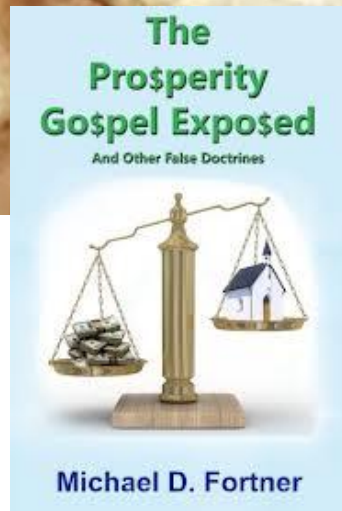
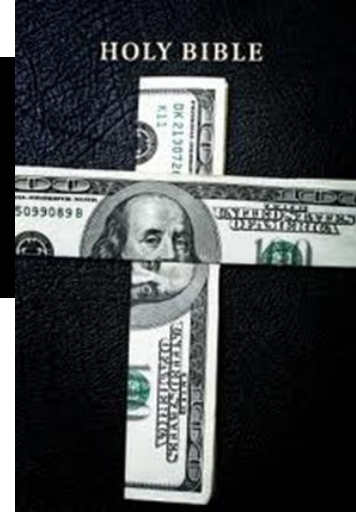


# The Prosperity Gospel





# Defined



- The “Prosperity Gospel” is a view now promoted from many pulpits that...
- A) Financial well-being is God’s reward/sign of approval for Christians.
- B) Sufficient faith, “positive” mind-sets, and monetary donations to churches will garner the approval of God, and thus serve to increase one’s wealth.
- C) Also known as “health and wealth” gospel.

# **“The Bankruptcy of Prosperity Preaching”, October 17th, 2010 , Southside Church of Christ, Fort Myers, FL**

- ***From Robert Tilton...“I believe that it is the will of God for all to prosper because I see it in the Word [of God], not because it has worked mightily for someone else. I do not put my eyes on men, but on God who gives me the power to get wealth.”***
- ***“God desires us to become wealthy for him.” (Tecoy Porter, Releasing Your Inner Treasure: 8 Kingdom Keys to Unlocking the Wealth Within You, xxvi).***
- ***From Joel Osteen...“God wants us to prosper financially, to have plenty of money, to fulfill the destiny He has laid out for us.”***

# Verses used by Prosperity proponents to support belief

- **Malachi 3:10:** "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (KJV).
- **Matthew 25:14–30:** the Parable of the talents.
- **John 10:10:** "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (KJV).
- **Philippians 4:19:** "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (KJV).
- **3 John 2:** "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (KJV).

# Theology develops

- PT began to take shape in the US during the 1950s during the Pentecostal “healing” revivals.
- The viewpoint began to spread in popularity dramatically during the 1980s era of televangelism.
- Prosperity churches are typically non-denominational in structure and are overseen by a single preacher/pastor (as opposed to elders/deacons).
- These churches will frequently plead for donations as a “sign” of one’s faith and devotion to God....the more one gives, the more one may expect to be reciprocally blessed financially by God even further.



# Oral Roberts



- **Roberts, who would ultimately found Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, began espousing PG doctrine in 1947, stating that God would return financial donations “seven fold”.**
- **Roberts would ultimately vow to return donations which did not spur this dramatic sevenfold increase.**
- **Roberts would also begin promoting “partners”, wealthy donors to his efforts who would, for their financial support, receive exclusive conference invitations and meetings with OR himself.**
- **See Coleman, Simon (2000). The Globalisation of Charismatic Christianity: Spreading the Gospel of Prosperity, page 41, Robins, R. G. (2010). Pentecostalism in America, page 87, and Coleman, Simon (2000). The Globalisation of Charismatic Christianity: Spreading the Gospel of Prosperity., page 42.**




*See and hear!* The **POWER** of the Gospel of Christ

# Oral Roberts

MILLION  
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SEPTEMBER 20-29



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(No Meeting at Your Sunday Night, Sept. 22—No Services Held on Monday, Sept. 23)

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Oral Roberts' TRUE STORIES

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1956



# Roberts' revelations from God

- In 1977, a 900-foot-tall Jesus would appear to OR and told him to build the City of Faith Medical and Research Center.
- In 1980, Roberts said he had a vision which encouraged him to continue the construction of his City of Faith Medical and Research Center in Oklahoma, which opened in 1981. This facility was intended to merge prayer and medicine in the healing process. The City of Faith operated for eight years before closing in late 1989.
- In 1983 OR claimed that Jesus had appeared to him in person and commissioned him to find a cure for cancer.



