

Does God Want You to Be Rich or Poor?



“Error, indeed is never set forth in its naked deformity, lest, being thus exposed, it should be at once detected. But it is craftily decked out in an attractive dress so as, by its outward form, to make it appear to the inexperienced (ridiculous as the expression may seem) more true than truth itself.”

- Irenaeus, Against Heresies 1.2

PROSPERITY GOSPEL/WORD FAITH MOVEMENT:

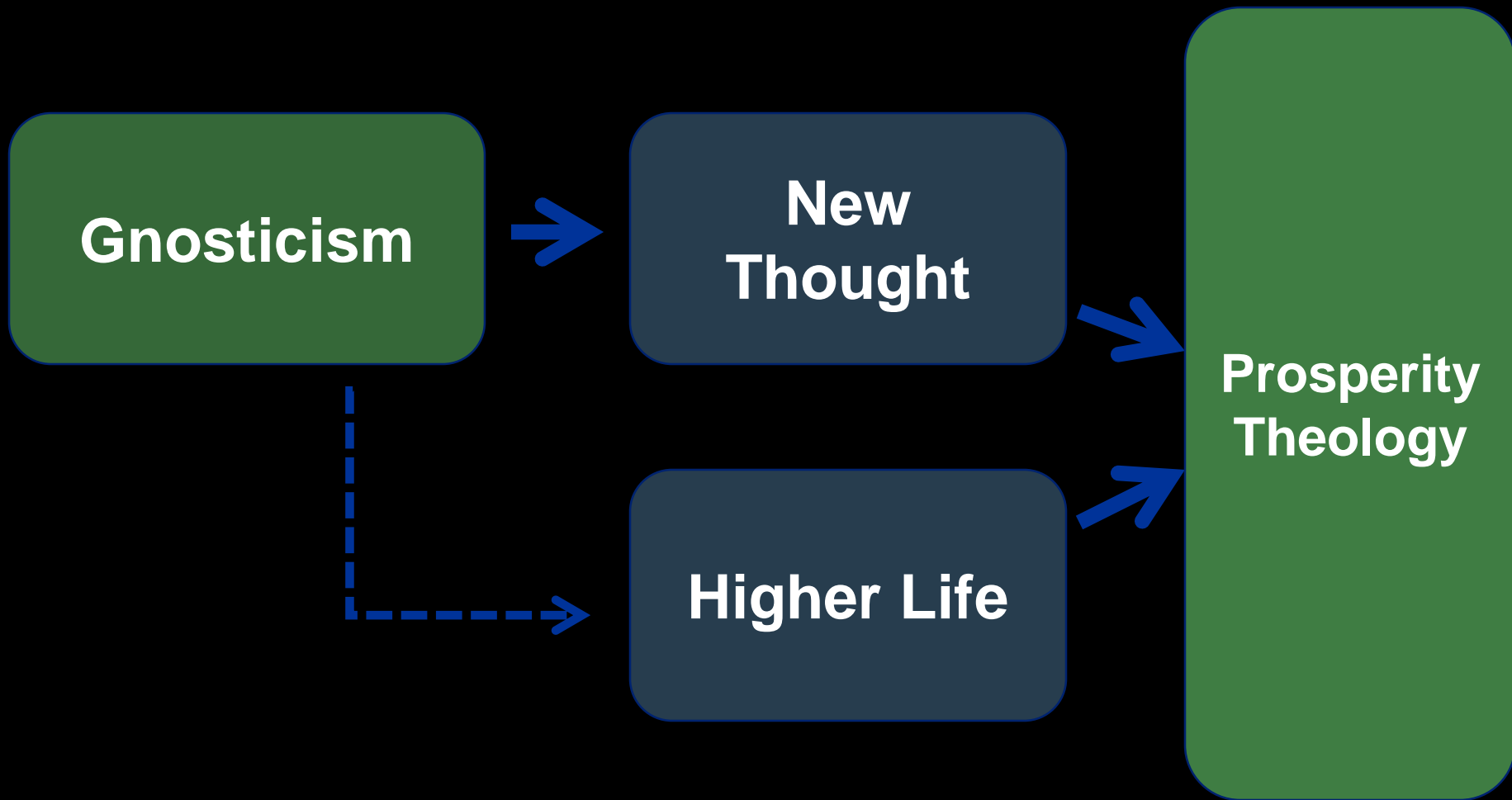
SOME OTHER NAMES:

- Word-of-Faith, Positive Confession (name it and claim it), Faith-formula, the gospel of success, Health & Wealth Gospel.

