

Andrew Wommack and Bethel

The Charismatic movement, and in particular the Word of Faith (WOF) movement spawned out of the Charismatic movement, is counter scriptural and defames the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Because the Word of God is not sufficient for those adhering to such, those in the movement seek experience and indeed count such as authoritative, as well as twist the Scriptures to support their theology and practices which have been decidedly unbiblical for millennia. For specific reasons I'll be particularly focusing on the few teachers(ings) who have been brought to my attention as of recently. Speaking of false teachers, Paul attributes greed to their motivation (1 Tim. 6:3-10). A note re: the following people and teachings: The WOF movement adheres to the core teachings informed by the premise that we can create our realities. Though some teachers may not agree with minor nuances, their theology affirms the Word of Faith. And Bethel's administration affirms that all found in the book *Physics of Heaven* is true. A final preface to this document is that I spent virtually no time or concern with grammar or overall composition of this presentation. I simply and concisely state facts about Wommack and Bethel contrasting such to the Holy Writ.

Thank God for justice and that He will cover the earth with it. I can't stand injustice and misrepresentation. Neither could Paul, the Apostles, Prophets, and writers of the Bible. Jesus Himself despises injustice and false witness. It is the duty of the Church to accurately represent God and rebuke and refute the damning false teachings of heretics. Paul's letters are heavy in volume of correction and in the Pastoral Epistles (1 Tim., 2 Tim, and Titus) He explicitly warns of heresy and commands Timothy to rebuke it and forbid it. The entire reason for the book of *Jude* is to correct and rebuke re: false teaching. It brings me no pleasure to do such and I avoided for years to investigate Bethel, Hillsong and the like. And I only do so with them and Wommack now because friends of mine in rather close relationships have brought up these topics and because I just don't want to dismiss teachers or churches, I was compelled to find specific evidence for that which I already suspected by the few concerning reports I've heard about such. And what I found in my hours of watching and reading was far more blatant heresy than I had imagined.

Like all erroneous practices which misrepresent the Holy Spirit, Andrew Wommack and other WOF teachers justify their practices based on heretical theology. "While elevating themselves to divine status, Word of Faith teachers simultaneously deny the sovereignty of the true God. As Myles Munroe announced to a TBN audience, 'God cannot do anything in the earth without a human's permission!'[PTL show Feb. 23, 2000] Andrew Wommack, whose television show *The Gospel Truth* airs daily on the Trinity Broadcasting Network, insists God lost His authority in this world by delegating it to Adam and the human race. As a result, the Holy Spirit was powerless to bring Jesus into physical existence; He was forced to wait until willing human participants made the incarnation possible by speaking the right faith-words. [Such is conveyed by Joel Osteen when he stated that Zachariah had to be silenced by an angel or else his "negative words would stop His plan." Funny how an angel could mute Zacharias yet God could not bring about John's birth due to one's lack of faith] In a 2009 broadcast Wommack told his viewers, 'The reason it took four thousand years for Jesus to come on the scene is because it took four thousand years for God to find enough people who would yield to Him, who would speak, and who would deliver the words that needed to be said—God-inspired words—to create this physical body of the Lord Jesus...The Holy Spirit took these words and impregnated Mary.' That is heretical teaching, with no basis whatsoever in Scripture. It comes

straight out of the twisted imagination of the speaker. Worse yet, it blatantly demeans the Holy Spirit—as if God needed help from sinful people to send His Son to this world” (MacArthur, John. *Strange Fire*. Nelson Books, 2013).

