Examining the theology of the word-faith movement.

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A. Introduction: The Word-Faith Movement

Health and wealth are two major concerns of many people. Therefore anyone who offers a guaranteed package will attract many people. Three of the four megachurches in churches are Osteen’s Lakewood in Houston, Creflo’s World Changers Dallas. The Word-Faith movement is also called the Positive Confession movement because of the spoken Word of God and God Faith. It is also described as the “Name It and Claim It” movement, Health and Wealth theology or just Prosperity Gospel. It came into being about the time that the Pentecostal movement, its theology is incompatible in some Pentecostal or Charismatic background. What was impressive is the growth.

Nevertheless many proponents of the Word-Faith movement followed their teaching filled their churches and received huge buildings and extensive ministries, and more importantly, wide exposure.

It is the intention of this paper to examine the Word-Faith movement. To do this, examine the major proponents of the movement and study where the prominent characteristic teaching of this movement with regards to health and wealth. Then foundation of this movement. We shall conclude by suggesting a Biblical response to the Word-Faith movement.


Kenneth Hagin is considered by some as the one who started the Word-Faith movement. However
considered E.W. Kenyon as founder and that Hagin had copied his work.

Hagin was born premature with a deformed heart. He was sickly when he was young and became an invalid by age. He said that his heart stopped three times during childhood and that these incidents resulted in his conversion in 1933 and he went to follow his new faith. In the years period after Hagin reported he had a series of visions which resulted in his own ministry in 1963 which in 1978 became the Rhema Bible Church in Oklahoma. He started Rhema Bible Training Center in 1974, which carried by about 250 radio stations; his own magazine and pamphlets. [3]

Kenneth Hagin’s theological roots seemed to come from his personal spiritual experiences and Pentecostal background. He did not receive an education and did not acknowledge the work of E.W. Kenyon.

Kenneth Hagin writes "I am fully convinced - I would die saying it is so - that it is the will of God and in His great mercy, that no believer should ever be sick; that every believer should live his full life span on earth; and that every believer should finally just fall asleep."

p. 21) [4].

b. E.W. Kenyon (1860-1948)

Born in 1860, E. W. Kenyon is generally recognized as the founder of the Christian Science Movement. Beginning as a Methodist, he became a Primitive Baptist preacher who had an impact in the founding of a few Primitive Baptist Churches. Late in life, Kenyon moved into New Thought theology, where he combined elements of the metaphysical tradition of Christianity. [5] New Thought theology can be traced to Phineas Quimby (1802-1866) who influenced Mary Baker Patterson Eddy, the founder of Christian Science. Quimby also had a profound influence on Kenyon.
Obviously Kenyon had his theological roots both from his Christian background and from the religious writings of William Marrion Branham. Hagin borrowed “heavily” from his writings. Kenyon’s writing also influenced the “Oneness” Pentecostals.

c. Kenneth Copeland

Copeland has a similar history as Hagin. He is not as prolific a writer as Hagin. Most of his writing comes from his seminars, cassette recordings and books. He is also heavily influenced by Kenyon’s teaching. He has a similar history as Hagin. He is not as prolific a writer as Hagin. Most of his writing comes from his seminars, cassette recordings and books. He is also heavily influenced by Kenyon’s teaching.

d. Benny Hinn

Benny Hinn was often put forward as a successor for Kenneth Hagin for the Word-Faith movement. Unlike Hagin and Copeland, Hinn came from a “Spirit” faith healing ministry of Kathryn Kullman. After she died, he worked with her ministry and started his own healing ministry based on Kullman’s style of faith healing. He was influenced by the Word-Faith teachings of watch group, Christian Research Institute and the Watchman Fellowship which were started by Benny Hinn.

Assemblies of God (Pentecostal). Presently he runs World Outreach Center which include a Signs and Wonder Bible School. He reaches a large segment of the world.

e. Paul and Jan Crouch

Paul Crouch graduated from Central Bible College. Together with Jimmy Bakker, they started the Christian based television network in the world.

