

Todd Bentley – Man of God or Man Decieved?

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To start this review of Mr Bentley and Ministry let us start with a copy of the letter he sent out to his supporters promoting this ministry:

Dear Friends,

As I write this, just two hours ago at 2pm the Glory fell on me; I've been weeping and praying about what is happening here in Florida. I honestly have never felt such a manifest presence. People are saying they feel the glory 10 miles away from the meetings, it's that tangible. And based on how absolutely electric the meetings are going, one can only imagine what will happen tonight and in the meetings to follow. Along with many other leaders, we pray that this is **the** next wave that we have all been waiting for.

I just spoke with **Bob Jones** again and he told me several things. **First**, he was not expecting that the glory would fall this soon. **Second**, Bob said the angel, "winds of change," is bringing the change NOW, and that this outpouring would break out internationally. He said this outpouring, the very tangible healing anointing, is for the world and would go everywhere. [God told me that every night in the meetings I was to impart it to ministries, and as I write this, several hundred pastors, evangelists and ministries have already come.] **Third**, Bob said, and I agree, we have never seen such notable miracles. [Distinctively, scars and burn marks have been removed from bodies, and there are testimonies coming in of cancers, tumors, deaf ears, diabetes, lupus, autism, and a vast array of other sicknesses and diseases, all being healed. I'm talking hundreds of healings so far! There are dramatic salvations, and heavenly visitations especially coming to the children.] **Fourth**, Bob said that our interns would become "doctors," quickly, and take this to the world, and that our associates are needed to spread the fire. [**Since many associates are in the meetings here, right now, if you would like to book any of these associates to bring the fire and revival to your city, church, or ministry, call the Fresh Fire office: 604-853-9041 or go to our website www.freshfire.ca and check out our associates under "Associate Ministries."**]

Before we look further into his ministry I would like to query a few points in his letter and ask you to think about them also.

- What kind of people are saying they feel the power 10 miles away? Unbelievers? Or his followers?
- Where in Scripture is "another wave" that has been waited for been promised? For that matter where was the last one promised?
- Bob Jones – isn't this the same Bob Jones of Kansas City infamy and confirmed false prophet?
- These messages all seemed to be confirmed or initiated by angels – what does Scripture say about angels and messages regarding Scriptural teaching? - Gal 1:8

- Healings are always boasted of at this type of meeting – do they produce the people who have been healed with proof? Let us meet some of them with their doctors. I believe in healing but I need to see the evidence – even Jesus sent those he healed to the physicians to prove it.
- What is the “Gospel Message” preached that is bringing about these radical salvations?
- Bob Jones declares their interns will become “Doctors” to bring healing and miracles to the churches. If these miracles and declarations were true would it not be better to send these “Doctors” to the hospitals to heal the unsaved so that these miracles would prove God and convince millions to receive salvation?

Wild claims and statements fire up people’s emotions but at the same time tend to dull the thought processes in the people following these teachers and false prophets.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

In today’s society of ‘must have’ and ‘quick fix’ – instant easy Christianity that caters to our needs has become the focus of modern day *Spiritual Christians*. Today’s Christianity bears little resemblance to the Christianity of the Bible.

Who do you say that I am? (Matthew 16:15)

Today this question Yeshua asked goes relatively un-noticed and ignored. When Yeshua (Jesus) asked this question He was teaching the disciples the difference between the true believers in God amongst the Hebrew nation and those that had a belief system that suited themselves – those that followed the traditions of men (Oral Torah¹). Sadly it was those within the nation of Israel — Gods chosen people—that were rejecting Him as the Messiah.

This is an example of the church today. Many call themselves Christian yet deny the very Doctrines, Scriptures and Yeshua (Jesus) that they are supposed to be a part of under that title.

Christian

So what is a Christian?

Is a Christian just someone who believes in the name of Jesus for salvation? If so, what is the definition and biblical background for that Jesus? Is it who Yeshua (Jesus) says He is, or who we would like Him to be? A Jesus we have invented to make ourselves feel better and who appeals to our desire for self gratification, and not the dying to self required by the God of the universe?