Andrew Wommack, like the other WOF teachers, insists that “God wants you well” (the title of the booklet of which my following comments partially rebut. His focus is on physical wellness. It is obvious that the overwhelming percentage of focus of his ministry is on monetary wealth and physical health to the point of twisting the Scriptures to turn obvious spiritual and moral issues into physical and monetary issues. We’ll consider some subsequently. But as indispensable to all false teachings, the foundation of such begins with an antibiblical presupposition; this one being viz. that God wants you physically well and free of any disease or infirmity. In fact they use the handicap symbol of the wheelchair person with an adjacent symbol of the figure rising from the wheelchair to make the point that faith will make one physically whole. The presupposition assumes that God cannot be glorified “in the tragic death of a child” (pg. 5) There not only is no biblical supposition for this but actual evidence to the contrary (Jn. 9:2-3). In fact, not only the man born blind but “all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purposes” (Ro. 8:28). “All things” are not just pleasant things but even the effects and curses of sin. It shouldn’t be a difficult theological concept to comprehend that God’s justice and judgment glorify Him. He is not only the God of the pleasant but God of the whole show, so to speak. I wouldn’t want a god who could only affect the good things; or one who couldn’t turn what was bad into something which produces good e.g. Judas betraying Jesus, or Joseph’s brothers betraying him. Wommack’s assumption is that because disease and infirmities are results of curses (which contradict Job 1:8-12 and Jn. 9:3), they cannot glorify God but rather vilify Him (pg. 5). In fact, God boldly declares that He is both the author of light and darkness, peace and calamity, (i.e. distress, injury, misery) (Isa. 45:7).

Once you dispel Wommack’s presupposition, the entire theology of healing falls apart. BTW, those who adhere to the ‘health and wealth’ doctrine have no theology of suffering – which is ubiquitous in both the Old and New Testaments! Furthermore, if (as these preachers claim) we can be totally healthy when we properly employ our faith, why do so many of them and their leaders and churches still have balding heads, fading vision, hearing, etc.? Can they heal paralysis yet not best Rogaine?

The “promise” of the Spirit through faith according to Wommack’s booklet “God Wants You Well,” is that we can receive the blessings of the promise found in Gal. 3:13-14, while “in the meantime, never have to obey the Old Testament Law in order to qualify” (pg. 7). What about Jn. 14:15 and Jesus’ own explanation of the Law where adultery and murder are more than outward acts but inward attitudes/desires? So according to Wommack, the good news of the promise is not the redemption for sins, transgression, and iniquities but that we do not need to obey God’s Law (pg. 7).

He went on to write that when healing doesn’t take place it can be as a result of negative thoughts “even good, church-going people can suffer from feelings of unworthiness.” They should. Isaiah and others who encountered a vision of YHWH were undone and terrified as their unworthiness was clearly perceived. Jesus said we are evil (Mat. 7:11). A good way to diagnose whether or not someone is saved or not is inquiring if he or she is a good person. What is sad is that when Wommack uses Isa. 53:5 to undergird his point that the good news of the Gospel is that we can live healthy and free from illness and disease, he not only twists the verse to accommodate the false teaching but misses the opportunity to share our greatest need –

reconciliation and the need for repentance of our transgressions. He all but skips over the “transgressions,” “iniquities,” and “sins;” as well as the positive outcome of living a “righteous” life. He also fails to emphasize (in his subsequent sentence pg. 10) after quoting Peter: “righteousness” in 1 Pet. 2:24 and misuses “by whose stripes ye are healed” to mean physical healing.

As all WOF teachers do, he instructs believers to “speak to your symptoms.” Here is where the “Law of Attraction” (Pagan Law) has been incorporated into biblical theology. [Option: read Newsweek’s paragraph on ‘The Secret’] In short, faith is a literal force and words are containers of that force, and thus we can speak realities (particularly health) into existence and disease out of our bodies. We must believe, then, that those whose faith has healed them are more faithful than the Apostle Paul who prayed thrice for a thorn in his flesh to be removed and yet the LORD refused (2 Cor. 12:7-10ff.). God’s ways are higher than our ways (Isa. 55:8-9). And he uses the “foolishness” of our pragmatic, egotistic, selfish, and prideful values, attitudes, motives, and priorities to accomplish His purposes (1 Cor. 1ff.). Thus God is not a genie in a bottle whose hands are tied until we have enough faith to command our miracles. I suggest you watch Joni’s “A Deeper Healing” and the entire Strange Fire conference for a faithful accurate view of the Holy Spirit’s true work and priority. You can watch free on YouTube or buy the book entitled the same by John MacArthur.

