



A JOURNEY INTO MYSTICLAND

CHARISMATICS AND THEIR INSUFFICIENT WORD OF GOD

by M. Kurt Goedelman

If one had to determine a motto for leaders in the Charismatic movement, it would be "God told me." Of course, if their "God told me" claim is challenged or proved wanting, they fall back on the old chestnut, "Touch not the Lord's anointed."

The "God told me" motto is indeed dangerous and heretical. It opens both speaker and hearer to confusion, chaos, deception, disappointment, mysticism, subjectivism, and perhaps even demons.

Scripture is all-sufficient. Second Timothy 3:16-17 declares, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." It is complete, thoroughly equipping us for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). We need not look elsewhere.

Dr. Jay Adams, in his volume on the 119th Psalm, writes:

"Notice that the place to seek God is in the Bible. Counseless will find Him and His will for their lives nowhere else. Mystics think that they can have encounters with God apart from the Scriptures. They think that nothing need come between them and God (not even Christ nor the Bible). They therefore work up some sort of 'experience' they suppose to be the presence of

God in this manner and look down on the 'peons' who try to find God in the Scriptures."¹

UNDERMINING AND PUMMELING SCRIPTURE

Benny Hinn is unquestionably the most popular and controversial figure in Charismatic circles today. He openly admits a lack of formal Bible training, but makes up for this inadequacy by regularly appealing to other authorities to establish his unorthodoxy. These include "revelation knowledge," "words of knowledge," personal interaction with members of the Trinity, an insider's knowledge of the Bible, and spiritual intuition to reveal the deeper meanings of the biblical text.

Those familiar with Hinn will recall his infamous teaching on the triune nature of God. During a sermon, Hinn said he had received a divine revelation that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each possessed their own body, soul, and spirit. He said that each member of the Godhead was and is a Trinity in and of Himself. "There are nine of them," he said of the persons in the Godhead, demonstrating that while he had his Christian doctrine all wrong, at least his arithmetic was correct.

While Hinn more recently has tried to distance himself from this bizarre teaching, consider the source he said it came from:

"And I want you all to listen carefully to what I'm going to say. ... And it's not a very easy thing to understand, but let's — let's pray that the Holy Ghost will help all of us. ... Man, I feel revelation knowledge already coming on me here. I want you to lift your hands. Something new is going to happen here today. I felt it just as I walked down here. Holy Spirit, take over in the name of Jesus."²

After he preached his heretical theology, he admonished his congregation with: "You say, 'Ahh, I never heard that.' Well, you think you're in this church to hear things you've heard for the last fifty years?"³

Hinn later tried to circumvent the heretical implications of his statements by calling the comments a big joke. He really didn't mean it or believe it, he said on several occasions. Yet, he called this teaching "revelation knowledge." Hinn put himself in a place far beyond the pastoral ministry of expounding on the Word into one of divine direction. Moreover, his alibis are as contradictory and confusing as his statement's original theological implications.

MORE OF HINN'S EYESEGESIS

Hinn has made plenty of other spurious statements. He admits he was puzzled by Jesus' conduct with the blind man recorded in John 9. But,

according to Hinn, the Holy Spirit gave him “a marvelous answer” to solve the mystery. Hinn claims that the Holy Spirit told him that, “The reason Jesus put mud on a guy’s eyes was not because the man was blind. It’s because he had no eyes and He just gave him brand new ones.”⁴

The Bible, however, states that Jesus “put clay on [his] eyes” (John 9:6, 11, 15), that the man was born “blind,” not “without eyes” (vv. 2, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25), and that Jesus “opened,” not “created” his eyes (vv. 10, 14, 17, 21, 26, 30, 32). The Holy Spirit inspired the Gospel’s author, John, to record these facts. They are, therefore, incontrovertible. Yet, Hinn tells us that the same Holy Spirit inspired his interpretation, which contradicts Scripture.

