

# **Evaluation on Christ Embassy's beliefs**

**Written By**

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## **Introduction**

This is an evaluation on the beliefs in Christ Embassy. My intention is not to bring anybody down or to make it seem I am the only one who is right, but rather to correct God's own people, just as some have corrected me before. We are a body, meant to build each other up. I may sound too critical as you read, but endure with me, because I do this out of love. If you see anything wrong in my article please notify me, we should be able to accept correction. I refuse to manipulate or distort God's word, and I believe every believer should feel the same away about His word.

This article was also done with help from other people's experience and opinions. I would like it if you read this article like a Bible study. Check the Bible verses I referenced, so you can see for yourself if what I say is true or false. I pray God opens your heart and eyes to receive the truth in this article.

Initially, I wrote this to a friend of mine, who asked me to write a critique on the beliefs of Pastor Chris at Christ Embassy. He requested it because I urged him to depart from Pastor Chris' teachings. He wanted to see what exactly was wrong with his teachings. However, I am afraid that he isn't taking heed, despite how I made it explicit throughout this article with scripture references to show that a lot of Pastor Chris' teachings are false.

But now, I wish to share this article with others and those who are in Christ Embassy or the canopy of the Word of Faith movement. I would like to clarify some of the things my friend and I spoke about in our previous discussion. We spoke about demons possessing a true believer, and my friend suggested Christians can't be possessed or influenced by demons. But it's obvious in the scriptures that we Christians can receive another spirit (another Jesus or imposter spirits).

Paul spoke to the Corinthians about receiving another gospel and spirit in 2 Corinthians 11:1-4. He makes this kind of statement in Galatians again about receiving another gospel (Galatians 1:6-9). Then in later chapters on this same different gospel, he speaks of believers being bewitched (Galatians 3:1). This refers to Satan beguiling our minds like he did with Peter (Matthew 16:21-23), without actually possessing him.

Yet it is also evident in scripture that you will receive another spirit if you receive another gospel. There are presently imposter spirits influencing the church (1 Timothy 4:1). These false spirits disguise themselves and claim to be God, Christ, and angels of light (2 Thessalonians 2:4; Luke 21:8; 2 Corinthians 11:14) which is part of the activities of Satan (2 Thessalonians 2:4,9). He wants the glory of God and wishes to be worshipped by God's people (Matthew 4:8-10; Daniel 11:36; Isaiah 14:12-14). They forge spiritual things and give false dreams, words, visions, and other spiritual encounters, like false trips to heaven and hell. How these spirits influence people isn't conspicuous, but it will be when one sees their hidden, rotten fruits (Matthew 7:15-20).

We also spoke about something else; I said I was sad because of the enemy's work in the church. My friend said this feeling is from the enemy. It appears that my friend was taught to always be happy and never be sad. But I believe my feelings are biblical, I feel the same way Paul did when he wrote with tears because some people were behaving like enemies of the cross (Philippians 3:17-19). The Bible also speaks about Lot being tormented in his soul because of the sin he saw each day (2 Peter 2:7-8). I feel just the same way. I feel tormented in my soul because of the enemy's work in the church and in the world. I also wish I could just speak about salvation like Jude (Jude 1:3-4), but I must also warn believers, so they will be saved and get matured in the word of God.

Lastly, I reminded my friend that truth is truth, no matter who says it or where it came from. Even if it comes from someone who doesn't follow the Bible. If an unbeliever states, "it's not right to fornicate" or "Jesus was a Jew," he is still right even if he doesn't obey the scriptures. My friend said I didn't preach the gospel, and that I am just against pastors.

I told him not use this as a litmus test to check if I am saying the truth or not. The Bible says the gospel is still preached even if some people do it from envy (Philippians 1:15-18), this shows how people can say the truth and choose not to live according to it. Like how Peter behaved contrary to the gospel and his revelations in Galatians 2:11-14, yet that doesn't nullify the gospel or Peter's revelations on salvation to the gentiles.

I am not trying to say I am not preaching the gospel or that we shouldn't live in accordance to the scriptures. I am saying that truth is truth, one of the most reliable litmus test for knowing the truth (whether from revelation or ideas) is the Bible. And this is what we are going to do; we are going to check if the beliefs of Christ Embassy are in accordance to the scriptures.

