



Living Scripture with the Corinthians.
Week 26: Considering 2 Corinthians – Defining Genuine Christian Ministry

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for joining us here
LIVE in the
WAJC radio station.

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Intro

We welcome you to this special live stream experience of Chew On This.

You are about to enter a discussion on how to actually live out faith in Christ. Living it out loud within our messy lives. The content of this discussion comes from The Pastoral Preaching notes and this live, small group discussion these notes will prompt here tonight. Something we call: A Community Based Learning Experience. Come, Chew On This with us.

Opening Question(s): [Pertains to Subject being discussed. Pulls listener in.]

Introduction: This is Pr. Orleen Haseltine with and ***** Sam Beamond along with Bruce Nelson (and our very own Otto Steve Lunde & Pr. Robin Bjornson joining us remotely).

Date/Topic:

We thank you for joining us for this week's discussion on Chew On This. This week's topic - **Considering 2nd Corinthians: Genuine Christian Ministry – Wednesday 4/15th**

Access/Website: All sermon/discussion, raw notes, and handouts are available at: realchurch.org/wednesdaynight

Discussion

Closing Statement [Gives application of the topic. How do I apply to my life what was just talked about?]

Outro (Steve)

Thank you for joining us for this week's discussion on **CONSIDERING 2ND CORINTHIANS: Genuine Christian Ministry**

To enjoy this process live, come join us and the Wednesday Night Crew every Wednesday night @ Maranatha's Forest Lake Campus @ 6:30PM. This is Steve Lunde, ALWAYS BE KIND.



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“It is significant that Paul’s expression of these teachings in this letter was inspired by the personal crisis he underwent during his rebuttal suffered on his second visit to Corinth (2:1-4, 9), his desperate escape from Ephesus (1:8-11) and his deep anxiety for the Corinthians experienced at Troas and Macedonia (2:13; 7:5-6) it is no exaggeration to say the coming of these ‘other Jesus’, accompanied as it was by a massive assault on the integrity of Paul, could easily have spelled the end of Pauline Christianity there. **That is survived and continued is probably due, in no small part, to this powerful letter.**” (Pg 17 IVP 2 Cor. BST)

Topics Covered:

Living in Spiritual Warfare – Offensive and Defensive

We already do this, do we notice?

[If we do one topic per week, that brings us through May 6th]

- 1.) God has proved faithful in keeping His ancient promises by His recently inaugurated new covenant of Christ and the Spirit (1:18-20; 3:3-6, 14-18). Moreover, God faithfully delivers and holds on to those who belong to Christ (1:3-11, 22; 4:7-9; 7:6).

Faithfulness: Faithful fulfilling of His promises. They did not expect Jesus to be that. When promises are kept in unusual ways. When faithfulness does not look like faithfulness. When God delivers to the back door.

- 2.) The new covenant, based as it is on the graciousness of God (6:1), has now surpassed and replaced the old covenant (3:7-11). It powerfully meets man’s needs at His points of greatest weakness – in His aging and death (4:16-5:10) and in His alienation from God due to sin (5:14-21).

The New Covenant fulfills the Old Covenant

- 3.) Christ is the pre-existent Son of God (1:19; 8:90, the image of God (4:4), the Lord (4:5), the Judge of all (5:10), the sinless one who died as substitute and representative for all people, God reconciling the world to Himself through Him (5:14-21). 2 Corinthians contains Paul’s most comprehensive statement about the death of Christ (5:14-21).

Christ – 100% God/100% Man.

- 4.) Genuineness of New Testament ministry is not established by ‘letters of recommendation’ or by a would-be minister’s mystical or miraculous powers, but by his faithfulness in persuading and his effectiveness in converting people to the Christian faith (5:11-12; 3:2-3; 10-7). The very existence of the Corinthian congregation was Christ’s living letter of recommendation of Paul’s ministry (3:2-3). The pattern and measure of the minister’s lifestyle is the sacrifice of Christ (4:10-15; 6:1-10; 11:21-33). Establishing true criteria for genuine Christian ministry is one of the major contributions of this letter.

What is genuine Christian Ministry? (Prosperity Gospel? NAR?)

“When you cannot discredit the ministry, discredit the person.” ONH

- 5.) The ‘word of God’, the gospel, has a definable, limited content which neither Ministers nor anybody else may add to or subtract from (4:2; 11:4). This gospel is exceedingly powerful in bringing rebellious humans under the rule of God (4:6; 10:4-5).

How does one ADD or SUBTRACT from Scripture? (Seeker sensitive? Was it subtracting from scripture?)

- 6.) Paul was, both in person and through his writings, the apostle of Christ to the Gentiles. The risen Lord gave Paul this ‘authority’ in His historic commissioning of him on the road to Damascus (10:8; 13:10), and it is still exercised to subsequent generations through his letters, which now form part of the canon of Scripture. This letter is very important because it is Paul’s major defense of his apostleship to his detractors – both ancient and modern. In it, Paul answers the perennial question why he should be regarded as having authority over churches and Christians.

How do we Question Authority appropriately? (Unity & disunity look like what?)

*“When you cannot discredit the ministry, discredit the person.
When you cannot discredit the person, discredit the ministry.”*

Pastor Orleen

- 7.) Christian giving and serving arise out of and are in response to the graciousness of God displayed towards and in us. Cheerful and generous giving, in all its forms, brings a harvest of great enrichment to the givers (chapters 8-9).

(The Message of 2 Corinthians, Bible Speaks today. Barnett, Paul. IVP 1988. IL, Downers Grove.)

When Giving and Serving are a response to the Love of Christ, not a duty to earn it.



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TIMELINE

- Paul plants the church in Corinth
- Stays 18mths
- Goes to Ephesus to do the same there
- While in Ephesus (2-3yrs) he sends 1 Corinthians via Timothy
- Uproar over 1 Corinthians – Not well received
- Paul makes a 2nd visit to Corinth from Ephesus (2 Cor2:1)
- The visit failed! Opponents insulted him, rebuked him, questioning his Apostolic Authority, Prominent member led.
- Paul went back to Ephesus disheartened and distressed.
- He wrote the Corinthians the ‘Severe Letter’ which is now lost. Sent with Titus (2Cor 2:3-13).
- This letter had the success Paul wanted from his 2nd visit (2Cor 7).
- Paul left Ephesus and went to Macedonia. Met Titus there and heard the amazing results of repentance.
- In response to what Titus reported, Paul wrote 2nd Corinthians.

Get your bibles

Genuineness of New Testament ministry is not established by ‘letters of recommendation’ or by a would-be minister’s mystical or miraculous powers, but by his faithfulness in persuading and his effectiveness in converting people to the Christian faith (5:11-12; 3:2-3; 10-7). The very existence of the Corinthian congregation was Christ’s living letter of recommendation of Paul’s ministry (3:2-3). The pattern and measure of the minister’s lifestyle is the sacrifice of Christ (4:10-15; 6:1-10; 11:21-33). Establishing true criteria for genuine Christian ministry is one of the major contributions of this letter.

What is genuine Christian Ministry? (Prosperity Gospel? NAR?)

