

# **BILL JOHNSON THE DECEIVER**

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/25418818>

## **Bob DeWaay: Bill Johnson, IHOP, & Ancient Heresy Reborn**

<http://www.echozoe.com/archives/2509#sthash.YkFbGjOM.dpuf>

### **SEE ALSO GREAT EXPOSES OF WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING**

<http://theexposes.weebly.com/index.html>



**Bill and Brenda Johnson are the Senior Pastors of Bethel Church in Redding, California. Bethel Church is firmly aligned with the Word-Faith movement and identifies with the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR), or the Third Wave Movement with its "prophets," "apostles," and alleged manifestations. Bill Johnson is called an "apostle" by C. Peter Wagner. His theology has amounted to what some call a "de facto denial of the deity of Christ."**

**In some parts of Christendom there are 'Strange Manifestations' that are being witnessed around the world today, in particular, what we are seeing today known as the 'Lakeland Revival' or 'Florida Healing Outpouring'. These manifestation, (Shaking, Jerking, convulsing/epileptic like movements, drunkenness, gold dust, gems, feathers to name just a few!) similarly witness also in previous 'outpourings' such as the 'Toronto Blessing/Outpouring', are being embraced as a move of God (or the new thing that God is doing). Not only are these disturbing but are also being accompanied by numerous unscriptural teachings and extra biblical revelations but their leaders are devoid of integrity and support adultery, divorce, lying and stealing! Preachers who are liars, scoundrels thieves and even perjurers devoid of integrity like Bill Johnson's friends Todd Bentley or Pastor John Arnott go to hell not heaven!**

**Yes, the devil is a liar and so are his friends Pentecostal Third Wave preachers such as Benny Hinn, Bill Johnson, Peter Wagner, John Arnott, Steve Strader,**

**Todd Bentley, Rodney Howard Browne and Patricia King who have been openly shown to the world to have lied about things and have character assassinated those who don't lie and don't do what they do including robbing, raping and using the sheep!** (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/36084239/Press-Release>), <http://tl.gd/h373hf>  
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/38075133>, <http://www.scribd.com/doc/17673980/>  
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/33784302/>

**THERE IS NOTHING WONDERFUL ABOUT DECEIVERS AND PEOPLE DEVOID OF INTEGRITY IN REVIVAL ALLIANCE WHO ARE HYPOCRITES, ADULTERERS, SLANDERERS AND THIEVES WHO PERSECUTE AND SUE REAL CHRISTIANS! EVEN THOUGH THEY STATE:**

***"Revival Alliance is a group of six ministries, committed to friendship and unity. All of these men and women, and the Christian ministries they represent, are passionate about loving Jesus, declaring the Father's Love, embracing God's manifest presence, and releasing anointing for signs and wonders and evangelism to the world. Together, let's receive impartation and anointing from these amazing men and women of God!***

***John & Carol Arnott, Bill Johnson, Randy Clark, Che & Sue Ahn, Heidi Baker, Georgian & Winnie Banov"***

<http://johnandcarol.org/itinerary/revival-alliance-conference>

I would recommend Pastors and Evangelists around the world to WATCH what is happening in this following video. YOU will be held are accountable to God. This is the "counterfeit anointing". The "New Age" demonic spirit that comes as an angel of light. "Bill Johnson" of Bethel Church speaks about the manifestations at his church of gold dust, wind gusts, fire tunnels, glory clouds, etc. The Home of the music band "Jesus Culture". WAKE UP Church! These are all false teachers that are a part of the "New Apostolic Reformation".

"But, of course, there must be divisions (heresies) among you so that you who have God's approval will be recognized!" -1 Corinthians 11:19

**BILL JOHNSON & the NEW AGE**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wKPjf1mjb8>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zH2PF-A6\\_i4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zH2PF-A6_i4)

# **Warning –**

## **Bill Johnson and Bethel Church**

**by Andrew Strom  
January 23, 2013**

**I am really hoping to make this the last of this type of article for a while. Some people think I “love” putting out this stuff. But I honestly wish it would all go away, so we could get on with the ‘real’ work of building the kingdom.**

**However, Bill Johnson is doing such damage to the Body of Christ around the world that I simply cannot stay silent. In New Zealand (where I am currently) he holds a huge Conference once a year called “Manifest Presence”. This is almost certainly the biggest and most influential Christian conference in the whole country. And likewise in other nations, such as UK, Australia, Singapore, and many others. His influence is enormous.**

**Bill Johnson is a very charming man. He also emphasizes a number of things that I heartily agree with – such as street evangelism using the gifts of the Spirit, prophecy and healing on the streets, etc. But the problem is that he endorses and promotes an “anointing” exactly identical to the one that Todd Bentley promotes. The “drunken glory”, fire-tunnel, laughing, jerking, gold-dust, “Angel-mania”-type anointing that has done such damage to the Charismatic movement around the world – and in many cases reduced it to a shocking travesty of what it once was. What would Derek Prince or Keith Green think of the things these men are into – spiritual drunkenness, “portals”, ‘visualization’, spirit-travel, fire-tunnels, angel-orbs and the like? (Found all the way through the New Age movement, but not in the Bible).**

**Bill Johnson was one of the biggest supporters of the Lakeland revival led by Todd Bentley. And even after the fiasco that it became, he publicly endorsed Todd Bentley’s ministry again in 2011. But Bill does it all with such “down-to-earth” charm and wise-sounding words – “how could this be deception?” That is what makes him so dangerous.**

**His wife Beni is co-pastor with Bill of Bethel church in Redding, California. And interestingly she is even more open about the bizarre things that they are into. She even puts it in writing on the Internet, for all the world to see.**

**For example, in her “Life and Wellness” blog on July 6 this year, here is what she wrote in an entry called ‘Love Shack Time’: “I was talking with Ray Hughes the other day and was telling him about using a 528 HZ tuning fork as a prophetic act. Someone told me that this tuning fork is called the tuning fork of LOVE...” (Please note that crystals and tuning forks are used in NEW AGE therapy – and have nothing to do with Christianity in any way).**

**Beni continued: "Recently I got up to speak at a meeting and walked up to the song "Love Shack" by the B52's. I was calling people to more love. It was so fun."**

**I guess we are now beginning to get a sense of the strange spiritual world that these people inhabit. Another blog post that Beni wrote about 'WAKING UP ANGELS' in March 2009 was also very revealing:**

**"In the last couple of months, I personally have become more aware of the angelic activity in this realm. One of those times was when we were on a prayer trip to Arizona... One morning as we were driving up over Tehachapi Pass and coming down into the Mojave Desert, I began to feel angels. The closer we got, the stronger the impression felt. I could see them everywhere!.. I announced this to the group and said, "We have got to stop! We have to stop somewhere..." As we drove around a corner I said, "I think that we are going to wake up some angels here..."**

**"We knew we were to turn around, get out of the RV and wake up the angels. I wish I could convey to you the energy and the quickness of how God was working. We jumped out of the RV, I blew the shofar and rang the bell, and we yelled "WAKEY WAKEY." We got back into the RV and drove off. As we drove off, hilarious laughter broke out! We were stunned at the speed at which this all took place and were spinning from the adventure and the angelic activity. What in the world had just happened?! Heaven collided with earth. Woo hoo!!**

**"Since that time, there has been a stirring in me to awaken the angels for use in this Kingdom reign that is upon us here on earth. I have shared these two stories in other places and have done a prophetic act of waking up the angels: having everybody cry out, "WAKEY WAKEY!" I know it is strange but it is very effective... One of our gals who enjoys God's angels... gets pretty wacked when they are around..."**

**The reference that Beni makes here to "Heaven colliding with earth" is of course directly tied to Bill Johnson's most famous teaching on "When Heaven Invades Earth". Clearly, this is the kind of thing they mean when they use that phrase. So if we get with their program so-to-speak, we too can go around "waking up angels" and getting "pretty wacked" when these 'angels' are around.**

**I guess the obvious question is whether they are "serious" about all this. Sadly, the answer is "Yes." When you get so completely deceived that you think "drunken glory" and 'tuning forks' and getting "wacked" are normal Christian behaviour, you are open to anything. Tragically, if we look at all that these people have said and done now for years and years, we have to conclude that one of Christendom's biggest leaders (Bill Johnson) inhabits the most bizarre quasi-spiritual universe that you can imagine. And he is spreading this deceived foolishness in the Body of Christ on a mass scale. It might seem almost "funny" if it wasn't so 'New Age' serious.**

**One young lady named Johanna who had been a student for many months at Bill Johnson's 'Bethel' school wrote to me the following:**

**"In August 2008 I moved to Redding, California to attend Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry (BSSM). I graduated in May 2009... Almost right away I began to question the bizarre behavior that is so normal there.**

**"At Bethel, there are many sayings that are tossed around daily... "God only has nice things to say," "There's no high like the Most High." There would be all kinds of distracting behavior (random shouting, laughing, etc.) during school sessions and church services. When any guest speaker came to school, students would flock to the front to get as close to the speaker as possible. We were taught that any anointing we wanted could be received by simply "claiming it" for ourselves. Students would rush the stage and the front of the sanctuary so the speakers could lay hands on them.**

**"Among the guest speakers were Bob Jones, Heidi Baker, Georgian and Winnie Banov, Randy Clark, John and Carol Arnott... We also had regular sessions with Bill Johnson, Beni Johnson... and other Bethel pastors. The drunken behavior and questionable teachings from some, if not all, of these speakers was shocking at times. I can safely say that I never heard the word "repentance" once in any teaching.**

**"I remember when the Banovs came, the whole place was complete chaos. When they touched someone, that person would jerk violently or stumble around as if they were drunk. The Banovs minister to people in trash dumps around the world... What I remember them talking about was love, joy, bliss, and the new wine.**

**"Angels were often talked about. I remember Beni Johnson actually took an RV across Arizona and New Mexico to wake up angels that were supposedly sleeping. (Another one of the common phrases, "Wakey wakey"). I would always hear people talking about their encounters with angels and how they visited heaven. One young woman I knew said she could see angels everywhere, she talked to them all the time, and she would help her friends to do the same... God becomes like Santa Claus. Without the preaching of the true gospel, the fear of the Lord is lost."**

**ANDREW AGAIN: As you can see from all these reports, the ministry of Bill Johnson is highly suspect. Sadly, because the deception is not as "obvious" as Todd Bentley, people are charmed into thinking he's "fine". Charismatic leaders around the world flock to his meetings and openly endorse his teachings. For this reason I believe he is far more dangerous than Todd Bentley ever was. The Bible says that in the last days will come false teachers and "lying signs and wonders" to deceive if possible the "very elect." And what do we see today? New Age practices and spirits are flooding the church. And it is men like Bill Johnson that have become the "acceptable face" of this invasion. Please, friends, steer well clear.**

God bless you all.

Andrew Strom

<http://moriel.org/MorielArchive/index.php/discernment/church-issues/warning-bill-johnson-and-bethel-church>

## GRAVE SUCKING BILL JOHNSON

### Have you heard of Grave Sucking?

Can the [Word of Faith](#) hyper-mystical- Third Wave crowd get any more bizarre? What is with this new [occult](#) sounding practice often referred to as [grave sucking](#)?

Yes a supposed Christian "pastor," Bill Johnson led a group to John Lake's grave. He was looking for Lake's anointing to heal the sick by a supernatural power. The people seeking this new paranormal anointing prostrated themselves upon Lake's grave weeping, worshipping and expecting that Lake's ministry power would strike them and his spirit would infuse them with a sign and wonders ministry like he had when he was alive. Thus, a new preternatural cult was formed that day that is now referred to as "grave sucking."

Mr. Johnson testified about this bazaar act of desecration and necromancy (the practice of attempting to communicate with the spirits of the dead in order to predict or influence the future) that he and his group committed on the Sid Roth's radio show, "It's Supernatural".



Johnson spun a weird mystical/Occult experience tale to Sid Roth about meeting the Late John Lake's angel in the building where Lake had previously ministered in his healing rooms. He testified that two ladies went to a back room and they met a giant angel there that healed one of the women. They called Johnson and when he came into the room, he claimed there was an angel

about 10 feet tall. Sid asked him, did you see the angel? Johnson replied "No, but I knew he was there and the angel said to me, 'What took you so long, I've been here for 80 years!"

Johnson said, they saw a "for lease sign" and He rented the building and opened his first "healing room."