These are serious questions that need to be discussed to come to an understanding of why the question was asked: *Who do you say that I am?*

¹ The **Oral Torah, Oral Law, or Oral Tradition (Greek Dogma)** (Hebrew: פה שבעל תורה, *Torah she-be-`al peh*), according to Rabbinic Judaism, is an oral tradition received in conjunction with the written Torah (and the rest of the Hebrew Bible), which is known in this context as the "Written Torah" (Hebrew: שבכתב תורה, *Torah she-bi-khtav*). The traditions of the Oral Torah are believed to be the same as those recorded in the Mishnah and Talmud during the 2nd-5th centuries CE (Wikipedia)

As we go through this study we are going to examine the Jesus promoted as God and the doctrines that surround them in Todd Bentley's theology. This study is not for the fainthearted as it will bring to light and expose many deceptions that as believers we have all been introduced to in one form or another.

Jesus

How do we recognise the different Jesus'? Moreover, why do we not all in fact believe the same thing with only a few doctrinal differences keeping us from celebrating together the Glories of God in our churches?

We need to at this point establish a basic list of the types of Jesus being promoted. Then look deeper as to why these are or are not "Who Yeshua says He is".

- Third Wave
- The Jehovah's Witness Jesus
- Emergent Church Jesus
- Contemplative Jesus
- New Age Jesus
- Jesus only
- Mormon Jesus
- The Jesus of the Faith Movement
- The Catholic Jesus

This list is by no means exhaustive when looking at the various types of doctrinally promoted Jesus' today, but it should act as a "Line drawn in the sand" to which we decide to step over or not depending on what it is we would prefer to believe. What God declares or what man prefers. There will be much crossover of information between these various Jesus' and the types of doctrines they promote.

The Person of Jesus Christ

We have to understand Biblically who and what Jesus is – let us first see what Scripture says then we will look at what the third wave new spiritual teachers say he is:

Jesus is 100% God and 100% man throughout all eternity. If this cannot be proven and agreed upon in Scripture then there is no defence against those that teach otherwise. However we do have a defence and proof beyond doubt.

To understand Yeshua, it is important we know two things:

1. Who he says He is
2. What he says He is

Jesus' name has been changed from the original 'Yeshua'. The Hellenised name 'Jesus' does not actually have any meaning in the original Aramaic or Hebrew. Originally His name "Yeshua" translated as "Salvation". In fact His name when pronounced in full "Y'Hoshua" means "God is my Salvation". Sadly losing this translation leads to many erroneous and dangerous heresies and doctrines. This is the name God told Miriam (Mary) to name her son. He did not speak to her in Greek or Latin; God spoke to her in her spoken language: Aramaic.

Who He is

Matt 1:20-23 – **Born of a virgin, God with us**

Mat 1:20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Mat 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. (*Yeshua=Salvation*)

Mat 1:22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

Mat 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Luke 1:31-33 – **King, Son of the Highest**

Luke 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

Luke 1:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Luke 2:11 & 21 – **Saviour, named by God (Yeshua)**

Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called Jesus (Yeshua), which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

John 1:29 – **Lamb of God, removes sin**

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Acts 13:23 – **Saviour of Israel**

Act 13:23 Of this man's seed hath God according to *his* promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

Rev 1:5-6 – **Faithful witness, ruler over kings of the earth, first born of the dead**

Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Rev 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Tim 3:16 – **God manifest in the flesh**

1Ti 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

John 14:6-7 (**Yeshua's own Assertion of Deity**)

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 14:7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

What He is

John 4:42 – **Christ, Saviour of the world**

John 4:42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard *him* ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

Eph 5:23 – **Head of the Church, saviour of the body**

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Phil 3:20 – **He is in Heaven**

Phi 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

1 Tim 2:3 – **Our Saviour**

1Ti 2:3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

2 Tim 1:10 – **Abolished death**

2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

1 John 4:14 – **Sent by the Father**

1Jo 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world.

Jude 25 – **He has dominion and power**

Jud 1:25 To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Jer 23:5-6 – He is the Lord our righteousness

Jer 23:5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

Jer 23:6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

It is critical to our salvation to understand who and what Yeshua is. More essentially, who He says He is, and not who we would like Him to be. It is not possible to accept Christ as our Saviour if we do not know *who He is, what He is, what He did and why*. If we believe who Yeshua says He is, then we are on the secure and righteous narrow path, with the sure and certain hope of salvation. However, if we put our faith in a false christ, a messiah set up by the father of lies, then we have no security. This will be demonstrated as we proceed through this study.