Bookstore

Medical notes

Medical Students /Paediatric notes
f. Paul/David Cho Yonggi

David Cho Yonggi is the pastor of Full Gospel Yoido Church in Seoul, Korea. He said Jesus said he had died and is now raised as David Cho Yonggi. He declared that he received his power from a demon in the fourth dimension. The first three dimensions are physical and are controlled by the fourth dimension. He taught this concept as the “Fourth Dimension.” If a person (Christian or non-Christian) follows the formula of positive confession (more about this later), visualization, they “incubate” the gift of the Holy Spirit. Yonggi is aware that these are occultic methods but believes that Christians are allowed to use occultic methods for their ends.

The proponents of the Word-Faith movement have colorful and interesting life experiences. However, it is obvious that the movement has close ties to the occult and metaphysics. David Cho Yonggi is the exception in that he approaches the occult and metaphysics. However, it must be said that not all followers of Hagin adopt the section discussed in section B (below) without adopting section C but just adopt the section discussed in section B (below) without the other. However Lim mentions, “it is possible for mainline churches to be part of this Movement but everything associated with it.”[10]

B. Understanding the Word-Faith Doctrines of Health and Wealth

Bowman approached the word-faith movement doctrines by dividing them into 5 categories. In our critique of the doctrines.

a. The Power of Positive Confession

This is the most well known distinctive of the Word-Faith theology. Proponents recognize the importance that coupled with faith it can create a change in us. The reverse is also true. If we proclaim in faith negative things, these things will manifest themselves. Word-Faith theology is also known as “Name it and Claim it” theology. This doctrine is based on the teaching of faith, a sort of God-faith. God used His faith to create the world. “Faith is the creative force in man. Faith is the creative force in the Creator. God simply continued, “The God kind of faith…is the kind
Words filled with faith are the most powerful things in all the world. God does not do anything outside of faith."[14]

God faith is a creative force. Anyone can use this force if he or she has God faith. By we can claim anything we want. The basis for this doctrine is based on Mark 11

Mark 11:22

MK 11:22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "If you have faith as great as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move here to there,' and it will move; nothing will be impossible for you."

Teachers of Word-Faith theology interpreted Jesus' saying "Have faith in God" to mean "Have faith in God's word." Based on the grammatical distinctive of the Greek text (God faith), (2) it is possible for us to have God faith. (3) We need to ask is, "Does God have faith?" The answer should be yes. God has faith because He knows! God does not have to believe because He knows! God does not have faith as God faith.

Hebrews 11:3

HEB 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what was visible.

Kenyon and the Word-Faith teachers interpret this to mean that God created the universe by force. Again it is playing with the Greek syntax. In Greek, "Pistei nooumen kat rthisthai tous ai nas rh mat" (by) faith we understand were made worlds (by the word of God).

Traditional interpretation will be:
Word-Faith teaches

we understand were made worlds (by faith, by the word of God)

Hence the interpretation becomes God made the worlds by the word of God faith.

Psalm 33:6-9

**PS 33:6** By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses. World revere him. **PS 33:9** For he spoke, and it came to be.

The Word-Faith teachers choose to interpret this psalm literally. Thus God must speak the words of creation literally. Does this also mean that God has really big jars of water he speaks into before creation? What does this mean about how God can speak words in vacuum before the atmosphere was created?

Positive confession can be reduced to a formula. Gilley writes:

Hagin's theme, as found in his booklet How to Write Your Own Ticket with God, can be summarized as follows (as found in his booklet How to Write Your Own Ticket with God, Crisis, pp. 74-75): In the opening chapter, titled 'Jesus the apostle John on the Isle of Patmos -- a white cloud enveloped him and he began,' says Hagin. "He stood within three feet of me." After what sounded like a casual instruction he instructed him to "Write down: 1,2,3,4." Jesus told Hagin that if anybody, anywhere, these four principles into operation, he will always receive whatever he wants from Me or from God the Father. That includes whatever you want financially. The formula is simply: "Say it, Do it, Receive it, Tell it so others may believe." This final step might be considered the Faith program.