LISTENER ASK:

What actions speak to you of God’s love?
 Things you have done or others have done for you?

All Genuine Ministry begins here:

Cup of Cold Water = Ministry

Matthew 10:42

⁴² And ^(B)whoever gives one of ^(C)these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.”

Greatest of all is servant of all

Mark 9:34-37

³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the way ^(A)they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵ And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, ^(B)“If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶ And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and ^(C)taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ ^(D)“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and ^(E)whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

³⁴ But they didn’t answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, “Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else.”

³⁶ Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ “Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf ^(a) welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me.”

Genuine Christian Ministry begins with the motivation of a servant.



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Just like in Corinth, not all 'Ministry' being done was founded in servanthood.
Things grow, morph, become personalized, become a moniker of a ministry....

Team ASK: What are marks of genuine Christian Ministry?

What we have heard and seen purported in today's society as Genuine Christian Ministry:

- Is it the move of the Spirit? Spiritual Gifts being used?
- Speaking in tongues, messages in tongues?
- Is it amazing Worship Music?
- Appealing to people
- Having a church building, shows you are planning to STAY
- HEALING SERVICES
- ?
- ?

“Establishing true criteria for genuine Christian ministry is one of the major contributions of this letter.”

IVP The Bible Speaks Today. 2 Corinthians. Paul Barnett

The very existence of the church of Corinth endorses this. They, eventually, figured it out with Paul's leadership. Otherwise, the church would have disbanded.

Paul actually describes this in 2 Corinthians as in how the Church DOES genuine Christian Ministry. Finds he has to as he is met with such voracious personal attacks.

LISTENER ASK: What actions speak to you of God's love?
Things you have done or others have done for you?

What are Paul's Guidelines for Genuine Christian Ministry:

1. 2 Corinthians 5:11-12

*¹¹ Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we **work hard to persuade others**. God knows we are **sincere**, and I hope you know this, too. ¹² Are we commending ourselves to you again? No, we are giving you a reason to be proud of us, **so you can answer those who brag about having a spectacular ministry rather than having a sincere heart.***

- Hard Working
- Persuasive
- Sincere heart

What are Paul's Guidelines for Genuine Christian Ministry:

2. 2 Corinthians 3:2-3

*² The only letter of recommendation we need is you yourselves. **Your lives** are a letter written in our hearts; everyone can read it and **recognize our good work among you.** ³ Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This “letter” is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts.*

1 Cor 9:2 If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship...

- Changed lives of the people (heart)
- Good Works done amongst the people



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What are Paul's Guidelines for Genuine Christian Ministry:

3. 2 Corinthians 3: 10-7

¹⁰ *In fact, that first glory was not glorious at all compared with the overwhelming glory of the new way. ¹¹ So if the old way, which has been replaced, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new, which remains forever!*

¹² *Since this new way gives us such confidence, we can be very bold. ¹³ We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so the people of Israel would not see the glory, even though it was destined to fade away. ¹⁴ But the people's minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. **And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ.** ¹⁵ Yes, even today when they read Moses' writings, their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand.*

¹⁶ *But whenever someone turns to the Lord, **the veil is taken away.** ¹⁷ For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (Ex 34:34 Moses and the veil)*

- Witnessing
- Loving others towards their conversion to the Christian faith
- Combination of apologetics and lifestyle ministry

What are Paul's Guidelines for Genuine Christian Ministry:

4. 2 Corinthians 4:10-15

¹⁰ ***Through suffering,** our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.*

¹¹ *Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. ¹² So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you.*

¹³ *But we continue to preach because we have **the same kind of faith the psalmist** had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke."^[a] ¹⁴ We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus,^[b] will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. ¹⁵ All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, **and God will receive more and more glory.***

a. Psalm 116:10

Luke 9:23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his...

Phil 3:10 My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings,...

- Suffering
- Faith that denies oneself
- For God to receive the Glory

LISTENER ASK:

What actions speak to you of God's love?

Things you have done or others have done for you?

What are Paul's Guidelines for Genuine Christian Ministry:

5. 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

As God's partners we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it.

² *For God says,*

"At just the right time, I heard you.

On the day of salvation, I helped you."

Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation.



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Paul's Hardships

³ *We live in such a way that no one will stumble because of us, and no one will find fault with our ministry.* ⁴ *In everything we do, we show that we are true ministers of God. We **patiently endure troubles and hardships and calamities of every kind.*** ⁵ *We have been beaten, been put in prison, faced angry mobs, worked to exhaustion, endured sleepless nights, and gone without food.* ⁶ *We **prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us,*** ^[a] *and by our sincere love.* ⁷ *We **faithfully preach the truth. God's power is working in us.*** *We use the weapons of righteousness in the right hand for attack and the left hand for defense.* ⁸ *We **serve God whether people honor us or despise us, whether they slander us or praise us. We are honest, but they call us impostors.*** ⁹ *We are ignored, even though we are well known. We live close to death, but we are still alive. We have been beaten, but we have not been killed.* ¹⁰ *Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything.*

- Cause no one to stumble
- Patient in hard things
- Purity
- Understanding
- Kindness
- Holy Spirit visible in us
- Sincere love
- Preach the Truth
- God's power is visible in what we do
- We serve God

What are Paul's Guidelines for Genuine Christian Ministry:

6. 2 Corinthians 11:21-33

²¹ *I'm ashamed to say that we've been too "weak" to do that!* *But whatever they dare to boast about—I'm talking like a fool again—I dare to boast about it, too.* ²² *Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.* ²³ *Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again.* ²⁴ *Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes.* ²⁵ *Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea.* ²⁶ *I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not.* ^[a] ²⁷ *I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.* ²⁸ *Then, besides all this, I have the **daily burden of my concern for all the churches.*** ²⁹ *Who is weak without my feeling that weakness? Who is led astray, and I do not burn with anger?* ³⁰ ***If I must boast, I would rather boast about the things that show how weak I am.*** ³¹ *God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, who is worthy of eternal praise, knows I am not lying.* ³² *When I was in Damascus, the governor under King Aretas kept guards at the city gates to catch me.* ³³ *I had to be lowered in a basket through a window in the city wall to escape from him.*

- Courageous.
- Concern for the churches' growth in Jesus Christ.
- Defines danger differently than most people.
- Sacrifice is the hallmark of ministry. An example set by Christ.



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LISTENER ASK: What actions speak to you of God’s love?
 Things you have done or others have done for you?

What are Paul’s Guidelines for Genuine Christian Ministry:

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,^[b] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

18 And Jesus came and said to them, ^(v)“All **authority** ^(w)in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 ^(x)Go therefore and ^(y)**make disciples** of ^(z)all nations, ^(AA)**baptizing** them ^(AB)in ^[b] ^(AC)the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ **teaching** them ^(AD)to observe all that ^(AE)I have commanded you. And behold, ^(AF)I am with you always, to ^(AG)the end of the age.”

Ministry

- Authority to make disciples
- Baptizing
- Teaching His commands.

2nd Corinthians look at ‘What is Genuine Christian Ministry’..... SO....what type of things is it NOT?
 Where is ‘what Ministry is NOT’ added? Not use in this session? Just mention it is in the notes if people are interested?