In Wommack’s booklet, there is a chapter on “Why Isn’t Everyone Healed?” It is (as the book says) not because it’s not God’s will but due to our lack of faith. But Scripture never claims that it is the amount of faith that saves or heals but the object of faith viz. Jesus – who is not merely a means to our health. But was physical healing Jesus’ mission? Jesus told the paralytic that his sins were forgiven without healing him and then healed him to show that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins (cf. Mk. 2:1-12). After healing another, Jesus warned that the person not fall into sin because something worse than an infirmity would happen viz. damnation. See Jn. 5:1-14. BTW, this is also a case where Jesus healed irrespective to the man’s faith. He knew not Jesus not asked Jesus to heal him.

Anyway, if God always wants us well and He cannot be glorified in our infirmities, why then Exod. 4:11; Gal. 4:14, Jn. 9 etc.? God takes credit for these non-healings, infirmities, and both the OT and NT, God sends plagues and such. Wommack and others keep going back to Isa. 53 to make their point but they have to twist the verse to say what they want. It is a very shallow theology and selfish un contemplated doctrine which seeks to twist the scriptures to say something they do not say. It limits God in other ways besides tied hands waiting for our faith to untie them. It assumes God can’t use nor be glorified in our illnesses and weaknesses. Wommack wrote, “Satan wants you sick and God wants you well.” But conversely, God used a man’s blindness to display “the works of God” (Jn. 9:3). He uses our weaknesses to display His perfect power (2 Cor. 12:9). Overcoming by faith is not asserting claims of the word of faith to be healthy and wealthy but to endure to the end when one is hard pressed yet not crushed, perplexed but not in despair, persecuted yet not abandoned, and stuck down (lit. killed) yet not destroyed. Jesus promised tribulations and persecutions not prosperity on earth. Scripture is crystal clear that this world is not our home nor should we seek to be too comfortable in it. [Optional: Cross Purposes being crucified to the World and not seeking to gain life!]

In the penultimate chapter, Wommack praises the faith of a woman who chose to go to the “Bible and learn everything she could about healing” opposed to “educating herself about cancer [which] was wrong for her.” (pg. 23). One can easily find plenty of anecdotes of Jehovah’s witnesses and Charismatics who have died or lost their loved ones because they failed

to seek medical treatment and rather just have faith. Sadly, in the final chapter “Healing is Now” the focus is solely on physical healing. There is no Gospel presentation even at the conclusion. Each chapter begins with a story of one who was healed as a testimony to “Wommack’s teachings.” All Christians believe that God still performs miracles and so the documented recoveries (including the one who did have surgery to remove the cancer) are no problem to the Christian with sound doctrine. God, however, needs not your faith to heal. He is not limited to heal only those who have faith.

What is outside the booklet just discussed and is blatant is that Wommack claims to be involved in several resurrections, including his own son. If such were true there ought to be plenty of documented evidence, not to mention millions lined up with their dead loved ones to receive such. If God heals through those with the gift of healings, why do they not put the hospitals out of business? Well, they have a convenient out. If anyone fails to be healed at a healing service or elsewhere, it’s because they are not employing their faith correctly or accurately. Multitudes have been disillusioned as their healings did not continue or even happen. Sadder still is they come and go from the services without hearing the Gospel of repentance and faith unto righteousness! Much more can and should be said – and will be said but such comments are primarily rebuttals to the booklet I was handed. I mean no malice nor have any anger to those who have fallen for such, but I do have a righteous indignation at the wolves who are getting rich at the expense of the uneducated sheep. Scripture is enough. The Gospel is enough. His grace is enough. Jesus is enough! Ultimately, healing will occur spiritually, psychologically, and physically. The salvation of the Gospel of Christ is a redemption from our sins: from sin’s penalty (when we earnestly repent), from sin’s power (as we are sanctified in discipline becoming righteous (Ro. 3:31)), and sin’s presence (ultimately when we are glorified). Where in the process of salvation is the emphasis on physical healing? It is a Gospel – not of physical healing – but of righteousness (Ro. 1:16-17). We were without it, Jesus came to provide it, and we are to receive it and apply it. In *Romans*, the Apostle Paul’s apologetic treatise on soteriology, no emphasis is given to physical healing. And yet this is the entire emphasis of Wommack’s and the WOF’s teachings. Below is an outline of *Romans*