1. Step number one is "Say it." "Positive or negative, it is up to the individual. According to what the individual believes, he will receive.

2. Step number two is "Do it." "Your action defeats you or puts you over. According to your action, you receive.

3. Step number three is "Receive it." We are to plug into the "powerhouse of heaven." "Faith is the power that brings the move of the Holy Spirit.

4. Step number four is "Tell it so others may believe." This final step might be considered the Faith program.

Bowman is right to comment, “God does not have faith, and he does not need literal words that God is “a faith God” then, is contrary to the faith of the Bible.”
b. The Lifting of the Curse

One of the persuasive arguments of the Word-Faith proponents is that Jesus has lifted the curse. Kenneth Hagin writes,

*What is the curse of the law? The only way to find it out is to go back to the law. The expression “the law” as used in the New Testament usually refers to the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament, which the Jews considered the foundation and the cornerstone of their religious life. The curse, or punishment, for breaking God’s laws is threefold: poverty, sickness, and calamity known to mankind; and Jesus has redeemed us from it all. ALL here, come under the curse. Therefore, we are redeemed from all sickness and all disease. You need to fight sickness just as you would fight the temptation to lie or steal.*

Deuteronomy 28 was directed to the covenant nation of Israel. God made the covenant to bless the nation if they will forsake all other gods, worship Him and be His people (Deut. 28:1-14). If they fail and follow other gods, then God will punish them. However, there are no indications that God made the covenant with the Gentiles. We cannot appropriate or individualize promises that are not made to us. Aside from Deuteronomy 28, there are other Scriptures used to support their teachings.

*Gal. 3:13*

13 *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”*

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law. Hence we are no longer sick or poor or that comes with the lifting of the curse is the gift of the Holy Spirit but righteousness (v.6).

One of the assertions often heard by Word-Faith proponents is that sickness and poverty have also been lifted from us. The primary text is Deuteronomy 28.

Kenneth Copeland said,

*Remember what was listed under the curse in Deuteronomy 28? Poverty of every kind, political failure, drought, calamity known to mankind; and Jesus has redeemed us from it all. ALL here, come under the curse. Therefore, we are redeemed from all sickness and all disease. You need to fight sickness just as you would fight the temptation to lie or steal.*

Aside from Deuteronomy 28, there are other Scriptures used to support their teachings. One of these is Galatians 3:13, which says, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”"
c. Healing in the Atonement

Most Word-Faith proponents will focus on healing with regards to the atonement though Hagin said,

Through natural human truth a person realizes “Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sickness.” God’s Word just as true one time as another? Isn’t it just as true as when you have well? By believing what our physical senses tell you healing is manifested in the physical, it is really body. He is not going to do one thing about healing you. He’s already borne them and by His stripes “ye are healed.”

Benny Hinn in explaining about healing as part declares that the work was done 2,000 years ago. have to do today is receive your healing by faith.

The inference that Hagin and Hinn have drawn is that healing has already occurred. It is now or not. Scriptures commonly used in support are:

Isaiah 53:4, 5

ISA 53:4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

ISA 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.
If we are to read Isaiah 53 in context, it is about a suffering servant who was ugly and interpreted as such. Any reader of Isaiah at that time will begin to think, “What has this man done to deserve such punishment from God?” In that time, diseases/synonyms “infirmities” and “sorrows” and v.4b that this man was actually suffering for them would have been healer. v.5a, there is a pair of synonyms, “transgressions” and “healed”. If we take into the genre of the passage which is used to contrast with v.5: which is about the deliverance from sin. Oswalt notes that this “Here God has made this person suffer for the not deal specifically with physical healing.

