ? The other possibility is that of the historic orthodox view of Christianity. In Genesis 3 when sin entered the world, it affected everything. Death entered into the world through one man’s disobedience as Romans 5:12, 19-21 shows us,

“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

We can see here that the obvious judgment on Adam’s race was death and decay, but on the other hand the one man’s obedience many will be made righteous. No mention of the restoration of health, wealth, or prosperity, but rather in verse 21 a righteousness leading to eternal life. So yes one day he will restore our lowly bodies in the resurrection of the righteous but until that day the earth is “groaning with the birth pangs.”

In Conclusion, this view is so dangerous because it creates an inclusion to the cross of Christ that has not been historically accepted in any one of the manifold views of the atonement. The only verse that could possibly be uses, as proof text, is found in Isaiah 53:5, which says, “and by his wounds we are healed.” The danger here is to build a whole theology off of one isolated text. Take for example the passage in Mark 16:18 that says we will pick up serpents, and drink deadly poison and not be hurt. We cannot build a whole theology and practice off of one proof text. Unfortunately many churches do practice snake handling and drinking poison. Did Mark and Isaiah mean that we ought to practice these things? We should rather address the “whole counsel of God” when addressing puzzling passages of scripture

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62 Romans 5:12, 19-21
63 1 Corinthians 15:12-49
64 Matthew 24:8; Mark 13:8
so as to clarify their meanings. The WOF, TWM, and NAR add the element of health, wealth, and prosperity onto the Atonement that has never before been hypothesized, and in so doing expand the atonement to unbiblical boundaries.

2.2 Christological Heresies: Hypostatic Union
The Hypostatic union is the theological term for the union of the two natures of Christ. In AD 451 the Council of Chalcedon defined the two natures of the hypostasis, which is the Greek word for person. The historically theologically accepted position that the council established is that Christ had two distinct natures, humanity and deity, there is no intermingling of natures, and although he had two natures he is one person. This position that the Chalcedon Creed established is accepted by all of Christendom namely all Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant Christians. The Chalcedon Creed reads,

“Following, then, the holy Fathers, we all unanimously teach that our Lord Jesus Christ is to us One and the same Son, the Selfsame Perfect in Godhead, the Selfsame Perfect in Manhood; truly God and truly Man; the Selfsame of a rational soul and body; co-essential with the Father according to the Godhead, the Selfsame co-essential with us according to the Manhood; like us in all things, sin apart; before the ages begotten of the Father as to the Godhead, but in the last days, the Selfsame, for us and for our salvation (born) of Mary the Virgin Theotokos as to the Manhood; One and the Same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten; acknowledged in Two Natures unconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the difference of the Natures being in no way removed because of the Union, but rather the properties of each Nature being preserved, and (both) concurring into One Person and One Hypostasis; not as though He were parted or divided into Two Persons, but One and the Selfsame Son and Only-begotten God, Word, Lord, Jesus Christ; even as from the beginning the prophets have taught concerning Him, and as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself hath taught us, and as the Symbol of the Fathers hath handed down to us.”

As seen before in Bill Johnson’s own words he does not believe in the historic findings of the Council of Chalcedon that said that Jesus was one glorious person in two distinct natures, but rather he said that Jesus laid aside his divinity and that Jesus was only a man completely dependent on the Father during his time here on earth. The Hypostatic union is another theological position that Bill Johnson and other NAR teachers, prophets, and apostles deny. And for these mounting reasons it


is clear to see that he is a false teacher, and the scriptures confirm that anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ is an antichrist and liar, and if denial of the Son happens then that person also does not have the Father.\textsuperscript{67}

However, if we were to extend generosity to Johnson, he may be trying to explain the seemingly inexplicable hypostasis. For instance, let us address when Johnson describes Jesus laying aside his divinity. If we were very charitable with him on his description, we could conclude he is talking about Jesus rightfully assuming a human nature. It is relatively unclear with Johnson and his description of Jesus laying aside his divinity. Christendom’s theological history has tried to make sense of the nature of Christ by explaining that Jesus hypostasis did not divinize his humanity (i.e. no intermingling of natures). Eutyches was an archimandrite in the early 5\textsuperscript{th} century who taught that Jesus had one nature, or that Jesus became one nature.\textsuperscript{68} We could conclude from Johnson’s teaching that it might be in line with Eutychianism or Monophysitism, which it is often called. Monophysitism, as it became know later, was the greater teaching of Eutyches (Mono=Single, Physis=nature).\textsuperscript{69} On the other hand, Contra-Eutychianism was the reaction to Monophysitism, and taught that Christ didn’t divinize his humanity, and that he retained two natures as the aforementioned Chalcedon Creed explains in detail. Johnson could be affirming the orthodox view that Christ legitimately assumed a human nature, but it seems improbable from the context of Johnson’s quotes. The context is in relation to being able to do what Jesus did. His point seems to be that if Jesus had retained his divinity here on earth, then we would not be able to do the miraculous things that he did. His other statement that Jesus operated here on earth as man, not as God confirms at the very least that his language is careless or sloppy, and at the very worst that he really means that Jesus had completely laid aside his divinity and operated only as a man on this earth.