SUGGESTED OUTLINE OF ROMANS

I. Paul’s Authority (1:1-17)

- a. Paul’s Position (1:1-7)
- b. Paul’s Purpose (1:8-15)
- c. Paul’s Proclamation (1:16-17)

II. Righteousness Needed (1:18-5:21)

- a. Man’s Rejection (1:18-23)
- b. Man’s Depravation (1:24-32)
- c. Man’s Condemnation (2:1-3:20)
- d. Man’s Justification (3:21-5:11)
- e. Man’s Separation (5:12-21)

III. Righteousness Offered (6-7)

- a. Man’s Substitution (6:1-11)
- b. Man’s Decision (6:12-7:6)

c. Man's Disposition (7:7-25)

IV. Righteousness Applied (8:1-15:13)

- a. Man's Regeneration (8)
- b. Israel's Duration (9-11)
- c. Man's Sanctification (12:1-15:13)

V. Paul's Heart (15:14-16:27)

- a. Paul's Purpose (15:14-21)
- b. Paul's Plan (15:22-29)
- c. Paul's Petition (15:30-16:16)
- d. Paul's Exhortation (16:17- 24)
- e. Paul's Exclamation (16:25-27)

Bethel

Bill Johnson, pastor of Bethel has built his ministry on some presuppositions which are counter scriptural. And he does so without any apologetic (reason) or explanation of why such suppositions are to be believed. Even the Apostle Paul commended the Bereans in Acts 17 for their measuring his preaching against the Word of the Scriptures. But gullible sheep simply nod in affirmation when Johnson says that there are some truths "superior to" others viz. God's judgment is true but His mercy is truer, and sin is true but love covering a multitude of sin is more true. Where did this claim come from? Such is absurd and totally foreign and contradictory to Scripture. It is precisely because His attribute of Justice is equal to His love that He provided the Cross – it's indispensable to the Gospel!!! The Cross where Justice and mercy kiss (cf. Ps. 85:10). If justice and righteousness are lesser truths there would be no need for the Cross nor the Gospel!

And the #1 priority of their gospel is physical health and thus Gal. 1:8-9 is intended for those who would deny that God wills you to be healthy. Such is an absurd distortion of the passage!

He also teaches that Jn. 5:39-40 teaches that there are greater realities and teachings than the Scriptures – which is diametrically opposite of what Jesus meant viz. He is the perfect fulfillment of the perfect Scriptures which offer eternal life!

Not unlike other WOF teachers, Johnson teaches that Jesus was the first born again man (in hell).

He teaches that because of Mary's faith and assertiveness, Jesus changed His mind re: "his time" (Jn. 2:3 ff.). Num. 23:19. Who wants to worship a God who can be manipulated – or for that matter ever change His mind?

Generally speaking, such theology of the WOF elevates man and dethrones God, and assumes that man is generally good and just needs to find the inner goodness and release it. So these are but a few theological heresies; and now let's consider a few misleading practices.