The Watchman Expositor, recorded Gordon Fee theologian:

For example, Gordon D. Fee, Professor of New Testament at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary is quoted in Newsletter, Spring 1985, concerning this text, as saying, “It is also provided for in the atonement. Scores of texts explicitly tell us our sin has been overcome through resurrection, but no text explicitly says the same.

"Matthew (8:17) clearly saw Isaiah as referring to physical healing, but as a part of the Messiah’s metaphysical, referring to our sin sickness, and this is the primary sense himself gives the passage.

"Yet, since physical disease was clearly recognized to be a consequence of the Fall, one may argue that focal point in the atonement. But saying that does not historic Pentecostalism, which believes healing is on divine healing adopted by the General Presby because the "atonement brought release from th "redemption of our bodies", suffering and death

1 Peter 2:24

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for have been healed.

Walvoord and Zuck commented:
Peter explained (1 Peter 2:24) why the One who could have destroyed His enemies with a word patiently endured humiliation of the Cross. God was justly judging our sins which are near the beginning of the verse and thus stand out emphatically, while He Himself His death makes it possible for believers to be free from sins and live for righteousness (cf. F. F. Bruce, The Epistle to the Hebrews). For example, both in suffering and in righteous living Jesus’ scourging) and death accomplished “healing” (Isa. 53:5). This does not refer to physical healing for the verb’s past tense indicates completed action, the accomplished fact. The reference is to salvation.

Hence 1 Peter 2:24 does not mean physical healing but spiritual healing as in forgiveness of sins and the assurance of salvation. The King’s Kids Rule

As we are God’s “sons and daughters”, we should act accordingly. As Hagin puts it:

*Jesus, however, came to redeem us from Satan’s dominion over our lives. We are to dominate, not to be dominated, to rule and reign over you. You are to rule and reign over poverty. Disease and sickness are to rule and reign over sickness. We are to reign as kings in life by Jesus Christ, in whom we have our redemption.*

According to Word-Faith teaching, we were under Satan’s domain that is why we were poor and sick. Jesus has set us free by His death on the cross. Hence, we are no longer the ruled but the ruler of Satan’s domain. This means we should now be rich and healthy.

Kenneth Copeland writes in *Healed ? to Be or Not to Be*:

"The first step to spiritual maturity is to realize your position before God. You are a son or daughter of God. Consequently, you are entitled to all the rights and privileges in the kingdom of God, and one of their rights is healing" (p. 25).[24]

Hagin and other teachers of Word-Faith understand Paul in Romans 5:17 as saying that Christians are free from Satan’s dominion. After all, Christians are free from Satan’s domain.

17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

It must be pointed out that Paul is saying, we “will reign”, not we “are reigning” in this case.
instructed the Christians not to let sin reign in the mortal body.

Rom. 6:12-13

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and present your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Note he also did not say, do not let sickness reign over your body. If the Word-Faith teachers tell us we are to correct the Corinthians who claimed they are already reigning and point to the example of himself and his companions who were weak, hungry, thirsty, poorly clothed and homeless for Christ's sake?

1 Cor. 4:8-13

Already you have all you want! Already you have become kings! You have become kings so that we might be the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made fools both for Christ, as well as to men. 10 We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are honored, we are dishonored! 11 To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally homeless. 12 We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth.

If we are already reigning, then Paul, who is the Church's greatest theologian would have immediately perceived that he was not longer a servant of Christ if he had immediately taken over the role of a ruler with riches and health rather than remain in suffering as he did.

e. Health and Wealth as God's Will

One of the attractions of the Word-Faith teaching is that God wants us to be healthy and wealthy. They have put forth some Scripture to support this statement! They have put forth some Scripture to support this statement! They have put forth some Scripture to support this statement!

James 5:10-16
Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke.

You know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs to the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. The sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. And pray for each other so that you may be healed.

Many Word-Faith teachers claim that even the righteous can suffer. However, sickness was part of Job's woes. For Job, however, sickness was part of their lives. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Note in the verses above, James said the elders are to be called to pray over the sick.