These elements of Johnson’s teaching could be leaning toward a material heresy rather then a formal heresy. Material heresy is that spoken, or written teaching, whether on purpose or on accident that goes against Orthodoxy. It is an opinion that is contrary to the teachings of the Church or broader Christendom. Material heresy is distinguished from formal heresy. Formal heresy is proposed by someone deliberately and is consciously teaching against orthodox Christendom. If we were to give Johnson the benefit of the doubt, then one could lean toward material heresy. Because Christ did have to lay aside certain prerogatives as God in his human nature, for instance Jesus humanity was not everywhere, it didn’t know everything, it could be tempted, etc. If we took his statements that way Jesus was really a human totally dependent on God, as Johnson seems to be teaching, who did miracles through the power of the Spirit. In other words Jesus didn’t go around pulling his “God card” out. Concessions to his meaning could be made, but his other quotes and teachings about the nature of Christ produce great questions and raise many red flags. They are very suspicious and beg to be clarified. The responsibility for clarity lies with Johnson.

\textsuperscript{67} 1 John 2:20-25
2.3 Extra-Biblical Revelation

The next danger that permeates the WOF, TWM, and NAR is what is called "extra-biblical revelation." These movements are constantly looking for a "word of wisdom" meaning that an apostle, teacher, or evangelist will bring a new word from God. This can be as simple as "God said..." or as complex as creating another teaching that is nowhere to be found in the Bible. An example of this is when Bill Johnson wrote in his book The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind, "Revelation is not something you can dig out of a Theological book or study guide. It's not even something you can unravel in the Bible all by yourself." The freedom for personal interpretation of the Bible was won for us during the reformation and confirmed by the Church of Jesus ever since. The implication from Johnson is that you can only unravel what the Bible means with Johnson's or another prophet/apostle's help through his words of wisdom, explanations, and books, of which there are plenty.

I do acknowledge what he might also be trying to communicate, that it takes more than just reading the Bible, the Holy Spirit is necessary, as Jesus said, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth...Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." Johnson's view however, takes authority away from the Bible, and personal interpretation. How will God in the end speak to man? He will speak to man through His word the Bible, which is illuminated by the Holy Spirit, not through extra-biblical revelation. He will not add anything or take anything away from the pages of Scripture through special revelation. I believe this move toward special revelation is a dangerous progression. God will speak and illuminate his word and we have the ability to understand it. We do not need any insider wisdom, or special revelation, but rather we can read it and understand it for ourselves, and the Holy Spirit brings illumination to its meaning and interpretation.

2.4 Dominionism

Dominionism is a theological school of thought that says that God gave Adam and Eve Dominion over the earth and that Satan usurped man’s Dominion through the fall. Christ defeated Satan and took back dominion of the earth on the cross, and He gave back dominion to believers to establish dominion again on this earth through the inception the kingdom of God on this earth. Then and only then can Jesus return when we have ushered in the kingdom of God through dominion. Johnson writes,

"Has it ever occurred to you that one of your jobs on earth is...to prove the will of God? Your calling and my calling as believers may be too massive to fully understand, but the Bible's command is clear: Our job is to demonstrate that the reality that exists in Heaven can be manifested right here, right now. We are not just to be people who believe the right things about

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71 John 16:13; 17:17
72 Revelation 22:18-19
God, but people who put the will of God on display, expressing it and causing others to realize, “oh so that’s what God is like.” ... Jesus taught and demonstrated that the Kingdom of God is a present tense reality—it exists now in the invisible realm and is superior to everything in the visible realm.”

This is of course a total misinterpretation of Romans 12:1-2. The Greek word there for "prove" is δοκιμάζω, which transliterated is pronounced “dokimadzo” and it means to test by implication to approve: allow or discern, or examine, prove, or try. This passage is saying that through non-conformity to this world, and by renewing your mind through the scriptures, you will be able to know the will of God. We will be able to understand it, and recognize what God wants us to do. This is poor exegesis and hermeneutics from Johnson, however right in line with Dominionist Theology. On earth as it is in Heaven is a central vision for life and ministry at Bethel Church which lines up with "kingdom now" Dominionist theology. Johnson goes on further to describe in detail what he means with this,

"God’s idea was to have a planet engulfed in His glorious rule, with mankind flawlessly “proving the will of God” on earth as it is in Heaven... Of course, we know the original plan got derailed, and that Adam forfeited the rulership God gave him over the earth, putting humanity into slavery to the enemy... In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God took back the authority man had given away and reclaimed our purpose on this earth... We, the Church, are called to extend His rule in this earthly sphere, just as Adam was called to do." 

This is almost a word for word explanation of what Dominionism teaches as defined above. This is another fallacious teaching on the fall and human depravity. This is nowhere near Biblical. This form of theology should be resisted. If we took this teaching for what it really claims and hopes for, then the natural outcome would be striving for Theocratic (God as King) forms of Government, before Jesus will be able to return to earth.

Furthermore, did Adam “give away” his authority; or rather disobey a Holy God thus falling into sin? Adam did not give away authority, but rather fell into sin and God ultimately has his sovereign rule over the universe to this day despite the fall. Additionally, Christ will continue to enact his sovereign rule over every corner of the universe. Colossians 1:15-20 describes a completely sovereign Christ who has not relinquished his authority to Adam, nor Satan nor any other created being. Although Johnson wrongly claims that God’s plan got “derailed”, we know God continues to work his sovereign redeeming plan throughout history. As the great Dutch Reformer Abraham Kuyper once said, “There is not a square inch in the whole

75 Johnson, (Sample Page 4 Day 3).
domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!"76 The truth is that we have never seen anything in our lives that God didn’t create, and continue to sustain by the power of His word (Revelation 4:11, Col 1:15-20). Christ is personally involved in maintaining and sustaining the existence of everything that is in our field of vision at this very instant (Hebrews 1:3). Everything that we see, along with every person who beholds creation were made by and through Christ. We were made for one ultimate reason: to belong to and ‘be unto’ Christ (Col 1:16). As the Westminster Shorter Catechism espouses, ‘Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.’77 Anything short of this chief end is not fulfilling the purposes that God had in mind for man.

