

## GRAHAM JONES recommends KENNETH COPELAND 'Take Heed'

Very recently I was notified by a pastor/friend of an upcoming 'mission' in Ireland by a man called **GRAHAM JONES**. The following link will take you to a short video in which **Mr Jones** speaks of his upcoming visit to Ireland –

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nu\\_v67SigIU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nu_v67SigIU)

The name **GRAHAM JONES** was completely new to me and so I went to his ministry website located on <https://gjm.org/> to see what I could learn about the man and his ministry.

On this link <https://www.youtube.com/@grahamjonesministries/videos> there is a wide selection of short video messages by **Mr Jones** and I want to comment in particular about one and then briefly about another.

The first video is located on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9hePAHdej8> – it is titled '**Is the prosperity message biblical?**' – right at the outset he answers '**yes**' but then proceeds to 'waffle' on and around the topic (and he does this in the other video I will mention later). As the video progresses it's ironic that he states that prosperity is not measured by having a jet plane and lots of cars (around 1.47) – the irony will be apparent in the next video I mention.

The second video is located on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50b6JFRBmnl> and is titled '**How do I grow in faith for finances?**' The particular portion relevant to this article is found from 1.14 through to 2.08. In this portion **Mr Jones** recommends people to read '**The Laws of Prosperity**' by **Kenneth Copeland**. Mr Copeland is of course 'big' into planes and cars, hence the 'irony' I mentioned earlier.

As it happens, I do have a copy (for research purposes only I hasten to add) of this book in my possession. So what sort of teaching by **Kenneth Copeland** is **Mr Jones** recommending and directing people to?

One of the most helpful books ever published on the subject of those who promote a '**Prosperity Message**' was '**Christianity in Crisis**' – it is attributed to Hank Hanegraaff who unfortunately in recent years has converted to Eastern Orthodoxy. On pages 213-214 we read –

'According to the faith teachers, there are two sides to the covenant coin: Heads you win, tails you want. In other words, you can either live beneath the umbrella of prosperity or under the curse of poverty. "**We have seen that prosperity is a blessing of Abraham and that poverty is under the curse of the law**" maintains Copeland. **Jesus bore the curse of the law in our behalf. He beat Satan and took away his power. Consequently there is no reason for you to live under the curse of the law, no reason for you to live in poverty of any kind.**'<sup>11</sup>

Footnote <sup>11</sup> on page 400 then reads as follows –

**‘COPELAND: *The Laws of Prosperity* pp 50-51** (Cecil – pp 39-42 in my edition of the book). Copeland is here referring to Galatians 3:13-14 to argue that Jesus has redeemed all Christians from the curse of the law **(which the Faith teachers wrongly associate with the curses listed in Deuteronomy 28)** and has procured for them the **material blessings** of Abraham. However, the context of the passage militates against any such interpretation, as the discussion involves **SPIRITUAL REDEMPTION** and not **EARTHLY RICHES**.

The message of Galatians 3 is straightforward and simple: Fallen humanity can achieve a right standing with God only through faith in Christ. God’s law demands nothing short of perfection; hence it becomes a curse for those who attempt to attain a righteous standing by striving to fulfil it through sheer human effort (verses 10-12). Sinful humanity is wholly incapable of coming close to meeting such high standards (verse 3). The good news is that Christ redeemed the elect from THAT curse by His perfect obedience and sacrifice to the Father. Our faith or trust in Christ’s finished work is credited as righteousness and justifies us before God (verses 26-28), which is precisely the blessing Abraham received (verses 6-9).

**The Faith teachers diminish the infinite value and worth of Christ’s sacrifice by falsely asserting that He died so we may pamper ourselves in material indulgences.** Far from concerning itself with such triflings, Galatians 3 calls attention to the grace of God, who, knowing that we could never be righteous in His sight by our own works, offered the supreme sacrifice so that we might be reconciled to Him’.

Another very helpful book that exposed the false teachings of the **‘Word of Faith Movement’** was **‘A Different Gospel’** by D. R. McConnell. On page 170 of the ‘Updated Edition’ Mr McConnell wrote –

‘Teachings on prosperity have always characterised the ministry of faith-healing evangelists. For the most part these teachings fall into one of two types ... Second, there is the *cosmic* teaching on prosperity. This type of teaching promises success and prosperity from God to those who know the spiritual laws of the universe that govern financial prosperity. It is *cosmic* because it centres on the universal principle of prosperity that God has set up in the cosmos ... The following quotation from Kenneth Copeland is typical of this *cosmic* view of prosperity taught in the Faith movement –  
**“We must understand that there are laws governing every single thing in existence. Nothing is by accident. There are laws of the world of the spirit and there are laws of the world of the natural ... We need to realise that the spiritual world and its laws are more powerful than the physical world and its laws. Spiritual laws gave birth to physical laws. The world and the physical forces governing it were created by the power of faith – a spiritual force ... It is this force of faith which makes the laws of the spirit world function ... This same rule is true in prosperity. There are certain laws governing prosperity in God’s Word. Faith causes them to function ... The success formulas in the Word of God produce results when used as directed.”** <sup>2</sup>

Footnote <sup>2</sup> reads as follows – **‘COPELAND: *The Laws of Prosperity* pp 18-20** (Cecil – pp 15-16 in my edition of the book). Mr McConnell then goes on to write on page 172 –