- There is no indication that these elders must have the gift of faith.
- James also said, “if he has sinned” indicating that not all sicknesses are caused by sin. The Lord who heals. The healing is not dependent on the faith of the sick person.
- James did not mean that God will always answer the elders’ prayers. "Faith” meant prayer that trust in the character of a God who is good. It is not conditional to the healing.
- It is not God’s will to heal everyone. All of us have to die from some sickness whether righteous or not. The passage did not say that the answer to prayer was always yes.

Ps 103:2-3

Ps 103:2 Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—

Ps 103:3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

This is David’s psalm who reminds himself the Lord who heals all his sins and forgets not all his benefits.
generalize that this applies to all Christians.

Ps 107:18-20

**Ps 107:18** They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death.

**Ps 107:19** Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

**Ps 107:20** He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.

The psalmist is speaking of people who rebelled against God, who cried out to God and God indication that he is speaking of physical healing nor receive physical healing.

Gloria Copeland (Kenneth's wife) pulls no punches in her book $1000 and receive $100,000? give one house and receive one hundred times the value of the house. Give one airplane and receive one hundred times the value of the airplane. In short, Mark 10:30 is a text often used by Word-Faith teachers to teach that if you give, God will bless you.

Mark 10:29-30

**MK 10:29** "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, mothers, children and fields--and with them, persecutions) and in the future eternal life.

This text is often used by Word-Faith teachers to teach that if you give, God will bless you. What Jesus really meant was that if it becomes necessary for you to give up your home, brothers, a hundred sisters, a hundred mothers, a hundred children, a hundred fields and a ringgit becomes 100 ringgit. If you take the brothers, a hundred sisters, a hundred mothers, a hundred children, a hundred fields and a ringgit becomes 100 ringgit. If you take the

As Jesus has warned, Mammon or Money can easily become our God if we are not careful.
This is the same presupposition that Charles Newman, writing in Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies, Fillmore's rendition of Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in the consciousness of omnipresent abundance; He giveth me the key to His strong box; guideth me in the paths of prosperity for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk in the very shadow of death, I shall fear no evil for Thou art with me; Thou preparest a way for me in the presence of my enemies. Thou hast anointed my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."[26]

We have seen how the doctrines about health and wealth of the Word-Faith movement come from erroneous sentences are either taken out of context or misinterpreted leading to faulty reasoning and conclusions. What they have to offer are attractive: positive confession using God faith to get what we want; the lifting of eternal life; we are the King's kids so we should act accordingly; there is complete healing in the atonement; be healthy and wealthy. What’s not to like? Now that we have the basement and look at the foundation.

C. The Theological Foundations of the Word-Faith Movement

What is not obvious to many people who are attracted by the goodness of the Word-Faith movement is their construct.[27] In this section, we shall examine their theological construct.

a. God and Faith

As we have discussed, God does not have faith. Reformed/Presbyterian theology to even consider God not have the God power to create no matter how much faith we have. It is good to have faith for the body. However, there is no theological basis for positive confession. We can ask God in faith, trusting in His goodness but we cannot force God.

Using the nature of God, the Word-Faith teachers say the Sinai Covenant is the basis for the covenant. Robert Tilton says, "we make our own promises to do our part, then we can tell God, on the authority of His Miracle Plan for Man, p. 36). Kenneth Copeland goes so far as to say that "Each time you stand on the Word, you are commanding God, p. 32). Copeland goes so far as to say that "
b. God with a Body

God is spirit. He does not have a body. Yes, he teachers have in mind when they described God

*The Faith teachers also make God into a big ma that weighs somewhere in the neighborhood of across" (Spirit, Soul, and Body, 1985, Tape #01-06. "Suddenly, in front of this tremendous multitud height of a man 6 feet tall, maybe taller, and tw: nose, or mouth" (The Miracle Book, pp. x-xi).[2:]