## **HEALING ROOMS**

Satan used Bill Johnson to recover the unorthodox healing ministry by angels' guidance of John Graham Lake (1870-1935). The restoration of this man's heresy has spread internationally on the wings of the Third Wave Movement.

"For there shall arise false Christ's, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect..." (Matt 24:24).

We understand that many individuals who are involved with the Healing Rooms Ministries International are very sincere and well-meaning people. Our sounding the alarm about the problems associated with the Healing Rooms is not to pass judgment on the kindness and sincerity of others who are trying to help people through Christian prayer. We encourage all Christians to pray as Scripture instructs us too. We, like others are concerned with the unbiblical practices that take place. Scripture commands Christians to expose false doctrine and unbiblical practices, and it is false doctrine and its fruit – spiritual deception, that we are seeking to warn people about.<sup>2</sup>

According to Scripture, false teachers who masquerade as "Apostles of Christ" ought to be rebuked, we believe that Scriptural exhortations to rebuke and expose false teachers and false teaching also apply in our day – even if they come wrapped in the guise of "healing rooms", "centering prayer", "Christian yoga", etc. Just because people claim to be "Christian Apostles", "Anointed One's", "God's Generals", "Healers", Christian yogi's, etc., does not mean that they are. of God. What one teaches and practices reveals outright whom they serve – God, self, or the Devil. <sup>3</sup>

Spiritual Research Network and other Bible based ministries are sounding a warning about the *Healing Rooms* because of the unbiblical and even occult teachings and practices that appear to take place in *Healing Rooms* and *Healing Room* type settings. There are many variations and styles within the Healing Room movement and each healing room is different in how it practices its theology and methodology. <sup>4</sup>

To note, many ministries are also warning about the cult doctrine of Prosperity Healing, Word Faith Teachings, Latter Rain Teachings, Dominion Theology, etc., that are being sold through the *Healing Room International Ministries* Online Bookstores, i.e., <https://healingrooms.com/> – Patricia King, John and Carol

*Arnott, Todd Bentley, James Goll, Georgian Banov, Stacey Campbell, Joshua Mills, Benny Hinn, Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, Kim Clement, Mike Bickle, and many, many more.*

# **HERESEY OF NECROMANCY (TALKING TO THE DEAD)**

## **BILL JOHNSON AND THE HERESY OF NECROMANCY**

### **Ministry of the ghouls**

How the Healing Rooms were founded. These healing rooms having "healing angels"; the Bible says: *"Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,"* (Col. 2:18)."

I personally know a woman who reported to us that she had gone to Spokane, Washington with Bill Johnson and a group of Christians to investigate John G. Lakes' healing ministry.

They wanted to see John G. Lake's home. Some of Lake's relatives had bought his home and were restoring it. They refused to let these weird Christians inside. However, they were pulling up old lanoline and other things and throwing this stuff out for the trash. The Christians, like vultures, grabbed the Lake trash out of the garbage. She brought this rubbish to her home and made a collage cross and hung it over her bed.

The Roman Catholic Church is famous for seeking relics of dead saints. They collect hair, bones and objects that they display in the Vatican and cathedrals around the world. Every church cornerstone will have a relic planted in the building.

After leaving Lake's old home, Bill Johnson and his group went to the cemetery to visit his grave. This woman told us they all "rolled on the grave" to get Lake's anointing."

Then they went to the old building where he conducted his healings. To their amazement, the building was up for lease. She said, "A woman needed healing and they were in a back room. Suddenly, peace came into the room... A tall angel was in the room and healed her friend.

They got Bill Johnson and when he came into the room, he claimed on Sid Roth program that the angel spoke to him and said, "Where have you been..... I've been waiting for you to come for 80 years."

Sid Roth asked him, "Could you see the angel?"



Bill Johnson admitted that he could not see the angel that he sensed his presence.... He then said, "He was about 10 or 11 feet tall."

Johnson leased the John G. Lake building and thus we now having "Healing Rooms," around the nation.

The woman friend of mine told us that many then went to Kathryn Khulman's grave and rolled on her grave to receive her anointing and then they went to Aimee Semple McPherson's grave and Corrie Ten Boom.

Bill Johnson says, *"There are anointing's, mantles, revelations and mysteries that have lain unclaimed, literally where they were left because the generation that walked in them never passed them on. I believe it's possible for us to recover realms of anointing, realms of insight, realms of God that have been untended for decades simply by choosing to reclaim them and perpetuate them for future generations."*<sup>6</sup>

## **GOD'S GIFTS DO NOT COME FROM GRAVES**

Well Mr. Johnson, my Bible tells me that the Holy Spirit gives gifts to whom He wills; angels have nothing to do with the Christian gifts of the Holy Spirit.

*Truth doesn't come from seeking the dead.*

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning,"* (Jam.1:17).

*"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*(Rom. 8: 38, 39).

## **GRAVE SUCKING EXPLAINED**

"We as believers (in what?); must find a way to retrieve the mantle or anointing from the rotting corpse six feet under. Only then can we get God's plans back on track. This is achieved by placing our hands on the gravestone of the deceased or lying on top of the grave. Sometimes a prayer will be offered to God to aid in this perceived power transfer."<sup>7</sup>

I kid you not! Some people actually believe this. God's plan has in fact been frustrated and now God needs us to seek out His lost anointing so we can bale God and His plans out. They believe that by laying there on the grave they will be able to pull the anointing from the dead. It's as if they believe the Holy Spirit is lost and doesn't seem to realize that the person they empowered is dead and is no longer able to minister in this empowered way. Suddenly the

Holy Spirit senses someone is lying on the dirt six feet above His head. The Holy Spirit, apparently not caring who is laying up there decides to jump into the new body giving them the supernatural abilities that the dearly departed once had. Again this assumes that the person in the grave was in fact empowered by the Holy Spirit. 8

*"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works," (II Cor. 11:13-15.)*

*"While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. 20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire," (II Pet. 2:19-22)*

**CHECK OUT THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE AT**

## **GRAVE SUCKING**

<http://www.remnantradio.org/Archives/articles/PH/PH.htm>

**Bill Johnson and his group at Bethel Church in Redding California are really off the wall, wackos, and have their own terms to define their stupidity and demonic experiences –**

**See Bethel Terms and Phrases**

<http://www.redding.com/news/2010/jan/18/no-headline---2010-01-17-233610626141/>

**Come on Jesus:** A phrase generally used when testimony of a miraculous event is shared or when someone is believed to be healed.

**Drunk in the spirit:** To exhibit signs of drunkenness while under the power of the Holy Spirit. Also known as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

**Fire tunnel:** A common practice at Bethel Church in which two rows of people line up as sides of the "tunnel" and a line of people file through to receive anointing of the Holy Spirit, similar to impartation.

**Holy laughter:** When one is overcome by laughter for no obvious reason, due to the

power of the Holy Spirit. Also known as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

**Impartation:** To lay hands on, or otherwise form a connection with, someone to bestow spiritual gifts upon them.

**Shofar:** A horn fashioned after the ram's horns used in Jewish ceremonies. Commonly used for healing and impartation.

**Slain in the spirit:** When one falls to the ground under the power of the Holy Spirit. Also known as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

**Speaking in tongues:** When one speaks in a language unknown to others through the power of the Holy Spirit. Also known as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit and is taken as a sign that the person has truly received the Holy Spirit.

**Whacked:** To be filled with the Holy Spirit and exhibit manifestations of the Holy Spirit as listed above. Also referred to as "whacked by God," "whacked by the Holy Spirit" and "whacked up on Jesus," etc.

## RECOMMENDED READINGS

BILL JOHNSON IS THE DECEIVER <http://www.scribd.com/doc/25418818>

BENNY HINN THE SCOUNDREL <http://www.scribd.com/doc/17673980> RANDY

AND PAULA WHITE PARASITES PROSTITUTES PIMPS

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/35148151>

CATCH THE FIRE - DEMONS FROM HELL <http://www.scribd.com/doc/38075133> THE  
NEW APOSTOLIC REFORMATION IS DECEPTIVE

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/16611959>

TODD BENTLEY IS A DEMON FROM HELL <http://www.scribd.com/doc/47784235/>

THE DEMONIC Lakeland-Revival WITH TODD BENTLEY AND STEPHEN STRADER

<http://www.scribd.com/walthope/d/34189317>

FALSE PROPHETS [http://www.inplainsite.org/html/false\\_prophecy.html](http://www.inplainsite.org/html/false_prophecy.html) Dominion  
Theology [http://www.inplainsite.org/html/dominion\\_theology.html](http://www.inplainsite.org/html/dominion_theology.html) Heaven Can't

Wait [http://www.inplainsite.org/html/heaven\\_cant\\_wait.html](http://www.inplainsite.org/html/heaven_cant_wait.html) JOHN ARNOTT,

TACF/CTF ARE CRIMINALS, PERJURERS THIEVES

<http://tl.gd/g215i1> <http://tinyurl.com/78t3dxw> <http://tinyurl.com/2fxgggt>

## Bethel to Feature Bob Jones at Upcoming Prophetic Conference



January 13, 2011 by Craig 7 Comments

In an advertisement on Bethel's website is an upcoming "prophetic conference" - Piercing The Darkness - to be held at Bill Johnson's Bethel Church February 23 - 25, 2011. Featured speakers are Bob Jones, Joseph Garlington, Graham Cooke and Bethel's own Kris Vallotton. This blog post will focus on dangerous false prophet Bob Jones.

Yes, false prophet. I do not state these words lightly. This is stated not just because some of his "prophetic words" with specific parameters have proven false - even though this is true. It is said because, in addition, some of his "words" are downright anti- Biblical, not just extra-Biblical. So, who is Bob Jones?

Here's the blurb from the upcoming conference:

"When only seven years old and walking on a dirt road in Arkansas; the Arch Angel [sic] Gabriel appeared to Bob Jones on a white horse and blew a double silver trumpet in his face. He then threw an old bull skin mantle at Bob's feet. Although fearful at the time he ran, however, many years later he returned to pick up that old mantle which is that of a Seer Prophet. Bob Jones is known as a contemporary prophet with a great love for the Lord Jesus and His truth. His prophecies have spanned over four decades as the Lord has enabled him to foretell earthquakes, tidal waves, comets and weather patterns. Like Daniel who functioned at an incredible level, Bob has often told leaders their dreams and experiences, as well as their interpretation.

"After his death experience in 1975 God sent him back to minister to church leadership and reach the multitudes with His love, truth and equipping the saints with understanding of the spiritual gifts. God promised Bob that he would see the beginning of one billion souls coming into the kingdom in one great wave of the end time harvest.

"Bob moves with a clear revelatory gifting, accompanied by gifts of healing and miracles." [all as per original]

<http://notunlikelee.wordpress.com/2011/01/13/bethel-to-feature-bob-jones-at-upcoming-prophetic-conference/>

## **Bob Jones is very Dangerous and so are his friends Todd Bentley and John Arnott**



The Kansas City Prophets movement eventually ran out of steam and crumbled, but not without leaving behind many rotten fruits for us to glean insight from. The prophecies which pervaded the movement ranged from outlandish to absurd, with tales of angel visits and trips to Heaven.

**Bob Jones, considered to be one of the most powerful of the movement, was removed from ministry at the Vineyard in 1991 for sexual misconduct. He used his "prophetic gift" to fondle women in the church. This is taken from the same article at Deception in the Church:**

Bob Jones, however, who not so long ago was regarded as the most powerful of the Kansas City crowd is out of ministry. First when Wimber's Vineyard absorbed the Kansas City Fellowship, Jones and another "prophet" were disciplined for making some outlandish statements and prophecies that were judged to have harmed some, and their prophecy tapes were removed from distribution. Jones's ministry was then limited to church leadership "behind closed doors." 31

But it was behind those doors where Jones's ministry ended. Two women came forward in 1991 and told Vineyard leaders that Jones had used his prophetic authority to touch and fondle them sexually. 39 Jones admitted it and was removed from ministry. "In recent months, I have manipulated certain people for selfish reasons on the basis of my prophetic gifting," Jones said in a statement that he dictated and signed before the Metro Vineyard

Fellowship senior leadership on November 4, 1991. "I have been guilty of sexual misconduct, and I deeply regret this. (I have not committed adultery.) Source.

This is Todd Bentley's mentor. This is the man Bentley continually lauds as a source of wisdom and reliability. If only Bentley would put as much credence and value in God's

Word instead of fallible man...