STRUCTURAL ORGANISATION:

- Almost in every church, denomination, even among Muslims and non-believers.
- Why? It's appealing; every human being wants to be free from poverty, sickness, trouble, want to be more than what they are.
- No universally recognized leader or headquarters but promoters of prosperity teaching have their own churches and believers.

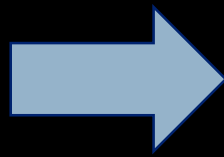
The Pathway to Prosperity Theology



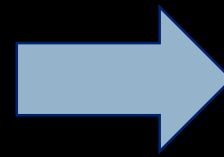
Prosperity Theology in America



E. W. Kenyon
1867-1948



Kenneth Hagin
1917-2003



Kenneth Copeland

Other Figures:

- Frederick K.C. Price, Gloria Copeland, John Osteen, T.L Osborne, Joyce Meyer, Binny Hinn, T.D Jakes, Creflo Dollar.

AFRICA

- Oyedepo, Chris, Oyokalome, Paul Sanyangore's, Andrew Ejimadu, ...

Are you God's servant or is He
yours?

Errors in the History of
Prosperity Theology

1. Shrinking the distance between you and God
2. Your power to speak things into reality
3. Suffering isn't for man!
4. Wrong view on salvation!

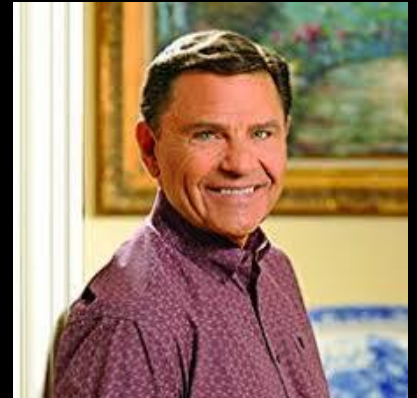
1. Shrinking the gap between
you and God!

God's hands are tied until He can use ours. Angels are our servants. They cannot do our work. God is limited to our Faith, our obedience. God is as small in the world as we make Him. God is big only where some man makes Him big, by using this divinely given authority. We are the body of Christ; the Head is powerless without our hands and feet. Oh men, can't you see how helpless God is until we let Him live omnipotently in our acts? A sin in the heart binds the arms of God that would embrace a multitude. Our fear to be used binds God's omnipotence. Men of God, be God's men and use the authority delegated to you." -*Claiming our Rights, 6*



E. W. Kenyon
1867-1948

Adam is as much like God as you could get— just the same as Jesus when He came into the earth. He [Jesus] said, “If you’ve seen Me, you’ve seen the Father.” He wasn’t a lot like God; He’s God manifested in the flesh! And I want you to know something— Adam in the Garden of Eden was God manifested in the flesh! He was God’s very image, the very likeness. Everything he did, everything he said, every move he made was the very image of almighty God. . . . you see, Adam was walking as a god. Adam walked in the gods class. Adam did things in the gods class. Hallelujah.



Kenneth Copeland

A 'direct phone line' to God, Pastor Paul Sanyangore's is seen 'talking to God on the phone' during one of his church services. A video of that chat went viral in 2017 and caused major uproar. The pastor claims God gave him the direct number and often calls him up to give him advice on how to help people in his church. Sanyangore, also known as "Pastor Talent," said he planned to launch a TV show entitled "Heaven Online," where he would let people listen in on his phone calls with God. Sanyangore withdrew an offer to give people God's number at a special service at his Victory World International Ministries, saying the time was simply not right.