DEAD MEN WATCHING

One final example will demonstrate his continued trip into mysticism and imagination. It also will reveal the reality that Hinn’s “revelations” are no more than the product of his fertile mind. Hinn told a Trinity Broadcasting Network audience:

“But here’s first what I see for TBN. You’re going to have people raised from the dead watching this network. You’re going to have people raised from the dead watching TBN. Programs, just plain programs. Programs that haven’t done much when it comes to supernatural manifestations. Teaching programs. ... It’s going to be your average teaching program, your normal Christian program that’s blessing the Church. There’s going to be such power on these programs. People will be raised from the dead worldwide. I’m telling you, I see this in the Spirit. It’s going to be so awesome. Jesus, I give you praise for this. That people around the world, maybe not so much in America, people around the world who will lose loved ones will say to undertakers, ‘Not yet, I want to take my dead loved one and place him in front of that TV set for 24 hours. I’m telling you. People will be,

people — I’m telling you I feel the anointing talking here. People are going to be canceling funeral services and bringing their dead in their caskets, placing them — My God, I feel the anointing here — placing them before a television set, waiting for God’s power to come through and touch them. It’s going to happen time and time [again], so much it’s going to spread. You’re going to hear it from Kenya to Mexico to Europe to South America where people will be raised from the [dead]. So much so, that the word will spread that if some dead person be put in front of this TV screen they will be raised from the dead. And they will be, by the thousands. You wait. Now the Lord just told me — and I don’t know whether this is true or not — as I’m saying this, the Lord said he gave you that word many, many years ago. ... I see — I see quite something amazing. I see rows of umm, cas—of caskets lining up in front of this TV set. And I see them bringing them closer to the TV set and as people are coming closer, I see — uh, actually — loved ones picking up the hands of the dead and letting them touch the screen and people are getting raised as their hands are touching that screen.”⁵

Hinn’s “revelation,” which he claimed came through his anointing, is probably nothing more than a fabrication, but it is certainly not divine revelation. His words, “Now the Lord just told me — *and I don’t know whether this is true or not...*” is certainly a fitting indication of its true source. And, needless to say, Charismatics and TBN viewers are still burying their dead.

THE ORAL WORD

Long before Benny Hinn rose to prominence, faith healer and televangelist Oral Roberts was telling whoppers of his own. Probably the most notable one is his claim that God would take his life if he did not raise \$8 million to keep his university’s medical program afloat. He told his followers in January 1987:

“I’m talking about 1987. If we don’t turn it around by March, God’s going to call me home. Please help extend my life. Please help me open the nations. Please help me turn the medical school around. We’re well on our way. We lack four and a half million dollars between now and March. Help us. Help us. Help us. My mailing address is Oral Roberts, Tulsa, Oklahoma. ... Pray with us and as we pray with you. Father, I’ve delivered my soul today. I can do no more by myself than what I am doing. Please help me. Give me new partners. Cause my regular partners to pick up this burden. Extend my life. Let me live beyond March. Let me finish my work on earth. Give me twenty more years. Help us to double the number of medical missionaries in the world. Help us, Lord.”⁶

Well, Roberts got his \$8 million, the final part of which came from a dog-track owner in Florida. So the world is only left to wonder if God would have made good “His threat” against Roberts’ life. We do know that Roberts’ City of Faith medical complex, a three-tower structure consisting of a 60-story clinic, a 30-story hospital and a 20-story research tower, sat vacant for years before being sold to a group of investors for commercial development. Roberts’ vision of building the complex to bring healing to our generation didn’t come from God.