2.5 “Hosting the Presence” or Neo-Gnosticism

It is hard to find a category for Johnson’s next teaching but maybe in the neighborhood of Gnosticism. It is the teaching of “Hosting the Presence.” In His book Manifesto for a Normal Christian Life he describes the practice of hosting God’s presence. It is so strange that it can only be described in his own words.

“Jesus models, better than anyone in Scripture, how to host the presence of the Lord. I would remind you that, obviously, Jesus is God. He is eternal. He is not a created being but he emptied himself and became a man and learned how to host the presence of the Lord. Jesus himself said that he set aside his divinity. The Scriptures tell us that he emptied himself. He could do nothing of himself. None of the miracles did he do as God. He did them all as a man, yielded to God. They are all expressions of a life under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Jesus learned to host the presence of the Lord and in doing so was so conscious of God upon him that when a woman touched his clothing he could tell power had been released from him.

Imagine being so aware of the Spirit of God on you that, even though you have conversations going on with people around you, even though there is a crowd pushing in around you and touching you, when one person that touches you in faith and there is a withdrawal from your account of presence, or power, you are so conscious of what you are carrying that you realize presence has been released through you. It wasn’t because the presence in him was depleted, because the Spirit of God was given to him without measure. It was just that he could tell that there had been a demand put upon what he carried.”78

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In this passage, first of all Jesus was not God, again that Christological heresy continues. Actually it is rather confusing because he starts off saying Jesus is God and eternal. But then goes on to teach that Jesus laid aside his divinity so that he could take back the divinity or presence of the Holy Spirit again? That doesn't make logical sense. Why not if you were Jesus just keep your divinity so He wouldn't have to do all this difficult “laying aside” and taking back the Holy Spirit presence exchange thing. If you were God Why not just stay God? This is again very confusing and at the very minimum careless language. Also here is a mishandling of the Scripture. Jesus never said that “presence” went out from him, but rather that “power” went out from Him. Because Jesus said “power” went out from Him that clearly displays that Jesus had complete command of His holy power. One could conclude from Johnson’s teaching that Jesus did not have control and authority over his Holy attributes, and power.

Further Johnson said that Jesus could tell that there had been a “demand” put on what he had carried? This is so unchristian it is hard to know where to start. God never has a “demand” put on his glory or presence. In most cases when the glory of the Lord was revealed in the Scriptures either people were dead, wanted to be dead, or were on their faces hoping they would not soon be dead. All jokes aside, God never had any demands placed on the scope or extent of His glory. He is God, and nothing is too demanding of His power or glory, nothing. Having a demand placed on the presence of God sounds more New Age, Eastern Mysticism, or The Occult, than Christian. The gods of those religions are confined to time and space, and are not Omniscient, Omnipotent, or Omnipresent. Demands could be put on other gods/spirits because they are limited. The spirits of these, occult, and animistic religions do have demands placed on their power and sovereignty that they cannot meet because God of Heaven and earth is their absolute sovereign. The God of the Bible is beholden to no demands placed on him by any man, or the request of his power! YHWH the great I AM has no demand too great for him. Nonetheless, the New Age, and occult practices carry with them all sorts of other dangerous practices that are wholly unchristian. Later on in the book Johnson describes the practice of “hosting the presence” in more depth,

“And you will always reflect the nature of the world we are most aware of. What you live conscious of is what you will reproduce in the world around you...The Holy Spirit UPON Jesus was the very power which would emanate from him to change and transform people’s lives and circumstances. Torments that were on people were broken off, Diseases were healed, and hope was given to people who had no hope. Jesus ruined every funeral that he attended - including his own...They realized that Paul could not go everywhere so they would just take articles of his clothing and take them to a sick or dying or tormented person and they would be set free. It wasn’t simply an act of faith. That would be noble enough in itself. But it was because the Spirit of God can actually saturate cloth. And just the simple residue, the crumbs from the table, was enough to bring deliverance and healing when it was taken from the presence of the Lord...I
don’t know how to learn anything but by experimenting. Those people who like to get it right the first time should stay away from the gifts of the Spirit, because we have to learn by experiment, in a context of safety...When I became conscious of the presence I would walk into the store and then I would start buying whatever I needed. And if what I wanted was in one particular place in the shop I’d walk up and down the other aisles first. I wouldn’t go straight to it. I’d walk up and down the aisles, because I felt like I was a sprinkler system walking up and down, watering the entire place with presence.”

The error that lies within these words is devastating. First Jesus had the Spirit “upon” him. It might be just semantics, but the Spirit was not upon Jesus, but was rather in Jesus, Spirit is Jesus and Jesus is Spirit. And again Johnson’s basis in the improper Kenosis theology becomes plain. Jesus only ministered the presence of and carried the Holy Spirit with him and somehow shared that presence that was “upon” Him. In Johnson’s view Jesus was not as the great creed claims, “God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten and not made; of the very same nature of the Father, by Whom all things came into being, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.” But rather some cheap knock-off of god. Again this is enough to discount every other word Johnson says in his teaching. However, let us examine this quote a little further.