<http://slaughteringthesheep.wordpress.com/2008/05/22/todd-benleys-mentor-bob-jones-disciplined-for-sexual-misconduct/>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gordon Williams** <[gordwea@rogers.com](mailto:gordwea@rogers.com)> Date: Fri, Jan 14, 2011 at 12:01 PM

Subject: Re: Bob Jones is very Dangerous and so are his friends Todd Bentley and John Arnott He was removed from ministry at the Vineyard in 1991 for sexual misconduct. He used his "prophetic gift" to fondle women in the church.

Sexual sin or any other kind of sin denies the authenticity of any so-called prophecy. Remember what Jeremiah said in the name of the LORD, "The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priest rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?" (Jer. 5: 31). And, "Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to the priest Everyone deals falsely (Jer. 6: 13). Lamentations 2: 14 tells us, "Your prophets have seen for you False and deceptive visions; They have not uncovered your iniquity, To bring back your captives, But have envisioned for you false prophecies and delusions." The suffer from what Paul said, "Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, to make them believe what is false, so that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2Thess. 2: 11 - 12). Yours in Jesus Christ, Gordon

## **Bob Jones- a Tail of a Prophet**

<http://www.letusreason.org/Latrain52.htm>

# **BILL JOHNSON AND FRIENDS ARE DECEIVERS**

## **Bethel lists evangelical ministries as its friends**

Prominent friends of Bethel as listed at [www.ibethel.org](http://www.ibethel.org)

**Benny Hinn Ministries:** Benny Hinn is an evangelist who holds Holy Spirit Miracle Crusades each year. His ministry is engaged in crisis relief and children's programs, according to his Web site. In 2002, Dateline NBC investigated Hinn's revivals and reported there was no medical evidence to support his claims of supernatural healings.

Dateline also reported Hinn lived extravagantly in a gated Dana Point community. A May 2005 investigation into Hinn's finances by an independent evangelical organization led to a donor alert that stated the Hinn family spent an "exorbitant" amount of money and that the ministry had far more money than it needed to carry out its mission.

**Extreme Prophetic:** Extreme Prophetic lists the Nicene Creed as their statement of faith. Patricia King, a self-proclaimed prophet, is the president of the ministry, which serves to equip people with prophetic ministry, intercession, and evangelism. King recently posted videos of her predictions for 2010 as given to her by God. Bill Johnson is on the apostolic advisory team.

**Fresh Fire Ministries:** Todd Bentley, founder of the ministry, is a Canadian evangelist who is well known for his sometimes violent methods of healing. Bentley has hosted several revivals and has publicly spoken of how he has kicked, hit and knocked over participants. Bentley said the Holy Spirit told him to do those things and that miracles were happening simultaneously. Bentley was convicted of sexually assaulting a 7-year-old Canadian boy in 1991 but said he changed his life when he became a Christian at age 18. In August 2008, Bentley announced his separation from his wife and in March married a female member of his staff. Bill Johnson said a restoration team was formed to help Bentley. Johnson serves as a member of Bentley's accountability team, according to the ministry Web site.

**Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship:** Led by John and Carol Arnott, the TACF was one of the Association of Vineyard Churches until the 1994 Toronto Blessing revival. At the revival, people were anointed by God as evidenced by the worshippers being overcome with "outbreaks of laughter, weeping, groaning, shaking, falling, drunkenness, and even behaviors that have been described as a 'cross between a jungle and a farmyard,'" the TACF Web site said. The church has seven campuses and estimates that 4 million people have visited to receive the power of the Holy Spirit like those who attended the Toronto Blessing, church leadership say on the Web site. Johnson will speak at the Pastors and Leaders Conference at the church from today until Friday.

**Global Awakening:** Founded by Randy Clark just after the Toronto Blessing revival, Global Awakening is a Pennsylvania-based international teaching, healing and impartation ministry. Clark was the guest speaker at the Toronto Blessing. From Jan. 12 through Friday, Clark headlined a School of Healing and Impartation conference hosted by Bethel Church at the Redding Convention Center. Healing services were open to the public nightly.

<http://www.redding.com/news/2010/jan/19/bethel-lists-evangelical-ministries-as-its/>

## Bethel Church's Bill Johnson

By Amanda Winters Saturday,

January 16, 2010 **Name:** Bill

Johnson

**Occupation:** Senior pastor of Bethel Church.

**Age:** 58.

**Background:** Fifth-generation pastor, was the pastor of Mountain Chapel in Weaverville from 1978 to 1996.

**Education:** One semester at Shasta College, one year at the Genesis Bible Training Center in Santa Rosa.

**Family:** Married to Brenda "Beni" with three grown children: Eric, Brian and Leah.

**Nonprofit:** Bill Johnson Ministry.

**Income:** Compensation as president of Bill Johnson Ministry was \$372,037 in 2007 (most recent figure available); salary as pastor of Bethel is not known.

**Travel:** Johnson is scheduled to travel outside Redding a total of 106 days in 2010, which includes trips to South Korea, Canada, Australia, Norway and England.

## Bethel Burgeons Under Pastor's Visions of Prosperity

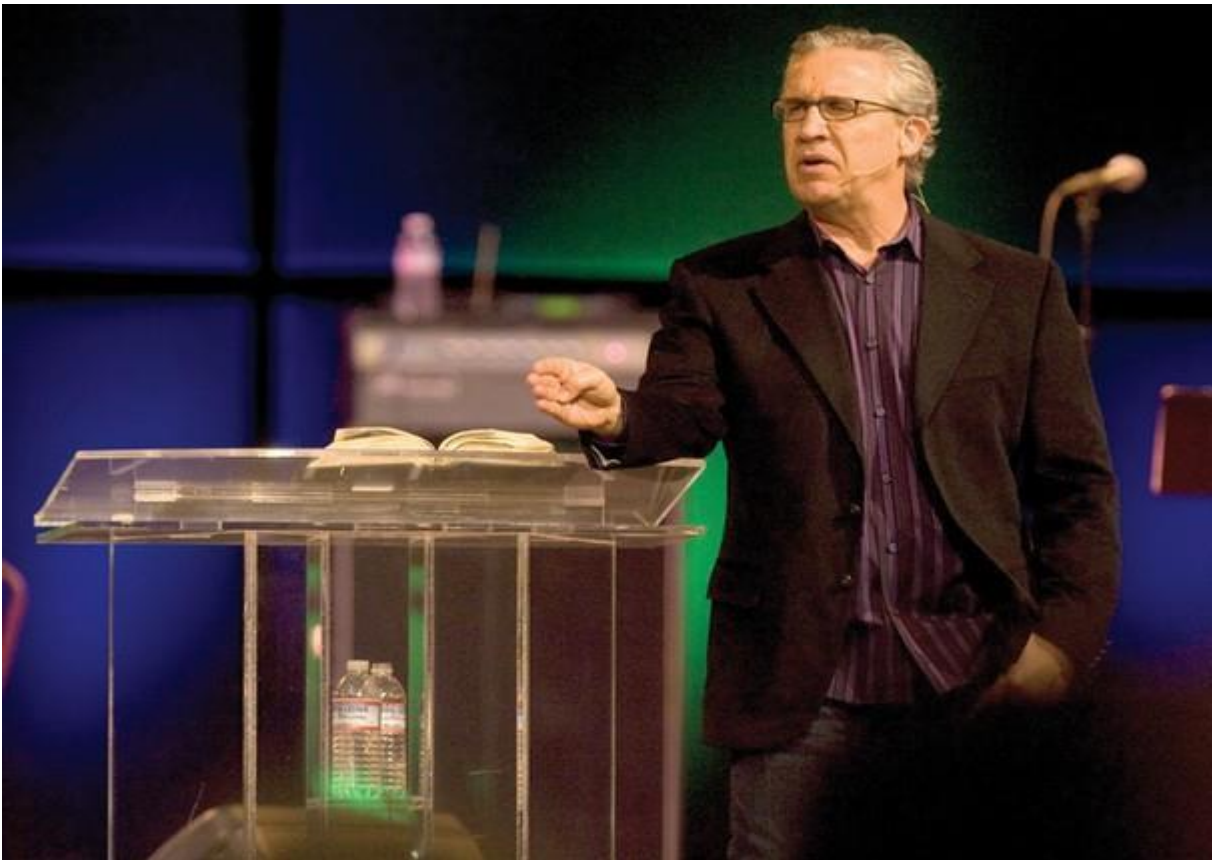


PHOTO BY GREG BARNETTE

Bethel students and church members worship while "Dance in the River" is performed by musicians at a young adults service on Nov. 19 at Bethel Church.

*Bethel Church: Unleashing the power*





Bethel Church Senior Pastor Bill Johnson gives a sermon Sunday, Nov. 29, at Bethel Church. "We have been amazed at God's goodness, said Johnson. "We love our city and are so glad to be associated with so many churches and to pursue trying to serve in every part of society that we can serve in."

Growing up the son of a fourth-generation pastor, Bill Johnson never imagined he'd someday be the driving force behind a north state megachurch and economic powerhouse.

But somewhere along the way, things changed.

Established as a small Assemblies of God Church in Redding 50 years ago, Bethel Church has become a household name in this north state community in a little more than a decade since Johnson became pastor. The church, much more than a house of worship, reaches out to an estimated 3,000 congregants, brings in millions in revenue to the community with its conferences and schools, and has more than 30,000 people tuning in to its new online media business venture.

Bethel has fed off a sometimes controversial national movement of Christian Pentecostals from the mid-'90s whose central messages focus on miraculous healings, bringing heaven to earth, speaking in tongues, prophecy and learning to release the supernatural powers of God. Bethel now has several successful businesses, large local land holdings and its own multimedia production center.

"We have not succeeded fully yet," Johnson said of the church's prosperity in an e-mail sent shortly before departing for a conference in South Korea. "But what has been

accomplished has been done by living a life of, and teaching on, generosity. Prosperity is often the result of doing things right."

Johnson, 58, describes himself as a simple man and a simple pastor. His signature look is dressy casual: Button-up collared shirts - untucked - paired with fashionable blue jeans and shiny shoes with black rectangular-framed glasses and slicked-back gray hair.

He talks soft and low, very conversational, yet authoritative. He moves fluidly and sits comfortably in his church office, decorated regally with shades of gold, black and deep red.

Johnson is the senior pastor of Bethel Church and oversees a team of nine senior leaders along with Kris Vallotton and Danny Silk. Though Bethel has undeniable reach and influence in the community, Johnson is quick to deflect the attention.

"We don't ever want to project the idea that Bethel is the answer, especially as compared to some other great churches in town," he said. "This city has some amazing churches and I'm good friends with a lot of pastors around here. What he (God) is doing in Bethel he's doing in similar churches around town and that's fascinating to us. That's wonderful."

It's also an understatement.

## **The business of Bethel**

Atop a hill off Highway 299 just east of Interstate 5 at the end of a drive flanked by colorful national flags, abides a sanctuary at the heart of 70 acres - and a worldwide mission.

With close to 360 employees, Bethel is one of Shasta County's largest private employers. It draws thousands to Redding each year, hoping to see miracles, have a supernatural experience or learn to unleash the power of God through conferences or visits to the Healing Rooms Ministry. A successful online media venture has also garnered followers around the globe looking for spiritual guidance on how to bring heaven to Earth. The Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry (BSSM) pulls in more than a thousand students a year seeking faith-healing techniques.

Bethel is more than a church - it is a conglomeration of various businesses, varying from a coffee shop to an online multimedia production and distribution company.

As "the Avenue of Nations" continues to wind up to the main building, some are lucky enough to find parking outside the lobby of HeBrews Coffee. The shop is reminiscent of Starbucks, a favorite of Johnson's, and is filled with young people sitting around the tables and standing in the corners talking between BSSM classes. The church runs this coffee shop inside the main building as well as a bookstore called Eagles Nest, which features books written by the church leaders. "The Supernatural Ways of Royalty: Discovering Your Rights and Privileges of Being a Son or Daughter of God" by Johnson and Vallotton, along with "Release the Power of Jesus" by Johnson grace the shelves.

One of the newest business ventures is iBethel.TV, which streams conferences, sermons and interviews on the Web. Each week, a free downloadable sermon is offered, usually generating 24,000 downloads, administrator Charlie Harper said. To get unlimited views of the videos and audio posted on iBethel.TV, users must subscribe, which costs from \$5 to \$19 a month. Harper said about 4,000 people subscribe but about 30,000 people log in to view the free broadcasts.

The TV studio is housed in Bethel's polished new high-tech Communication Center on Caterpillar Lane, purchased over the summer for \$900,000. The building underwent extensive renovation from July to November to make it functional as an office building and broadcasting hub. The total investment was \$1.6 million.