Team Ask: It is NOT....

A Ritual
 Without expectations
 ‘Owning’ the market of a Spiritual gift. i.e. Healing
 GAIN: Prosperity Gospel
 NAR

WHAT ELSE?



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NOteS:

Ps 35.

KINGDOM DYNAMICS

35:27 Happy, Holy, Healthy, and at Peace, GOD’S PROSPERITY. God is pleased when His servants prosper! The Hebrew word, translated here as “prosperity,” is laden with meaning: “safety, wellness, happiness, healthiness, peacefulness.” In fact, this word usually is translated “peace”; when your needs are met, you are at peace. Moreover, if God is pleased with the prosperity of servants, what must He be with the prosperity of His own children—those who are purchased by the blood of Jesus and adopted as His own? Think how thrilled God must be when we—His own children—prosper in every aspect of our lives.¹

TO PROSPER

tsaleach (צָלַח, 6743), “to succeed, prosper.” This word is found in both ancient and modern Hebrew. Occurring some 65 times in the text of the Hebrew Old Testament, the word is first found in Gen. 24:21: “... whether the Lord had made his journey prosperous [literally, “to prosper”] or not.” This word generally expresses the idea of a successful venture, as contrasted with failure. The source of such success is God: “... as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper” (2 Chron. 26:5). In spite of that, the circumstances of life often raise the question, “Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper?” (Jer. 12:1).

Tsaleach is sometimes used in such a way as to indicate “victory”: “In your majesty ride forth victoriously” (Ps. 45:4, RSV; the KJV rendering, “ride prosperously,” is not nearly so appropriate).²

PROSPERITY: *MORE THAN POSSESSIONS*

God desires His children to prosper in all things (Gen. 39:3), and He promises prosperity to the godly (Job 22:23–27). Biblical prosperity, however, means more than financial wealth or material possessions. True prosperity is total well-being and is dependent upon a lifestyle of righteousness.

The righteous who meditate faithfully on God’s Word are those who prosper abundantly (Ps. 1:1–3). Prosperity from God is reserved for those who do the will of God (Josh. 1:8)—keeping His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies (1 Kin. 2:3). Strength and courage as well as prosperity are offered to all who fulfill the statutes and judgments of the Lord (1 Chr. 22:13). Those who live God’s way are in position to receive God’s help and blessing.

While the Lord rejoices in the prosperity of His children (Ps. 35:27; Eccl. 7:14), He also warns believers about its dangers. As God’s children enjoy the blessings of a prosperous life, they naturally tend to forget the source of their blessings (Deut. 8:10–18) and begin to rely on their possessions (including intangible possessions such as family, intelligence, or innate talents) for their identity, ability, and security. Christians are reminded to recognize always that it is God who gives the power to acquire material prosperity (James 1:17).

Jesus taught that material possessions are not a measure of a person’s value or spiritual worthiness (Luke 12:15). Paul warned against a pursuit of prosperity as a person’s primary motive or “love” (1 Tim. 6:9, 10). Christians should depend entirely on the Lord to provide all their needs (Matt. 6:25, 26) and should give Him thanks as He does.

See also 2 Chr. 26:5; Job 36:11; Prov. 28:25; Matt. 16:26, 27; 3 John 2; notes on Blessings (Gen. 12); Gratitude (Ps. 95); Wealth (1 Tim. 6); portraits of Claudia (2 Tim. 4); Lydia (Acts 16)³

¹ Hayford, J. W. (Ed.). (1997). *Spirit filled life study Bible* (electronic ed., Ps 35:23). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.

² Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Vol. 1, p. 191). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.

³ Thomas Nelson, I. (1995). *The Woman’s Study Bible*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



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CONDITIONS FOR PROSPERITY

1. Prosperity is always linked to **purpose**. God intends for us to be instruments of resource. Read Philippians 4:19: “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” When reading this promise in its context, the connection between the Philippians’s responsible actions of giving and the purpose of God’s blessing is clear. They had given to Paul, and now God was rewarding them. But He was rewarding them so they could continue to be a resource for God’s kingdom agenda.

2. Blessing is always connected to issues of **character**, God’s and yours. Read Philippians 4:11–13. Almost in the same breath as Paul conveys the promise of blessings to those who have given, he is also administering the lessons of contentment. *Prosperity is never promised as a medicine for discontent*. Paul’s confession is simple: I am content with or without. Possessions or prosperity are never to determine our contentment. This character issue is resolved by what one possesses on the inside, not on the outside. It is in the midst of this point that Paul makes this famous statement, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” It is clear from the context that this strength from the Lord Jesus of which Paul boasts has to do with contentment in spite of the presence or absence of abundance!

3. Success has more to do with God’s **agenda** than with our **desires**. It is *never wrong* for us to present our petitions—our desires—before the Lord. It *is wrong* to make our desires a condition of our relationship. God wants to bless us, to grant us good success in every area of our lives. But we will discover that those blessings come more quickly to those who are committed to God’s agenda for their life.

The Bible contains both *promises for prosperity* and *warnings about prosperity*! Why? Because the Lord knows our hearts. Fallen man—even the Lord’s redeemed—is easily trapped into patterns of thought regarding prosperity that lean toward greed and avarice. The Lord intends prosperity to be a blessing, not a curse. But when greed is the motive, when prosperity becomes the condition upon which our faith is based, then our faith becomes misdirected. Suddenly, we are trusting Him **for** things, instead of simply trusting Him **in** all things. And that’s when prosperity becomes a curse⁴

1:1–2 TWO PATHS TO CONSIDER

Poet Robert Frost wrote of having to choose between two roads that diverged in a yellow wood. Frost wrote that he did well to choose the less frequently traveled road. About 3,500 years ago, the psalmist wrote something similar as he described two paths on which one could live life: the way of the ungodly and the way of the righteous (Ps. 1:1–2). The way one chooses makes all the difference.

Psalms 1 is like much of the wisdom literature in the Old Testament (see the Introduction to Job) in that it draws a sharp contrast between good and evil, right and wrong, godliness and ungodliness. The choice is one or the other; there can be no middle ground. Thus Psalm 1 presents a proverbial fork in the road in which we must make moral choices today that have long-term (indeed eternal) consequences:

The question is, which road are you taking? If you find yourself ...

- paying more attention to the advice of those who do not believe in God than of those who fear Him;
 - behaving pretty much as unbelievers do; or
 - making cynical statements about God and the things of God... THEN BEWARE! YOU MAY ALREADY BE FAR DOWN THE ROAD OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS. IF SO, THEN DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO TURN BACK, BECAUSE THE END OF THAT ROAD IS DESTRUCTION. **3:TITLE FLEEING FROM YOUR OWN CHILD**
- Can you imagine having to run for your life from one of your own children, as David was forced to do (Ps. 3:title)? That incident, recorded in 2 Sam. 15:1–18:18, is one of the most tragic scenes in the Bible. It tells us much about the relative unhealth of David’s family.

David’s son Absalom (see 2 Sam. 13:1) was known for acting out of anger, violence, and self-interest. For example, he had his half-brother Amnon assassinated (13:20–29) before launching a

⁴ Hicks, R. H., Jr., & Hayford, J. W. (1994). *Power Faith: Balancing Faith in Word and Works*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.