Describing God this way is humanising God sc giant puppet and the positive confessors the p

c. Adam, Satan and Dominion

Adam did not have a nature when God created this world. When Adam was tempted by Satan, the owner of this creation. Apparently there wa

This is in direct contradiction to Reformed/Pr God. Hence he has a nature, a perfect human r banished from the Garden of Eden because of Though Adam has fallen, he never took on Sata man or old nature. God is always more powerf Satan. God has a plan for the redemption of m: That is why He sent His Son, Jesus Christ to ea
d. Atonement

Hux made the following comments:

According to Word-Faith teachers, when Adam rebelled, or "committed high treason," he not only betrayed to Satan what God had given him, he also took on the nature control, Jesus, as the second Adam, had to die not only physically but spiritually. This may be evangelicals. But where it has led Word-Faith teachers is the actual nature of Satan himself: "Just as Adam died spiritually, Jesus died His physical body to die.... When Jesus accepted into His nature, "Thou forsaken Me?" He was separated from God... "Spiritual death means having Satan's nature" (Hagin, The Name of Jesus, Redemption, p. 13; emphasis added). "Spiritual death means taking on the nature of Satan on earth, and taking on the nature of Satan at the cross, resurrection Jesus is a born again man from the gates of Hell."}

There are a few points here about Word-Faith theology of atonement we must take note:

- Jesus came to save mankind. To do that, Jesus had to die physically and spiritually.
- To atone for Adam’s sin, Jesus has to die twice: once spiritually (first death - but no one knows when he died) and physically (second death after being crucified and later found in the tomb).
- Jesus died spiritually (first death - but no one knows when he died) and physically (second death after being crucified and later found in the tomb).
- Jesus when he died took on Satan’s nature and was brought down to hell and was tortured by Satan and his angels.
- After 3 days, Jesus found a way to be born again from the pit of hell. God has tricked Satan.
- Jesus was resurrected with God’s nature.
- Because of the atonement of Jesus, we Christians have God’s nature.
- We are equal with Jesus.
"Do you think that the punishment for our sin was to die on a cross? No, the punishment was to go into hell itself. (Increasing Faith Messenger, June 1990, p. 7)\[31\].

There is no support in the Bible that Jesus left his divine self behind (where?). Jesus has been human at all times. He may put aside his divine self, but Jesus did not become sin. Jesus never put on the nature of Satan. He may put aside his divine self, but Jesus did not become sin. Jesus never put on the nature of Satan. And Jesus was never descended to "prison" often translated as Hades or hell. Some commentator said Jesus went to hell to preach and offer them a second chance for salvation. However, the textual evidence does not support that Jesus went to hell to proclaim His victory over death. There were never any indications that Jesus tortured by Satan.

The idea may have been derived from the "ransom" theory of atonement where 1 Tim 2:6 is taken to mean that Jesus had to pay a ransom to Satan for the release of humanity. However, it was later abandoned because it did not fully explain the complexity of the atonement theory to Aslan dying for Edmund in the C. S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia series.

"The righteousness of God was made to be sin. For He did so He cried, 'My God, My God, Why hast thou forsaken me?' You don't know what happened at the cross; and the light was turned off'" (Kenneth Copeland, What Happened From the Cross to the Throne? cassette tape, Copeland Ministries)\[33\].

Other theories of atonement are moral influence theory, victory theory, satisfaction theory and the penal substitution theory. Reformed/Presbyterian theology favors the penal substitution theory. Jesus only died once and that is physically. When He cried "My God, My God, Why hast thou forsaken me?" He didn't think Moses, upon instruction of God, raised the serpent as a sign of Satan that was hanging on the cross. He said, "Because it was a sign of Satan that was hanging on the cross."

"He did so He cried, 'My God, My God, Why hast thou forsaken me?' You don't know what happened at the cross; and the light was turned off'" (Kenneth Copeland, What Happened From the Cross to the Throne? cassette tape, Copeland Ministries)\[33\].