## **Christ Embassy**

Christ Embassy was founded by Pastor Chris Oyakhilome in 1987<sup>[1]</sup>. It grew and became a worldwide ministry. I know God has used this ministry to do a lot of good things - to save a lot and heal a lot. I thank God for these things. Nevertheless, there are dangerous pot holes in this ministry, which brings people under curses, hinders many from being saved, and wrecks people's faith and families. We shouldn't be under bondage and curses in our service for God. It's not good. I see people who really want to serve God in Christ Embassy, yet they are tangled in webs of lies. There is need for adjustment in their beliefs, so they get free and give good fruits.

## **Pastor Chris's beliefs**

Pastor Chris is the founder of Christ Embassy and other ministries. Therefore, all doctrines of Christ Embassy are initially from him. He believes in God and the true salvation (that Jesus died on the cross to pay for the world's sin). He believes we ought to live right and do good works, spreading God's love. He has a neo-charismatic belief, which emphasizes the gifts of the Holy Spirit and manifesting things with faith. He is greatly influenced by the Word of Faith movement, which is also known as the Prosperity Gospel.

This movement insists we are gods and that we can speak things into existence like God. It affirms that the enemy was totally defeated by the cross; hence, we have total dominion over the enemy. It insists that God's absolute plan for salvation is to restore man's former glory to that of the Garden of Eden, therefore, we who are in Christ are free from diseases and sickness, and are to be prosperous in every area of our lives on earth.

The Word of Faith movement also insists we are to gain possession of our blessings from the promise given to Abraham through faith and positive confession. Pastor Chris believes in these specific doctrines of the Word of Faith movement, so he preaches it to his followers as truth.

### **Faulty revelation and knowledge that influences Pastor Chris**

There has been deception in the church from the very beginning of the spreading of the gospel, and soon after the apostles died, deception in the church became thicker. New and skewed interpretations of the apostles' letters came from different corners of the church. Things got distorted, yet the scriptures were preserved through time and the main part of the gospel remained (that Jesus came to die for our sins, redeeming us to have eternal life).

Part of the way new knowledge and understanding of scriptures comes is from the linking of scriptures with one's beliefs on what they mean. Some say they were given revelations on a specific issue, so they link up their revelations with the scriptures, and sometimes use these revelations to interpret the scriptures, hence, they create a new view on the scriptures.

False teachings come by joining false revelations with scriptures, such as by linking up different scriptures that shouldn't be linked together or using verses out of context for the purpose of linking scriptures that don't really align. You should know that the Word of Faith movement is not really the teachings of the apostles and Jesus, rather, it is a new view (perspective) on their teachings. This is a skewed knowledge and understanding of the scriptures that didn't exist until the 19th century. Many of us think this is exactly what the apostles were teaching but it isn't. Some of us can't even trace the history of these beliefs. We simply just believe them. Believing in such things without examining them, shows how we have been off guard against the enemy, thinking everything is fine.

The history of the Word of Faith movement shows how it began:

"The prosperity gospel is built on a quasi-Christian heresy, popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the United States, known as New Thought. This philosophy teaches that the key to health and wealth acquisition is thinking, visualizing, and speaking the right words. Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993), pastor of Marble Collegiate Church in New York City, popularized New Thought ideas and techniques in America through his book, *The Power of Positive Thinking* (1952). Ralph Waldo Trine (1866-1958), however, was the most prolific purveyor of New Thought. In both works, one can discern some of the key recurring elements of the prosperity gospel: speaking the right words, invoking a universal law of success with words, and having faith in oneself.

The ideas of New Thought influenced, among others, E. W. Kenyon (1867-1948), an evangelist, pastor, and founder of Bethel Bible Institute. His approach to theology is the basis for one of the prosperity gospel's most distinctive features - speaking the right words to bring about a new reality; what you confess, you possess. Kenyon served as a link to the popular prosperity preachers that formed the foundation of the modern prosperity gospel movement.