He says that the Spirit of God can saturate a piece of cloth? And the Holy Spirit has a residue? This is for sure New Age, Animism (Tribal Religion that says spirits are in objects), or the Occult. God does not indwell or saturate cloth or leave residue. He goes on to say that he knows only how to “experiment” when it comes to the gifts of the spirit. This experimentation has hidden dangers. The obvious danger is that people become open to New Age, Eastern Mysticism, and Animistic practice. The more clandestine dangers are the slow erosion of affection for Christ, and a craving and longing for the supernatural phenomena that are never alluded to in the New Testament. This culture of experimentation is rubbing off on his congregation also. It seems that Johnson has no problems trying things in experimentation that are off limits for us as Christians. I guess that is where the previously cited practices of glory clouds, gold dust, angel feathers, gems appearing, conjuring angel orbs, fire tunnels, spirit travel, out-of-body experiences, healings, prophecy, portal travel, extra-biblical revelation, raising the dead, soaking, new wine movement, drunken glory, visualization, laughter, chanting, soaking, tuning forks, and waking up angels come in.

Maybe at this point you are wondering why you have not come across many of these practices in Scripture. It is because they are not there, and churches should not practice them. There are no places in scripture that makes any of these things something we as Christians should practice, or even be open too. Moreover, these practices are spiritually dangerous for us, because they open our lives up to supernatural forces that the enemy has control over. Johnson later describes himself

79 Ibid, (Sample Pages)
as a sort of sprinkler of the Holy Spirit where he waters an entire place with presence. This sounds more like a medium (someone who mediates between the Spirit world and the physical world) more than a New Testament practice of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Paul, in his second letter to Timothy, instructs him in what will happen when people will not endure sound doctrine, but rather wanting to have their ears tickled they will surround themselves with teachers that will teach them in accordance with their own desires.\(^81\) Of course, everyone wants a message of prosperity, healing, and wealth. It sounds like a great idea to “sow a seed of faith” (Which means give money to a ministry in WOF jargon) into a ministry so that God will bless me tenfold! Everyone wants prosperity, health, and wealth. However, the real message of the gospel is that of suffering for Christ, “Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”\(^82\) What about Mark 8:34 “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.” There are so many biblical themes and characters that stand in direct antithesis to almost every prosperity teaching of the WOF, TWM, and NAR that it would be impossible to name them all here. Jesus himself stands in opposition to the message of prosperity. He was poor, homeless, rejected, scorned, reviled, forsaken, and abandoned by his best friends, and beaten “as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”\(^83\) His life is the exact opposite of the message of the prosperity gospel. His glorious and humble life is rather the forsaking of the ways and prosperity of this world, which he had full authority and rights to take unto himself. Astonishingly, our Lord “humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death even death on a cross.”\(^84\)

### 2.6 Danger within Mainstream Evangelical Christendom

There is so much more to be said and written about the WOF, TWM, and NAR but what has been presented should suffice for the simple purposes of exposing the teaching of Bill Johnson, Bethel Church, and the NAR teachers that are trying to find their way into Europe and Germany. In all fairness Bill Johnson has denied any connection to the NAR.\(^85\) The linkages nevertheless are very clear when he appeared at the commissioning of Todd Bentley as an Apostle with other Apostles from the NAR including Ché Ahn, Rick Joyner, and C. Peter Wagner.\(^86\) Johnson has also appeared on several episodes of Morningstar Ministries TV with Rick Joyner an Apostle in the NAR, and more specifically on an episode to restore Todd Bentley

\(^81\) 2 Timothy 4:3-4  
\(^82\) 2 Timothy 3:12  
\(^83\) Isaiah 53:3  
\(^84\) Philippians 2:8  
\(^86\) Part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqaoskr5wlc  
Part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVcXMkSrHEQ  
Part 3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8nnpIV1nlo  
back into ministry alongside Rick Joyner. The website Spirit of Error does a good job here documenting Johnson’s connection the NAR.

My purposes have been to uncover the false teaching and heresy that these movements pose in mainstream Christendom. As a result, it is pretty clear how these movements effectively position themselves as a very real threat to orthodox historically accepted views of Christ and all the heretofore-mentioned theologies. The problems are blatant and clearly stated and published by these teachers. These teachings were not hard to uncover. They are published works, their own YouTube sermons, interviews, their own websites, documentaries, and blogs where these heresies are published (Please refer to Appendix and Annotated Bibliography for further review and deeper study into the WOF, TWM, and NAR). In listening to numerous sermons from Johnson and other NAR teachers for this project, almost all had staggeringly serious errors, and deeply flawed false teaching within. All that is necessary is to hold these teachings up to the lens of the word of God, and a discerning Christian spirit. Finally let us bring scripture to bear on what we ought to do in regards to false teaching, and false teachers?

Jude 3-4 says that we ought to contend for the faith and that certain people will creep into the fold and deny our only master and Lord. Ephesians 4:14 says that we also ought to not be tossed about by every wave of doctrine. The introduction explained in detail the instance where Paul, in 1 Timothy 1:20, handed two people Hymenaeus and Alexander over to Satan so that they would learn not to blaspheme, because his false teaching had spread like gangrene. Gangrene cannot be allowed to live in the body of a person as if nothing was wrong. It must be cut off, cut out, eliminated and thrown out or it will poison and kill the body of the person infected with it. False teaching, in the case of Hymenaeus was false teaching on the resurrection, and Paul explained how these teachings needed to be done away with like gangrene.