The Communication Center also serves as headquarters for Jesus Culture, Bethel's youth outreach ministry that hosts three conferences in Redding every year, as well as conferences in Atlanta, Las Vegas, Dallas, Cleveland and several abroad in Australia and England. The conferences bring thousands of young people from around the world to the host cities.

### **Conferences boost local economy**

When Johnson became pastor of Bethel, it was already a megachurch. But under his leadership, outreach through schools and conferences has spread Bethel's message of bringing heaven to earth and unleashing the supernatural power of God, causing the church to grow substantially.

"The conferences are a way that we can train people that either don't have the ability, time, or money to come to our school," he said. "We love to train and equip people to do what Jesus did and commanded us to do."

Jesus Culture's mission is to raise up a new generation of revivalists, Jerry Niswander, managing director, said.

The ministry is supported by registration fees, which run from \$35 to \$50, and product sales, including T-shirts and CDs from the Jesus Culture record label. Artists include Kim Walker, whose hit "Where you go I go" expresses a heart-wrenching desire to do God's will, and Chris Quilala, best known for his driving ballad "Your love never fails."

Niswander said more than 3,000 people attended the two-day February 2009 Jesus Culture Conference in Redding and the three-day July conference saw about 2,000 attendees. Both conferences were held at the Redding Convention Center. The third, specifically for youth pastors, was held in September at Bethel and had 250 in attendance.

"We've almost doubled (attendance) since 2007," he said.

Frank Strazzarino Jr., president and CEO of the Greater Redding Chamber of Commerce, said visitors spend an estimated \$75 to \$125 per day when they come to Redding. Using those figures, the Jesus Culture Conferences alone could generate more than \$1 million

in local economic activity collectively.

"In many cases, they (convention attendees) consider a return to our community for a vacation trip after they have attended a conference," Strazzarino said in an e-mail, adding that some people eventually end up moving to the area.

Chris Gonzalez, general manager of the Redding Convention Center, said Bethel Church is a huge asset, renting the center for five events each year.

This year, Bethel will host at least 10 conferences, including the three Jesus Culture conferences, a conference on healing and laying on of hands, and a conference on prophecy.

The Bethel School of Impartation and Healing conference was held last week at the Redding Convention Center and heavy traffic clogged the area as people swarmed to Auditorium Drive.

Bethel's Web page steers out-of-towners to local hotels, including the Comfort Inn, which offers a 20 percent discount for Bethel conference attendees.

### **In his father's footsteps**

Johnson moved to Redding with his family in 1968 when his father, Earl Johnson, became pastor of Bethel Church, which at the time had a congregation of fewer than 200.

As a child, he loved sports, especially baseball, and was a good athlete. Though he didn't like school, he earned decent grades. Music had a huge place in his life, thanks to the influence of his parents, he said.

"My parents were very musical," he said.

Johnson's son, Brian Johnson, has continued the family's musical legacy by becoming the worship director at Bethel.

After attending the Genesis Bible Training Center in Santa Rosa and spending five years on the Bethel staff, Bill

Johnson became pastor of Mountain Chapel in Weaverville from 1978 to 1996.

Johnson returned to Bethel in 1996 as pastor, taking over the position his father held from 1968 to 1982. Ray Larson was the pastor of the church from 1984 to 1996, and under his leadership, the church grew from 200 congregants to more than 2,000.

Now, with another 1,000 members and a decade of healthy growth under its belt, Bethel Church receives between \$3 million and \$4 million a year in tithes and offerings, Johnson said.

Johnson's vision for creating a culture through a church has made Bethel an economic force in its hometown and its expansion over the past decade has been continuous.

"We're in a process right now with an architect that has designed a building," Johnson said of the latest plans for the church's \$10 million main campus on College View Drive.

In an iBethel.TV interview, Johnson said church leadership had been given the prophetic word to create what he called an apostolic resource center. The new center would include a larger sanctuary, 900 parking spaces and more buildings to house the church's ministries. The new center will cost an estimated \$7 million and be completed sometime in 2012.

### **Drawing students to Redding**

Aside from the restaurant and hotel revenue gained from Bethel Church's conference, Bethel's schools also draw people to the community - most notably the Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry.

"I had a vision for a school of this type for many years before coming to Redding, intending to start one in Weaverville," Johnson said in an e-mail. "I brought the vision for BSSM to Redding when I came. It was my job to set the priorities and ministry direction as well as hire the staff that could help get it done."

Founded in 1998 with just 36 students, the September-through-May school now enrolls about 1,200 students, 370 of whom are from foreign countries, Johnson said.

Nathan Grammar, 31, moved to Redding from Mississippi during the summer to attend the school, which he heard about in Kansas City, Mo., through the International House of Prayer ministry.

"Some of the things that really drew me to it were the fact that we believe in miracles and there's a lot of testimonies that come on podcasts and really cool things happening (at Bethel)," he said while sitting outside HeBrews Coffee on a sunny fall afternoon.

The curriculum focuses largely on learning about life, learning to unleash God's supernatural spiritual gifts like speaking in tongues and healing, and being a person of honor, respect, integrity and purity, he said.

"People need practical training, not just theories," Johnson said,

Tuition at the school is \$3,600, not including living costs. Grammar laughed when he said someone anonymously paid his tuition in full because he didn't have enough money.

"It was pretty wild," he said.

Grammar is one of many students who rent apartments in Redding. Amanda Coats, property manager of Hilltop

Garden Apartments, said there's a "Bethel market" in the rental sector.

Coats said in September 70 percent of her traffic was from Bethel students looking for a place to live for the school year. Many of them are from Norway, Switzerland and South

Africa, she said.

"Some of them have actually found permanent residency here and have lived here for a year or two now," she said, adding that about 15 percent will stay for the full three-year program.

### **God's favor for Redding**

Johnson said he thinks God's favor is on Redding and compares the ministries of Bethel to those of John the Baptist.

"In the Bible, there's a character named John the Baptist who came to Israel and preached before Jesus did," he said. "He's the one who prepared the way but he was out in the wilderness, he wasn't in the big city. People had to leave the city to go out there."

Johnson said people hear about the wonderful things happening at Bethel - the healing, the anointing, the prosperity, the closeness with God - and they come.

Johnson's vision for Bethel is also largely a vision for Redding and beyond.

"Bethel is part of a bigger (picture)," he said. "I want Redding to be a safe place. I want it to be a place where families work, where marriages work, where kids don't get abused, where businesses can thrive, where there aren't unemployment problems. We have a role that we play."

His vision was echoed in a congregational prayer led by Kris Vallotton at a Sunday service in early December, lasting more than five minutes and asking God to bring healing to Redding. Prayers to eradicate abortion, divorce, cancer and poverty were spoken aloud as people joined hands across the aisles. In the closing prayer of the service, Johnson again appealed to God to use Bethel as a tool of transformation in Redding.

"We pray right now for the peace, the soundness of mind, the prosperity to help this city and this region," he prayed. "We confess Lord, we know that you've tucked a blessing for us in the blessing you've given to this city. We pray for this in Jesus' name."

<http://www.redding.com/news/2010/jan/16/bethel-burgeons-under-pastors-visions-of/>

**Bethel's 'signs and wonders' include angel feathers, gold dust and diamonds**



PHOTO BY [GREG BARNETTE](#)

Alan Wade, of Lufkin Texas, center, worships with others Sunday Nov. 29 during Bethel Church's 11 am service. Wade finished his ministry school last year and his daughter is in her first year and his wife in her second. Wade, who had to return to Texas for work, visits his wife and daughter and attends services several times a year.

Bethel Church has seen extensive growth over the past decade as the focus of the church has shifted to training people in prophecy, healing and other "supernatural gifts of God" taught under the leadership of Pastor Bill Johnson.

Though about half the estimated 2,200 people attending Bethel left when he took over in 1996, Johnson said now nearly every church service is full each week, including the Twin View campus and an overflow room, which could easily add up to more than 3,000 congregants.

Ask Johnson about the affiliations, goals and purpose of Bethel Church, and he'll say the church has lots of "friends" who share in the pursuit of affecting the Earth with heaven, especially Pentecostals and those in the Association of Vineyard Churches.



Bethel Church member Ann Mack waves flags during a Sunday service Nov. 29 at the church in Redding.



Bethel Church senior pastor Bill Johnson greets church patrons as they leave Sunday service Sunday Nov. 29.

Bethel was part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God until January 2006 when the church membership voted to withdraw their affiliation, and today Johnson hesitates to link Bethel to a specific movement or group.

Those who examine the practices of Bethel identify it as being part of a larger movement known as the Word of Faith movement. Connected to prominent revivalists and prophets including Todd Bentley, Patricia King, Bob Jones, and the leadership of the Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship, the Word of Faith doctrine teaches that faith is a force through which anything can be done, said John Wolf, founder of the Church Education



Resource Ministries.

Wolf is one of Johnson's many critics and is no stranger to Bethel Church.

### **'Why wouldn't it be popular?'**

Wolf grew up in the San Francisco Bay area and graduated from Simpson University in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in Church Education Ministries, he said, speaking by phone from his South Carolina office. It was during his time at Simpson that he first came across Bethel Church and the teachings of Bill Johnson.

On his Web site, [www.cerm.info](http://www.cerm.info), Wolf said the Word of Faith movement, which is closely intertwined with the Third Wave movement, blends mysticism and teachings from metaphysical cults. Mysticism is the pursuit of a divine connection with God through direct experiences and usually revolves around a practice to encourage and facilitate the experiences.

"The Bible does not teach that you alone have the power to do things," he said. "The Bible teaches that God is the one who does things."

The Third Wave movement is based on the belief that there have been three distinct historical periods in which the Holy Spirit has been extensively active. The first was the Pentecostal revival around 1906, the second was the Charismatic movement of the 1960s and the third began in the 1980s with a new commitment to signs, wonders and supernatural experiences with God.

"Bethel thinks they can train people in the supernatural ministry and they can go out and heal people and raise the dead," Wolf said. "It's false teaching. Every healing I've heard a Third Wave person (talk about) can't be verified."

One of the core differences between these movements and mainstream Christianity is that most Christian denominations teach that miracles stopped with the original apostles of Jesus, while the Third Wave/Word of Faith teach that miracles and supernatural gifts continue today, Wolf said.

He said Johnson mocks the word of God with his conversational, comedic preaching style and believes the feel-good messages of prosperity and miracles are what keep people coming.

"He preaches a seeker-friendly message," he said. "He says what they want to hear."

People go to that church because they want to get healed. People go there because they want to get a million dollars. Why wouldn't it be popular?"

### **Speaking out**

After a strange experience with an erratic Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry student who baby-sat his children, Bart McCurdy of Cottonwood decided to find out for himself what was going on at Bethel.

McCurdy said he attended a Friday night service at the church, during which he saw people painting on stage, dancing and flailing around on the ground. He found their worship music unconventional when one line of the same song was played for at least 11 minutes, he said.

McCurdy said the repetitive music, dancing, painting and excessive stimuli serve to get people worked up into an emotional frenzy where they're expecting to see miraculous things.

"They come looking for that feel-good feeling, that high, for supposed miracles, supposed signs and wonders, speaking in tongues, gold dust, diamonds, feathers. ... It seems like they're just ready for it," he said.

Once, as she ran through her house frantically searching for her journals, the baby sitter told McCurdy the anti-Christ was in her house and Jesus was in hell saving people, he said. Shortly after that, she went into a trancelike state and said she felt 20 feet tall before losing consciousness, he said. The behavior made him believe she was demon-possessed, he said.

McCurdy said he regularly downloads podcasts of Bethel messages and hasn't heard the Christian gospel message taught at Bethel. His Web site, [www.heraldingtruth.com](http://www.heraldingtruth.com), is to educate people on what he believes are false teachings and challenge those involved in the movement, he said.

"I see Bethel and those in this movement as idolaters," he said. "They worship the 'gifts' or the signs and wonders, rather than the creator, or

the savior."

### **Signs and wonders**

When "angel feathers" first started to fall at Bethel Church, Bill Johnson thought birds had nested in the air conditioning ducts, he said.

"Then it happened in a restaurant and all different places - on an airplane," he said. "I don't know, I don't teach it, it just happens."

Johnson said he bases his belief that the feathers are a sign from God on a Bible verse that says, "there is healing in his wings," and he doesn't try to explain it.