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campaign to seize the throne for himself (15:1–12). This scheme involved sowing seeds of disloyalty (15:6), sending henchmen throughout Israel to spread rebellion (15:10), surrounding himself with leaders who, despite their reputation, were know-nothings (15:11), and attracting a sizable following in order to create a “strong conspiracy” against his father (15:12).

Psalm 3 reveals the battle that went on in David’s spirit as he lived in fear of his son. The king cried out to God to help him gain perspective. In fear for his life, his only refuge was to depend on God’s strength (Ps. 3:3–5). Only then could he find enough inner peace to sleep.

Centuries after the incident with Absalom, Peter, one of Jesus’ followers, described a similar need for believers who, because of their faith, had fled from the authorities. They too were to cast their cares on the Lord, “for He cares for you” (1 Pet. 5:7).

Our best recourse is to turn over all our fears to the Lord. Are their situations in your life that strike fear in you? Can you join David and Peter in finding peace—and sleep—by trusting the Lord?

The Way of Prosperity

1:3 *Psalm 1 paints a picture of contentment and prosperity (v. 3). Who would not want that? Yet here as elsewhere in the Old Testament, the emphasis is not on the blessing as much as on delighting in the Law (v. 2). In fact, keeping the Law is presented as its own reward. Find out more about the path that leads to prosperity in “Success and Prosperity” at Josh. 1:8.⁵*

PROSPERITY

2 John’s greeting (3 John 2) raises an important issue. It is clear that he expects God to give physical and material well-being to Gaius. Is that what believers today should be asking God for? Should we expect God to prosper us physically and financially? Is this verse an indication that He will? Notice some important things:

(1) John is praying for Gaius’s prosperity, not Gaius praying for his own prosperity.

(2) This is part of a formal greeting or blessing. We say very similar things today like, “Good luck,” or “Have a good day,” or “Stay healthy, kid.”

(3) The Greek word here for prosper means “to travel well on a journey.” That fits with its use in a blessing. Furthermore, it is not something one should actively pursue, but rather a gift that one should look for, a sense of “wholeness” like the Old Testament concept of shalom that people enjoy when they follow God’s precepts and live in His power.

(4) We don’t know what Gaius’s circumstances may have been, only that his soul was prospering. John may be saying, “You are doing so well in the faith; I wish you were doing as well in your health and the rest of your life.”

(5) John’s main concern is that Gaius would walk in the truth (3–4), not that he would have a big bank account or be in tip-top shape.

Overall, it would be foolish to construct a general principle of material blessing from this verse, especially when so many other passages warn against that very thing.

Paul describes those who teach that God rewards godliness with material blessing as being “destitute of the truth.” See “The Dangers of Prosperity Theology” at 1 Tim. 6:3–6.

⁵ *Word in life study Bible*. (1996). (electronic ed.). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.



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9–11 A STUDY IN CONTRASTS OF FAITH

What traits does Christ desire in a faithful follower? How does godliness reveal itself? What are the differences between a good representative of the faith and a bad one?

In 3 John, John contrasts two men, Gaius and Diotrephes. Notice the patterns of each one:

As always, the true test of the integrity of one's faith is whether one's actions are befitting to a follower of Christ. It's easy to talk about religious things, but words are of little value unless they translate into works that benefit others and bring glory to God (compare Matt. 7:21–29; Titus 1:16; 2:7–8; 3:8–11; James 1:19–27; 2:14–26).

Whom are you more like—Gaius or Diotrephes? What could people point to in your life that gives evidence of a faith that benefits others and honors Christ? ♦

A Good Example and a Bad One Suppose you were on trial as Jesus was. What would be some of the best evidence against you, that you were “guilty” of following Christ? Would there be anything conclusive? Consider the checklist at “Is There Enough Evidence to Convict You?” at Mark 14:53–64. John's juxtaposition of Gaius and Diotrephes is another example of his use of strong contrasts to describe matters of faith. See “Binary Faith” at the Introduction to 1 John.

6

The cult of prosperity

In the eyes of other Christians, the second most obvious characteristic of some charismatics—after speaking in tongues—is the so-called prosperity gospel. Actually, most Pentecostals and an increasing number of charismatics reject the prosperity gospel as originally perceived and taught. But it continues to hold allure for some believers.

The cult of prosperity bases its entire New Testament case on 3 John 2, “Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.” New Testament scholar Gordon Fee argues against the appropriation of this verse to bolster a prosperity gospel. He points out that this was simply the standard form of greeting in antiquity: “To extend John's wish for Gaius to refer to financial and material prosperity for all Christians of all times is totally foreign to the text.”

But such phrases as “If you have faith for a Chevrolet, drive a Chevrolet; but if you have faith for a Cadillac, drive a Cadillac” persist. However, today most of the leaders have brought a needed corrective by stressing prosperity for the sake of world evangelization. Every year millions of dollars are raised and sent to the mission field. Single churches sometimes have more than a million-dollar missions budget.

Dozens of missionary training institutes have sprung up in the larger churches throughout the country where hundreds of students are being trained and sent overseas.

Although the New Testament does not condemn riches as such, it should give us pause to realize there are 13 New Testament warnings against riches and none against being poor. German theologian Jürgen Moltmann is right: “The Bible tilts in favor of the poor.”

Critics of the movement, such as Fee, object not only to the faulty exegesis bolstering it. They also point out that it is man-centered, not God-centered, and to that extent is humanistic. They say it produces guilt and condemnation in those who do not receive their healing, that it contradicts central Bible truths about suffering, cross bearing, persecution, and the radical call to disciple-ship. They contend that it elevates man by denigrating God, and that its gnostic tendencies render inevitable an elitist interpretation of the gospel.

There is gratifying evidence, however, that in recent years many of the extreme claims are being abandoned. Even the most radical prosperity teachers, such as those in the Word of Faith school, are acknowledging the need for medical treatment—if only for those Christians who are not operating at the highest level of faith. Many also acknowledge that there is sometimes inexplicable suffering in the life of the Christian, and that even people full of faith are mortal. As the movement has drifted more to the mainstream of charismatic thought, it has achieved more balance.

The question of authority

⁶ [Word in life study Bible](#). (1996). (electronic ed., 3 Jn 2–9). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.



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The question of religious authority underlies the main criticisms evangelicals make of Pentecostals and charismatics. Are these “enthusiastic” brothers and sisters too subjective in their approach to authority? And does their subjectivism largely account for excesses such as the prosperity gospel and churches dividing over the tongues issue?

In fact, the phrase “the Lord told me” frequently does become a questionable device for manipulation and personal preference. Although most Pentecostals and charismatics will fight strenuously for their belief that God speaks today, they acknowledge that abuses can occur.

Faith-formula, or Word of Faith preachers, frequently claim revelation knowledge that brings “correctives” to Paul’s negative confessions. They claim that Paul did not have the true faith message, or he would not have developed such a theology of suffering.

However, when pressed, almost all Protestant charismatics (and certainly all Pentecostals) will insist on the Reformation principle of *sola scriptura*. The formal theology of authority is orthodox, although actual practice sometimes is not.