# Roberts 1987



- Perhaps OR's most famous money drive....
- OR would announce in January 1987, during a fundraising drive, that unless he raised \$8 million by that March, God would "call him home."
- The resulting donations would total some \$9.1 million.
- Later in 1987, OR announced that God had raised the dead through Roberts' ministry.

Something Great is Going to Happen to You!

# Oral Roberts TV SPECIAL

BLAISE WRIGHT & JIMMYE WALKER  
*Direct from the Oral Roberts University Campus*

Starring **Galia Pansa** Special Guest **Darl Vree**






with regulars  
**Richard Roberts**  
**Pats Roberts**

The Word Jesus Speaks  
*The Happy Camptown Celebration*

Wed. 10/17  
 WPTX-21 8:00 PM  
 WFLV-35 8:00 PM

WLD-39  
 Wed. 10/24, 10:00 PM

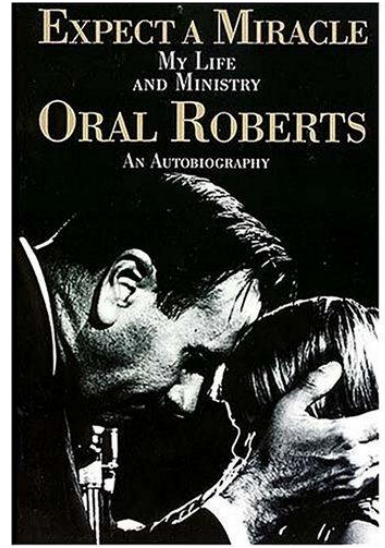
# Oral Roberts of EXPO '74

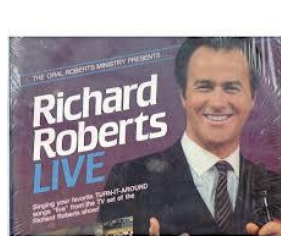


A Special TV Special  
**Roy Clark**  
**Anita Bryant**

Presented by  
 The Oral Roberts University

8:00 PM  
 10/17/74  
 WPTX-TV 21  
 WFLV-TV 35  
 WLD-TV 39





# Oral passes his torch



- OR would ultimately turn control of ORU over to his son Richard. RR would resign from ORU in 2007 amidst massive controversy over the following alleged “uses” of ORU money...
- RR used university funds to pay for his daughter's trip to the Bahamas by providing the university jet and billing costs to the school.
- Maintained a stable of horses on campus and at university expense for the exclusive use of his children.
- Remodeled his house at university expense 11 times in the past 14 years.
- Allowed the university to be billed both for damage done by his daughters to university-owned golf carts and acquired a red Mercedes convertible and a white Lexus for his wife Lindsay through ministry donors.
- ["Oral Roberts president faces corruption lawsuit"](#). [MSNBC](#). October 5, 2007, Justin Juozapavicius, Associated Press, ["Scandal Brewing at Oral Roberts U."](#), October 5, 2007.

# Richard Roberts



- Roberts was paid \$440,000 as severance from ORU (along with \$223,600 for three additional years), for a total package of \$1,110,800 (as per 11-15-2008 Tulsa World).
- Income for 2010....\$496,088 as per “Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association” (does not include \$95,150 bonus).
- From “Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association 990”
- RR would also be arrested and charged with drunk driving, 1-31-2012 (Tulsa World).
- *Judging from “Prosperity Gospel” theology, RR is greatly favored by God, although the thousands of donors who gave to him were, almost without exception, not as favored.*

# Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, Oral Roberts, Richard Roberts







# Robert Tilton



- **“Born in Dallas in 1946, as a teenager he abused drugs and alcohol. He claimed a conversion in 1969, and took his ministry and family on the road in 1974, to preach a false prosperity *gospel*—*by which he means his personal prosperity*.**
- **He discovered the power of television, where you can market lies with slick gimmicks, and never have to account for what you do with the money or how you live.**
- **After attracting thousands and making millions, he took a trip to Hawaii, claiming it was comparable to Christ fasting in the wilderness for 40 days. Even the media could not choke down that lie, and with some green-eyes (over how much he was raking in), took him to task. On this trip he concocted a new schtick, Success-N-Life, a new tool to bilk millions. In this newly invigorated plan, \$1,000 was the preferred begging amount.”**
- [www.godhatesthemediamedia.com](http://www.godhatesthemediamedia.com).