When teaching their 'church' to prophesy, they say turn and speak a word of prophesy to the one next to you. And then they ask if such was true and if so raise your hands. Then if untrue, the same. Both are applauded. They literally applaud the false prophecies! Because after all, you gotta learn. Deut. 18:20-22! Jer. 23:16, 25, 26; Ezek. 13:2.

Many false teaches (if not all) claim that their credentials are affirmed by their testimony of Jesus is Lord yet Mat. 7:21-23! Which eerily matches a description of the WOF teachers!

Bethel's practices go further than twisting the Scriptures and applauding false prophesies. They encourage the practice of New Age transcendental meditation, spirit guides, trips to heaven, reading auras, vibrations, using crystals, clairvoyance etc. In fact, if you just stick to the mundane Scriptures, you are like the Pharisees who condemned Jesus for bringing forth new means of reaching higher plains. Yet we are explicitly told to teach no other doctrine (e.g. 1 Tim. 1:3; 4:6-7, 16; 6:3).

In Bethel's book *Physics of Heaven*, they suggest that the Church needs to reclaim what the New Age has stolen. Again, they sanitize the New Age theology and practices by simply claiming Ro. 10:9-10 but such is a profession not a confession of adherence to the very life-giving Scriptures (Jn. 5:39-40). 2 Cor. 11:12-15. Exod. 20:7 is not about cussing but "carrying" the name of the LORD in a perverted manner cf. Mat. 7:21ff.

Judy Franklin says others who find it hard to go to heaven, find it much easier when they are close to her. It's funny how these people have these visits and visions and yet Paul himself was not permitted to convey his experience "in or out of the body."

Kyle Peirce had a visit from an "energy angel" which reveals to him a water cart which will help our planet/environment. He obtained his theology *and* energy from John G. Lake by laying for hours over his grave. Lake practiced necromancy, astral planning, and adhered to the little gods doctrine.

All this stuff is esoteric knowledge of the New Age spirituality and the inner voices (spirits) who speak to them are certainly not the voice of God. There is no biblical teaching of listening to a subjective inner voice. The Bible does teach that we must inform our consciences and employ wisdom. Some Charismatics claim that 1 Kings 19:9-12 is that "still small voice" of the Spirit. However, if they keep reading they'll see this was not a subjective voice playing on our emotions or fleshly desires but an objective voice from outside of Elijah which he had to go outside to listen and receive instructions which were not necessarily pleasant.

The supposed 'inner small voice' is of the spirits but the clear, authoritative, objective voice of God which calls out in the open for all to hear (cf. Prov. 1:20-21; 8:2-3; 9:3; Jn. 7:27). The truth is not subjective, esoteric, and personal but objective, clear, authoritative, and universal.

In the book, twice the book *Revelation* is misspelled "*Revelations*." And twice Ps. 91:11 is misquoted to look more like Heb. 1:14 where Bill Johnson wrote "He sends his angels to 'render service' on behalf of those who inherit salvation." [adding] "I discovered the word 'render service' means 'run errands.'" False. Such is mistranslated to make his wishes the angels' command. And such is the power of the spoken word. Literally some in the WOF instruct others not to even kid around by saying "That tickled me to death." Law of Attraction.

They also believe and purport that Christians can change the weather.

In order to justify their extra biblical teachings, they place experiences like dreams and visions as authoritative as and even more so than Scripture. They purposefully chop up verses in Eph. 3:8-9 to justify: "Saints are to, "... bring to light...the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created..." They chop it up so as to elevate their **new revelations** as authoritative. When we simply allow Scripture to say what it reveals, we see that these verses are proclaiming the Gospel of regeneration and reconciliation – now plainly revealed. They claim an esoteric knowledge of higher revelation. Which parallels such pride of Satan himself.

In fact, more than sharing his impetus they practice his tactics of questioning the final court of arbitration – the Scriptures e.g. ‘did God really say...?’ (Gen. 3:1).