A serious problem for both Pentecostals and charismatics is their failure to carefully develop their own theologies. Classical Pentecostals almost wholly adopted evangelical statements of faith. The Assemblies of God, for example, simply added to the National Association of Evangelicals doctrinal statement an article holding that they believed in the “baptism of the Spirit as evidenced by speaking in tongues.”

Lacking the doctrine and discipline of mainline denominations, charismatics tend to judge theology by whether or not it makes them feel good. In matters of theology, the independent charismatic is much like a loving puppy dog who turns in any direction he finds a friendly hand.

No one has yet attempted a systematic charismatic theology, for many reasons. Since the charismatic movement has only been around for 30 years, it is too early for a mature theology to arise. It requires time, experience, and scholars equipped with the proper tools to do good theology. Second, the origin of the charismatic movement was so diverse, moving among all the three great Christian traditions (Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant) that any attempt at a premature, unified doctrinal effort was doomed before it started. A third reason that a charismatic theology has been slow to emerge is the ethos of the charismatic community. Theological precision is not exactly the hallmark of the renewal.

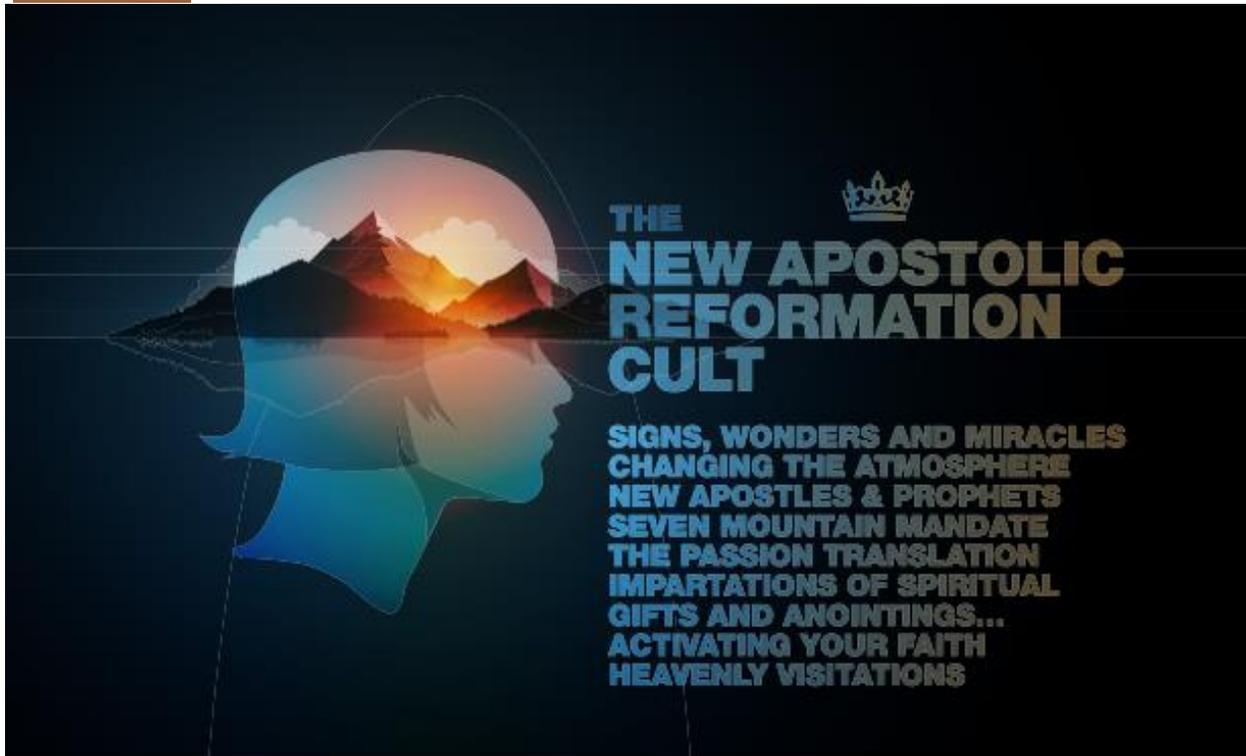
On this point there need to be some radical changes in the theological climate for both charismatics and Pentecostals. Where there is no good theology, there is bad theology. And bad theology is a cruel taskmaster. When charismatics and Pentecostals hold unequivocally to the principle of Scripture alone as the final authority in matters of faith and practice, they already have the formal framework necessary to do a good theology of the Spirit.⁷

⁷ Farah, C. (1987). [America’s Pentecostals What They Believe](#). *Christianity Today*, 31(15), 22–26.



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NAR Movement: <https://coffeescribe.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/cs-What-is-the-NAR.pdf>



I am one who loves to "re-search." I like to look at things from different angles and search what has already been searched (re-search). In this article, I have used various portions from other authors as well as many different translations of the Scriptures as possible in order to gain a broad, unprejudiced view of this topic.



CoffeeScribe.ca
mail@coffeescribe.ca

The New Apostolic Reformation New Age CULT

The New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) movement is a cult that preaches a false Jesus, false gospel and New Age metaphysical teachings and strategies in an attempt to bring heaven to earth.



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if your church:
receives special
revelation
downloads

from Holy Spirit that are considered to be new revelations, not already found within Scripture— then chances are, you’re a part of this cult.

as being valid, authoritative voices of God-approved leadership in the Church for today—then chances are, you’re a part of this cult.

which usually is accompanied with Words of divine knowledge, insights and revelations—then chances are, you’re a part of this cult.

if your church:
accepts and acknowledges apostles & prophets

if your church:
has visitations from angels or Jesus

3

if your church:
preaches and teaches dominionism

as its primary mandate of taking dominion of earthly kingdoms or “mountains” before Jesus can come back— then chances are, you’re a part of this cult.

and extra-biblical revelation as being a “normal” means of gaining Holy Spirit revelation knowledge, rather than on the Word of God (the Bible)—then chances are, you’re a part of this cult.

of miracles and healings, proclaiming that all people are healed—then chances are, you’re a part of this cult.

if your church:
places greater emphasis on dreams & visions

if your church:
is hungry for supernatural signs & wonders

if your church:
has no problem with trips to heaven

of which often includes face-to-face conversations with Jesus Christ or angels and giving insights about heaven—then chances are, you’re a part of this cult.

4

if your church:
practices
impartations
of anointings & gifts

by the laying on of hands using prayer, prophecy, and what they call “impartation of the spirit”— then chances are, you’re a part of this cult.

if your church:



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teaches on glorious
eschatology

that Jesus has already returned in A.D. 70 or shortly thereafter in place of the Rapture; and the Church is currently in the Thousand-year Millennial Reign—then chances are, you’re a part of this cult.

if your church:
is passionate about
the passion
translation

translated by lead translator, Apostle Brian Simmons as its preferred Bible version for quoting Scripture— then chances are, you’re a part of this cult.