“I DIDN’T KNOW THE FULL STORY”

Just a few months later, Roberts was at it again. He “divinely berated” the Assemblies of God leadership, the *Charlotte Observer* newspaper, and evangelist Jimmy Swaggart over the disclosure of his friend Jim Bakker’s sexual and financial indiscretions. Roberts told his nationwide audience:

“And the Word of the Lord in my mouth is to you, my brother, whom we all love, you’re sowing discord. And the Lord said, ‘Discord will come back to you.’ Flee my brother, repent, and ask God to cleanse you. For you’re a good man and we love you. And the

Word of the Lord is saying to those people in the headquarters of that denomination, where Jim out of graciousness turned in his ordination papers because they wanted him to, and you've not accepted it. You've said, 'No we're gonna strip him. We're gonna strip him. We're gonna crush him.' ... The Word of the Lord is coming to you from Oral Roberts' mouth today, if you strip Jim Bakker, you've touched God's anointed, you've harmed God's prophet. And the Word of the Lord says, 'Touch not my anointed, do no harm to my prophets.' ... I beg you, headquarters of a great denomination, one that we respect and love, desist, move back, and treat Jim Bakker as what he is, an anointed man, a prophet of God. And the hand of the Lord will not fall upon you. But the Lord will bless you. And to that great newspaper: You seem so immune to what our God can do. You've touched God's anointed and you've tried to harm God's prophet, Jim Bakker. You've come into an unholy alliance with these others in the name of religion and morality. You've set yourself up to be a standard of morality, when you're not and you know you're not. The Word of the Lord comes unto you from my mouth. And the Lord says that He'll create great dissension in your ranks. You'll have such dissension that it'll spread across the news media of America and you will not know what you're doing. There'll be much falling out and falling apart, anger among yourselves. And you'll wonder why this has happened."⁷

However, when the facts all confirmed the allegations and vindicated Swaggart, the Assemblies of God denomination, and the *Charlotte Observer*, Roberts admitted:

"Out of this experience I went on nationwide television and preached a message of forgiveness and that after a period of time, there should be restoration.

I also said some harsh words about a great church, the Assemblies of God, and a fellow brother, Jimmy Swaggart. At that time, I did not have all the information that they possessed and I did not perceive that they were ever going to forgive Jim Bakker in their hearts. I also did not understand their full procedure for withdrawing ordination papers and working to restore a minister. Also, at that time I didn't know the full story about the finances and other alleged irregularities."⁸

Roberts' confession is revealing indeed, for the apology invalidates the claim of divine origin he made for his original declaration. If Roberts genuinely had "the Word of the Lord" in his mouth, he would not have had to "possess all the information" and "know the full story." He also would have been able to "perceive" that forgiveness to Jim Bakker would be extended. Roberts, without question, is guilty of proclaiming his own ill-conceived conclusions and attributing them to God.

OUT OF HIS MIND?

Undaunted, and despite having to disavow previous divine utterances, Roberts charged forward with more claims. He said that "the Lord manifested the gift of prophecy through me" when he presented to his followers "11 Major Prophecies for You in 1992." These oracles, Roberts said, "did not come out of my mind, but by the Holy Spirit revealing them to be in harmony with the inspired and infallible Word of God."⁹ Roberts told his "partners" :

- "1992 will be the year when great numbers of people will hear the voice of God speaking to them."
- "1992 will be a pivotal year of end-time prophecy."
- "... the fact that revelation knowledge, balanced by the written Word of God, will be manifested in God's people to a much greater degree than in 1991."¹⁰

Also included were promises of "mass miracles," financial break-

throughs and an increase in angelic activity. All of the above are worn-out promises uttered repeatedly by Charismatic and Latter Rain exponents. Such predictions are the fuel that keep "partners" sowing their financial seeds into the pockets of unscrupulous preachers.