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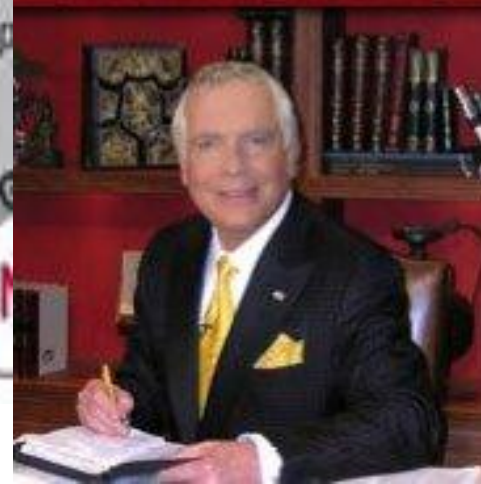
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MINISTRIES



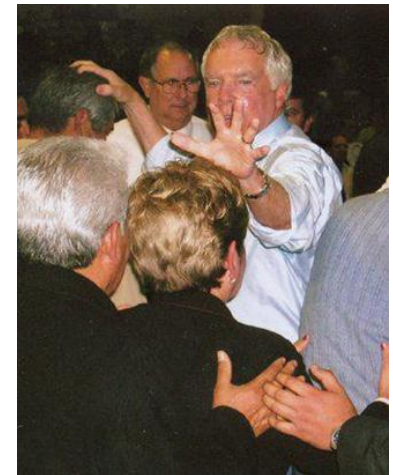
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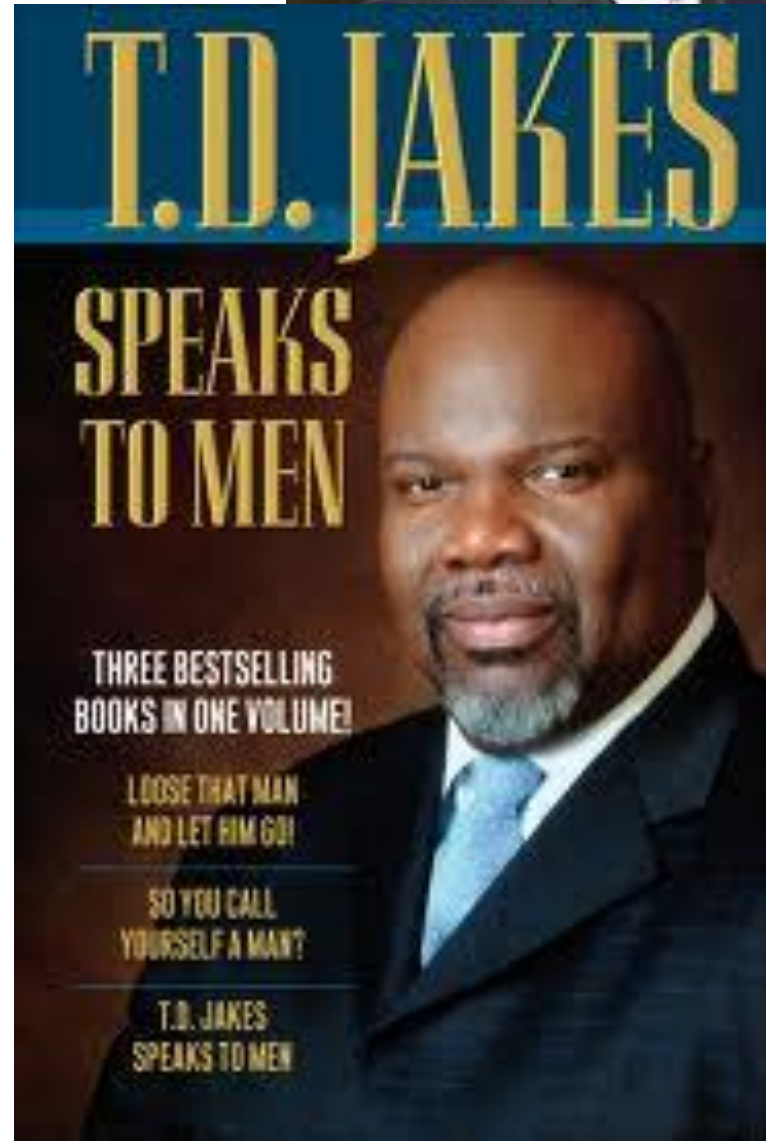
# Tilton



- I started noticing good things showing up around me. I gave away a pair of shoes, then I noticed three or four pairs came back. I kept giving watches away, then I noticed a very expensive Rolex watch jumped onto my wrist.
- (*God's Laws of Success*, page 137).