For example, in the late 1940s, Oral Roberts burst onto the religious scene with his ministry of alleged healing and financial prosperity. In the 1980's, his television show was one of the most popular religious programs in the country. While Roberts certainly captured national attention and spread prosperity theology, most recognize Kenneth E. Hagin (1917-2003) as the most prominent evangelist of the prosperity gospel, as well as the father of the Word of Faith movement. More than any other factor, the Word of Faith movement was the vehicle responsible for spreading prosperity teaching across the United States in the late 20th century.

In 1962, Hagin established his evangelistic ministry for the purpose of propagating his doctrines. Yet Hagin was not alone in promoting prosperity teaching. Numerous other preachers adopted Hagin's tainted doctrine and began their own media ministries. Examples include Hagin's son, Kenneth Hagin Jr., Kenneth Copeland, Frederick Price, Robert Tilton, Benny Hinn, Charles Capps, and Jerry Savelle, among others.

While there isn't a Word of Faith or prosperity gospel denomination, many organizations assist the ministries of prosperity advocates and export the

prosperity gospel worldwide through the media. In 1973, Paul and Jan Crouch, along with Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker, founded the Trinity Broadcast Network (TBN). According to its website, TBN is now the world's largest Christian television network. TBN serves as a platform for prosperity theology teachers to reach millions, including such well-known health-and-wealth preachers as Rod Parsley, Creflo Dollar, Paula White, Kenneth Copeland, Jesse Duplantis, and Kenneth Hagin Jr."<sup>[2]</sup>

So the Word of Faith movement spread and expanded, and it became very dominant in African Christianity. Pastor Chris got influenced by Kenneth Hagin, whose teachings he referenced in his book titled, *Prophecy*, which I am going to be examining in this article. He also expresses his understanding of the Word of Faith movement in his books, which are clearly in accordance with Kenneth Hagin's teachings. His so-called manifestations of the Spirit are also in accordance with Kenneth Hagin's, where people are being "slain in the spirit" and healing are done for the sick, etc. You can tell just by reading the titles of Pastor Chris' books that he is greatly influenced by the Word of Faith movement.

## **Falsehood at Christ Embassy**

### **Word of Faith movement (Skewed knowledge):**

- **Wrong understanding of Jesus' atonement**

Pastor Chris picked up some beliefs from the Word of Faith movement which states the atonement of Jesus guarantees healing and prosperity for every born-again believer. It also says God's original plan was to restore us back to the way things were in the Garden of Eden. He also picked up the belief, that born-again believers are gods, just like Kenneth Copeland says, "You don't have a God in you, you are one." Both Kenneth Hagin and Pastor Chris assert that we are the seed of Abraham, and that the blessings of Abraham came upon us to be prosperous and healthy. They state the following scriptures to defend their beliefs, but we know their defense is wrong because verses are taken out of context and wrong interpretations are given:

"When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to Him, and He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill

what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: 'He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.' " (Matthew 8:16-17 NIV)

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well." (3 John 1:2 NIV)

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9 NIV)

"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:24 NIV)

If 1 Peter 2:24 is read in its appropriate context, one will clearly see that Peter is talking about being healed of the disease of sin. He isn't talking about physical salvation here but eternal salvation. We need to know when to take the scriptures literally and figuratively. None of the apostles wrote, "Jesus died so you can be rich financially and have no disease." The gospel is always used to refer to being redeemed from sin, not physical salvation (health or prosperity).

This is Ty Alexander Huynh's contention on the remaining verses:

"3 John 1:2, 'Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers,' is a general greeting with blessings. [John] isn't stating any kind of particular truth in that. He simply prays and hopes for the well-being of the people he is speaking to. Philippians 4:19 is a similar general blessing. Paul gave it in response to the Philippians sending him supply when no one else did. [My opinion: It's foolish to use this wish, as a foundation of a truth, John was simply wishing him good.]