HERETICAL REVELATIONS

Contemporary revelators will feign deference to the Bible by saying that their prophetic utterances are "balanced by the written Word." However, nothing could be further from the truth. Word-Faith advocate Kenneth Copeland bears this out. During his three-day "Dallas Victory Campaign," Copeland delivered the following prophecy:

"It's time for these things to happen, saith the Lord. It's time for spiritual activity to increase. Oh, yes, demonic activity will increase along at the same time. But don't let that disturb you. Don't be disturbed when people accuse you of thinking you're God. Don't be disturbed when people accuse you of a fanatical way of life. Don't be disturbed when people put you down and speak harshly and roughly of you. They spoke that way of Me, should they not speak that way of you? The more you get to be like Me, the more they're going to think that way of you. They crucified Me for claiming that I was God. But I didn't claim I was God; I just claimed I walked with Him and that He was in Me. Hallelujah. That's what you're doing."¹¹

As criticism and denunciations from Evangelicals mounted against Copeland, he tried to quell the cries of heresy. He wrote in a subsequent issue of his magazine:

"The phrasing of the statement you referred to is very important. I didn't say Jesus *wasn't* God, I said He didn't *claim* to be God when He lived on the earth. Search the Gospels for yourself. If you do, you'll find what I say is true. During His earthly ministry, Jesus acknowledged that He was the Son of God, the Messiah.

He referred to God as His Father (which enraged the Pharisees), but He never made the assertion that He *was* the most High God. In fact, He told His disciples that the Father God was greater and mightier than He (John 14:28). Why *didn't* Jesus openly proclaim Himself as God during His 33 years on earth? For one simple reason. He hadn't come to earth as God. He'd come as man."¹²

Copeland's explanation only adds to the confusion and gets him further mired in heresy. First, he writes, "I didn't say..." The original pronouncement was supposed to have been a prophecy — *it was Jesus Christ speaking*. Copeland has tipped his hand here and revealed the true source of the revelation. Secondly, Jesus very clearly and emphatically stated He was God. At John 8:58, Jesus ascribes to Himself the absolute phrase used of God in Exodus 3:14. The Jewish leaders got it. Regrettably, Copeland does not.

Finally, Copeland employs Watchtower logic and Scripture-twisting when he appeals to John 14:28 as a basis for his theology. Even more disturbing, he adds words to the text. Copeland contends that Jesus stated the Father to be "greater *and* mightier than He." While Scripture does address the Father as positionally greater than the Son, it nowhere designates the Son as absent of deity while on earth, rather just the opposite (Matthew 1:23).

Moreover, true prophets of God never have to rescind their prophecies. Isaiah, Jeremiah, or Paul never backtracked or tried to explain away their pronouncements. It is ludicrous to even think that Paul, or any of the prophets or apostles, would have presented doctrine and teaching only to have to say, in effect, "Here's what I said, but this is what I meant."

FROM BAD TO WORSE

Yet, Copeland's unbiblical delusion doesn't stop there. Copeland's hermeneutics are also shockingly flawed. For his devotees, he will give them unimaginable insight never previously available. Consider his revela-

tion of the "biggest failure in all the Bible":

"Study your Bible sometime and find out who the biggest failure in all the Bible was. You'd be shocked to find out who it is. It's God. What?! Yeah, God was the biggest failure in all the Bible. He just — He just wouldn't call it a failure. He just kept on. He didn't accept it. He lost His archangel, a third of the heavenly hosts, everything He created on earth up till that time, whatever it was. He lost all of this earth and the authority over it — completely, totally, just lost the whole thing. Lost man, lost his wife, and everything that was to be born of his flesh. I mean that's — that's close to bankrupt, man!"¹³

Scripture declares otherwise:

"I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He" (Deuteronomy 32:3-4).

"Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against you: I am God, your God. I do not rebuke you for your sacrifices or your burnt offerings, which are ever before me. I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it" (Psalms 50:7-12).

God's Word couldn't be more clear. The works of the Lord are perfect, His ways are just, and the world — and all that is in it — is His. Copeland's teaching that God is the biggest failure in all the Bible, and that He lost the authority over the earth, is heretical and blasphemous.

TOMMY AND HIS MOLDY PAGES

Other Charismatics have character-

ized the Bible as a "fellow witness," all the while denying that they are adding to it. Even more alarming is the way they exalt their "words" from God and their prophecies and revelations.