5

what’s so wrong about the
New Apostolic
Reformation?

the new apostolic reformation (NAR)
movement is a highly deceptive cult

The New Apostolic Reformation is a dominionist movement which asserts that God is restoring the lost offices of church governance, namely the offices of Prophet and Apostle. They place a greater emphasis on dreams, visions and extra-biblical revelation than they do on the Bible—claiming that their revealed teachings and reported experiences (e.g. trips to heaven, face-to-face conversations with Jesus, visits by angels) can not be proven by the ‘old’ Scripture.

they believe that we are already reigning and ruling with Christ now; *“Kingdom Now.”*

breaking down the deception
who are they and how
is this happening?

First of all, most of the people in this cult (or movement) don’t even know they are in it. Many of them are God-loving Christians who love the Lord with all of their hearts and who desire a closer walk with Jesus. They are in fact extremely loving people and they are by no means “bad” people—their intentions are usually pure. The majority of Christians who attend these churches are slowly, but very strategically being deceived as time goes on. One very important reason for this deception is due to their lack of Bible study and knowledge of God’s Word. They listen to stories and read books on everything else but the Scriptures, leaving them unable to identify error when they hear it.

definitions and deceptions

Traits, beliefs, and some of the more commonly used vernacular by NAR adherents

One way to understand this cult is to look at how they speak and why. Let’s examine some of their definitions:

1. “SUPER APOSTLES”

According to those in NAR: *“We’re in a ‘Second Apostolic Age.’ There are new Apostles on the earth today, anointed by the laying on of hands to represent and speak for God here on Earth. These ‘Super*



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Apostles' are equal to the original Apostles—the ones who witnessed Jesus' life, death and resurrection and were appointed by Christ Himself

to the office. Since these new Apostles are commissioned by God, their authority may not be questioned.”
– **Source:** piratechristian.com

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[dominionism or Kingdom Now](#)

2. “KINGDOM NOW”

Rather than preach the Gospel of the cross, Apostolic leaders are working to bring the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven to earth (also know as “Kingdom Now ¹” or “Dominionism” theology). They do this by taking dominion of earthly kingdoms or “mountains” of influence—assert that God is restoring the lost offices of those mountains through the Church.

Be sure to watch Jan Markell's YouTube video on Kingdom Now / Dominion Theology following the web post article version.

[According to dominionism, Christians are biblically mandated to control all earthly institutions until the second coming of Jesus.”](#)

Kingdom Now are often Preterists

Kingdom Now teaching rejects the historical fact that Jesus did NOT come back yet. Kingdom Now proponents believe we are living in the Millennial Reign of Christ right NOW. Most believe that Christ had already come in A.D. 70, that Nero was the Antichrist, the Tribulation has already happened and that we have been in the Thousand-year Millennial Kingdom for the past two-thousand-years.

See Coffee Scribe's:

Did Jesus already return in A.D. 70? – What are the dangers of partial preterism?

<https://coffeescribe.ca/did-jesus-already-return-in-a-d-70/>

1. Kingdom Now theology is a branch of *Dominion Theology* which has had a following within Pentecostalism. It attracted attention in the late 1980s. *Kingdom Now* theology states that although Satan has been in control of the world since the Fall, God is looking for people who will help him take back dominion or “reclaim the seven mountains of culture” (now known as “*The Seven Mountain Mandate*”). ⁹

Are we currently in a great and glorious end-time revival?

“Kingdom Now” is the theological belief that the Church is presently subduing the enemies of Christ in order to pave the way for His appearing. They believe that the Christian Church will remain on the earth and become a dominant force in a great end-times revival.

Are we there yet?

However, there is no biblical support for this belief, for the Bible teaches just the opposite. In the end of days, bad things will wax worse and worse until the world calls out for a savior. No one who is in heaven is there because they reached perfection—they are there because they responded to the gospel and came to the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Scriptures about the Kingdom are all related to the Millennial Kingdom, not some other “kingdom” that the Christian Church will in some way reign over now. That is why it's popular for a dominionist to believe that we are already in the Millennial Kingdom since the cross. If they were to believe otherwise, then their theology would not work.

[But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”](#)

2 Timothy 3:13 | King James Version (KJV – *emphasis “typographically” added*)
NAR churches are all about seeing God's Kingdom come through:



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REVIVAL & RESTORATION OF

Kingdom culture, established on revelation by impacting
spheres of influence.”

On the surface this all sounds fantastic! Seriously, what Christian wouldn't want this? However, once you understand they believe all of this will come about through themselves (through signs, wonders and “*lying miracles*”) and not Christ, only then will you see the deception.

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false commission:
seven mountain mandate

of the new apostolic reformation cult

In order for Christ to return to earth, the church must take control of the seven major spheres of influence in society for the glory of Christ. Once the world has been made subject to the kingdom of God, only then will Jesus return and rule the world.

ARTS BUSINESS

RELIGION MEDIA EDUCATION FAMILY GOVERNMENT

Now it will come about that In the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it.”

Isaiah 2:2 | New American Standard Bible (NASB)
3. THE “SEVEN MOUNTAIN MANDATE”

The NAR and proponents of the seven mountain mandate have abandoned biblical teaching on the end times, choosing to believe that Christians must set the stage for Jesus' second coming by achieving dominion over the world's systems. They believe Jesus will only return to a world that mirrors the kingdom of God. This idea parallels the New Age teaching that man becomes a co-redeemer of planet earth.

11 the deadliest deception however, is their misuse of the Bible and a lack of Scriptural understanding

4. NAR DENIES THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE (BUT CLAIMS THAT THEY DON'T)

NAR adherents may believe in the inerrancy and authority of the Bible, but God's breathed-out Word is just not enough for them. Jesus' sacrificial death for our sins is not good enough; the promise of eternal life in Heaven is not good enough. They feel a need to add to the biblical text by way of teachings and reported experiences such as trips to heaven, face-to-face conversations with Jesus, visits by angels, which have no Scriptural bases in the Word of God whatsoever.

Interestingly enough, most NAR Churches will proclaim their believe in the inerrancy of Scripture on their websites. Anyone can make that claim, but does this mean they actually follow the Bible over experience?

On their websites they will make publically, bold statements such as:

WE BELIEVE

The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God.”

We Believe the Bible | AN ACTUAL “WE BELIEVE” STATEMENT FROM A NEW APOSTOLIC REFORMATION CHURCHES WEBSITE

Once again, NAR churches place a greater emphasis on experience such as dreams, visions and extra-biblical revelation than they do on the Bible. Just because they say something as one of their claims,



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doesn't mean it's true or that they follow that claim, which is unequivocally the case according to their other practices and beliefs as we will see.

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NAR churches almost always abandon the major tenets of the Scriptures—so they came up with their own Bible version instead.

5. THE PASSION TRANSLATION²

The Passion Translation (TPT) has become very popular among churches that are part of the New Apostolic Reformation movement. The popularity of this translation is due, in no small part, to the many NAR leaders who have endorsed this translation, including Pastor Bill Johnson of Bethel Church in Redding, California. Bill Johnson called The Passion Translation *“one of the greatest things to happen with Bible translation in my lifetime.”* – **Source:** Holly Pivec of spiritoferror.org

The lead translator was Brian Simmons—founder of Stairway Ministries in Wichita, Kansas. Simmons calls himself an “Apostle,” working with Harvest International Ministry.