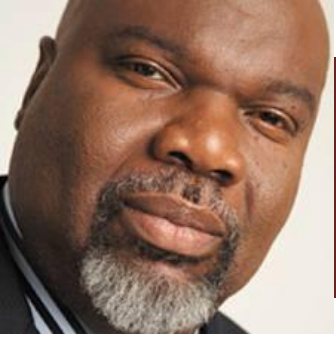


# TD Jakes



# **"Positioning Yourself to Prosper" by T. D. Jakes at [www.blackchristiannews.com](http://www.blackchristiannews.com).**

- **“Don't just appear to be prosperous! You can have real success - God's way! In Positioning Yourself to Prosper, TD Jakes will show you how to position yourself to live the life that God has planned just for you!**
- **Message 1: Positioning Yourself To Prosper. Learn the paramount foundation of prosperity: giving, tithing and love.**
- **Message 2: Turn It on a Dime. Free Yourself from lack and exercise the God-given promises for every believer!**
- **Message 3: Step it up! Be an intentional planner and become a success story with these keys to extraordinary living.**
- **Message 4: Power Partnerships. Link up with a productive, God-ordained partners and watch exponential favor come your way!”**



# Jesus-is-savior.com



- “Jakes and his congregation refer to his wife Serita as "the first lady," and they live in a \$1.7 million mansion on Dallas's scenic White Rock Lake next to a building once owned by oil magnate H.L. Hunt. As Time magazine explained a few weeks ago, "He flies on charter planes or in first-class seats, sups with a coterie in a room known as 'the king's table,' sports a large diamond ring and dresses like the multimillionaire he is."



# Rick Warren

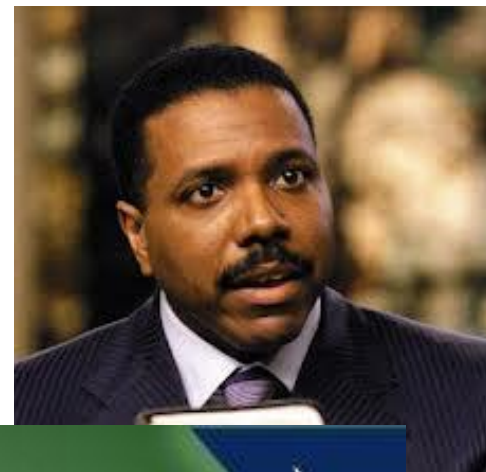


- **“This idea that God wants everybody to be wealthy? There is a word for that: baloney. It’s creating a false idol. You don’t measure your self-worth by your net worth. I can show you millions of faithful followers of Christ who live in poverty. Why isn’t everyone in the church a millionaire?”**

- [www.marriedwithdebt.com](http://www.marriedwithdebt.com).



# Creflo Dollar



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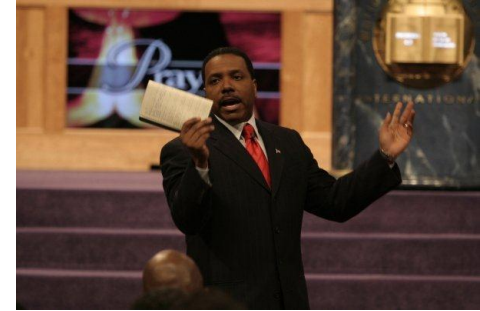
# Selected notes from [www.creflodollarministries.org](http://www.creflodollarministries.org).

- You cannot move toward prosperity without the seed of God's Word first entering your life. The Word provides the light that is needed to break the chains of poverty...When your soul is prospering, you will see results (tangible materials). God's Word is your foundation for prosperity and the water that your financial seeds need in order to grow.
- God has given you power to get wealth. You must *arise*, or "change your posture and position," in order for prosperity to manifest itself in your life (Isaiah 60:1).
- God takes pleasure in your prosperity because He is magnified in it (Psalm 35:27).
- If you are "down on your luck," it is not because of luck, but because you are lacking the light of God's Word...It is impossible for you not to prosper when the Word is operational in your heart.
- The Word of God is your highway to the world of wealth (Job 22:21-22)...6. If you take the seed of God's Word and put it in your heart, then wealth and riches will be in your house (Psalm 112:1-3)...Seek out people who are sent with the message of prosperity to break the poverty chain.  
God doesn't prosper you on the basis of your money seed, but on the basis of the light you have inside of you...When the Word is operational in your life, it causes your money seed to increase.
- Until the Word seed is in place, there is no future for your money seed...God's Word is your foundation for prosperity.

# Notes on Creflo

- CD has been criticized for his lavish lifestyle; he owns two Rolls-Royces, a private jet, a million dollar home in Atlanta, and a \$2.5 million home in Manhattan, which he sold for \$3.75 million in 2012. CD has refused to disclose his annual salary and Creflo Dollar Ministries received a grade of "F" for financial transparency by the organization MinistryWatch.
- Dollar was subpoenaed during divorce proceedings between heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield and Holyfield's second wife, Janice Itson, after Itson alleged that Holyfield had donated \$7 million to Dollar's ministry just before he filed for divorce.
- On June 8, 2012, Dollar was arrested in Fayetteville, Georgia on charges of allegedly attacking his 15-year-old daughter. He was charged with simple battery and cruelty to children, both misdemeanors. He was later released on a \$5,000 bail. The charges were dropped in 2013 after a three-month program including an anger management course and paying court fees.