Another clear example of Charismatic disregard for Scripture is best-selling author and revival celebrity Tommy Tenney. Tenney has gained great prominence within the Charismatic world and has been promoted by the Trinity Broadcasting Network, *Charisma* magazine, and at the Pensacola Revival. He hails from a Oneness background and states in his best-selling book, *The God Chasers*:

"Truth is where God's *been*. Revelation is where God *is*. ... A true God chaser is not happy with just past truth; he must have *present* truth. God chasers don't want to just study from the moldy pages of what God has done; they're anxious to see what God is doing."¹⁴

GOD AT A LOSS FOR WORDS?

And then there is Joyce Meyer, *Charisma* cover-girl and Charismatic prima donna. Meyer, like her Charismatic and Word-Faith colleagues, claims divine inspiration for her heretical theology. In a message where she fills in the blanks as to what happened to Jesus while He was in the grave, she advises her listeners:

"And you've got to really glean some things out of the Word of God to really get hold of what He did for you during those three days. What happened from Friday between 9:00 o'clock and noon to Sunday morning? Do you know something? A large majority of the Church really doesn't even know. Honestly and truly they really don't even know, what you're gonna know when this night's over. ... There is no way I could even hope to explain this to you. If God doesn't give you revelation on it, you won't understand a thing I'm saying. ... The Bible can't even find any way to explain this. Not really. That's why you've got to get it by revelation. There are no words to explain

what I'm telling you. I've got to just trust God that He's putting it into your spirit like He put it into mine."¹⁵

The teaching which "The Bible can't even find any way to explain" and which "you've got to get it by revelation" and which God must put "into your spirit" is, according to Meyer, the Word-Faith heresy of the spiritual death of Christ in hell. Here's the teaching in Meyer's own "revelatory" words:

"Jesus said, 'It is finished.' And He meant the Old Covenant. The job He had to do was just getting started. He really did the job the three days and nights that He was in hell. That's where the job was done. ... He was pronounced guilty on the cross but He paid the price in hell."¹⁶

Meyer's description takes her and her listeners further from Scripture:

"All the hosts of hell was upon Him. Up on Him. They got on Him. They got Him down in the floor and got on Him. And they were laughing and mocking. ... All right, now get a picture of this. If God ever paced in His whole life He was pacing during these two days. God just kind of showed it to me that way. Now, I don't know if He actually paced or not, but He showed it that way. You see the Father could see down there and see what was going on. He was watching what they were doing to His beloved Son. ... Sunday morning. Sunday morning, here comes the Son. Sunday morning. God gets Himself together. Ho, ho. Justice has been met. Somehow the things have been taken care of. And oh! God gets His voice together and He hollers out three words and they go roaring through the universe and entering the gates of hell. He said, 'It is enough! It is enough!'"¹⁷

Scripture never says God said, "It is enough! It is enough!" Likewise, Scripture never states Jesus "paid the price in hell." Meyer can only claim her "revelation knowledge" as a source for such information.

TELLING IT LIKE IT'S NOT

In the first edition of her booklet, *The Most Important Decision You Will Ever Make*, Meyer further stresses the gravity of believing that Jesus suffered and paid for your sins in hell. She writes:

"There is no hope of anyone going to heaven unless they believe this truth I am presenting. You cannot go to heaven unless you believe with all your heart that Jesus took your place in hell."¹⁸

On the next page she says:

"Jesus went to hell for you. He died for you."¹⁹

Two pages earlier, she says:

"He was resurrected from the dead — **the first born-again man**."²⁰

Yet, despite these repeated proclamations, Meyer denies ever having taught this doctrine. *Charisma's* cover story on her says:

"The criticisms are of the variety that have dogged other Word of Faith figures. Citing her booklet, *The Most Important Decision You Will Ever Make*, Hank Hanegraaff of the Christian Research Institute has taken her to task for the controversial teaching that Jesus was born again in hell, a doctrine she does not believe and has never taught, she says."²¹

How ironic for the *Charisma* piece to be titled, "The Preacher Who Tells It Like It Is," when Meyer lies to conceal teachings that now cause her embarrassment. If she has abandoned this belief, she is further embarrassed because she earlier claimed to have received this knowledge from God Himself.