It must be understood that just walking up to someone with a quick formula that gets them to pray the sinner's prayer does not lead them to salvation. In fact to do this is teaching a deception, declaring their salvation in your own judgment because they prayed and agreed with you. They did not pray themselves with a full understanding of what they are undertaking by God's standard of an informed decision. There must be a complete understanding of who Yeshua (Jesus) is to make an informed decision as to whether or not to follow Him. This is a life changing act with the King of the Universe which cannot be done without the full knowledge of who He is, what He did and why He did it. If it is felt that this type of quick and easy one off prayer which results from a 5 minute talk is correct then perhaps there is no in depth awareness of who Yeshua is and why we need salvation on the part of the speaker.

A very basic rule-of-thumb approach to doctrine should be: If man is glorified or raised up in any way to Godhood or given the ability to save himself as a focus of the doctrines taught, then beware. The Bible basically has two messages: *Man Bad, God Good*. Any teaching that denies this and puts man first or in any way equal to God is a false doctrine. *All* Scripture points to man as a sinner and in need of salvation. That salvation can only come by one person, and that is the person of Yeshua Ha Mashiach (Jesus the Messiah), and only by believing in Him and understanding who He claims to be can that salvation be found.

This may sound a little severe, but Yeshua did ask the question, "Who do you say that I am?"

Who does Todd Bentley say that Jesus is?

Before we look at the Gospel he preaches on Jesus let us look at the way he is receiving the messages of salvation he is claiming.

What follows is an article by a younger Todd Bentley describing another talk he had with Bob Jones and the *anointing* of his ministry:

EMMA, ANGEL OF THE PROPHETIC

Now let me talk about an angelic experience with Emma. Twice Bob Jones asked me about this angel that was in Kansas City in 1980: "Todd, have you ever seen the angel by the name of Emma?" He asked me as if he expected that this angel was appearing

to me. Surprised, I said, “Bob, who is Emma?” He told me that Emma was the angel that helped birth and start the whole prophetic movement in Kansas City in the 1980s. She was a mothering-type angel that helped nurture the prophetic as it broke out. Within a few weeks of Bob asking me about Emma, I was in a service in Beulah, North Dakota. In the middle of the service I was in conversation with Ivan and another person when she walks Emma. As I stared at the angel with open eyes, the Lord said, “Here’s Emma.” I’m not kidding. She floated a couple of inches off the floor. It was almost like Kathryn Khulman in those old videos when she wore a white dress and looked like she was gliding across the platform. Emma appeared beautiful and young-about 22 years old-but she was old at the same time. She seemed to carry the wisdom, virtue and grace of Proverbs 31 on her life.

She glided into the room, emitting brilliant light and colors. Emma carried these bags and began pulling gold out of them. Then, as she walked up and down the aisles of the church, she began putting gold dust on people. “God, what is happening?” I asked. The Lord answered: “She is releasing the gold, which is both the revelation and the financial breakthrough that I am bringing into this church. I want you to prophecy that Emma showed up in this service-the same angel that appeared in Kansas city - as a sign that I am endorsing and releasing a prophetic spirit in the church.” See, when angels come, they always come for a reason; we need to actually ask God what the purpose is. Within three weeks of that visitation, the church had given me the biggest offering I had ever received to that point in my ministry. Thousands of dollars! Thousands! Even though the entire community consisted of only three thousand people, weeks after I left the church the pastor testified that the church offerings had either doubled or tripled.

During this visitation the pastor’s wife (it was an AOG church) got totally whacked by the Holy Ghost- she began running around barking like a dog or squawking like a chicken as a powerful prophetic spirit came on her. Also, as this prophetic anointing came on her, she started getting phone numbers of complete strangers and calling them up on the telephone and prophesying over them. She would tell them that God gave her their telephone number and then would give them words of knowledge. Complete strangers. Then angels started showing up in the church.

I believe Emma released a financial and prophetic anointing in that place. That was the first angel that I have ever seen in the form of a woman. Some angels I’ve seen seemed like they were neither male nor female. However, Emma appeared as a woman who was like a Deborah, like a mother in Zion. When she came, she began to mentor, nurture and opened up a prophetic well. The people in the church began having trances and visions and the pastor began getting words of knowledge and moving in healing. That congregation also saw more financial breakthrough than they had ever seen before.