What is also telling is that in the book they admit that no other Christian has come up with their conclusions. You think? I wonder why? Perhaps it’s because the other Christians believe the Word of God is completely authoritative and sufficient (2 Tim. 3:14-17). And even if some don’t believe it, they are at least afraid to come right out and say it. Even Bethel and Bill fall a tiny smidgen short of spelling out that the Word is insufficient but it truly is the entire thrust of the book. In fact in the preface of the book they prep the reader to be ready to expand their thinking wider and accept new means and mediums of revelation and experiences.

They write of how they (and you) are able to “pop qwiffs” i.e. speak what is nonexistent into existence. They believe in a second Pentecost and higher Christian experience on earth now. Years ago they were on the cusp of such and still today we are on the cusp of such – never enough, always wanting greater experiences. They associate with Kenneth Copeland and Todd Bentley – two of the most deplorable preachers I’ve ever seen. I think Copeland is demon possessed and Bentley literally kicked an elderly woman and man and the man died w/in a week or two. Both occasions he insists he was instructed to do so by the Spirit. **Read pp. 6-8, 13, 282n. 34 Strange Fire.**

The antics of such ‘faith healer’ are unfortunately not new and thus Charles Spurgeon rightly condemned their bizarre practices Read 258 quote.

Bethel’s book *Physics of Heaven* claims there are 300 portals to heaven w/ no explanation or scriptural references. They claim that positive vibrations can take one to heaven and negative vibrations can cause cancer. Also, they write that 1 Cor. 1:28 “only makes sense when understood at atomic and subatomic levels.” What in the world does that mean!?

Just to mention Hillsong, which adheres to the same stuff, and founder/pastor Brian Houston has a book that literally titled “You Need More Money.” They recite a prosperity prayer or proclamation before every offering claiming that their giving will result in physical, social, financial, professional, etc. prosperity. Literally giving to get. Send out video of Colin’s assessment of one of their songs.

In March of 2020 when several hundred thousand people in America had been diagnosed with Corona virus, Bill Johnson, and several other WOF preachers decreed by the Word of God that COVID ended by their words of faith (declaration). Well, we know that was a false prophesy. Bill Johnson said that “on earth as it is in heaven” literally means e.g. because there is no cancer in heaven there ought to be none on earth. Firstly, a one to one correlation of heaven and earth would mean there are no distinctions and then at least believers would not need to suffer, be persecuted, etc. There is no persecution in heaven and yet Jesus promised such to all believers. There is no marriage in heaven and so why is Bill Johnson married? There is no evangelism in heaven either. Also, there are no eyeglasses in heaven and yet Johnson wears them all the time! Never trust a WOF teacher who wears glasses!

I’ll abruptly conclude by suggesting one do his own research and look at the teachings and test all in light of Scripture (1 Thes. 5:21). The canon of Scripture is all about Jesus. His person and work achieve salvation for the elect of God (the chosen) who repent and receive His Spirit to live righteous lives being conformed to His image (Ro. 8:29). Such lives are humble, obedient, and self-sacrificial and serving. Conversely, the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Tim. 6:10). I cannot judge hearts but I’m told to discern whether or not to trust others by observing their fruits. And when you follow the money and see priorities of health and wealth while simultaneously devaluing the priorities of repentance, righteousness, and warning

those of judgment to come – paired with blatant twisting of Scriptures; you should not trust such pundits. And it is from a love of God, His Word, and our neighbor that we warn of such. There are ample warnings in Scripture of the judgment of false shepherds (Deut. 13:1-3; Jer. 14:14; 23:16; Ezek. 34; Mat. 7:15-20; 24:12-13, 24 cf. Mk. 13:22; Lu. 6:26; Jn. 10; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 1 Jn. 4:1ff.; Jude) to name some references. Such ravenous wolves have crept in (Jude 4) because the sheep have little or no discernment. We must understand how to read the Bible for all its worth to be able to spot a wolf in wool. When we know the Word we know the good Shepherd and hear His voice and follow Him – not the wolves in wool.