Using Matthew 8:16-17 to say Christ took away sickness on the cross would be taking things out of context. It was not dying on the cross that gave people physical salvation, like healing. His dying on the cross was to fulfill atonement for our sins. All of Jesus' acts of healing and miracles were separate from His role to atone for our sins, though they are related to God's grace and mercy to take away pain and suffering. [My opinion: When the book of Matthew says a particular scripture is fulfilled, it always means the foretelling of the Old

Testament has been accomplished (and in this case, Jesus' deeds accomplished what was said of Him), we should also realize that people were healed by the disciples before Jesus died. It wasn't His death that brought physical healing in this sense. Rather, it was faith in His name that brought physical healing as Peter says in Acts 3:16.]

2 Corinthians 8:9 is in the middle of Paul talking about gracious giving to those who need it. It isn't about becoming materially 'rich' ourselves or about giving to the church as an institution. It's about helping people with what we have. The 'rich' in 2 Corinthians 8:9 also refers back to Christ's sacrifice for our sins, so we'd be rich spiritually, especially for the next life. However, Paul is talking mainly about giving to help others from our abundance in everything, which he refers to in 2 Corinthians 8:7, 'But just as you abound in everything... see that you abound in this gracious work also.' 'This gracious work' is the act of giving to those who need it by our free-will.' "

This misinterpretation of the scriptures taught by the Word of Faith movement creates an entirely different gospel - the Prosperity Gospel. It promises wealth, happiness and health. It adds to the true gospel (Ephesians 2:3-7) - God's plan with Jesus' atonement was to redeem us from sin, thus making us righteous and saved (Romans 5:6-10). God's plan wasn't for physical salvation (healing or prosperity) in His atonement, rather, it was for eternal salvation.

However, there are still some benefits from the atonement, in which we can get healed and prosperous, yet it will only happen under God's sovereign will to do so. It's not an obligation for God. Nowhere is it written that it's God's obligation to heal and prosper every born-again believer. We know it isn't always God's will that we all get healed and prosperous, because the apostles' lives reflected God's will on Jesus' atonement (Hebrews 13:5-7; 2 Corinthians 11:8-10).

Some of the apostles were sick and ill, poor, died young, wore rags, etc. (2 Corinthians 8:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:11). And all this correlates to what happened in the Old Testament to the righteous (Hebrews 11:36-37). There are reasons why God doesn't always give us everything we want and why He allows us to be tested. It goes with His plan of bringing out a refined people at the end of age (Daniel 11:35; 12:10). It's God's will that we face problems, challenges and suffering, which will help us develop a healthy faith in God and become more matured (Romans 5:3-6; James 1:2-4).



- **Dividing the word of God wrongly to back up the Word of Faith movement's beliefs**

Pastor Chris made statements in his book, *Prophecy*, that distort the story of Job. He claims Job wasn't tested by God and that Job sinned against God by unbelief. His conclusions come from the Word of Faith movement, which says God doesn't purify us with suffering. Kenneth Copeland said something similar to this too.

This is what Pastor Chris says in his book, *Prophecy*:

"Job was responsible for his catastrophe. The devil couldn't inflict those terrible disasters on him until he broke the hedge of protection God had placed around him (Job 1:9-10). It wasn't God who broke that hedge. Even though he was a wonderful, righteous man who God loved and bragged about, he lived in fear and unbelief. Job said things like, 'I'm not safe. I don't know what my children are up to right now. Those kids will be the death of me!' (Job 3:25)."<sup>[3]</sup>

Pastor Chris has become so zealous for the Word of Faith movement, that he distorts God's word to make things blend with his beliefs. What Job said isn't anything like what Pastor Chris asserts. For example, the words, "I am not safe," "I don't know what my children are up to..." and "those children will be the death of me" are not in scripture. He adds to God's word, which the Bible warns us not to do (Proverb 30:6). Let's look at Job 3:25 ourselves.

"What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me." (Job 3:25)

However, this verse can mean that Job was afraid that something like this might come upon him. It doesn't mean he had unbelief in God, rather he knew God was sovereign in nature and was able to take what he gave (Job 2:10). Before Job was tested, he thought he would continue being prosperous too (Job 29:18). Job dared God to court, because he knew he was innocent (Job 13: 3, 13-19; Job 10:1-2; related Job 12:4).