"I don't want to be able to explain everything," he said. "Then I'll have a God that looks like me. That's not very impressive."

Bud Press, director of the Christian Research Service based in North Carolina, devotes his time to researching claims made by Christians for the purpose of debunking or confirming the claims. Bethel is part of the Signs and Wonders movement, within the Word of Faith movement, he said. Aside from claims of angel feathers, people in the movement say diamonds and gold dust show up at church and in their homes, he said.

Press said he contacted many church leaders, including Johnson, who claimed to have angel feathers, asking them to send some for a study. Most ignored him but one obliged and sent a package containing a few feathers, which Press said he took to ornithologists, scientists who study birds.

David H. Ellis, an ornithologist and chairman of the Union for the Conservation of Raptors' Science Advisory Board, was one such scientist. In his responding statement, dated Nov. 12, 2008, Ellis wrote: "The feathers you sent me are very obviously like normal bird feathers, and there is nothing about them to suggest they are other than bird."

Press said there is nothing in the Bible to back up the claims of angel feathers but there are a host of other explanations.

"Birds shed feathers all the time, even in flight," he said. "It's nothing to see a feather floating down from a building or something like that. But if you're caught up in the deception and went to church last night and they talked about feathers falling from heaven ... immediately you're going to think it's a feather from heaven."

Press said he believes the signs and wonders movement is spiritually dangerous and cited Bible passages that warn against it.

On his Web site, Press links to the story of a Washington man who was caught and later admitted to planting gemstones in an Arizona Vineyard church, claiming they were put there by God.

"Jesus himself warned that a corrupt generation, a deceptive generation, seeks after signs and wonders," he said. "Because individuals have been caught red-handed spreading around not only angel feathers but diamonds, precious gems, gold dust from heaven and all of that, it's very clearly deception."

### **Making Bethel home**

Mary and Mark Morin moved their family to Redding from Colorado Springs, Colo., to go to Bethel Church, but not without reservations.

**Bethel is well known for its connection with the Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship (TACF) and the Vineyard churches, but both churches are controversial flash points in charismatic Christianity, Mary Morin, 51, said.**

The TACF was one of the Association of Vineyard Churches, which is part of the Third Wave movement, until the Toronto Blessing revival in 1994. The strange behavior exhibited by those experiencing "the anointing of God" caused a rift between the Vineyard churches and TACF.

The Morins weren't sure what to think of Bethel's association with the two groups because they believed in God's supernatural powers but thought certain aspects of the movement might be too extreme for them.

"But they're the main ones seeing signs and wonders so it was always

sort of a love- hate thing," she said. "Do we want to throw in our lot? This thing looks awful weird. ... But we're desperate."

The Morins attended New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colo., while Ted Haggard was pastor and endured several years of drama after the pastor admitted to a homosexual affair and a gunman later opened fire outside the church as Sunday services were wrapping up.

When Mark Morin, 59, became sick with alkalosis in early 2008 after unintentionally overdosing on alkaline drops for a year, he and his son decided to drive to Bethel so he could be healed, he said.

Alkalosis is a condition where the body has too much alkali, which can cause muscle spasms, twitching, numbness, difficulty breathing and, in extreme cases, can lead to a coma. Mark Morin said he would put the drops in his green tea every day because he thought it would purify the drink and prevent levels of acid within his body from getting too high.

While he wasn't healed on the trip, what the Morins found instead was a strength in the presence of God unlike they'd found anywhere else, Mark Morin said.

Since they started attending Bethel, their children have experienced prophetic gifts and holy laughter, he said.

"I believe with all my heart God wanted us to come to Bethel," he said. "We were happy, we were in our dream house and we had a successful business. God used alkaline drops that I misused to get me to Bethel."

### **Responding with love**

Bethel's mission is to change society by being a blessing to Redding, bringing prosperity, healing and God's supernatural powers to Earth "as it is in heaven," Johnson said.

He's heard it all. He's heard people say Bethel is a cult, that he's a false prophet and that he tries to model after healing evangelist Benny Hinn.

"I don't have a high value for how I'm labeled by somebody else," he said.

People come to Bethel because they're desperate for something real and the passion sometimes scares people, he said. But at the end of the day, all that matters to him is that he was honest to his heart, he said.

"There's too many people to touch in this world," he said. "Why shoot at each other?" Reporter Amanda Winters can be reached at 225-8372 or

[awinters@redding.com](mailto:awinters@redding.com).

<http://www.redding.com/news/2010/jan/19/bethels-signs-and-wonders-include-angel-feathers>

***Bill Johnson and his group at Bethel Church in Redding California are real off the wall wackos and have their own terms to define their stupidity and demonic experiences –***

## **Faith healings, dead raising teams part of Bethel experience**

By Amanda Winters

Monday, January 18, 2010

Jonathan Lair stood in the middle of Bethel Church's Healing Room on Dec. 5 and joyfully got straight to the point: "I'm going to get new feet today."

A pastor at a church in San Diego, Lair said he came to Redding so he could go to the Healing Room at Bethel and be cured of a painful condition that has caused his feet to be flat his entire life. Lair, 27, was barefoot and had rolled his jeans up above his ankles, exposing his flat, calloused feet.

"I will see my arches healed," he said just before two women on Bethel's Healing Rooms Ministry team approached him. "I really believe that."



As Lair closed his eyes and bowed his head, the two older women stood on either side of him and began to pray quietly, tapping him on the chest and back. They motioned for another woman, one with a ram's horn known as a shofar, to come to where they stood. She began to blow the shofar at Lair's feet and in moments he fell to the ground, shaking.

## Healing Rooms

Every Saturday morning from 9 to 10:30 a.m., two large rooms in Bethel Church are transformed into the Healing Rooms Ministry; a place where people can come and receive prayer for any kind of ailment.

Randy Castle, who was acting director that Saturday, said the healing rooms generally see 100 or so visitors - and up to 300 on a busy weekend.

Four teams with about 70 people each work the Healing Rooms. Many pray over visitors, commanding the body to be healed, speak in tongues and invite the presence of the Holy Spirit through impartation, or laying on of hands. Others, Castle said, play worship music in the "Encounter Room" where people can go bask in the presence of God.

Music performed in the Encounter Room made its way through the Healing Room speakers, repeating "God is good, God is good, God is good," while worshippers prayed, danced, laughed, cried, fell down and lay on the floor under what they say is the power of God. According to

Bethel leadership, this is the room where people are cured of cancer, broken bones, chronic pain, multiple sclerosis and a host of other diseases.

## Supporters of the supernatural

Adam Short, a 28-year-old from North Carolina, runs [www.Healingherald.org](http://www.Healingherald.org) where he posts stories of miraculous healings from the Healing Rooms and beyond.

Short is a third-year intern at the Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry (BSSM) and said he has received words of knowledge and signs from God leading him to people who needed to be healed.

During an April 2008 mission trip to Mexico with Bethel, Short said he noticed a man with a full leg cast.

"There was a thought that came to my mind, which I believe was God, and said, 'This man will walk out of here healed,' " he said.

Short said he prayed for the man and the man said the painful bone spur under the cast had dissolved. Short then prayed for the man's tunnel vision to be healed and it was, he said. During the prayers, he made declarations, he said.

"In this case we command the eyes to line up according to heaven," he said. "We're commanding those eyes to come back into alignment as to the purpose that God made for them because God made eyes to see, not to be confined to a tunnel."

Short said his goal for the Web site is for people to be encouraged by the good

news and not question it.

"Nobody ever questions bad news," he said.

'Things just happen'

Bill Johnson, Bethel's senior pastor, settled into a plush black couch in his office, his arm around an animal-print pillow. Before anything else, he wanted to talk about healing.

"We just had another brain tumor case of cancer healed," he said. "We have a lot of that kind of stuff happen. It's verified by doctors, they do the tests and the cancer's gone. We have a lot of that sort of thing - miracles."

Johnson, who himself required hernia surgery last year and wears prescription glasses, teaches that the supernatural miracles that happened in Biblical times still happen today if people just value God's presence and open themselves up to receiving it.

"Because we have such value for his presence with us, things just happen," he said. Johnson said that healings happen all the time and he doesn't feel he needs to provide any documentation or hard evidence to inquiring minds. He also said he doesn't check up on people who come to Bethel for healing - he doesn't have the time.

"If you're sitting here and you say, 'I've been deaf in my left ear since childbirth,' and I pray for you and then I have you close your right ear and I whisper 10 feet away and you can hear me, I don't feel like I need to get a doctor's report," he said. "I'm happy you're happy you can hear. That's enough for me."

Though he had people praying for his hernia to heal early in 2009, the condition still required surgery and Johnson said that was OK because God can use doctors as well as he can use Bethel's healing teams, though both are necessary.

"The doctors serve a great purpose but they'll tell you they can't fix everything," he said. "Some things need to be fixed by a miracle or just aren't fixed at all."

Johnson said in his sermons he often tells the congregation stories of miraculous healings to encourage them. One such story was about a group in the small, rural city of Shelton, Wash., whose goal it is to raise people from the dead.

## **Dead Raising Team**

In an Oct. 19, 2008, sermon, Johnson shared a story about a former BSSM student who moved to Washington State and started a ministry called the Dead Raising Team.

"DRT," he repeated the acronym dramatically at several points during the story. In a video of the sermon, Johnson said the team got approval from Mason County to be listed along with other county services and had been given badges so they



can go behind police lines if there's an accident or fatality. Johnson told the audience, who erupted in shouts of "come on, Jesus" and cheers, that there had been one resurrection so far.

Marty Best, manager of the Mason County Department of Emergency Management, said he met the Dead Raising Team and suggested they become volunteers for his department so they could have access to emergency situations.

"Our mandate is to protect life, property and environment," he said. "If a person is raised by a defibrillator and adrenaline or by prayer they still return to their loved ones."

Best said the team must first get the permission of the unit commander before they can start praying over a fatality and they can never impose it on anyone.

In contrast to what Johnson said, the DRT is not included in the services listed on the Mason County Web site. Nor have there been any resurrections, Best said. "Not yet," he added.

Johnson said the resurrection he mentioned in his sermon was from a DRT report and that he never said it had happened behind police lines.

SkepDoc weighs in

Harriet Hall, a retired family physician and former Air Force flight surgeon, writes a column in "Skeptic" magazine and "O," The Oprah Magazine, on topics including science, alternative medicine and what she calls "quackery."

"When faith healings have been diligently investigated by qualified doctors, they have found no evidence that the patients were actually helped," said Hall, who also writes under the name "SkepDoc."

After Hall took a look at the healing testimonies posted on Bethel's Web site - specifically addressing the testimony of the woman healed of brain cancer - she had a host of questions.

"Where are the medical reports? Where are the X-rays? Why was this case not written up in a medical journal? What happened to the patient afterwards?" she said in an e-mail.

Hall said the Journal of the American Medical Association formerly featured a testimony of a patient who was cured of cancer on one page with the patient's death certificate printed on the opposite page, showing that the patient had died of cancer shortly after providing the testimony.

Faith healings, Hall said, are never properly documented or investigated because the people involved want and need to believe. Without evidence, the claims ring hollow, she said.

"If you challenge the pastor to participate in a formal study to establish that these healings are really occurring, you will get lots of rationalizations and backpedaling with no understanding of how science can go about testing for the truth of a

claim," she said. "They have no interest in finding out if the healing is 'real' because they already 'know' it is real for them."

Indeed, Johnson said he has no interest in proving anything to anybody.

Hall closed her e-mail with a warning: "Faith healing can be deadly when patients are led to believe they don't need conventional medical treatment."

Waking up

Back in the Healing Room, Jonathan Lair lay peacefully on the floor, covered in a dark green blanket, while the three women continued to pray over him and blow the shofar at his feet. At one point he got up and hopped up and down in the middle of the room where people were painting pictures on easels, before lying back down again. Eventually, one by one, they walked away and left him lying still on the floor.

Lair slowly sat up 10 minutes later and looked around. He looked at his feet, then stood up. He said he had expected bones to crack and form an arch but his feet were still flat. "I look at them, and they don't look healed," he said.

But his faith was not shaken, he said, because he felt so loved and maybe the physical healing was secondary to the spiritual experience he had.

And he still believes that, someday, God will heal his feet.