The Passion Translation has many serious problems such as:

- The sole translator was Brian Simmons, who claimed he had been transported to the “library of Heaven” where “Jesus” had commissioned him to write this “translation.”
- He claims to have had what is commonly repeated within the NAR as “revelation downloads” from “Holy Spirit.” This supposedly gave him a supernatural ability to translate since he is not an actual Bible theologian and does not have a command of Hebrew nor Greek.
- This “Jesus” said he would reveal a brand new chapter of the gospel of John (chapter 22) to Simmons at some future time; In other words, our current Bible has not been sufficient.

2. Copyright: The Passion Translation® Copyright © 2017 by Passion & Fire Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. thePassionTranslation.com

The Passion Translation® is a registered trademark of Passion & Fire Ministries, Inc. 13

To have to explain why this is so wrong (adding extra chapters to the gospels and rewriting the Bible) is evidence of how far we have gone away from what the Scriptures instruct us about this in the first place.

I testify to everyone who hears the words of prophecy in this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.”

Revelation 22:19 | Berean Study Bible (*emphasis “typographically” added*)

Deuteronomy 4:2

You must not add to or subtract from what I command you, so that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God I am giving you.

Deuteronomy 12:32

See that you do everything I command you; do not add to it or subtract from it.

Proverbs 30:6

Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you and prove you a liar.

Revelation 21:5

And the One seated on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Then He said, “Write this down, for these words are faithful and true.”

Revelation 22:7



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“Behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of prophecy in this book.”

The Passion Translation is tailored with NAR terms and concepts throughout—often leaving out major words and concepts from the original texts. This counterfeit Bible also adds other words and thought that are not part of the original Scriptures as well. Unfortunately, many who have bought into this falsified translation are taking the words as authentic and genuine as being a true translation of God’s Words, as they have been told—but it is anything but that. Please watch the following video.

14

lead “translator” Brian Simmons’ heavenly trip to the “library of heaven”

In New Age circles, these trips to Heaven where one is translated or transported to Heaven are considered to be a form of astral projection. These out-of-body experiences are Occult-type practices of which NAR proponents either don’t seem to realize nor understand.

[Heavenly Visitation and Book of John 22 | Brian Simmons with Sid Roth | *It’s Supernatural!*](#)

Video Description from Sid Roth’s, *It’s Supernatural!*: Brian Simmons became a Christian dramatically. He experienced God’s glory in a village in the Central America while he was there as a missionary. He has similar experiences... Pastor Brian had a visitation to heaven and he saw a book which name was “John 22.” God may reveal to you this book of John 22.

YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/OkUomLwpZpl>



Be sure to watch our other YouTube videos about The Passion Translation at the end of the web post article.

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6. THE JESUS FAST

Even though fasting is both a Christian and biblical practice, often NAR churches promote the 40-day fast which comes with the expectation of gaining more power, more signs and new revelation, rather than relational depth with the Lord including Scripture meditation. The present strategy that has been revealed to NAR’s prophets is the importance of the practice of corporate fasting to see a release of miraculous power on earth—with thousands of Christians voluntarily abstaining from eating and drinking for 40 days, so they can open themselves up to the

spiritual realm. – **Source:** *The Jesus Fast: The Call to Awaken the Nations* 7. SOAKING PRAYER AND HEALING ROOMS

Practitioners of soaking prayer attempt to seek out the presence of God through mystical exercises. In this sense it’s very similar to contemplative prayer and contemplative spirituality, both of which find their origins in Eastern Mysticism and came into Christianity through the New Age.

– **Source:** gracethrufaith.com (to be covered more in another blog post) 8. SOZO



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Sozo ministry makes false promises of miraculous psychological cures. Pretending to be based on some radically new, profoundly innovative combination of Christian teaching and psychological science.³ The concept of inner healing has its roots in the teachings of anti-Christian and occultist, Agnes Sanford. John Wimber, David Yonggi Cho, and Robert Schuller are some of the well known psychological practitioners of the inner healing ministry. There are a variety of “memory-healing” psychotherapies masquerading under Christian terminology today,

the most deadly are “regressive” therapies designed to probe the unconscious for buried memories to be uncovered and healed.⁴

– **Source:** Closingstages at closingstages.net

(Due to the complexity of this deception—this topic will need to be covered more extensively in a separate blog post of its own.)

3. Psychoheresy Awareness Ministries: Since after publishing this article, Martin Bobgan has removed the link to his online pdf paper. *(Please see more references in the resource section near the end of this artical post.)*

4. Inner Healing/Healing of Memories: <http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/Psychology/inheal.htm>

9. HEAVENLY VISITATIONS

False teachers claim to have direct revelations from God, even when their teachings contradict the Word of God. If you get some “insight” that you think came from God, but it does not line up with God’s Word (interpreted properly and in context), your “insight” is not from the Holy Spirit! Or, if someone says to you, “The Lord told me...” be careful. Sometimes they will even use a verse of Scripture, but invariably it is taken out of context. The Holy Spirit always leads us to the Word and the all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ according to the Word. Here’s how you can know if a person who says they “saw God” didn’t really see God...

But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.”

Exodus 33:20 | New King James Version (NKJV)

John 1:18 (All: ESV*)

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

Ezekiel 3:23

So I arose and went out into the valley, and behold, the glory of the Lord stood there, like the glory that I had seen by the Chebar canal, and I fell on my face.

John 6:46

Not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father.

Revelation 1:17

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last.

Visitations with New Revelations – Discernment vs. Deception

<https://coffeescribe.ca/visitations-with-new-revelations/>

*ESV – English Standard Version 17

10. FIRE TUNNELS

The practice of “fire tunnels” is a relatively new phenomenon. The basic idea is that people form two lines (i.e. a “tunnel”) through which others walk to receive laying on of hands, prayer, prophecy, and “impartation of the ‘Spirit.’” There are often physical manifestations noted in the participants going through the tunnels.



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Manifestations include appearing drunk, hysterical laughing, falling down, and out-of-control convulsions or shaking. It is important to note that NO Scriptural support or precedent can be found for this practice.

Other miscellaneous and misleading manifestations such as: angel feathers and gold dust / glory clouds

If you thought fire tunnels were seriously strange, there are other dangerously false Holy Spirit manifestations such as so called angel feathers and gold dust (sometimes referred to as glory clouds), which are both demonic in nature—complete lies, false signs, counterfeit miracles and what the Word of God calls “lying wonders.”

In reality, If people where to have actually been in a room where God’s holy glory were to come down over an assembly, all of those people inside would be dead in their non-glorified, not yet resurrected (mortal) bodily states! If this deception wasn’t so serious, it would actually be laughable.

11. SPEAKING THINGS INTO EXISTENCE

NAR adherents believe that faith is a force—it’s something you can use and manipulate and twist; essentially playing God as a little god, making things come into fruition that you want to have happen.

Faith is not placed in God; faith is a force that you direct *at* God— *(to make Him do whatever you want Him to do)*.