Why would a person who doesn't truly believe in God, be so confident and challenge what God did to him? Job's friends were always insisting that Job must have done something wrong (Zophar - Job 11:4-6; Bildad - Job 8:1-6; Eliphaz - Job 4:7), but Job kept on defending himself. Pastor Chris is speaking wrongly of God, just like Job's friends

were (Job 42:7-8). Job's three friends were looking in the principle of, "You sin, God punishes you." They spoke inaccurately about God, because God is not limited to this principle. He is sovereign. Pastor Chris is doing the exact same thing, I pray he repents of this, like Job's friends did (Job 42:9).

Pastor Chris goes further in his zeal and distorts the scriptures about King Hezekiah:

"Hezekiah was another man who saw nothing but God. He was on his sickbed when Isaiah, the prophet of God walked into his room and told him to set his house in order for he was surely going to die. At first, when he heard God's pronouncement from the mouth of the prophet, all he could see was death. He saw himself in the grave; he saw the people crying over his corpse. Then he turned his face to the wall and began to pray, and after a while, all he could see was God. When he opened his eyes and looked at the world around him, he saw death, but he turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord:

'I said in the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave: I am deprived of the residue of my years. I said, I shall not see the Lord, even the Lord, in the land of the living: I shall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world... Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back. For the grave cannot praise thee, death cannot celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth. The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth. The Lord was ready to save me; therefore we will sing my songs to the stringed instruments all the days of our life in the house of the Lord' - (Isaiah 38:10-11; 17-20). He kept on talking to God like this and prophesying God's Word back to Him."<sup>[4]</sup>

Pastor Chris apparently handles the word of God wrongly. So full of zeal for the Word of Faith movement that he doesn't investigate things properly. The statement made by Hezekiah was a poem he wrote AFTER he was healed (Isaiah 38:9), not when he was sick. Two different scriptures state exactly what Hezekiah prayed for (2 Kings 20:2-3; Isaiah 38: 2-3), and it wasn't the poem above. The poem was made AFTER he was healed.

Nevertheless, Hezekiah referenced other things he said when he was sick, but that ends in verse 14. Hezekiah's true prayers to God, weren't claiming and prophesying things

back to God, rather, he was begging for mercy, which is contrary to what some Word of Faith teachers believe. Kenneth Hagin once said, "Don't ask, claim it."

God granted Hezekiah this healing because he humbly prayed and cried to God (Isaiah 38:4-5), not because he was claiming things in His name. If you read the entire poem in Isaiah, you will see Hezekiah made some negative confession, but Pastor Chris doesn't recognize that. Verses 10 - 12 contain what most Word of Faith teachers consider negative confessions. Pastor Chris speaks a lot about manifesting things by one's self, which allows pride to slip in. We will speak more about this later.

Now I will speak about Pastor Chris' erroneous interpretations of God's promises. He affirms there are no more promises and that heaven isn't a promise either. I will handle his assertions separately. He makes quick conclusions out of skewing verses and not bringing the entirety of scriptures into counsel. He made these statements in his daily devotional books at different moments:

“THERE ARE NO MORE PROMISES

For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding 'Yes!' And through Christ, our 'Amen' (which means 'Yes') ascends to God for his glory. (2 Corinthians 1: 20 NLT)

Christ is the fulfillment of all God's promises. Understand that there're no more promises waiting to be fulfilled, and this is the reality."<sup>[4a]</sup>

Ty Alexander Huynh shares his evaluations on this statement:

"Pastor Chris is interpreting badly and not using proper context of 2 Corinthians 1. He also uses a bad translation that over paraphrases, which I would avoid studying from (the NLT).

If you read more fully from verse 15, Paul is speaking about wavering or being undecided or of a changing mind when he is speaking about coming to the Corinthians and using the 'yes and no' analogy to mean being undecided or of a changing mind.

So when he says Christ 'was not yes and no, but is yes in Him' and 'for as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes,' Paul is saying Christ has no

wavering or indecision about what He promises - eternal life, etc. Paul isn't saying Christ has already fulfilled those promises."