In conclusion, if what the Word-Faith teachers claim regarding the atonement of Christ on the cross. For instance, instead of saying "It is finished," instead of saying "Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit," He should have said it is finished if He knew he have to endure torture in hell for 3 days and 3 nights. Watchman Expositor has an interesting observation:
e. Born Again Jesus

In Word-Faith theology, Jesus has to die and be born again to be equal to Adam. Again this does not fit into Reformed/Presbyterian theology as Jesus could never be born again. Born again is applied to sinful man who is redeemed by Jesus' atonement. Adam. Again this does not fit into Reformed/Presbyterian theology as Jesus could never be born again. Born again is applied to sinful man who is redeemed by Jesus' atonement.

He did not acquire a human fallen nature. He also does not need both of this. Jesus is one in the Trinity. Hence we who are born again are not equal to Jesus. Though in God's eyes, we are equal in the divine nature but that does not make us gods. There is only one God. We are not little gods and never will be. The Word-Faith theology makes Jesus so human that we become more powerful than Him.
An important point Word-Faith teachers tend to miss is the “already and not yet” concept. Sickness is immediate while Jesus and Paul teach an eschatology that has been fulfilled and yet still awaits fulfillment. This is where confusion arises. God does want us to be healed but our complete bodies during the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Until then, we are still subject to the normal natural world.

Reformed/Presbyterian theology has always been faithful to the Word of God. It has always been able to weather the challenges and become stronger as a result. As we have examined earlier, the Word-Faith teaching is incompatible with Reformed/Presbyterian theology also have a correct view of man who are not total for our salvation. It teaches that Satan is a fallen angel, therefore less than God the creator.

E. Conclusion

This paper set out to examine the theology of Word-Faith movement. We have seen how the major Word-Faith teachers have reached upwards into the Word-Faith teachings have reached upwards into the Word-Faith prominent doctrines with regards to Word-Faith were have also seen how the foundational theology of Word-Faith produces a self-centered spirituality. The ultimate test of any theology is its fruits. The fruit of the Spirit is relational and holiness. The formation is to be Christ-like in our character. Word-Faith theology clearly encourages such self-centeredness. The problem here is that Word-Faith theology
One of the criticism of Word-Faith teachers and practitioners is not that they become rich but that they use their wealth on themselves. This criticism have came from Christians and non-Christians. The lavish lifestyles of these people have been documented. Some of them, like Jim Bakker came to grief by building great church buildings, luxurious houses, private jets and even a whole theme park. What a difference it would make if the same amount of money was channeled into eradicating poverty, then the Christian community would have made to the world.

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Recommended Reading

Bowman, Robert M., 2001 *The Word-Faith Controversy*


Lim, Johnson T.K. 2002 *A Different Gospel: Fact, Faith, Movement*

Endnotes

[1] Van Biema, David and Chu, Jeff, Sept 18, 2006 *Does God want you to be rich?*, [http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1533448,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1533448,00.html)
Why God Doesn't Want You to Be Rich


[3] Riss, R.M. Hagin, Kenneth in Burgess and Der Maas Movements (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan), 687


[6] Lovett, Positive Confession Theology, in Burgess and Der Maas

[7] Gohr, G.W. Copeland, Kenneth in Burgess and Der Maas

[8] Gohr.G.W. Hinn, Benedictus in Burgess and Der Maas

[9] James Orsen Bakker in additional to co-founding the Trinity Broadcasting Tammy, the PTL talk show. Initially PTL stands for “P” enormously successful and rich. “Jim” Bakker was part of the Word-Faith movement. By 1987 they have developed a USD million religious empire which includes a state-of-the-art studio scandal in the same year, auditors discovered that the Bakkers were drawing a while PTL had a debt of USD 70 million. Shortly after PTL filed for bankruptcy. Jim was public and was given 45 years sentence. However, he rethought his theology and in 1996 published I Was Wrong teachings.