I hope you have as many questions about this releasing of ministry as I do?

I refer back again to –

Gal 1:6-10 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; *but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.* For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

Todd Bentleys Gospel

As we have just read in his previous article, Todd is professing the prosperity Gospel of salvation as promoted by Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland etc... this can be seen by his mention of Katherine Khuleman. Let us look briefly at a more recent talk he did at Lakeland Florida and see if this is true:

In this regard, on three occasions over the past couple of years I've had a visitation from the Lord in which I've seen the angel of finance. Every time this happens (in our meetings) there is an incredible financial breakthrough—something is opened up in heaven, it invades the earth, and people respond by giving generously. **And afterward many testimonies come in to Fresh Fire reporting the abundant blessings that people have received in return!**

So let's look at what happened in a meeting when I went into a trance-like state and I saw, for the third time over the course of a few years, the angel of finance. [A trance is simply a dream-like state but you are awake. For more information on trances, refer to Acts Chapter 10.] In that trance I experienced one of heaven's realities and then that experience became a reality here on earth.

Here's what happened. At first I saw heaven open, and as I ascended a ladder into the heavens I saw full vibrant wings and feathers! These feathers were white and as real as they would be in the natural realm; that's how vivid it was. Then I noticed wings that moved and there was an arm under one wing and another arm under another wing! As the wings lifted I saw every precious gem you could think of under those wings; and then I saw the angel standing, having a body like a man with six wings. I knew it was the angel of finance.

Next, I saw a door called "treasure" and the door was open. Without thinking or considering what to do, I found myself in a treasure room in heaven. The only item in this room was gold coins, and I began stuffing those coins into my pockets until they were falling out. Then, after filling up another pocket, I opened my trousers and started filling my trousers with gold coins. After that, I stuffed them into my suit jacket. I even opened my shirt and started stuffing gold coins down my shirt!

Again I am full of questions as to why everything uttered by this man is contradictory to Scripture and yet people flock to receive his teaching. Actually it seems that teaching is what is missing and not sought after though people do flock for an anointing – a ‘*so called*’ outpouring of Gods Spirit!?!?

- Where do we read of angels of finance? Putting into scripture what it doesn’t say is as bad as taking away what it does say.
- Why if truly in heaven and in the presence of the Lord would he be interested in stuffing his pockets with gold – surely if in heaven – in the presence of the almighty God – he would have fallen on his face to worship. That is what we are to do in the presence of so much Holiness. Nowhere in Scripture have people been able to do otherwise. Yet Todd can stuff his pockets with gold from Gods treasury – isn’t that theft? Is this not the creation being worshipped above the creator? This story is amazingly reminiscent of Jack climbing the beanstalk and stealing the golden goose!

Rom 1:24-25 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and ***worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator***, who is blessed forever. Amen.

- He climbed a ladder and ascended into heaven – this is not a new teaching – every faith and prosperity gospel teacher has this alleged experience in one form or another. Alongside these heavenly trips they are in constant communication with God as if they are best buddies. People had to wait for God to speak to them in Scripture usually with many years in between and for specific purposes, and rarely was it God who spoke to them but Yeshua in the form of the angel of the Lord. God is a Holy God and deserves and desires our reverence and worship – yes he loves us and desires a relationship – but that relationship is on His terms and as He desires not as we would wishfully thinking like it to be. The God of judgment hasn’t gone – He is the same Yesterday, Today and Forever.
- As for Acts chapter 10 – Cornelius was so faithful in prayer and generous in his giving to those in need that God sent an angel to guide him to Peter. Notice Cornelius was not asking God for himself, nor did he want for himself. His concern was for others and he was a righteous man in Gods eyes. He sought God and what God wanted and not the other way round – then God sent an angel to speak to him. God did not have a chat with him as if they were best pals and shared cornflakes over breakfast. God did not speak to him directly at all even though God was aware of him and appreciated him and what he was doing. Also he did not send him to impart any sort of anointing.