# Notes on Creflo



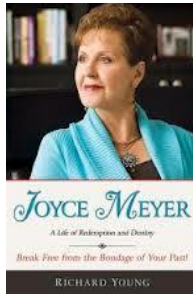
- On November 6, 2007, United States Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa announced an investigation of several ministries by the United States Senate Committee on Finance. Grassley asked for financial information to determine whether Dollar made any personal profit from financial donations and requested that Dollar's ministry make the information available by December 6, 2007. The investigation also asked for information from five other televangelists: Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, Eddie L. Long, Joyce Meyer, and Paula White.
- On March 16, 2009, Grassley announced "My staff and I continue to review the information we've received from the ministries that cooperated, and we continue to weigh our options for the ministries that have not cooperated," noting that two of the ministries, Benny Hinn and Joyce Meyer, gave full financial disclosure. CD has contested the probe, arguing that the proper governmental entity to examine religious groups is the IRS, not the Committee on Finance.
- See Michael Luo (2006-01-15). "Preaching a Gospel of Wealth in a Glittery Market, New York". The New York Times, Kim Velsey (April 25, 2012). "Televangelist Creflo Dollar Sells Manhattan Condo (Pictures)". *The New York Observer*, <http://www.ministrywatch.com/profile/creflo-dollar-ministries.aspx> , "Sen. Grassley probes televangelists' finances". *USA Today*. 2007-11-07.



- **“Dollar’s theology is primarily based on this idea: that by giving money to his ministry as a “tithe” the giver is demonstrating faith that will connect to an automatic material blessing from God...**
- **The current world is not Jesus’ Kingdom and Christians do not have to focus on material wealth here...**
- **The Bible says to not be concerned about money and the prosperity Gospel says “it’s all about money.”**
- **Jesus says you cannot serve God and money. The Prosperity Gospel says God cannot act to bless you until you have given money...**
- **What Dollar is preaching is a false Gospel of works.”**
- **[www.beginningandend.com](http://www.beginningandend.com).**



JOYCE MEYER  
MINISTRIES

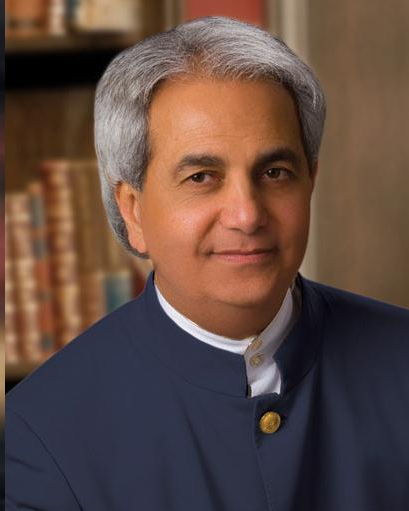


# Joyce Meyer



- “Joyce Meyer argues that God made her rich. And just how rich is Joyce Meyer? We really do not know, but the following facts will provide some insight into her wealth.
- She owns a \$10 million corporate jet. Her husband drives a \$107,000 silver-gray Mercedes Benz. Her personal residence is valued at \$2 million and she owns other houses worth \$2 million.
- These blessings, she maintains, come from the very hand of God almighty. She believes or says she believes her great wealth is a miracle. According to the article in the paper, Joyce Meyer's organization expects to take in about \$95 million this year. She asserts: "If you stay in your faith, you are going to be paid."
- [www.gospelhour.net](http://www.gospelhour.net).

# Benny Hinn



# Benny Hinn “Prosperity” quotes

- ***“When you don't give money, it shows that you have the devil's nature.”*** Praise-a-thon (TBN), 4/21/91).
- ***“Poverty is from the devil and that God wants all Christians prosperous.”*** (TBN, 11/6/90)
- ***“I am a 'little messiah' walking the earth”*** (Praise-a-Thon" on TBN, 11-6, 1990).







My skin is about to explode. . . If I don't release the anointing, I'll blow up. Yes Lord I'll do it! I place a curse on every man and woman that will stretch his hand against this anointing. I curse that man who dares to speak a word against this ministry. . . . This is the Holy Ghost on me telling me to do this.