Meyer's teaching is not new and does not have divine origins. It is the regurgitated teaching of E.W. Kenyon, Kenneth Copeland, and others within the Word-Faith camp. God sternly warns us:

"Therefore,' declares the LORD, 'I am against the prophets who steal from one another words supposedly from me.' ... 'Indeed,

I am against those who prophesy false dreams,' declares the LORD. 'They tell them and lead my people astray with their reckless lies, yet I did not send or appoint them. They do not benefit these people in the least,' declares the LORD" (Jeremiah 23:30, 32).

GETTING ONTO BIBLICAL GROUND

Charismatics and Word-Faith adherents are far too quick to keep open the canon of Scripture and accept novel interpretations. As shown, once one has opened up at these crucial points, it is possible to go beyond the Word and become subject to all kinds of chaos and confusion. We must never lose sight of the fact that while biblical prophets all stood against heresy, modern-day "prophets" foster and promote heresy.

O. Palmer Robertson, in his book, *The Final Word*, gives sane advice:

"The church needs neither pseudo-prophetism nor pseudo-tongues. It needs no diversion from the plain declaration of the divine mystery that now is revealed in all its fullness. The one thing the church and the world needs today is the faithful proclamation of the Word of God once given. It needs no more."²²

In his *Quarterly Journal* article on "Why People Are Deceived," G. Richard Fisher listed 12 "Whys of Gullibility." His concluding item aptly fits Charismatic and Word-Faith believers:

"... people have become ' cliché-bound.' They are gullible and become easily subservient if someone says, 'God told me,' or 'the Lord said,' or 'the Lord spoke to me,' or 'the Lord impressed upon me.' After all, who can argue with God? The Church finds itself drowning in a sea of subjectivism away from the safe moorings of the objective Word of God! 'I feel' and 'I sense' have come to replace, 'It is written.'"²³

Today, most Christians are spiritually handicapped and find themselves

ensnared in all sorts of heresy because they do not know the difference between objective and subjective reasoning. Far too many Christians will scorn the written Word of God in favor of their feelings.

"God told me" is a dangerous motto and methodology. It opens you to confusion, mysticism, deception, heresy, and subjectivism.

A good homework assignment is to devote oneself, over the next month, to include in one's daily devotions a reading of the 119th Psalm. The Psalm is divided into twenty-two sections of eight verses. Take one section each day, read and meditate upon the verses. Nearly every verse of the psalm proclaims the importance of Scripture using one of eleven terms. Each day while contemplating the verses, try to grasp the meaning and strive to apply it. May you be like the psalmist who proclaimed: "See how I love your precepts; preserve my life, O LORD, according to your love" (v. 159).

One Christian author offered wise direction for understanding:

"Read and meditate on the holy Scriptures much in private, and then you will be the better able to understand what is preached on it in public, and to try that doctrine, whether it be of God. ... Live under the clearest, [most] distinct, convincing teaching that you possibly can procure. ... Ignorant teachers ... are unlike[ly] to make you men of understanding; as erroneous teachers are

unlike[ly] to make you orthodox and sound."²⁴

Those words were penned over 325 years ago by Richard Baxter, a British pastor! They are relevant to us today as false teachers and false prophets proliferate among us.

As children in Sunday school, we were taught, "The Bible: nothing more, nothing less, nothing else." As adults we need to return to the profound substance of that simple statement. Curtis Crenshaw expounds on this maxim when he writes:

"If anything is contrary to Scripture, it is wrong. If anything is the same as Scripture, it is not needed. If anything goes beyond Scripture, it has no authority."²⁵

We need not "God told me," for the Bible is complete; Scripture is sufficient.