Let us look now at the Prosperity Gospel and relate it to Scripture: ([Original source of this article](#))ⁱ

In the prosperity gospel, also known as the “Word of Faith” movement, the believer is told to use God, whereas the truth of biblical Christianity is just the opposite—God uses the believer. Word Faith or prosperity theology sees the Holy Spirit as a power to be put to use for whatever the believer wills. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is a Person who enables the believer to do God's will. The prosperity gospel movement closely resembles some of the destructive greed sects that infiltrated the early church. Paul and the other apostles were not accommodating to or conciliatory with the false teachers who propagated such heresy. They identified them as dangerous false teachers and urged Christians to avoid them.

Paul warned Timothy about "constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.... But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness." (1 Timothy 6:5, 9-11.)

Paul said covetousness is idolatry (Ephesians 5:5) and forbade the Ephesians to avoid anyone who brought a message of immorality or covetousness (Ephesians 5:6-7). Prosperity teaching prohibits God from working on His own, meaning that God is not Lord of all because He cannot work until we release Him to do so. Faith, according to the Word of Faith doctrine, is not submissive trust in God; faith is a formula by which we manipulate the spiritual laws prosperity teachers believe govern the universe. As in the name "Word of Faith" implies, this movement teaches that faith is a matter of what we say more than who we trust or what truths we embrace and affirm in our hearts.

A favorite term in the Word of Faith movement is "positive confession." It refers to the teaching that words have creative power. What you say, Word of Faith teachers claim, determines everything that happens to you. Your confessions, especially the favors you demand of God, must all be stated positively and without wavering. Then God is required to answer (as though man could require anything of God!). Thus God's ability to bless us supposedly hangs on our faith. James 4:13-16 clearly contradicts this teaching, "Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit. Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that. But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil."

Far from stressing the importance of wealth, the Bible warns against pursuing it. Believers, especially leaders in the church (1 Timothy 3:3), are to be free from the love of money (Hebrews 13:5). The love of money leads to all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:10). Jesus warned, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions" (Luke 12:15). In sharp contrast to the Word of Faith emphasis on gaining money and possessions in this life, Jesus said "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19). The irreconcilable contradiction between prosperity teaching gospel and the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is best summed up in the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:24, "You cannot serve God and riches."

The next issue is the violence perpetrated against individuals by this man:

He claims God tells him to kick people in the face or punch them as hard as he can. I will leave you to find the scriptural references for this kind of behaviour – because of the 32 different translations of the Bible I have – including the Klingon translation – I cannot find any justification for this type of behaviour yet plenty against it.

Conclusion

Angels promote the gospel preached by Bentley; money is the focus of that gospel. He is associated in no uncertain terms with proven false prophets and does not preach the Gospel of Salvation according to Scriptural standard, nor does he describe Jesus as the person Jesus describes himself as. Who do you say that I am?

A line must be drawn between accepting people as errant and sometimes mistaken and blatant anti-Scriptural teaching.

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. (Matthew 24:4 KJV)

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. (Matthew 24:5 KJV)

And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many (Matthew 24:11 KJV)

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. (Matthew 24:24 KJV)

And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you: (Mark 13:5 KJV)

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. (Mark 13:6 KJV)

For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple² (Unsuspecting is a better translation than simple). (Romans 16:18 KJV)

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; (Ephesians 4:14 KJV)

Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience (Ephesians 5:6 KJV)

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; (2 Thessalonians 2:3 KJV)

Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. (1 John 3:7 KJV)

And finally make sure you are actually walking in the faith and not in a lie:

2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Or as the 1912 Weymouth New Testament clearly translates:

2Co 13:5 Test yourselves to discover whether you are true believers: put your own selves under examination. Or do you not know that Jesus Christ is within you, unless you are insincere?

Do we in reality want to be a part of a worldwide move of an obvious and undeniable fabrication of Satan the father of lies? If the answer to this question is no – as it should be – then I expect all Christians to be as the Bereans and check all against Scripture as it is written, and in context, not as preferred by many – out of context – and walk in the righteousness of God and in the true salvation of Yeshua.

The Toronto debacle is promoted by these people as a reference for this type of move. I don't know about where you are, but where I live the Toronto experience split churches, caused many to leave and left a void in the teaching of sound doctrine. This move will further destroy the witness of true believers amongst the nations. As new age spirituality is becoming more acceptable by all people including "*Christians*": the fundamentalists or those that seek the truth without modern embellishments are seen as the enemy and the truth of the Gospel message is becoming further suppressed.