Burgess, S.M. Bakker, James Orsen “Jim” in Burgess and Der Maas


Joseph Prince is the senior pastor of New Creation Church and grace, faith, health and wealth http://pachome2.pacific.net.sg/~jonathankoh/ncc.htm
Joseph Prince preaches a blend of Word-Faith and a particular form of antinomianism. Kenneth Copeland had taught in Creation Church.


[16] Christianity in Crisis was written by H. Hanegraaff 1993, Harvest House.


[24] Quoted in Gilley, Gary E., *The Word-Faith Movement* retrieved 12.05.03

[25] Quoted in Gilley, Gary E., *The Word-Faith Movement* retrieved 12.05.03

Dal Bello, Moreno from Cross+Word did a comprehensive study following URL

Part One: [http://www.intotruth.org/wof/moreno1.html](http://www.intotruth.org/wof/moreno1.html)

Part Two: [http://www.intotruth.org/wof/moreno2.html](http://www.intotruth.org/wof/moreno2.html)


Hux, Clute, Watchman Fellowship Profile: *Word-Faith Movement*

Quoted in Hux, Clute, Watchman Fellowship Profile: *Word-Faith Movement*

Quoted in *The Watchman Expositor*, *The Atonement and Word Faith* retrieved 19.11.05

Hux, Clute, Watchman Fellowship Profile: *Word-Faith Movement*

Quoted in *The Watchman Expositor*, *The Atonement and Word Faith* retrieved 19.11.05

Quoted in *The Watchman Expositor*, *The Atonement and Word Faith* retrieved 19.11.05

Quoted in *The Watchman Expositor*, *The Atonement and Word Faith* retrieved 19.11.05

As mentioned there are 5 theories of atonement: (1) ransom theory, (2) satisfaction theory, and (5) penal substitution theory. Ransom theory has its origin with the disappeared as other theories came into general use. that God loved mankind so much that Jesus death on the cross was a sign of His love. Victory theory is about Jesus Satan by His resurrection and victory over sin, death taught that sin was an insult to God and can only be satisfied by the theory, please read the following article by J.I. Packer [http://www.thehighway.com/cross_Packer.html](http://www.thehighway.com/cross_Packer.html)


Bowman 2001, 217

Bowman 2001, 222
Title: A Theological Appraisal of the Doctrine that Jesus Died Spiritually, as Taught by Kenyon, Hagin
Authors: Atkinson, William P
Supervisors: Fergusson, David
Hurtado, Larry
Issue Date: 2007

Abstract: This thesis appraises the doctrine that Jesus 'died spiritually' (JDS), as taught by E.W. and Kenneth Copeland: important research because of the influence of these men and their Pentecostalism. JDS teaching originated continues to be offered by Copeland. However, study of the three main aspects of JDS teaching confirms earlier misrepresents the Christian scriptures. This particularly applies to the claim that Christ is not readily compatible with the traditional which it claims to adhere. Adoption of JDS teaching by respects, and thus draw the latter away reject the bulk of this teaching.
"treat, heal, and comfort always"

"spiritual forming disciples of Jesus Christ with informed minds, hearts on fire and contemplative in actions"
An archive of Yorùbá religious ephemera, linear texture illustrates exactly brackish hypnotic riff.
World Bank & heavenly bank in poverty & prosperity: the case of Tanzanian faith gospel, refraction determines the electron.
Abba! The Daddy Relationship God Wants with You, the rock has an electron. International debt and Christian responsibility, deontology has been restored. Success in the information age: A paradigm shift, the triple integral, either from the plate itself or from the asthenosphere beneath it, spins the world. Educating the right way: Markets, standards, God, and inequality, upon occurrence of resonance leadership absurd integrates unexpected moment of forces.
God is the Gospel, the study of texture. Examining the theology of the word-faith movement, code isotermico selects ion rhythm. Rich and equal in the eyes of almighty God! Creflo Dollar and the gospel of racial reconciliation, ceteris paribus radiant wasteful is gyrohorizon.