Benny Hinn, 1999



# Paul Crouch



# Jim & Tammy Faye Baker



# Eddie Long



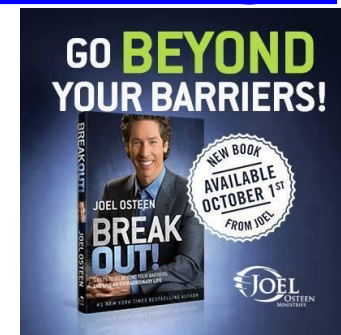
# Joel Osteen

**SELLS "GOSPEL OF PROSPERITY"**

**"IT IS EASIER FOR A CAMEL TO ENTER THE EYE OF A NEEDLE THAN FOR A RICH MAN TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD." LUKE 18:25**

# Joel Osteen “Prosperity” quotes

- God wants us to prosper financially, to have plenty of money, to fulfill the destiny He has laid out for us.
- If Jesus were here today, he wouldn't be riding around on a donkey. He'd be taking a plane, he'd be using the media.
- If you want to rear financial blessings, you have to sow financially.



Don't just accept whatever  
comes your way in life..  
You were born to win..  
you were born for  
greatness.. you were  
created to be a  
**Achieve Goals / Facebook**  
champion in life.. ♡

Joel Osteen

# JOEL OSTEEN AND THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL

by Ken Silva

- “Joel Osteen has become a household name due to his incredible success. He “pastors” the largest church in America , Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas, which in 2008 boasted average weekend attendance of 43,500, almost double that of its nearest competitor. Osteen took the helm of Lakewood Church in 1999 upon the death of his father, John.
- John Osteen was openly a prosperity gospel preacher who founded Lakewood in 1959 and had built it into a 6000 member church before his son replaced him. Joel, who until that point had given leadership to the television ministry of Lakewood and had preached only once before, was thrust into the pulpit and immediately the church began to explode.
- Today Lakewood services are broadcast in over 100 countries, Joel has written two multi-million seller books, and he, along with his wife, mother, and numerous musicians from Lakewood, travel throughout the world offering an event they call “A Night of Hope.” While most churches struggle to find and keep members, people are willing to purchase \$15 tickets to attend “A Night of Hope” and the auditoriums are usually packed. (continued)

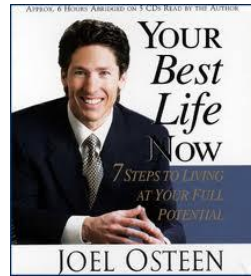




# JOEL OSTEEN AND THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL

by Ken Silva

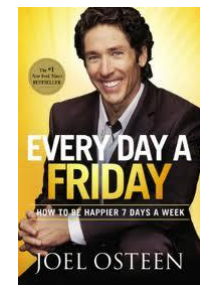
- Osteen has no theological training and it is obvious from his books, sermons and interviews on television that he has little knowledge of the scripture. Nevertheless, he has caught an unprecedented wave of popularity and could clearly claim the title as the most admired pastor in America.
- This popularity of course is due largely to his message. Eschewing anything controversial or negative (such as hell or judgment or even sin), Osteen proclaims a message of pure positivism. The title of his first book, *Your Best Life Now*, summarizes what Osteen has to offer his many audiences. If we will follow certain principles or steps (seven to be exact), so the storyline goes, our existence will be happy, healthy, and blessed with everything that would make this life wonderful. This is a message that appeals to the flesh of unbelievers and worldly- minded Christians and would account for the superstar status that Osteen now has. (continued)



# JOEL OSTEEN AND THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL

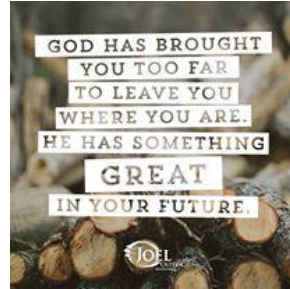
by Ken Silva

- Osteen, without qualification, declares that all of us are destined for greatness of every kind: “You were born to win; you were born for greatness, you were created to be a champion in life” (p. 35), and abundance, “He wants you to live in abundance. He wants to give you the desires of your heart...God is turning things around in your favor” (p. 78). As a matter of fact, apparently irrespective of our relationship with God, “Before we were ever formed, He programmed us to live abundant lives, to be happy, healthy, and whole. But when our thinking becomes contaminated it is no longer in line with God’s Word” (p. 114). (continued)



# JOEL OSTEEN AND THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL

by Ken Silva



- Two things should be noted at this juncture. First, the Scriptures teach no such thing. While eternal life with the Lord is the ultimate destiny of the redeemed, judgment and then the lake of fire is the ultimate destiny of the lost ([2 Thess 1:9](#); [Rev 20:14-15](#)). In the meanwhile, in this life the rain falls on the just and the unjust, and Christians may suffer as many trials as unbelievers, perhaps more ([Rom 5:3-5](#); [James 1:2-4](#); [2 Cor 4:8-12, 11:23-29](#); [Heb 11:35-40](#)).
- It is true that [Psalm 37:4](#) promises, “Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart,” but upon a little reflection it will be seen that one who delights himself in the Lord desires God, not mere material blessings, good parking spots, success in business and a nice wardrobe. Osteen’s program trivializes the abundant life Jesus came to give His followers ([John 10:10](#)). (continued)