In the case of the WOF, TWM, and NAR it is a manifold heresy, and poses many other problems, but none more egregious than their Christological heresies. Hebrews 13:9 says that we should also not be led away by diverse and strange teachings. Romans 16:17 says to watch out for those who “cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.” We should not see how much we could get from their teaching before we hit the false teaching. Said differently, if some of their teaching is heretical, then all of their teaching is heretical, and we must avoid them all together. Paul goes on to share in verse eighteen that these teachers do not serve Christ but their own appetites, and by flattery they deceive the hearts of the naïve. With these movements, particularly Bethel and Johnson, people often argue that, we should just “take the good and leave the bad.” If there is heresy found in anyone’s teaching it is a dangerous proposition to try to take the good and leave the bad because the roots of heresy will affect the fruit.

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87 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nzafj0ylRU&list=PLCZFJrEx2zmrGl8ndK8tpvuNLqP7lwmm&index=5 (Accessed June, 2016).
89 Romans 16:17
2.7 Indictment of False Teachers and Prophets

2 Peter 2:1-3 is a powerful indictment against false prophets and teachers. It says that false teachers will arise among the body of Christ. These false teachers will introduce destructive heresies, and even deny the master who bought them (e.g. Denying Christ as God). Because of these destructive heresies the truth will be maligned, and they will exploit you with false words. The end of verse three is one of the most famous verses against false teachers and is very strong indeed. “Their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.” In other words God is saving a day when false teachers will face His judgment, and that judgment will throttle all false teachers. This is not an idle threat from God, and their destruction or condemnation is not sleeping, it is active and God is waiting to unleash it on them. Paul also writes to Timothy about protecting his doctrine. 1 Timothy 6:3-10 describes how false teachers are conceited and then he goes on to say that we must be content with what we have and the love of money is “the root of all kinds of evil” and some by loving money have “wandered away from the faith and have pierced themselves with many griefs.” Why would God have purchased us something on the cross (prosperity and material wealth) that Paul says can make us wander away from the faith? That would be ludicrous, but Johnson, the WOF, TWM, and NAR teach this in their view of the atonement.

2.8 Conclusion

In Conclusion, The Bible tells us clearly through John that we are to test every spirit and not believe everything because there are false prophets in the world. Here in 1 John 4:1-6 it gives us clear instructions on false teaching.

“1) Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2) By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3) and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. 4) Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5) They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 6) We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”

We can clearly see that we are to test every spirit, because there are many false prophets in the world. Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is God passes the test. Unfortunately, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, it pains me to write to you, but from holding the teaching of the WOF, TWM, and NAR including Bill Johnson, Ben Fitzgerald (of Awakening Europe), and Bethel Church in Redding up to

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90 2 Peter 2:3
91 1 Timothy 6:3-10
92 1 John 4:1-6
the lens of scripture and historical heresies, they do not pass the test. They are false teachers, and should be rebuked, and all other Christ honoring Christians should be warned.\textsuperscript{93} Consider yourself warned. Please do not allow this gangrenous cancerous teaching to remain in our Christ honoring churches anymore. Church leader and pastor, I ask you to please discern for yourselves if you should stop using materials, visiting conferences, revivals, and supporting Bethel Church, Bill Johnson, the WOF, TWM, NAR or any of their associates. It can damage your faith, and or the faith of your congregations. It can cause irreversible injury to everything. I have witnessed it first hand in my 20 years of youth and church ministry how devastating it can be. Please seriously consider leaving behind and abandoning the teaching of the WOF, TWM, NAR and Bill Johnson’s Bethel Church in Redding California. “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”\textsuperscript{94}

\textsuperscript{93} 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 3:10-11
\textsuperscript{94} 2 Corinthians 13:14
Appendix I: Sources Referenced/Cited (See Also Annotated Bibliography)

Redding Newspaper critique

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3oFFZQqKdc

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWeUNoR30_0

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2X1HC-3s3uI

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fuhR7WErl

The Agony of Deceit


http://www.bible.ca/tongues-encyclopedia-pentecostal-preachers.htm

Bethel Heresies, cult behavior, and deadly activity
http://jesuscultureawakening.blogspot.de/2012/06/god-delivers-another-from-cult-of-jesus.html#.VvGbx8d07zK

Bill Johnson Critique regarding Smoke Cloud, Gold Dust, and Angel Feathers

Heretical quotes from Bill Johnson:
http://www.zedekiahlist.com/cgi-bin/quotes.pl?id=57408920

Full Critique of Bethel
http://jesuscultureawakening.blogspot.de/search/label/Bill%20Johnson#.VvG06Md07zJ

Thorough Heretical dissection of Bethel's teachings
https://shepherdguardian.wordpress.com/2013/09/05/heresy-alert-bill-johnson-jesus-culture-and-bethel-church/

Bethel TV's own Glory Cloud Video
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvJMPccZR2Y

All the Prosperity Heresy you can handle all on one YouTube Channel Bethel TV
https://www.youtube.com/user/ibetheltv/videos


Appendix II: Bill Johnson Quotes and Associations...

http://www.zedekiahlist.com/cgi-bin/quotes.pl?id=57408920

Bill Johnson Teaches the Health Gospel
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzAwFYKe3h0

Healing in the Atonement

Bible Teachings about Necromancy
http://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Necromancy

Bill Johnson Wolf in sheep’s clothing
http://www.thebereancall.org/content/august-2012-q-and-a-1