² **G172** ἀκακος akakos - ak'-ak-os

From G1 (as a negative particle) and G2556; *not bad*, that is, (objectively) *innocent* or (subjectively) *unsuspecting*: - harmless, simple.

If so called Christians cannot walk in the truth – how can we be a light to the world and promote the truth of Yeshua and WHO HE SAYS HE IS!!!.

What's the difference between Todd Bentley's message of Salvation and the Truth?

How then can we tell if we are a victim of these deceptions? How do we check ourselves?

When examining ourselves, one of the most common statements claiming knowledge of salvation is feeling: I feel the Holy Spirit so I know I am saved. Unfortunately feelings can be as much a part of the deceptive false messiah as the doctrines taught to promote him. A Mormon claims to know what they believe is true because of a burning in the bosom.

Feelings can be manipulated through various means other than a purely spiritual level. They can be promoted and controlled on the physical level by the careful manipulation of the emotions by those wanting a desired emotional response.

Music and persuasive speech, even humorous or sad stories can all bring about a feeling that is purely emotional yet perceived to be Spiritual by those in church meeting or spiritual gathering.

Immediately upon reading this kind of statement the reader says to him/herself, “*that is not me, I know what I know*”. The defensive barrier immediately goes up. I ask the reader to step back and think about the reality of the warnings we have read in Scripture and the directive by the King of the Universe to check ourselves to make sure we are in the faith. We are not told to do this because we can't be deceived but because we can.

John 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed.

Thomas would not believe until he had the experience of physical contact with the Messiah. This cannot happen today which is why our Lord makes the important point that those who have not seen are blessed for their belief, not their experience. I am not stating that we cannot as believers experience God's power from time to time or see His miraculous works in and around our lives. We cannot however rely on an experience that may not have come from the true God, the God of our salvation, but is perhaps a part of the deceptions created by the god of this world to deceive from the truth.

The way to discern and understand these deceptions is to verify them against God's word and to ensure they are not lifting *us* into or up to a position we do not belong in the family of God.

The doctrines of demons or deceptions taught in the church -- no matter how enticing and pleasant, how attractive, how devoted to God they sound – actually communicate that everything has a Divine Presence or that all is somehow connected to God - all is *One*. This is clearly heresy; to declare in a doctrine that we are equal to, becoming like or can work our way towards God and salvation is the equivalent of saying Satan and God are two sides of the same coin, the occult teaching of ying and yang or that the balance between good and evil is a correct and acceptable viewpoint.

Though this is not openly acknowledged by the advocates of these teachings however, this is what becomes evident when their teachings are compared to Scripture (“I [Satan] will be like the Most High,” Isaiah 14:14).

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

He is still prowling around like a *lion seeking whom he may devour*. The symbolism here is striking, *Yeshua is the lion* of Judah and He is the Messiah. Satan portrays *himself* as the Messiah (Lion) as he wishes to be like the most high (worshipped). He will pretend to be the Christ, not just in the end times, but throughout church history. Many false Christ's have been and are worshipped.

Let's finish with an excellent article by Jan Markel: [Olive Tree Ministries](#)ⁱⁱ

The prophet Isaiah said in his day that truth had fallen in the street (Isa. 59:14). This situation has intensified in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Every believer should not only know but have a love for the truth. **This generation for convenience sake and personal gain lack interest in deception-related issues and they are being ignored by the body as a whole.** Remember what Scripture warns:

"they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved" (2 Thessalonians 2:10).

Thus, Solomon's wise words, "Buy truth, and do not sell it" (Proverbs 23:23).

John MacArthur states in his book "The Truth War (MacArthur 2007)" about our climate today:

"Contemporary Christians are determined to get the world to like them, and of course in the process they also want to have as much fun as possible. **They are so obsessed with making the church seem 'cool' to unbelievers that they can't be bothered with questions about whether another person's doctrine is sound or not.**

In a climate like this, the thought of even identifying someone else's teaching as false, (much less 'contending earnestly' for the faith) is a distasteful and a dangerously countercultural suggestion."

MacArthur concludes:

"But Christians ought to be the most willing to live and die for truth. Remember, we know the truth, and the truth has set us free (John 8:32). And if called upon to sacrifice for the truth's sake, we need to be willing and prepared to give our lives."