Endnotes:

1. Jay E. Adams, *Counsel from Psalm 119*. Woodruff, S.C.: Timeless Texts, 1998, pg. 3, bold in original.
2. Benny Hinn, "A New Spirit," Orlando Christian Center broadcast, Trinity Broadcasting Network, Oct. 13, 1990, tape on file.
3. Ibid.
4. Benny Hinn, "Who Is This Jesus?" sermon from San Antonio Miracle Crusade, March 3-4, 1994, video tape on file.
5. Benny Hinn, *Praise the Lord* show, Trinity Broadcasting Network, Oct. 19, 1999, video tape on file.
6. Oral Roberts, *Expect a Miracle* broadcast, Jan. 4, 1987, tape on file.
7. Oral Roberts, *Richard Roberts Live* broadcast, exact date unknown, c. March 1987, tape on file.
8. Oral Roberts, "The media have had their say, NOW THE TRUTH..." *Abundant*

- Life*, September-October 1987, pg. 9.
9. Oral Roberts, *11 Major Prophecies For You in 1992*. Tulsa, Okla.: self-published, 1992, pp. iii-iv.
10. Ibid.
11. Kenneth Copeland, "Take Time to Pray," *Believer's Voice of Victory*, February 1987, pg. 9. This article is from Copeland's message given at the Dallas Victory Campaign, Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, 1986.
12. Kenneth Copeland, "Question & Answer," *Believer's Voice of Victory*, August 1988, pg. 8, italics in original.
13. Kenneth Copeland, *Believer's Voice of Victory* broadcast, Trinity Broadcasting Network, May 8, 1994, video tape on file.
14. Tommy Tenney, *The God Chasers*. Shippensburg, Pa.: Destiny Image Publishers, 1998, Introduction.
15. Joyce Meyer, *From the Cross to the Throne*, sermon from *Life in the Word Ministries*, exact date unknown, cassette on file.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Joyce Meyer, *The Most Important Decision You Will Ever Make*. Fenton, Mo.: Joyce Meyer Ministries, 1991, pg. 37.
19. Ibid., pg. 38, underlining in original.
20. Ibid., pg. 36, bold and underlining in original.
21. Ken Walker, "The Preacher Who Tells It Like It Is," *Charisma*, November 1998, pg. 55.
22. O. Palmer Robertson, *The Final Word*. Carlisle, Pa.: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1993, pg. 49.
23. G. Richard Fisher, "Can You Be Deceived?," *The Quarterly Journal*, Vol. 20, No. 3, pg. 18.
24. Richard Baxter, *Christian Directory*, cited in J.I. Packer, *Truth and Power*. Wheaton, Ill.: Harold Shaw Publishers, 1996, pg. 178, ellipsis and brackets in original.
25. Curtis I. Crenshaw, *Man as God, The Word of Faith Movement*. Memphis: Footstool Publications, 1994, pg. 222, italics in original.

A FOUNDATION ON SAND

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Pentecostal world to these gross errors. Her book, *Joel's Army*, was a wake-up call, but few listened.

Though Latter Rain was seen as a fringe element in the 1940s, parts of its message crept into Charismatic churches. Modern prophets have exploited the framework of Latter Rain teachings to promote themselves and perpetuate their individual kingdoms

rather than the coming kingdom of Christ. They do not look for the return of Christ as much as a great, last-days revival upon the earth. They see themselves in the forefront of this revival. Earl Paulk has taught that the Church must make the earth God's footstool, a task Psalm 2 says is left to the Son of God.

Teachings such as this have become a lethal drug which the likes of the Trinity Broadcasting Network and *Charisma* magazine have injected into

the Charismatic and Pentecostal bodies. It is religious heroin that kills true understanding and right doctrine. The leaders of this movement not only promulgate false doctrine, but disdain orthodox Christian teaching. TBN President Paul Crouch himself has labeled tenets of the Christian faith as "doctrinal doo-doo."⁷

KINGLESS KINGDOM

Another premise articulated by some in the movement is that Christ's