Documentary on Lakeland Revival: and Todd Bentley Anointed by Bill Johnson as an Apostle through the NAR and Anointing service, and soon thereafter Bentley divorced his wife for “irreconcilable differences.” He had had an ongoing affair with an assistant from the ministry.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDEsXVUQeLo&ebc=ANyPxKrOoh_3fFDfhgEznDZYaZfp6ZoQsulvoaQNDUtnj1m9fhX54TD2cBinkE1p44zAL58nMCTDgixkQsPNic692VpbV8nv

Todd Bentley Controversy

Bill Johnson God does not Cause Illness and never allows it either

Bill Johnson explains the Gold Dust and Angel Feathers
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcPkOR4Lwj0

Ben Fitzgerald the one who is seen here grave sucking at two different graves...
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrHPTs8cLls
http://www.awakeningeurope.com/godfest-team-en/ben-fitzgerald

Kundalini Practices:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kundalini

Orthodox view of Toronto Blessing
http://orthodoxinfo.com/inquirers/toronto.aspx
Smith Wigglesworth: Whom Bill Johnson Praises and reveres and Ben Fitzgerald visited his grave and sucked the Holy Spirit from his bones
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrHPTs8cLls
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smith_Wigglesworth

Bill Johnson teaches on Jesus emptying himself of Divinity
http://mywordlikefire.com/2014/07/21/bethels-bill-johnson-jesus-was-so-empty-of-divine-capacity/

Bill Johnson Born Again Jesus Part 1

Bill Johnson Born Again Jesus Part 2

Bill Johnson New Age Christ Part 1
https://notunlikelee.wordpress.com/2012/03/11/bill-johnsons-christology-a-new-age-christ/

Bill Johnson New Age Christ Part 2
https://notunlikelee.wordpress.com/2012/04/02/bill-johnsons-christology-a-new-christ-part-ii/

Bill Johnson New Age Christ Part 3

Bill Johnson New Age Christ Part 3b

Bill Johnson New Age Christ Part 4

Word of Faith Atonement
http://www.givingananswer.org/articles/wordoffaithatonement.html

“Revelation is not something you can dig out of a Theological book or study guide. It's not even something you can unravel in the Bible all by yourself.”

The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind: (Sample Page 1 Introduction)

“What is free to operate in Heaven—joy, peace, wisdom, health, wholeness, and all the other good promises we read about in the Bible—should free to operate here on
the planet....What is not free to operate there—sickness, disease, spiritual bondage, and sin—should not be free to operate here, period.”

The Supernatural Power of a transformed Mind: (Sample Page 2 Day 1)

“Has it ever occurred to you that one of your jobs on earth is...to prove the will of God? Your calling and my calling as believers may be too massive to fully understand, but the Bible’s command is clear: Our job is to demonstrate that the reality that exists in Heaven can be manifested right here, right now. We are not just to be people who believe the right things about God, but people who put the will of God on display, expressing it and causing others to realize, “oh so that’s why God is like.” ... Jesus taught and demonstrated that the Kingdom of God is a present tense reality—it exists now in the invisible realm and is superior to everything in the visible realm.”

The Supernatural Power of a transformed Mind: (Sample Page 3 Day 2)

Quote from The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind: Access to a Life of Miracles Page 31, 35, 41

This is of course a total misinterpretation of Romans 12:1-2 the word there for prove is “Dokimadzo” and it means to test by implication to approve: allow or discern, or examine, prove, or try. This passage is saying that through nonconformity to this world, and by renewing your mind through the scriptures you will be able to know the will of God test it and approve what he wants you to do. This is of course poor exegesis and hermeneutics.

Dominionist Theology:
1. Dominionists: Adam and Eve lost Dominion of the earth to Satan. The Resurrected Christ appointed. Christ either cannot or will not return until the Church has accomplished it.

"God’s idea was to have a planet engulfed in His glorious rule, with mankind flawlessly “proving the will of God” on earth as it is in Heaven... Of course, we know the original plan got derailed, and that Adam forfeited the rulership God gave him over the earth, putting humanity into slavery to the enemy... In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God took back the authority man had given away and reclaimed our purpose on this earth... We, the Church, are called to extend His rule in this earthly sphere, just as Adam was called to do.”

The Supernatural Power of a transformed Mind: (Sample Page 4 Day 3)

Has the Church regained and reclaimed rulership? Dominion? Authority?

Hosting the Presence: Our Divine assignment is to be carriers of the presence of God

“Jesus models, better than anyone in Scripture, how to host the presence of the Lord. I would remind you that, obviously, Jesus is God. He is eternal. He is not a created
being but he emptied himself and became a man and learned how to host the presence of the Lord. Jesus himself said that he set aside his divinity. The Scriptures tell us that he emptied himself. He could do nothing of himself. None of the miracles did he do as God. He did them all as a man, yielded to God. They are all expressions of a life under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Jesus learned to host the presence of the Lord and in doing so was so conscious of God upon him that when a woman touched his clothing he could tell power had been released from him. Imagine being so aware of the Spirit of God on you that, even though you have conversations going on with people around you, even though there is a crowd pushing in around you and touching you, when one person that touches you in faith and there is a withdrawal from your account of presence, or power, you are so conscious of what you are carrying that you realize presence has been released through you. It wasn't because the presence in him was depleted, because the Spirit of God was given to him without measure. It was just that he could tell that there had been a demand put upon what he carried."