Today many of the so-called evangelical preachers are openly questioning whether such a thing as truth exists. Others even say we can't be sure what truth is. Sadly Christian leaders today-many of them highly respected refuse to stand for anything because they have decided that even Scripture isn't clear and we shouldn't have debates about it.

Yet absolute truth is what the Word of God is all about!

Since the onset of the "seeker" movement, the Emergent Church movement, and postmodern thinking of the last 15 years or so, the truth has been sacrificed for the development of a post modern church system.

Again quoting MacArthur:

"We cannot sit by and do nothing while worldly, revisionist, and sceptical attitudes about truth are infiltrating the church. We must not embrace such confusion in the name of charity, collegiality, or unity. We have to stand and fight for the truth--and be prepared to die for it--as faithful Christians always have."

He concludes:

"Church leaders are obsessed with style and methodology, losing interest in the glory of God, and becoming grossly apathetic about truth and sound doctrine. For the moment, at least, the battle appears to be turning in the enemy's favour."

The issue of discernment and standing for the truth is a war. Warfare is serious. It requires diligence – yet the Lord says:

Isa 56:10 His watchmen *are* blind: they are all ignorant, they *are* all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

It requires paying a price. It will cost you. You may not be popular:

Mat 5:11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Sadly many of today's believers have no taste for conflict and contention. They sit back and watch the enemies of the truth strive relentlessly unchecked. Casualties abound everywhere. So why are we, the believers who are commanded to truth letting the enemy walk all over it without contention?

One of the subtle teachings promoted today is the idea that without a mystical technique, God is somehow indifferent or unapproachable.... in other words; if we do not stay with the teacher whom God is giving special instruction to, then we will miss out on what God is doing. The Emergent church and contemplative prayer advocates are promoting just that sort of mystical spiritual knowledge as required to communicate with God.

This mystical spirituality is not something that is sneaking up on us unawares. Theosophist Alice Bailey was a mystic and occult prophetess, she is considered the mother of the modern New Age Movement. Alice Bailey channelled (An occult technique used to speak with the dead) for a spirit called Djwhal Khul that claimed to be a Tibetan Master, who dictated through her nearly 20 books. Alice Bailey rejected the Christ of Scripture to embrace a different Christ because of her acceptance of an occult belief system. People do not realize how considerable an influence she was in determining the new world religion that we see surfacing today.

She revealed a long term plan in her 1957 volume, *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy* which we can see is still being implemented today:

Cabalist agents would infiltrate the Christian Church to modify its message, transforming it as an instrument for the Universal Religion of the 21st Century. Alice Bailey stated:

“there will appear the Church Universal, and its definite outlines will appear towards the close of this century... This Church will be nurtured into activity by the Christ and His disciples when the outpouring of the Christ principle, the TRUE second Coming has been accomplished... the Christian church in its many branches can serve as a nucleus through which world illumination may be accomplished... the church as a teaching factor should take the great basic doctrines and (shattering the old forms in which they are expressed and held) show their true and inner spiritual significance. The prime work of the church is to teach, and teach ceaselessly, preserving the outer appearance in order to reach the many who are accustomed to church usages. Teachers must be trained; Bible knowledge must be spread; the sacraments must be mystically interpreted, and the power of the church to heal must be demonstrated.”
(Bailey 1957)

She and others proclaim that we need special mystical interpretations and types of meditation prayer to commune and that we have to go back to the ways that have been forgotten. Sadly the techniques that have “been forgotten” are spiritual techniques used by mystics in Buddhism and Hinduism and other occult religions. Any church advocating works based salvation is a part of this deception. To say we can work our way to heaven is saying that the provision of God through the death and resurrection of Yeshua (Jesus) is not sufficient and it is we who have the power to achieve it in our own strength. (We can be as God – Gen 3:5).

The most significant indication of the Deceiver's work is a belief or doctrine which brings in to question or undermines the uniqueness of Yeshua (Jesus) Christ as both God and man and His atoning work on the Cross. The importance of whom He (Yeshua) says He is opposed to who man claims that He is.

ⁱ What does the Bible say about the prosperity Gospel - <http://www.gotquestions.org/prosperity-gospel.html>

ⁱⁱ Olive Tree Ministries <http://www.olivetreeviews.org/>