(www.dw.com/en/africas-self-styled-prophets-and-their-miracles/a-47764493)

❖ “BLASPHEMY! HOW CAN GOD
THE FATHER CALL ‘MIGHTIEST
PROPHET’ DR OWUOR MY LORD?”
(www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rd12xCNqUg0)

2. Your power to speak
things into Reality!

Faith's confessions create realities.
as far as God is concerned
everything you have or are "in
Christ" is so. He has done it.
everything the Bible says is ours, is
ours legally. The Bible is a legal
document, sealed by the blood of
Jesus. However, it is your believing
it and your confessing it which
makes it a reality to you.



Kenneth Hagin
1917-2003

- *In Him, 87*

Like it or not, this is a word-created, word-controlled universe. God established it that way from the very beginning. He made everything by calling “things which be not as though they were” (Romans 4:17). He set this whole system in motion by speaking into the darkness and saying, “Light be!” and light was (Genesis 1:3). The whole Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, makes it clear that we live under a word-activated system. It’s always been that way and it always will be. We can, however, choose the words under which we live. We can change our environment by what we say. - *How You Call It Is How It Will Be*



Kenneth Copeland

A lot of times we pray about mountains: God please help me. God, please make my child straighten up. God, please take away this fear. and yes, it's good to pray. It's good to ask God to help you. But when you face a mountain, it's not enough to pray. It's not enough to just believe. It's not enough to just think good thoughts. Here's the key: you have to speak to your mountains. Jesus said in Mark 11:23 (KJV): "Whoever will say to this mountain, be removed, and does not doubt in his heart, he will have whatever he says." - *I Declare: 31 Promises to Speak Over Your Life*



Joel Osteen

“Get in agreement with God. say what He says about you. speaking His words is one of the most powerful things you can do. Remember, it’s not enough to think it. It’s not enough to believe it. Give life to your faith. speak it out. Once you make a habit of declaring favor and speaking faith-filled words, you will see negative situations turn around.” - *It’s Your Time*



Joel Osteen

3. Suffering and Evil (Isaiah 53)

- ❖ **Hagin**, "I am fully convinced - I would die saying it is so "...it is the plan of our Father God in His great love and His great mercy that no believer should ever be sick, that every believer should live his life full span down here on earth and that every believer should finally just fall asleep in Jesus" (Hagin, *Seven Things You Should Know About Divine Healing*, p. 21).
- ❖ **Frederick K. C. Price**, "you are suffering because you are stupid. All suffering is caused by man rather than God." (Man as God, 156)

“Poverty is not the will of God for any Believer. However, there are Christians who have taken a “vow of poverty” because they believe that poverty is a part of being holy and righteous. This is far from the truth. Poverty has nothing to do with godliness, or God—likeness. To be poor, or impoverished, means, “to be without; in lack; deprived.” You and I don't serve a God of lack and insufficiency. He is the God of the exceeding and the abundant.”



Creflo Dollar



Gloria Copeland

“I discovered that God's prosperity isn't just financial blessings. It also includes healing, protection, favor, wisdom, success, well-being and every good thing you could possibly need—all the good things Jesus paid for you to have.”

Fredderick, “if you keep talking death that is what you are going to have. If you keep talking sickness and disease, that is what you are going to have, because that is what you are creating in the realty of the words of your mouth. (Price, Realm, 29).

Vomiting money; Andrew Ejimadu, a Nigerian preacher based in Zambia and popularly known as Prophet Seer 1, has demonstrated what he says is his "God-given gift" of being able to vomit money during one of his church services. Ejimadu was filmed spewing so-called miracle money during a church service in South Africa. Church members scrambled for the various currencies. Prophet Seer 1 told his congregation that he carried millions around inside his stomach. Some onlookers thought it was magic while others called for his arrest on money laundering charges.

(www.dw.com/en/africas-self-styled-prophets-and-their-miracles/a-47764493)

Prophet Samuel Kakande of the Synagogue of Nations church on February 16 introduced 'Holy Rice' to his congregation at a price of \$14 a kilogram.

(<https://allafrica.com/stories/201702220606.html>)

4. Wrong view on Salvation!

❖ **K. C. Price**, "Do you think that the punishment of our sins was to die on the cross? If that was the case, the two thieves could have paid our price. No, the punishment was to go into hell itself and to serve time in hell separated from God" (Ever Increasing Faith Messenger, June 1990, p. 7).