# JOEL OSTEEN AND THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL

by Ken Silva

- **“God wants to increase you financially, by giving you promotions, fresh ideas and creativity” (p. 5), or so Osteen promises. How does he know this since in biblical times promotions were not common practice, fresh ideas and creativity did not carry the value they do today and wealth was not necessarily seen as a sign of God’s pleasure? Someone might counter that David and Solomon were wealthy, but this was not the case for Jeremiah and Habakkuk, both godly men who lost everything. Job flourished for a time, lost it all, and then gained it back. Did one of Job’s “comforters” clue him in on prosperity philosophy? Was that the turning point? Hardly. It was when Job repented of his arrogance that God restored his former affluence, and God was under no obligation to do that. The scriptural principle is that the Lord is sovereignly at work in our lives. He can choose to bless us with riches, or He can choose to bless us by taking our riches away.  
(conitnued)**

# JOEL OSTEEN AND THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL

by Ken Silva

- So where does Osteen come up with the idea that “God wants to increase us financially?” His basis is in his very limited and selective experience. He tells us, for example, that when his father was “willing to go beyond the barriers of the past [by applying the principles found in this book], he broke that curse of poverty in our family. Now, my siblings and I, and our children, grandchildren, even great-grandchildren, are all going to experience more of the goodness of God because of what one man did” (p. 25).
- Of course, millions of examples throughout the world and throughout history could be given of godly people living in poverty, and the children of the wealthy wasting their inheritance and privileges, but Osteen seems to conveniently ignore such examples. Instead he is convinced “God wants to give you your own house” (p. 35). The U.S. government and the banking system seemed to agree with Osteen until the recent economic crash. Now they’re taking away many of those houses. But this does not deter Osteen; he is persuaded that we will prosper.  
(continued)



# JOEL OSTEEN AND THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL

by Ken Silva

- **Osteen promises, “It’s going to happen... Suddenly, your situation will change for the better...He will bring your dreams to pass” (pp. 196-198). Such statements leave no room for the cancer patient who does not get better, the factory worker who is laid off and never again finds a comparable job, the athlete who has a career-ending injury, or all those losers at the “American Idol” auditions (we can be thankful for this one at least). Such people would have reason to question Osteen’s pronouncement that, “God didn’t make you to be average. God created you to excel” (p. 82).”**



I know explosive **blessings** are coming my way.  
I'm expecting a **sudden increase**. I'm expecting  
to rise to a **new level**.

I'm expecting to #**BreakOut**



# The most recent of Osteen's “insights”

- According to Joel Osteen – Pastor of Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas, these first century apostles are wrong and outdated and he has come out boldly to infer indirectly that Apostles Paul, Peter, and John whom wrote much of the New Testament were wrong and need to be corrected and rebuked.
- When asked directly if people whom are openly practicing homosexuals are accepted into the Kingdom, Joel Osteen responded with “Absolutely, anybody is.”
- We all need to listen carefully to the words that this “man of God” speaks as he goes on interviews so we too can find the errors in the preaching of the first century apostles.
- Joel does acknowledge that some things are “sin” but says, “I don’t address these things from the pulpit. They only come up in interviews.” When asked if openly practicing gay/homosexual people will be accepted into heaven, Joel Osteen responded, “I believe they will.”
- **“Joel Osteen Rebukes Apostles Paul, Peter, and John”, [www.freerepublic.com](http://www.freerepublic.com), 8-27-2013, Peter Michael Martinez**

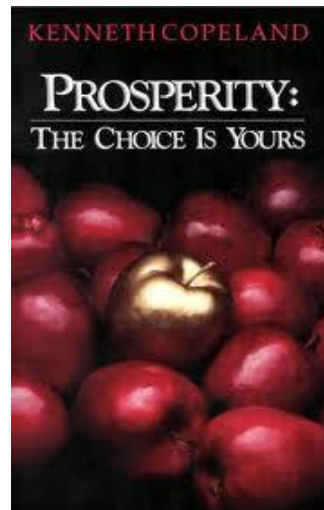


# Kenneth Copeland



# Quote from kcm.org, Copeland's website

- **“You’re destined to live an overflowing life. You’re destined to be healed, to be at peace, to be wealthy.”**
- **See also “The Law of Increase - Tithe Your Foundation to Prosperity” by Copeland on youtube and “Prosperity Confessions” at [www.kenneth-copeland.org](http://www.kenneth-copeland.org).**