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[http://www.redding.com/news/2010/jan/18/faith-healings-dead-raising-](http://www.redding.com/news/2010/jan/18/faith-healings-dead-raising-teams-part-of-bethel/?partner=popular)

[teams-part-of-bethel/?partner=popular](http://www.redding.com/news/2010/jan/18/faith-healings-dead-raising-teams-part-of-bethel/?partner=popular)

## Comments by others on Redding.com

- Bethel is a demonic church that exists only to rip off believers.
- Bethel is no different than all other forms of religion - all about brain-washing....and money. From the beginning of organized religion they have all been corrupt. Bethel is worse than Mormons at your door though as they approach you in public and "pray" for you...crazy crazy crazy...oh well, as long as it doesn't impact me, I don't care...just don't "pray" for me!
- I have fond memories of Bethel back when Ray Larson was the pastor there. I attended the old Bethel that use to be on Bechelli, and I was a little girl when

it switched to its new location. It's sad what happened to Ray and his family. Larson's wife, Becky, was a very on fire for God Christian; she is with the Lord now. Anyhow, I will always hold a special spot for the old Bethel in my heart.

- I too attended Bethel when it was on North Bechelli and Earl was pastor. I was married in that church. I have an issue with a church that has investments as a business. Jesus threw the money lenders out of the temple. I don't understand what kind of msg it is supposed to deliver when the pastor rakes in over three K in a year, and there are homeless and starving people in the streets of his churches home. That's the main reason I have no respect for the Catholic church. Oh well, I'll stop my rant here.
- It absolutely amazes me that the Record Searchlight can spend this much space lauding the accolades of Bethel Church, yet we see little to nothing about state and national political issues. This article reads like a paid recruiting advertisement for Bethel Church. I wonder if St. Joseph's, Our Lady of Mercy, Little Country Church and ALL the other local churches were to demand equal coverage - would they get this much attention.
- This article is WAAAAAY overboard - and makes me wonder if the reporter or the editor(s) at RS are church members. I guarantee you that spouting religious commentary
  - like the "prayer for Redding" at the end of the article - is going to turn off LOTS of readers - and this paper can ill afford that to happen.
- Religion and undying faith (not to mention donations) in some self-proclaimed leader is for the weak willed - ever wonder why church leaders are called "shepherds" and their congregations "flocks" - like sheep, these people are susceptible to mind manipulative suggestion, and will follow along and do anything their leader does or tells them to do.
- RS - Please keep your religious opinions to yourself or dump articles like this onto some "Sunday Church Page" - but do not presume to spout prayers at your readers on the front page!

## **“Bill Johnson is in danger”**

**All I know is I awoke this morning with the words: “Bill**

**Johnson is in danger.” He is in danger because he**

**supernaturally “fathered” Todd Bentley by being a  
chief apologist for him as well as a catalyst for the “commissioning  
ceremony” of  
June 23rd at Lakeland.**

Johnson was responsible for this travesty because he relied upon Bob Jones' false prophecies and demonic visions about Bentley, number one, and – number two, Bill Johnson decreed that Bentley —needed to be commissionedll by people as a REACTION to the criticism and Berean stance that many charismatics, myself included, had with Todd Bentley's Emma angel, etc.

Bill Johnson has said that he made phone calls to Bob Jones, Peter Wagner and Che Ahn in order to counteract the criticisms of Todd Bentley at Lakeland and then, using specious reasoning, divined that the right thing to do would be a public \_commissioningll ceremony that Johnson somehow thought would stop the discernment and criticism of Bentley.

Normal charismatics or Christians cannot understand this sort of reasoning. Johnson wanted a —show of force on the stage at Lakeland for Todd Bentley. He got it.

**But then every one of the men and women there were shown to be foolish and false for attending and “going surety for a stranger” by sticking their neck out for Todd Bentley, who was in sin with his mistress at the time.**

**This is the subtle aggression of the NAR. It flared up in Johnson last year when someone challenged him about Bentley and Johnson basically told that person to jump in a lake.**

**Rick Joyner’s recent public blackmail of Lee Grady is another “show of force” by these NAR “apostles”.**

**This desire for a show of force or power in the natural is because of a number of factors for those infected with the false teachings of the NAR.**

**You see, God cannot answer the prayers of people who think THEY are aligning the heavenlies. God cannot answer the prayers of people who cavort with or try to get information out of demons. God is a jealous God, and when He moves, He always confirms it and always gets the glory! The NAR think they are so special and elite, they don’t realize they are trying to steal God’s glory for themselves...**

**... so what happens is... God doesn’t answer their prayers. He allows them to make utter fools of themselves, as happened at the June 23rd commissioning ceremony of Todd Bentley. But there is a deeper even more problematic issue for those of the NAR who follow false teachings of Hamon/Joyner/Jones/Wagner...**

**Since God cannot answer their prayers, they inculcate a spirit of**

**unbelief. It is a horrible, hellish situation they find themselves in, if any of them ever had true faith.**

The more they practice the NAR foolishness, the more God does not answer their prayers, and the more they doubt God and the more they get into unbelief. So then they start to need a sign. Or signs.

Why do they start to need —a signll from God at that point?

Because they have prayed (in their own perverted, C Peter Wagner —strategic warfarell

falseness) and God has not answered them, and they now doubt inwardly that God

even exists. They are in Unbelief. So they need a sign to keep them going.

A personal prophetic word. They become hooked on —seeking a wordll or false drunkenness or other manifestations.

They have fallen into the very trap Moses and Jesus Himself warn against —It is a wicked generation that seeketh a signll.

But the NARbots need the —signll to convince them God is even there — failing to recognize that the only separation we ever have from God is because of one thing — OUR OWN SIN.

The NARbots like Bill Johnson failed to see the sin on Todd Bentley because they no longer understand that it is, and always has been, a problem of SIN on the earth, not a failure to —pray correctlyll or having commissioning ceremonies. None of that mitigates SIN. Bill Johnson deviously covered up the sin of Todd Bentley muscled forward with a `show of forcell at Lakeland to SHUT DOWN TODD`S CRITICS. Yet the Lord has the last Word and last laugh.

So what I heard in the spirit this morning was that Bill Johnson is in danger because he protected Todd Bentley and became an apologist for him. He should instead have openly rebuked Bentley as the apostle Paul or Peter would have done, and had Bentley repent. Johnson then took on Bentley`s critics with a vengeance and blamed the CRITICS, not Todd, for Todd`s sin.

An idea that never crossed my mind before this morning was that Todd Bentley has said that he was told in one of his supernatural demon encounters to —go out and have Jill Austin pray for himll and birth him into his public ministry. She apparently did this four years before Lakeland.

**What I heard this morning was that Bill Johnson was indeed a demonic father to Todd Bentley while Jill Austin had been „his mother“.**

Then the name Doug Addison came up for me.

I had no idea about the NAR myself four years ago when the big —prophetll Bob Jones had a word for Doug Addison and his minstry.

Bob Jones' word for Doug Addison was —Satan is going to kill you if you stay in Los Angelesll. A few disputed this at the time — Jones' record of prophesy has always been spotty and false — but the fear mongering about this word caused Doug Addison to quickly pack it up and high-tail-it out to — you guessed it — North Carolina and the weird house called Morovian Falls where Joyner had some of his visions with Paul Cain and Bob Jones.

This is the same little place that one of Rick Joyner's former followers wrote about how disappointed she had been when she finally saw this little place and could not believe all the hype surrounding it.

Anyway, Bob Jones effectively took out Doug Addison's ministry in L.A.

I'm no fan of TBN but i remember the Arthur Blessit guy saying that at the beginning of the time when he started to carry that huge wood cross around the world, a number of doctors told him he was going to die, and should not go on the trip. He ignored them. Similarly, why would Doug Addison heed Bob Jones word?

Somehow this is related to Bill Johnson heeding Bob Jones word about him being sick. I think Johnson is in grave danger for failing to recognize he is basically allowing a prophecy from the Antichrist. Or at least, the AntiChrist's —False Prophetll in the person of Bob Jones.

Dear Bill Johnson:

How many of Bob Jones' prophetic words even in the last year about Lakeland have now proven to be false? Bill don't you realize how dangerous it is to listen to and agree with false prophets like Bob Jones? I pray you repent and shake off the dust on all this false teaching and witchy false praying.

**Also, Bill, did you swear any blood-oaths with any of the NAR? We need to know what was done in secret between all these Wagner Apostles so we can do as Jesus instructed and "shout it from the rooftops"... Jesus did nothing in secret, as you might recall, Mr. Johnson. Be careful, Bill Johnson. God sends the delusion on those who "no longer tremble at His Word...ll**

 *Comment by AriseMyLove | April 11, 2009*

## **REVIEW OF BILL JOHNSON—** **WHEN HEAVEN INVADES EARTH**

By [Ken Silva pastor-teacher](#) on Jul 5, 2011 in [Current Issues](#), [Features](#), [New](#) [Apostolic R](#)



By [Apprising Ministries](#) special correspondent Bob DeWaay

Bill Johnson of Redding, California has become a popular teacher in one of the latest iterations of the Signs and Wonders movement. His book, *When Heaven Invades Earth*, reveals his underlying theology.

Johnson believes that there will be a great end-time revival that will be initiated by an "Elijah generation"[1] (a concept from the heretical Latter Rain movement) that shall transcend all other generations of Christians in regard to their ability to do great works of power. Johnson claims the following about himself and associates: "We will carry the Elijah anointing in preparing for the return of the Lord in the same way that John the Baptist carried the Elijah anointing and prepared the people for the coming of the Lord" (Johnson: 184)[2].

Supposedly these elitists will set off a great revival of signs and wonders greater than those of Jesus. This miracle explosion, they expect, will cause a great revival before the return of Christ. Johnson states, "I live for the revival that is unfolding and believe it will surpass all previous moves combined, bringing more than one billion souls into the Kingdom" (Johnson: 23).

The basic premise is that God always wants to do abundant and remarkable miracles but is kept from doing so by the fear and unbelief of the church. God awaits the arrival of specially anointed and enlightened Christians who will make it possible for Him to bring at long last an invasion of heaven to earth before the return of Christ. That is the point of Johnson's title. His subtitle is *A Practical Guide to a Life of Miracles*. Accordingly, with the right information, zeal, desire, piety, faith and anointing, any Christian can "make the supernatural natural" (Johnson: 133).

In this article I will show from Johnson's book that he has departed from orthodox Christian teaching in many serious ways. He teaches the heretical kenosis doctrine about Christ. He denies the Reformation principle of *solā scriptura*. He embraces pietism, elitism, subjectivism, fideism, dominion theology, and many other errors. I will claim that his supposed end-time revival is actually end-time apostasy.

### **How to Introduce Heresy**

As I read Johnson's book, I noted the various errors in it by category. At the end of the process the largest number of entries was under "anti-scholastic bias." Johnson is firmly against careful scholarship based on sound exegesis of Scripture. To him, such study is likely to bring one into bondage and spiritual death. Sadly, this bias is widespread in current

evangelicalism, but Johnson is quite blatant in his rejection of scholarship. Johnson claims, "For decades the Church has been guilty of creating doctrine to justify their lack of power. . ." (Johnson: 116). It is hard to imagine what "problem" he is reacting to when most of our evangelical educational institutions are committed to postmodern mysticism, with their heroes being mystics like Dallas Willard and Richard Foster. It is hard to find a Bible college or seminary that does not promote "spiritual formation," which is merely a fancy term for Roman Catholic mysticism. Yet Johnson decries the presence of doctrine. We will see later just how willing he is to depart from orthodox doctrine.

He resorts to an often misused passage that promotes his anti-scholastic bias: "A powerless Word is *the letter* not *the Spirit*. And we all know, 'The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life'" (Johnson: 116). This twisting of Paul's meaning in 2Corinthians 3:6 has a long history of use to promote subjectivism and mysticism. The false implication is that studying the Bible will kill you spiritually. The context shows that Paul was speaking of the letters written on stone (verse 3), meaning the Decalogue. Paul explains how the law "kills" in Romans 7:5, 6. It kills because of our sinful passions that it exposes, not because it is studied for what it means.[3]

For example, does "you shall not steal" have some secret, mystical meaning that can only be assessed by certain elite persons with subjective spiritual impressions, or does it mean what it says? It means what it says. But to truly live as a person who is free from the sin of stealing we need the grace of God that comes through the gospel. In 2Corinthians 3, Paul is speaking of those who have the Law but reject Christ. Bill Johnson is warning Christians that studying the Bible will kill them. In so doing he abuses the passage and lowers the value of Scripture in the minds of his readers.

Johnson warns against "a powerless Word." The only way God's Word lacks power is if we refuse to believe and obey it. The suggestion is false and abusive to the Lord's flock that people like Johnson, who refuse to be taught the truth but relish signs and wonders, have "power" while those who love and believe God's Word are powerless.