Manifesto for a Normal Christian Life (Sample Kindle Edition)

“And you will always reflect the nature of the world we are most aware of. What you live conscious of is what you will reproduce in the world around you.”

Manifesto for a Normal Christian Life (Sample Kindle Edition)

“The Holy Spirit UPON Jesus was the very power which would emanate from him to change and transform people’s lives and circumstances. Torments that were on people were broken off, Diseases were healed, and hope was given to people who had no hope. Jesus ruined every funeral that he attended - including his own.

Manifesto for a Normal Christian Life (Sample Kindle Edition)

Raising Babies from the dead? at a Jesus Culture Conference in Cleveland

“They realized that Paul could not go everywhere so they would just take articles of his clothing and take them to a sick or dying or tormented person and they would be set free. It wasn’t simply an act of faith. That would be noble enough in itself. But it was because the Spirit of God can actually saturate cloth. And just the simple residue, the crumbs from the table, was enough to bring deliverance and healing when it was taken from the presence of the Lord.”

Manifesto for a Normal Christian Life (Sample Kindle Edition)

“I don’t know how to learn anything but by experimenting. Those people who like to get it right the first time should stay away from the gifts of the Spirit, because we have to learn by experiment, in a context of safety.”

Manifesto for a Normal Christian Life (Sample Kindle Edition)
“When I became conscious of the presence I would walk into the store and then I would start buying whatever I needed. And if what I wanted was in one particular place in the shop I’d walk up and down the other aisles first. I wouldn’t go straight to it. I’d walk up and down the aisles, because I felt like I was a sprinkler system walking up and down, watering the entire place with presence.”

Manifesto for a Normal Christian Life (Sample Kindle Edition)

"I was in too much pain to talk. I remember thinking, I’m sure glad I gave my life BACK to God four days ago. I have no fear of death because I know spiritually I’m ready to meet God. I also remember thinking, how different this would all be if I were still backslidden. To come so close to death and not be right with God would be a scary thing."

The Essential Guide to Healing (Sample Kindle Edition)

Tells his story of His grandmother visiting heaven two times in an out of body experience. (Heaven Tourism visitation)

Bill Johnson has a heretical Kenosis view of Christ
By this, they are referring to Johnson’s teaching that Christ set aside His deity during His earthly sojourn. Johnson has said, “Jesus was (and is) God. Eternally God. That never changed. But He chose to live with self-imposed restriction while living on earth in the flesh—as a man. In doing so, He defeated sin, temptation, and the powers of darkness as a man. We inherit His victory—it was for us. He never sinned!” (Bill Johnson, Facebook 3/21/2011).

Consequently, that’s not all that he’s taught or all that his followers have said. Speaking of Jesus, Johnson wrote, “He performed miracles, wonders, and signs, as a man in right relationship to God...not as God. If He performed miracles because He was God, then they would be unattainable for us” (Johnson, When Heaven Invades Earth, p. 29). That’s human reasoning, and by implication opens the way for a deification of man

Johnson’s view of our Lord’s “emptying Himself,” of which the literal meaning is “humbled himself” (Philippians 2:7), aligns very well with the Latter Rain/Word-Faith “little gods” teaching of Kenneth Copeland and others. Johnson has gone on to say, “God gave every believer the power to heal as Jesus did” (Johnson, “You’ve Got the Power,” Charisma Online, March 2012). In line with Word-Faith teaching, Johnson and his followers speak of these presumed abilities in a way that sounds very much like mind science and departs from Scripture.

Critique of Bill Johnson’s view of Penal Substitution: Jesus paid for your health on the cross.
Bethel’s Healing meditation school
http://bethelsozo.com

Bill Johnson Auf Deutsch
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2c6kyfXzhG0&app=desktop

John Crowder Drunken Glory who has been endorsed by Johnson
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNGPA6Idopg

Todd Bentley Documentary
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDeSxVUQeLo&ebc=ANyPxKrOoh_3fFDFhIEZnDZyaZJfp6ZoQsulvoaQNDUtntJ1m9fhX54TD2cBinkE1p44zAL58nMCTDgikQsPNic692VpbV8vg

Rick Joyner Morningstar Ministries

Orthodox Dissection of Toronto Blessing:
http://orthodoxinfo.com/inquirers/toronto.aspx

Joel Osteen and Joyce Meyer

Encyclopedia of WOF Teachers
http://www.bible.ca/tongues-encyclopedia-pentecostal-preachers.htm
Appendix III: Heresies

Theological heresies that the Third Wave Movement, Word of Faith, or New Apostolic Reformation encourage.

1 Timothy 4:1-2
2 Timothy 4:3-5
2 Timothy 3:12
Acts 16:18 Girl of Divination proclaimed truth Demon Proclaims truth, but Paul does not allow the girl to continue
Jude

“the term “heresy” refers to a false doctrine, i.e. one that is simply not true, and that is, in addition, so important that those who believe it, whom the church calls heretics, must be considered to have abandoned the faith. (Brown, Harold O. J. Heresies: The Image of Christ in the Mirror of Heresy and Orthodoxy from the Apostles to the Present. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1984. Print. Page 1)