‘these laws are set in motion by positive mental attitude. Copeland definitely links prosperity to one’s attitude and confession –

“You can have what you say! In fact, what you are saying is exactly what you are getting now. If you are living in poverty and lack and want, change what you are saying. It will change what you have ... Discipline your vocabulary. Discipline everything you do, everything you say, and everything you think to agree with what God does, what God says, and what God thinks. God will be OBLIGATED to meet your needs because of His Word ... If you stand firmly on this, your needs will be met.”<sup>10</sup>

Footnote <sup>10</sup> reads as follows - ‘**COPELAND: *The Laws of Prosperity* pp 98, 101** (Cecil – pp 80, 82-83 in my edition of the book). Many years ago, when speaking publicly about **Kenneth Copeland** I quoted from the cover of a little booklet he wrote and published called ‘***The Power of The Tongue***’ and this is what it said –

‘Words have played a vital role in life since the beginning of time. In the Book of Genesis God created the world and everything in it with His words. Today, as believers, we have that same God-like ability to speak those things which be not as though they were. Through God’s Word, Kenneth Copeland reveals the Bible secret of words and the vital importance of using the tongue to create rather than destroy.’

This teaching is **FALSE** and can be understood to be so in the light of what **Kenneth Copeland** wrote in chapter one of ***The Laws of Prosperity* pp 15-17** (Cecil – my edition)

‘Faith is a spiritual FORCE, a spiritual energy, a spiritual power. It is this force of faith which makes the laws of the spirit world function. When the FORCE of faith is put to work, these laws of the spirit function according to the way God says they will ... This same rule is true in prosperity. There are certain laws governing prosperity revealed in God’s Word. Faith causes them to function ... The success formulas in the Word of God produce results when used as directed ... Anything God taught Abraham or his descendants about operating financially will work just as well today as it did several thousand years ago.’

The book ‘**Christianity in Crisis**’ has much to say about this **FALSE** teaching as regards ‘**FAITH**’ and here are just a few excerpts from it in the chapter titled ‘**The FORCE of FAITH**’ – Reference is made to **E W Kenyon** and on page 32 we read –

‘Essek William Kenyon: **Essek William Kenyon** whose life and ministry were enormously impacted by such cults as Science of Mind, the Unity School of Christianity, Christian Science, and New Thought Metaphysics, **is the true father of the modern-day Faith Movement**. Many of the phrases popularised by today’s prosperity teachers, such as, “What I confess, I possess” were originally coined by Kenyon ... Kenneth Hagin drew heavily (Cecil -plagiarised) from Kenyon’s work, including his statement “Every man who has been born again is an incarnation, and Christianity is a miracle. The believer is as much an incarnation as was Jesus of Nazareth.” (Cecil – Believers are ‘products’ of regeneration and not incarnation. Incarnation is to embody in flesh someone who already existed in another form as the divine Son of God did in his pre-incarnate days – see Philippians 2:5-8)

Returning to the chapter titled ‘**The FORCE of FAITH**’ we read the following on pages 66-67 -

**'In Faith theology, if you speak words of faith, you activate the positive side of the FORCE: if you speak words of fear, you activate the negative side of the FORCE ... E W Kenyon said "Faith-filled words brought the universe into being and faith-filled words are ruling the universe today ...**

The chapter goes on (p 69) to explain how all this is based upon a **FALSE UNDERSTANDING** of the word "substance" found in the KJV translation of **Hebrews 11:1** –

**'The Faith teachers interpret the word "substance" to mean the "basic stuff" out of which the universe is made. As COPELAND puts it "Faith is the raw material substance that the Spirit of God used to form the universe"**

**Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words** gives the correct meaning of "substance" in **Hebrews 11:1** as "confidence, assurance" and this chapter in its final paragraph on page 71 states 'I hope by now you agree that the Faith movement has tragically misdefined faith'.

D.R. McConnell in his book 'A Different Gospel' wrote on page 134 and 140–

**'The faith theology's view of spiritual laws and formulas can only be understood in the light of the doctrine of God in the metaphysical cults. The god in which the metaphysical cults believe is not a *personal* god who *sovereignly* governs the universe. Their god is an *impersonal force*: "the infinite power", "the Spirit of Infinite Life" and "the Infinite Intelligence. This infinite but impersonal force rules the universe indirectly through "immutable laws" rather than directly through his presence and wisdom ... the Faith theology ultimately advocates faith in a god other than the God of the Bible'.**

In many ways the 'god' of the Faith Movement is like a 'genie' just waiting to be automatically 'unleashed' when the right formula of words is spoken – He is subservient to man who is ultimately sovereign. And this is the type of theology that **GRAHAM JONES** wants to direct people to.

**Kenneth Copeland** is a **FALSE** teacher in many other areas that I could 'spell-out' but I think that for now I will end this article. Should anyone want details of his other heresies and malpractices then this link will be helpful - <https://www.takeheed.info/category/kenneth-copeland/>

If you know anyone connected with the **VIBE** fellowship in Armagh <https://www.vibeni.com/> or with other groups/venues where **Mr Jones** is due to speak, then perhaps you could direct their attention to this article.