It is easy to see where Johnson is taking his attack against Christian scholarship:

Those who feel safe because of their intellectual grasp of Scriptures enjoy a false sense of security. None of us has a full grasp of Scripture, but we all have the Holy Spirit. He is our common denominator who will always lead us into truth. But to follow Him, we must be willing to follow off the map—to go beyond what we know. (Johnson: 76)

We will see in the next section just exactly where Johnson has gone "off the map" and where he wants to take us. The claim that we cannot know the Scripture but can know what the Holy Spirit is saying by other means is absurd. The Bible claims that Scripture *is* the Holy Spirit speaking to the church. The Holy Spirit inspired the Scriptures. We understand the Bible



using our intellect.

Johnson's approach is to use the person of the Holy Spirit as an excuse to reject scholarly Bible study in favor of undefined, subjective religious experiences. He further denigrates the Bible:

But in reality, the Bible is a closed book. Anything I get from the Word without God will not change my life. It is closed to insure that I remain dependent on the Holy Spirit. (Johnson: 93)

His categories are false. The Bible is the Holy Spirit speaking to us and its power is not dependant on us using religious experience to escape its boundaries. Any lack of life-changing power is due to unbelief, not the meaning of Scripture as correctly understood. But Johnson claims that the Holy Spirit leads us off the map. Thus he denigrates *sola scriptura*.

The absurdity of Johnson's claim is such that it amazes me how many are deceived by it. For example, the claim that the Holy Spirit leads us into truth (which He does through Scripture) by some subjective means that go "off the map" and beyond an "intellectual approach" is disingenuous. Those who go off the map are going somewhere. If they have gotten information directly from the Spirit about where they think they should go and then follow it, they are using their intellect as well. The subjective information from the spirit realm must register in someone's mind in order for them to act on it.

So if the intellect is as bad thing when contemplating the Scriptures, why is it a good thing when determining which subjective impressions to follow? But Johnson warns, "The Church has all too often lived according to an intellectual approach to the Scriptures, void of the Holy Spirit's influence." This false dilemma (i.e., either intellect or Spirit) fools his readers into thinking that if they attend hyped up meetings such as Johnson promotes, the Spirit is at work; whereas if they were to carefully study God's once-for-all revealed Word they would be stuck in a "powerless" situation (Johnson: 76).

By discounting careful Bible study, scholarship, and using one's mind Johnson disarms his readers to the point that they are susceptible to heresies such as those he teaches. For example, "Reaction to error usually produces

error" (Johnson: 51). If this is true, why did Paul write Galatians, Colossians, and other of his epistles to correct error? Johnson brags that he doesn't read any books of people who disagree with his version of revivalism. He consistently downplays or rejects the value of scholarly study. He says: "It's in the environment of worship that we learn things that go way beyond what our intellect can grasp" (Johnson: 44). That statement reminds me of one I read from a New Ager who suggested we contemplate "the sound of one hand clapping." How do we learn things but they never register on our minds? Probably by subjective, religious feelings

that remain undefined. By such feelings people like the Dalai Lama feel close to God. But *are* they?

### **Johnson Goes “Off the Map” by Teaching a False Christology**

Bill Johnson embraces a doctrine that teaches that during His earthly ministry Jesus operated only as a man and not God. Johnson claims that Christ laid aside His divinity. Johnson says, “He performed *miracles, wonders, and signs*, as a man in right relationship to God . . . not as God. If He performed miracles because He was God, then they would be unattainable for us” (Johnson: 29; emphasis and ellipses in original). Johnson’s theology requires that Christians do greater miracles than Jesus. If Jesus’ divinity had any influence on His mighty works, then we might think we could not do the same (and rightly so). So Johnson embraces what is often called the *kenosis* heresy—that Jesus laid aside His divine nature. He writes elsewhere: “He laid his divinity aside as He sought to fulfill the assignment given to Him by the Father . . .” (Johnson: 79).

Johnson’s priority that believers must be able to do signs and wonders causes him to make many statements that blur the distinction between us and Christ and thereby diminish the uniqueness of Christ: “For us to become all that God intended, we must remember that Jesus’ life was a model of what mankind could become if it were in right relationship with the Father.” (Johnson: 138). On the contrary, the Biblical writers claimed that Christ was the Creator (see John 1:3; Hebrews 1:2). Jesus was affirmed to be the unique divine son (Mark 9:7) by a voice from heaven. Jesus’ deity was affirmed many places in the gospels. The gospel writers used Jesus’ mighty works to prove His deity. If Johnson is right and Jesus had laid aside His deity, then the mighty works prove only that Jesus learned what anyone could learn if he had the right faith and relationship to God. The claims of the gospels thereby become moot. Jesus is no longer unique, but only a special enlightened one who could lead the way to many such enlightened ones in the future. Thus we have a New Age Christ rather than the Biblical one.

If Johnson is correct and we can do greater works than Jesus (based on his misinterpretation of John 14:12; Johnson: 136), then whoever did greater works would have even greater reason to make himself the object of someone’s faith and worship.[4] The apologetic that points to Jesus’ life and miracles as proof of His deity would become worthless because others could do the same.

The *kenosis* doctrine is based on a misuse of Philippians 2:7 where Paul says that Jesus emptied Himself. False teachers claim that Jesus “emptied” Himself of deity and became only a man during the Incarnation. This claim is tantamount to the outright denial of Christ’s deity. This important issue is missed on people like Johnson, who attack the validity of Christian

scholarship. Johnson's denial of Christ's deity during His earthly ministry is the same as the Word of Faith heresy's denial of Jesus' deity when He died on the cross. They claim he lost His divinity and suffered in hell as a man. Both denials are blatant heresy. Let me explain why.

A truly theistic understanding of deity has certain necessary definitions. The most basic definition is "eternal, non-contingent existence." The reason such a definition is essential to Christian theology is to distinguish God as He has revealed Himself in Scripture from other deities. The God of the Bible is unique: "*To you it was shown that you might know that the Lord, He is God; there is no other besides Him*" (**Deuteronomy 4:35**). The true God is eternal, and He created the world out of nothing. All false gods are created (if they have any status of existence), and thus are not eternal. The prophet wrote: "*Thus you shall say to them, 'The gods that did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens'*" (**Jeremiah 10:11**). The New Testament claimed that Jesus was the Creator to establish His true deity.

Non-contingence is a corollary to God's eternal existence. If God existed from all eternity before anything else existed, there is nothing outside of God that could have caused His existence. This means that God as God is not contingent on anything outside of Himself. This is important because in Bill Johnson's Christology, Christ's deity is contingent. It goes away during the Incarnation only to return later. That which comes and goes is not eternal and non-contingent. This is the same fatal error of the Word of Faith heresy and similar to other such errors that were condemned in church history. The heretic Arius was famous for saying about Christ, "There was a time when He was not." Various Christological heresies were rejected by early church councils and the definition of Chalcedon (451) stands as a valid definition based on the true teaching of Scripture.[5]

What does this have to do with Bill Johnson and *kenosis*? If Jesus' divinity can be laid aside then it was never true divinity. Deity is not an attribute that comes and goes. It *is* or it *is not*. If lost and then regained it is contingent, and if contingent, then not true divinity. Anything less leads to every form of heresy, cult, and New Age teaching. If divinity can be gained, then created man can possibly attain it. The Bible denies this. Furthermore, if divinity can be laid aside it is not divinity. R C Sproul explains:

If God laid aside one of his attributes, the immutable undergoes a mutation, the infinite suddenly stops being infinite; it would be the end of the universe. God cannot stop being God and still be God. So we can't talk properly of God laying aside his deity to take humanity upon himself.[6]

If Jesus laid aside divinity, that would be proof that He never had true divinity. Thus Johnson's doctrine is a *de facto* denial of the deity of Christ. Christological heresy is heresy. Period. So what does Philippians 2:7 imply

that Jesus did empty Himself of? The answer is not divinity, which is eternal and cannot be compromised, but divine prerogatives. Paul's point was about Christ's humility that we should emulate, not His ontological status as God. Sproul explains:

I think the context of Philippians 2 makes it very clear that what he emptied himself of was not his deity, not his divine attributes, but his prerogatives — his glory and his privileges. He willingly cloaked his glory under the veil of this human nature that he took upon himself. It's not that the divine nature stops being divine in order to become human. In the Transfiguration, for example (Matthew 17:1-13), we see the invisible divine nature break through and become visible, and Jesus is transfigured before the eyes of his disciples.[7]

The true doctrine of Christ is that in the Incarnation He took upon Himself humanity, not that he laid aside deity. The Incarnate Christ is fully human and fully God. In theology this is called the hypostatic union. Johnson claims that the Holy Spirit has led him "off the map." I agree that Johnson is indeed "off the map." The "map" for Christians is Holy Spirit-inspired Scripture. Our doctrine is to come from the Bible (2Timothy 3:16). The "map" draws out boundaries and when we cross those boundaries we are not merely lost, we are in ungodly error. The Holy Spirit does not lead God's people off the map that He has given us, once for all.

So Johnson gives us a double whammy. First, he warns against scholarship and scholarly Bible study under pains of becoming spiritually dead. Then he introduces heresy that his followers have no means to discern because they have been scared away from the necessary tools for discernment. This is how entire movements depart from Christian orthodoxy and are plunged into theological ruin. The *kenosis* heresy is a damnable heresy and is as egregious as the Arian heresy, which still has life in modern times through the Jehovah's Witnesses. Christological heresy is not an aid to the working of the Holy Spirit as Johnson claims, but it grieves the Holy Spirit.

Likely Johnson's thousands of followers have no idea they are being led into rank heresy. They come for the signs and wonders in the hope that they will do greater miracles than Jesus. They are mesmerized by the claims that they shall be part of an Elijah generation that will defeat evil on the earth before the return of Christ. Very few will ever realize that the doctrine of Christ they are taught departs from the teaching of the church that has been embraced by nearly every Christian group for centuries.

It could be argued that the definition of Chalcedon is unbiblical (which it is not). But the burden of proof lies with those who would deny it. One cannot lightly reject the doctrine of Christ that has held sway for centuries. To do so

would require extensive theological work and Biblical argument designed to persuade conservative Christian scholars. One cannot go into such an

undertaking lightly. But Johnson does, glibly denying the deity of Christ for no better reason than he thinks that doing so will likely make it easier for Christians to think they can do greater miracles than Jesus. He doesn't offer any scholarly proof that his *kenosis* doctrine is Biblical. Why should anyone take him seriously? Sadly, thousands do.

## **Signs and Wonders Theory**

More important than anything else, for Johnson and followers, is the presence of signs and wonders—the more the better. The reason for this is that they are a necessary prerequisite for the hoped for end-time revival that will be initiated by an "Elijah generation" of elite Christians. Says Johnson, "Our mandate is simple: raise up a generation that can openly display the raw power of God" (Johnson 27, 28). Having such power is what he calls an "authentic gospel" because "powerlessness is inexcusable" (Johnson: 27). We are the problem, he claims, because God wants to do miracles but He cannot because of our bad thinking. Miracles await the coming of a generation of enlightened ones who will know the secret. Thus we have a New Age definition of miracles.[8]

To show that in Johnson's theology the supernatural is something that can be learned and mastered by man (thus robbing it of valid supernatural status), we see that he has a school of the supernatural. It is called the Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry.[9] Once the supernatural can be mastered by learnable and reproducible processes, it is no longer supernatural, but natural. Thus in the New Age we have "A Course in Miracles." In such thinking, there is nothing truly supernatural because all of nature is infused with God (panentheism). Given his distaste for scholarship, Johnson likely does not see the implications of his "school of the supernatural."

If there is a process to be learned or a religious state to be achieved whereby miracles can be produced by humans at will, such miracles become natural events. Johnson claims, "The purpose of the anointing is to make the supernatural natural" (Johnson 133). This sounds like the opening of a whole new world, but it involves bringing the concept of "supernatural" into a panentheistic world view rather than a Biblical one. The Biblical concept of supernatural requires a theistic view of the universe in which the transcendent God of the Bible created the world out of nothing, but stays involved in His creation providentially. God can and does intervene in human affairs. The work of Christ is truly supernatural. Christ was not some enlightened One who learned and shared secrets that would work for anyone else with the same level of enlightenment. That view of Christ is that of the New Age. Christ's works were truly supernatural because the Creator of the universe was on the scene of history and proved His true identity.