- ❖ **Charles Capps**, “at the resurrection, Jesus is a born again man from the pit of hell. "Jesus was born again in the pit of Hell...The Church started when Jesus was born again in the gates of Hell" (Authority In Three Worlds, pp. 212 13).
- ❖ **Hagin**, "Physical death will not remove sins" (The Name of Jesus, p. 29). In other words, it took the spiritual death of Jesus to atone for sins.

Responding to Prosperity Theology

1. 1 Timothy 6:15-16, “God is unique—
comparable to none and He alone is the sovereign
ruler of the universe...”

2. John 1:1, 14, 18; 3:16, 1 John 4:1-31, “Jesus
Christ is the eternal God, the only begotten of God,
and the only incarnation of God

3. 1 Peter 2:24, “saw the healing in Isaiah 53 as metaphysical, referring to our sin sickness, and this is the primary sense Isaiah himself gives the passage.”

4. Mathew 8:17, Yes, Mathew clearly saw Isaiah as referring to physical healing, but as a part of the Messiah's ministry, not the atonement.

5. If total healing was catered for in the mortal body then Paul and other apostles wouldn't have had some health issues (1 Timothy 5:23); failing to heal Timothy's stomach problem, (2 Tim 4:20), failure to heal Trophimus, (2 Cor.12:7-9) Paul's thorn in the flesh. God allowed Job to go through a time of physical suffering (Job 1-2).

B. You can be rich
in poverty

Proverbs 30:7-9 "Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God."

- 1. God shows His strength in our weakness*
- 2. God blesses us in our brokenness*
- 3. God makes us rich in our poverty*

Revelation 2:9 I know your afflictions and your poverty-- yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

How does wealth deceive?

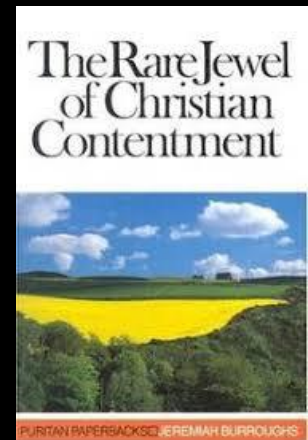
1. It promises what it cannot deliver
2. It plays on your insatiable nature
3. It presses you into a life of self-obsession, triviality or idolatry
4. It makes you feel blessed whether you in fact are or not

C. Contentment is
the solution

"Contentment is the inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, freely submitting to and taking pleasure in God's disposal in every condition."



Jeremiah Burroughs
1599-1646



The Solution for the Soul: Contentment

1 Timothy 6:6-10 - But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

Christocentric Contentment

2 Corinthians 12:10 - **For the sake of Christ,** then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Hebrews 13:5 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, **for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”**

Payment for our sins:

1. The nature of the atonement had to do with Jesus' physical death on the cross being the payment for sins. Jesus physically endured the cross (not torture in hell), despising the shame (**Heb.12:2,**). Christ said, "It is finished" (**John 19:30**), which translates tetelistai meaning "paid for in full."
2. Payment for our sins took place on the cross (**Matt. 26:28; 1 Pet. 2:24 ;**) He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed) **Col. 1:20-22, 2:13-15**)

CONCLUSION.

1. **2 Corinthians 12:10**, “For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”
2. Poverty or illness is not always a sign of God’s curse, or lack of faith, or human curses. The Bible vehemently denies such! Doesn’t the Bible teach that Christians will be rich in heavenly goods? **James 2:5**; haven’t God chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom...?
3. And, Wealth is not always a sign of God’s blessings for it can be obtained by oppression, deceit or corruption. “You can earn money by working for it and invest it, marrying into it, donation or stealing it”.

REFERENCES:

1. Dr. Bryan Hurlbutt—the gourmet gospel
2. David W. Jones, Russell S. Woodbridge—Health, Wealth & Happiness
3. Hermen Kroesbegen—In search of Health and Wealth
4. John Ankerberg & John Weldon—The facts on the faith Movement
5. Femi Adeleye—Preachers of a different gospel
6. Tim Martin's notes (watchman fellowship)