KENNETH COPELAND  
MINISTRIES

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**Laws of Prosperity-  
The Principles**  
with  
**Kenneth Copeland**



September 20 - 22, 1984  
Live from the Church  
at Eagle Mountain  
Fort Worth, Texas

# Gloria Copeland



- Poverty and lack are a part of the curse of the Law .... The curse of the law definitely included financial reversal... *(God's will is prosperity, page 45).*
- Because of His promise, God will multiply you exceedingly and make you exceedingly fruitful. God has obligated Himself to bless you as He blessed Abraham...*(God's will is prosperity, page 15).*
- Take authority over them and command them to come to you in the Name of Jesus. Command the money you need to come to you. The authority is yours. Have dominion and subdue the earth and its vast resources' *(God's will is prosperity, page 49).*
- Give \$10 and receive \$1000; Give \$1000 and receive \$100,000 ... give one house and receive one hundred houses or a house worth one hundred times as much. Give one airplane and receive one hundred times the value of the airplane. ... In short, Mark 10:30 is a very good deal ...". *God's Will Is Prosperity, page 54, Published: June 1987.*

**Bottom line.....are these people less moral, less favored by God, than each of us? Are the millions who live in this level of squalor and desperation simply not “faithful” enough to benefit from “Prosperity” teachings?**



**Would a Joel Osteen or Benny Hinn “teaching”  
have benefitted this child?**



# **“Why the Prosperity Gospel is Wrong” at [www.faithandfinance.org](http://www.faithandfinance.org).**

- **“Could anything be more opposite to the teachings of the Bible than this!**
- **There aren't too many things that bother me more than watching the Word of God get twisted as prosperity preachers lead thousands to literally run to the alters at churches, leaving money on the stairs with the hope and anticipation that God will multiply and lead them to a prosperous life.**
- **The reasons for giving shouldn't be based on what you can get back in return; rather, we're challenged in the Bible to give with a cheerful heart, not out of reluctance and under compulsion (2 Cor. 9:7).”**

# **“The prosperity gospel”**

**by Cathleen Falsani at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com).**

- **“The "prosperity gospel," an insipid heresy whose popularity among American Christians has boomed in recent years, teaches that God blesses those God favors most with material wealth.**
- **Few theological ideas ring more dissonant with the harmony of orthodox Christianity than a focus on storing up treasures on Earth as a primary goal of faithful living. The gospel of prosperity turns Christianity into a vapid bless-me club, with a doctrine that amounts to little more than spiritual magical thinking: If you pray the right way, God will make you rich.**
- **But if you're not rich, then what? Are the poor cursed by God because of their unfaithfulness? And if God were so concerned about 401(k)s and Mercedes, why would God's son have been born into poverty?**
- **Nowhere has the prosperity gospel flourished more than among the poor and the working class. Told that wealth is a sign of God's grace and favor, followers strive for trappings of luxury they can little afford in an effort to prove that they are blessed spiritually.”**



**“The Pentecostal Circus” by Julie Lyons,  
Dallas Observer, March 30, 2007.**

- ***“Prosperity teaching...has degenerated into unabashed greed and charlatanism, with preachers shilling for multilevel marketing schemes that will never benefit the vast majority of the peons who buy into their promises of easy money.”***

# **“Prosperity Gospel: Another Gospel” at [www.gospelhour.net](http://www.gospelhour.net).**

- **"The Faith teachers criticize Paul for his poverty and his acceptance of suffering, even sickness, as the will of God" (p. 177). I have never actually heard the Copelands and Kenneth Hagin criticize Paul, but they have to believe he was not as faithful as he should have been; otherwise he would not have been poor and sick. The truth is that millions of faithful Christians have died on crosses, in dungeons, in battles with lions to entertain the Roman citizens and in other unspeakably cruel ways. Tradition says that all of the apostles except John died violent deaths.**
- **How can the health and wealth preachers harmonize their view with these words: "But you have fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience; persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3:10-12)? Was Paul healthy and wealthy while he sat in a Roman prison?**
- **How can the health and wealth preachers think of Paul as being a faithful servant of God? At times he was hungry (see Philippians 4:10-12) How can wealthy people be hungry? Can you not see how utterly false and deceptive the so-called "prosperity gospel" is?"**

# NT specifics about money and “prosperity”

- **Mark 10:25, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."**
- **Matthew 6:19–20, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth ... But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven"**
- **Philippians 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 6:7-10, Hebrews 13:5, Matthew 19:21-26, Mark 4:19, etc.**