2. Modalism: God takes different modes in different ages. This is the age of the spirit
3. Gnosticism (buying and selling of spiritual offices) Blend of self-worship and philosophy. Overvaluing of knowledge with respect to faith. "The Gnostic position asserts that over and above the simple Gospel, which is all that the ordinary spirits can understand, there is a secret, higher knowledge reserved for an elite. It is natural enough for people to ask more questions that the Gospel answers; the gnostic movement attempted to give the answers, and it did so by drawing on religious sources alien to Christianity and amalgamating them with elements of the Gospel faith."(Ibid, 39)
4. Docetism: That Christ was not truly human or only "appeared to be human" (Jesus had to be born again ale Joyce Meyer, Kenneth Copeland)
5. Hypostatic Union: Kenneth Copeland teaches against the Hypostatic union that was affirmed in the Nicene Creed but largely rejected by word of faith heretics
6. Further Revelation: Extra Biblical Revelation
7. Adoptionism: Jesus became God after he was “filled By the Spirit”
8. Apolinarism: Bill Johnson teaches that Jesus was only a man dependent on God.
9. Arianism: teaches that Jesus was not divine but later became divine after his Baptism, and taught by Bill Johnson and Bethel
10. Atonement
11. Psilanthropism: Rejects Jesus divinity, either saying he never became divine, never was divine or was not pre-incarnate. all of which are in some way taught by the Third Wave Movement, Word of Faith, or New Apostolic Reformation
12. Antinomianism: freed by grace from any adherence to a Moral Law taught by the likes of Joyce Meyer and Joel Osteen. Never talking about sin or any dealing with a moral law.
13. Dominionists: Adam and Eve lost Dominion of the earth to Satan. The Resurrected Christ appointed. Christ either cannot or will not return until the Church has accomplished it.

John Piper on the Prosperity Gospel:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-V_91c5ojU

Matt Chandler on the Prosperity Gospel:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3oFFZQqKdc

List of Christian Heresies

Heresy Alert Bill Johnson and Jesus Culture
https://shepherdguardian.wordpress.com/2013/09/05/heresy-alert-bill-johnson-jesus-culture-and-bethel-church/
Appendix IV: Scriptures References

Ephesians 4:14
Verse Concepts
As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

1 Timothy 1:18-20
This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

2 Timothy 2:16-18
But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.

Titus 1:10-11
For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.

Hebrews 13:9
Verse Concepts
Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.

2 Peter 3:17
You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,

Romans 16:17-18
Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

1 Timothy 1:3-4
As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith.

Galatians 1:8-9
But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

2 Peter 2:1
But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false
teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying
the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.
1. 1 Timothy 6:5
These people always cause trouble. Their minds are corrupt, and they have turned
their backs on the truth. To them, a show of godliness is just a way to become
wealthy.

**Increase in false teachings in Christianity!**
2. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 A time will come when people will not listen to accurate
teachings. Instead, they will follow their own desires and surround themselves with
teachers who tell them what they want to hear. People will refuse to listen to the
truth and turn to myths.

**How to identify false teachers?**
3. Isaiah 8:20 Look to God’s instructions and teachings! People who contradict his
word are completely in the dark.
4. Malachi 3:18 Then you will again see the difference between the righteous and the
wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.”
5. Matthew 7:15-17 “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless
sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by
the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? A
good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit.
6. 1 John 2:22 And who is a liar? Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ.
Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an antichrist.
7. Galatians 5:22-26 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such
things. Now those who belong to the Messiah Jesus have crucified their flesh with its
passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, by the Spirit let us also be guided.
Let’s stop being arrogant, provoking one another and envying one another.

**Can we judge and expose false teachers?**
8. 1 Timothy 1:3-4 When I left for Macedonia, I urged you to stay there in Ephesus
and stop those whose teaching is contrary to the truth. Don’t let them waste their
time in endless discussion of myths and spiritual pedigrees. These things only lead
to meaningless speculations, which don’t help people live a life of faith in God
9. Ephesians 5:11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead
expose them.
10. 1 Timothy 1:18-20 Timothy, my child, I am instructing you in keeping with the
prophecies made earlier about you, so that by following them you may continue to
fight the good fight with faith and a good conscience. By ignoring their consciences,
some people have destroyed their faith like a wrecked ship. These include
Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I handed over to Satan so that they may learn not
to blaspheme.

**Watch out for false doctrine.**
11. Galatians 1:7-8 not that there really is another gospel, but there are some who
are disturbing you and wanting to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we (or an
angel from heaven) should preach a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you,
let him be condemned to hell!
12. 2 John 1:10-11 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house and do not give him any greeting, because the person who gives him a greeting shares in his evil deeds.

13. Romans 16:17-18 And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people’s faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people.

14. Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

**Warning against adding, taking away, and twisting Scripture.**

15. Revelation 22:18-19 And I solemnly declare to everyone who hears the words of prophecy written in this book: If anyone adds anything to what is written here, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book. And if anyone removes any of the words from this book of prophecy, God will remove that person’s share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are described in this book.

**Testing the spirit: Guard yourself with the Bible.**

16. 1 John 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

17. 1 Thessalonians 5:21 But test everything; hold fast what is good.

18. 2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

**Rebuke them**

19. 2 Timothy 4:2 Be ready to spread the word whether or not the time is right. Point out errors, warn people, and encourage them. Be very patient when you teach.

20. Titus 3:10-11 As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

**Reminders**

21. Ephesians 4:14-15 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

22. Jude 1:4 For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

**They might look like a Christian and do good deeds, but even Satan disguises himself.**

23. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve.
24. 2 Timothy 3:5 They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!
25. John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
Appendix V: Flow Chart of the WOF, TWM, & NAR
Annotated Bibliography


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