For example, if you need healing, you speak it into existence. If we need money, we speak it into existence. This is classic NAR Word of Faith doctrine and practice of which is no different from what the Bible calls divination and witchcraft. In other words, it’s complete garbage!

12. ACTIVATING YOUR FAITH

There is no such thing as “activating your faith,” as faith is not an emotional switch to be activated by turning it on or off. Faith is an assurance on God’s Word. Faith is already active (as it’s a verb) and is a gift from God Himself. These false beliefs foster a sense of prestige, influence, preeminence and greatness in the mind-set of those whom believe they possess such supernatural qualities and abilities over other people and Christians.

13. DRUNK IN-THE-SPIRIT

The Bible nowhere contains a suggestion that to be drunk, spiritually or otherwise, is a good thing for God’s people. In fact, in the Word of God, we are constantly exhorted to sobriety and self-control.

False teachers claim that the drunkenness is the “bridal wine of intimacy” with the person Jesus Christ. The intoxication of God’s Spirit brings refreshment to the entire person, spirit, soul, and body. They claim that drunkenness is one of the highest levels of wisdom in the Kingdom. The call is to “drink and to be immersed in the Shekhina glory!”

Proponents of spiritual drunkenness like to point to Acts, chapter 2, and what occurred on the day of Pentecost, particularly the response of some of the people to it—while ignoring other Scripture as:

But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.”

Luke 21:34 | (NKJV)

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nowhere in all of Scripture are we to activate our faith as that concept reeks of new age mysticism. that is 100% non-biblical and so is what the NAR calls being “drunk in-the-spirit”

WARNING: EXCEEDINGLY DISTURBING CONTENT!



Tormenting Spirit | False Holy Spirit | Heidi Baker

Coffee Scribe’s Comments: *After the “It’s Supernatural” interview, watch mid-way as Heidi Baker completely under the “drunken” influence of a false spirit which is definitely NOT the Holy Spirit becomes drunk in-the-spirit. She then goes on to lay her hands upon a young man in a NAR church revival meeting where he clearly outright manifests demonic possession while at Bethel Church in Redding, California.*

YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/gLcHWeBfHmE>



Note: *If you just watched this video and as a matter-of-factly dismissed what you just saw as simply a non-issue, concluding that that’s just how the Spirit works—then I would strongly suggest that you re-evaluate your beliefs as you are most likely deceived and have become spiritually blind!*

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demonic kundalini spirit behind

the NAR’s earliest beginnings

14. COMPLETE NAR DECEPTION RIGHT FROM THE START!

The same demonic manifestations we see behind the New Apostolic Reformation’s origins are exactly the same spirit manifestations we see today—the similarities are absolutely undeniable, unless you’re deceived.

Kundalini Warning | The Actual Beginnings of the NAR Cult decades ago | with Andrew Strom

Our Video Description: *Andrew Strom details the shocking truth that sparked the NAR! In his documentary, he explains the people behind the movement’s beginnings and the spirit behind the people. Get ready as he plainly shows actual footage of various NAR revivals with their first Apostles and Prophets in relation to what we are seeing today—same spirit, different times.*

YouTube Video: https://youtu.be/2r5fMUct_co



The NAR goes way back to other charismatic renewal revivals. NAR’s earliest Apostles and Prophets revealed, and what’s behind them—you just can’t make this stuff up!

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Where does this madness leave us?

“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.” – 2 Peter 2:1 (KJV)

What does the Bible say?

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try [test] the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” – 1 John 4:1 (KJV)

*“ For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.”
– 2 Corinthians 2:17 (ESV)*

What you can do?

First of all—be sure to know what the Bible says; and most of all pray! Then, do your homework. If your church has any part of the fourteen traits listed above, you'll want to humbly alert your leaders. If the leadership doesn't respond, then quietly leave and as always:

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resources

check out these other website blogs,
links, YouTube videos and books

The amount of information is endless. Even though there is a mix online of reputable sources versus questionable ones, I would say about half the information is very useful and can be trusted. Below is Coffee Scribe's recommended resources that we have vetted for your convince. Enjoy!

Anthony Wood – Errors of Bethel & Jesus Culture

<https://definingdeception.com/>

#DEFININGDECEPTION THE BOOK

Find out more on the deception
that is taking the churches by storm.

Holly Pivec – Spirit of Error

www.spiritoferror.org

Holly Pivec operates a blog, called “Spirit of Error,” that critiques the teachings of present-day apostles and prophets in the New Apostolic Reformation movement.

Holly has written many books on NAR and has appeared on several YouTube and broadcasts. Coffee Scribe encourages you to please check out Holly's blog and materials.

Jan Markell – Oliver Tree Ministries

<https://olivetreeviews.org/>

A wide range of topics including a two-part series on NAR

Closingstages – Sozo Ministry of Bethel Church II

<https://closingstages.net/>

Sozo ministry makes false promises of miraculous psychological cures.

Berean Research – Sozo: a dangerous “inner healing and deliverance ministry”

<https://bereanresearch.org/sozo- a-dangerous-inner-healing-and- deliverance-ministry/>



Living Scripture with the Corinthians.
Week 26: Considering 2 Corinthians – Defining Genuine Christian Ministry

Berean Research helps you learn and equip yourself to prevent falling into deception about cults and movements taking the visible church down a wide path away from Scriptural truth.

Steve Bancarz – Reasons for Jesus

<http://reasonsforjesus.com>

Reasons for Jesus is an apologetics- based website dedicated to providing justification for a Biblical worldview and a rational defense for faith in Jesus Christ. Coffee Scribe encourages you to please check out Steve's materials.

Chris Rosebrough – Pirate Christian Media

<http://www.piratechristian.com>

A Christ-Centered and Cross- Focused Talk Radio. *"It's not just what people WANT to hear, but what people NEED to hear."*

Additional Resources:

[New Apostolic Reformation](#) by Apologetics Index

[New Apostolic Reformation](#) by Berean Research

[Wolves Not Sparing The Flock \(Part 1\)](#) by Jan Markell

[Wolves Not Sparing The Flock \(Part 2\)](#) by Jan Markell

[What is the New Apostolic Reformation?](#) by Sola Sisters

False Spirits Invade the Church: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#) A Documentary by Andrew Strom

[The Six Hallmarks of a NAR Church](#) by Berean Examiner

[The New Apostolic Reformation Cornucopia of False Doctrine, Dominionism, Charismania and Deception](#) by Messed Up Church

[Popular False Teachers](#) see links for *"International House of Prayer (IHOP)"* and *"Jesus Culture/Bethel Music/Bethel Church (Redding, CA)/Bill Johnson"*

[Drunk in the Spirit](#) by Todd Friel

[What is the International House of Prayer? \(IHOP\)](#) by Got Questions

[The Dangers of the International House of Prayer \(IHOP\)](#) by CARM

[Love and Death in the International House of Prayer](#) by Rolling Stone

[Leaving the NAR Church](#) testimony series by Amy Spreeman

Thank you for taking the time to read this article posting. I pray that you conduct your own research and verify the findings for yourself. Please, Never stop reading the Bible, the Word of God!

Matthew 22:29 – *"Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God."*

Acts 17:11 – *"Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the*

Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.