If the supernatural becomes "natural," as Johnson claims, through those

who have a superior anointing, then the uniqueness of Christ is compromised. The supernatural was always there to be accessed by those with special experiences and insights, thus it is not truly supernatural, but part of nature. Miracles, in such a worldview, are not miracles from a Biblical perspective.

When Paul spoke of power in relationship to the gospel, he spoke of the power of God to save Jew and gentile through the cross: "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek*" (**Romans 1:16**). Paul uses the term "power" the same way in 1 Corinthians: "*For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God*" (**1 Corinthians 1:18**). God's power through the cross saves us from God's wrath against sin. False teachers can perform signs and wonders but they have no true power as Paul speaks of it. The arrogant teachers who came to Corinth had words of knowledge (*gnosis*) and wisdom (*sophia*) but lacked the power of God that saves lost sinners (1 Corinthians 4:19, 20).

What is truly lost on Johnson and his followers is that the Bible predicts false signs and wonders at the end of the age. There is no prediction in Scripture that an invasion of true miracles from God will happen at the very end. For example Jesus warns: "*For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect*" (**Matthew 24:24**). "Christs" are literal "anointed ones." There will be those who claim to be anointed in some special way that will do great signs and wonders. They are false. Antichrist (whose name and role is based on the concept of "anointed") will do great signs and wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:9). Paul also predicts end time deception in 2 Timothy chapter 3.

Johnson brushes the possibility of such deception aside by calling these signs "counterfeits" (Johnson 110). False signs and wonders as warned against in the Bible are not sleight-of-hand magic tricks, but real signs that point to a false message. Thus the discerning of spirits concerns objectively evaluating teaching (1 John 4:1-5) not subjectively evaluating apparent miracles. A psychic healing might be a real healing, but it is not from God. It is known to be false by the false teaching of the healer. If such a false teacher produced a real, verified healing, the teaching and teacher would still be false.

By combining signs and wonders with a false Christology that denies the deity of Christ, Johnson has placed his followers in the center of end time deception. Now rather than the one "Anointed One" (Jesus Christ who is unique), there are many "anointed ones" who supposedly can do greater miracles than Jesus. This situation is described in the Bible: "*Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour*" (**1**

**John 2:18**). "Antichrists" as understood from the Greek, are substitute "anointed ones." In the Bible, all Christians are equally "anointed" by God, and only Jesus specially anointed, i.e., the Messiah.[10] An elite group of specially anointed ones who comprise the "Elijah generation" as taught in Bill Johnson's Latter Rain theology would qualify as antichrists.

A related question is whether or not Johnson and company are actually doing greater miracles than Jesus. In Luke 8, Jesus is shown to have calmed the sea, delivered the most demonized man imaginable, healed the sick, and raised the dead. Luke's point is that Jesus has power over nature, Satan, sickness and even death. Thus Jesus is Lord of the universe, and His claims are true. Do any of Johnson's Elijah generation elite display greater power and authority than Jesus did in Luke 8? He lists a number of typical manifestations in a section he entitles, "When God Colors Outside the Lines." They include laughter, gold dust appearing from nowhere, oil appearing from nowhere, wind in a closed room, a cloud appearing, fragrance smelled, gems appearing, and feathers falling in meetings (Johnson: 141). Most of these have no precedence in Scripture, and none of them is as profound as the Messianic signs of Luke 8.

There is a certain naiveté that accompanies those who follow signs and wonders theory. We once had a regular pastors meeting. At one of these a pastor attended who had just come from witnessing the so-called "Toronto Blessing" (the laughing revival as it was called). He recounted how he was standing in a food line and one of the attendees began gobbling like a turkey, strutting around, and using his elbows as turkey wings. The pastor concluded that God was at work. There is nothing bizarre enough to the point that true signs and wonders believers will question it. Signs and wonders that accompany a false Christology such as that of Bill Johnson do not thereby prove the existence of a great end-time revival. Rather, they prove the existence of end-time deception as predicted in the Bible.

## **Dominion Theology**

Johnson's theology contains a blend of many problematic movements of our day. One of them is the dominion teaching, popular in the Word of Faith movement. The idea is that Satan was able to wrest the earth, and authority over it, from Adam and Eve, leaving God on the outside having to figure out a way to get it back. His plan was for Jesus to come and take it back from Satan (which is what Word of Faith teachers say happened in hell during Jesus' supposed stay there—to wrestle with Satan as a man, and not God). Jesus then, according to theory, delegated to the church the job of taking control of the earth back from Satan and putting it under the church.

Johnson teaches "All that Adam owned, including the title deed to the planet with its corresponding position of rule, became part of the devil's spoil" (Johnson: 31). Like others of his ilk, Johnson uses Satan's offer of the

kingdoms during Jesus' temptation as proof that Satan, not God, had the "keys of authority" to the earth (Johnson: 32). Jesus got them back and gave them to the church (Johnson 32). Proof that we have regained the dominion

that Adam supposedly lost is to be found in achieving the attributes promoted by Word of Faith teachers: "In Adam and Eve's commission to subdue the earth, they were without sickness, poverty, and sin. Now that we are restored to His original purpose, should we expect anything less?" (Johnson: 33).

Johnson interprets the Lord's Prayer, which is primarily a prayer for the return of Christ, in terms of his "kingdom now" theology: "This is the primary purpose for all prayer—if it exists in heaven, it is to be loosed on earth" (Johnson: 59). This means that if we do not have problem free lives, we are lacking faith, praying wrongly, or failing to understand our role as having dominion. Johnson explains: "Such an invasion causes the circumstances here to line up with heaven" (Johnson: 59). This invasion is in the title of his book.

Johnson's over-realized eschatology sees the sensibilities of many Christians, informed as they are from the Bible, to be a problem that will stop revival: "The second greatest reason for revival's end [behind quenching the spirit interpreted as any questioning of bizarre manifestations] is when the Church begins to look for the return of the Lord instead of pursuing a greater breakthrough in the Great Commission (Johnson: 161). Earlier Johnson had interpreted the Great Commission in terms of his dominion theology (Johnson: 32). Those who correctly understand the Lord's Prayer become the problem people who stop revival. Longing for the Lord's return is discouraged. Eschatology of the soon return of Christ is replaced with eschatology of dominion, kingdom now, that sees the concept "maranatha" as a threat to revival.

## **A Deluge of Error**

The rejection of scholarship and careful exegesis, in Johnson's case, leads where it always does: to diverse theological errors. There are many that would take too long to cover in detail but need to be addressed. I shall do so briefly in this section.

### **Gnosticism**

Gnosticism was an ancient heresy that claimed that the material realm was evil and the spiritual realm good. Johnson states, "Faith is the key to discovering the superior nature of the invisible realm" (Johnson: 43). The truth is that both realms, visible and invisible contain both good and evil. Both are created by God, and neither is innately superior. When the Bible speaks of things not seen, it includes things like the fulfillment of future



promises and is not limited to ontological "realms," such as material and spiritual. Johnson claims that there is an unlocked potential for seeing into the supposedly superior spirit realm: "Many of us have thought that the ability to see into the spiritual realm is more the result of a special gift than an unused potential of everyone" (Johnson 43). He misuses Hebrews 11:1 to

teach his Gnostic understanding of realms: "The invisible is superior to the natural . . . Because the invisible is superior to the natural, faith is anchored in the unseen" (Johnson 45). But in Hebrews 11, what was unseen to the patriarchs was the future fulfillment of the promises of God, not just the heavenly realities (though those are included). There is much evil in the unseen world, so Johnson's Gnostic categories are not what the Biblical authors had in mind.

## **Elitism**

The Bible promotes the necessity that every member of the body of Christ is seen as important and essential, whatever their gifts may be (1Corinthians 12:14 – 25). But Johnson repeatedly speaks of an elite group of Christians that shall be greater than all other groups in church history. Of course those will be the ones associated with his movement and others who embrace the Latter Rain heresy. (International House Of Prayer in Kansas City is another example). For example: "Much of the opposition to revival comes from soul-driven Christians. The apostle Paul calls them carnal" (Johnson: 47). He goes on to claim that the spirit (not capitalized in translation, signifying the human spirit) influencing the mind produces true learning. His categories are reminiscent of Watchman Nee, whose false teachings harmed me early in my Christian life. Paul does not teach that the soul is problematic and the human spirit good. The revivalists that have true enlightenment by following their spirits rather than souls, are of course those who listen to Johnson and other such teachers. They are the elite ones, and the rest of us are left trying to understand the Bible. It is the few who have the real glory: "He lives in all believers, but the glory of His presence comes to rest on only a few" (Johnson: 149). The enlightened ones are part of the "Elijah generation" (New Order of the Latter Rain terminology) "But there will be no contest when such counterfeits go up against this Elijah generation that becomes clothed with heaven's power on the Mount Carmel of human reasoning" (Johnson: 150). His attack on reason is unabated.

## **Fideism**

Many of these errors are closely related. Fideism is the belief that faith operates independent of reason and needs no rational proof for its validity. Fideism is shown in this statement: "When we *learn to learn* that way [by faith], we open ourselves up to grow in true faith because faith does not require understanding to function" (Johnson: 47). Again, he is misusing concepts from Hebrews 11. For example, Abraham had to understand God's

promises to have faith in them. Faith is not disconnected from rational content in the Scripture as it is in Johnson's fideistic theology.

## **Pietism**

Johnson shows the same pietistic tendencies as many in today's evangelical world of mysticism. He warns about the lack of "power encounters" and fear

of experiences that might lead us away from scripture. He then states: "But it is illegitimate to allow fear to keep us from pursuing a deeper experience with God!" (Johnson: 92). He warns: "God is bigger than His book" (Johnson: 92). The obvious implication is that we must have extra-biblical experiences unless we live as lesser Christians ruled by fear. Pietists always look to higher order experiences to validate their Christian experience.[11]

## **Conclusion**

The invasion of heaven promoted by *When Heaven Invades Earth* is in reality an invasion of theological error. Johnson says there is no sickness or poverty in heaven, which is true. However, there is also no falsehood or error in heaven. Johnson's potpourri of error is astounding in its breadth. His is a classic case of zeal for a cause divorced from theological truth. In his thinking, zeal for signs and wonders (and the resultant end-time revival) baptize any theological errors, including his heretical Christology.

My conclusion is not overly harsh: that this movement is not really from heaven, as it is claimed to be. Many young people are targeted and deceived by it. Powerful experiences in a Christian context form a potent elixir that dulls one's theological senses. I know because when I was young, I was drawn into a similar movement based on experiences that I allowed to trump sound Biblical exegesis. Thankfully God saved me out of that and led me, through Scripture, to the true gospel. May many who are in the clutches of this false revivalism be spared as I was.

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### End Notes:

[1] Bill Johnson, *When Heaven Invades Earth – A Practical Guide to a Life of Miracles*, (Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image, 2003) 150. All subsequent citations from this book will be bracketed within my text.

[2] See [Critical Issues Commentary issue 103](#) for a discussion of latter day apostles, the Latter Rain movement and their false understanding of an "Elijah Company" that will appear to defeat God's enemies.

{3} See [Critical Issues Commentary issue 16](#) for a full discussion of 2 Corinthians 3:6 and its common misuse in the church.

[4] See [Critical Issues Commentary issue 65](#) for contextual and exegetical analysis that disproves this misinterpretation of John 14:12.

[5] This definition can be read here:  
[http://www.twincityfellowship.com/special/definition\\_of\\_chalcedon.pdf](http://www.twincityfellowship.com/special/definition_of_chalcedon.pdf)

[6] R C Sproul: [How Could Jesus be Both Divine and Human.](#)

[7] Ibid.

[8] See [Critical Issues Commentary issue 23](#), "New Age Miracles."

[9] See <http://www.ibethel.org/site/school-of-ministry>.

[10] See [Critical Issues Commentary issue 63](#), "Antichrists and The Antichrist."

[11] See [Critical Issues Commentary Issue 101](#), "How Pietism Deceives Christians."

See also:

[PROGRESSIVE DEGENERATION WITHIN MAINSTREAM EVANGELICALISM](#)

[WHAT'S NEW AT THE BUILD-A-GOD SHOP](#)

[WHAT IS DOMINIONISM?](#)

[DOMINION THEOLOGY](#)

[VIEW FROM THE BUNKER PODCAST: WHAT IS](#)

[DOMINIONISM? DESTINY-DRIVEN DOMINIONISM AND RICK](#)

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