The NLT's wording is proof of how some Bible translations add and belittle what was actually stated in the original manuscripts. The CJB Bible states things clearer:

"For however many promises God has made, they all find their 'Yes' in connection with Him; that is why it is through Him that we say the 'Amen' when we give glory to God." (2 Corinthians 1:20 CJB)

It's important we use good Bible translations, so we get the exact words that were written. All Bible translations have their flaws though, but it's needful to use ones that do less paraphrasing, like the NIV, NASB, CJB and KJV. I was enlightened on this issue through Minister Ty Alexander. I saw how Bible translations contradicted themselves before I acknowledged the need of using a good Bible translation. I saw how bad Bible translations led people to false conclusions, just like we have seen with Pastor Chris now.

So all of God's promise aren't fulfilled as Pastor Chris asserts. But he doesn't stop here, Pastor Chris goes further to defend this view.

Here is the next assertion:

"We, however are citizens of heaven, and we eagerly wait for our saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come from heaven (Philippians 3:20 GNB)

When we say every promise in the word of God has been fulfilled in us, the new creation, there are those who ask, 'What about heaven? Isn't that promised us?' Heaven isn't a promise, because we were born there..."<sup>[4b]</sup>

It's irking how Pastor Chris takes verses out of context, forcing them to mean what he wants, which in this case is that we are born as citizens of heaven because he wants to teach that every promise of God is already fulfilled. However, the verse he referenced and the surrounding verses prove him to be a manipulator of the scriptures or at the least, someone who does not truly understand it. I will reference a better translation that makes things clearer:

"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20 NASB)

The NASB is clearer in saying "we eagerly wait" for Jesus *because* of our citizenship, instead of separating our heavenly citizenship and waiting on the Lord that the GNB does. The question is, why do we eagerly wait if we are already in heaven? Why do we wait? Why do we fix our eyes on the unseen eternal kingdom (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)? Why does Paul wish to know and partake of the power of Jesus' resurrection if all promises are fulfilled (Philippians 3:10-11)? Obviously, we aren't currently in heaven, neither can we even inherit God's kingdom by flesh and blood, which Pastor Chris seems to believe, but Paul states in the following scripture:

"Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable." (1 Corinthians 15:50 NASB)

Paul speaks of the perishable as our flesh, because that's exactly what it is. It simply cannot inherit God's kingdom. We shouldn't go on thinking that our body is going to last forever. Eventually we will all put off this covering.

Paul also answered why we wait on Jesus in the next verses of Philippians 3:

"...we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself." (Philippians 3:20-21 NASB)

Why exactly are we waiting? We are waiting for the revealing of the Son of God, the 2nd coming of Jesus, the Resurrection. Though we are citizens of heaven, yet we wait, because our perishable body can't inherit God's kingdom.

The previous verses of Philippians 3 show why Paul even included verses 20 - 21. Paul spoke and wept for people like Pastor Chris, who were behaving like enemies of the cross, and their minds were set on earthly and perishable things:

"For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things." (Philippians 3:18-19 NASB)

Pastor Chris has shown himself to be using trickery when interpreting the word of God. The Bible says "We refuse to practice cunning or tamper with God's word..." (2 Corinthians 4:2), but this is exactly what we find Pastor Chris doing. We should treat

God's word properly in its right context, and not change what it means because of our pre-conceived ideas. May God help us do this.

- **Getting everything you believe by confessing it**

Pastor Chris teaches that we can get absolutely anything we ask God, if we simply believe and confess it out loud. He emphasizes that we should not make negative confession and he references the same scripture other Word of Faith teachers use:

“Have faith in God, Jesus answered. ‘Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.’” (Mark 11:22-24 NIV)

This is Ty Alexander Huynh’s contention on this matter:

Mark 11:22-24 - This talks about having undeterred faith in God, especially when praying for or about things. It is misleading [people who don't know the entire picture of what is stated in the Bible] because it suggests anything we believingly ask for in prayer will be given (Mark 11:24), which isn't absolutely true. The next verse suggests further information that goes with that - we need to forgive others or God will not forgive us.

That goes with God not acting for us or granting our prayers because of sin, like in 1 Peter 3:7, which warns husbands to treat their wives well, 'so that [their] prayers will not be hindered.' It refers to sin preventing God from answering prayers.

That doesn't mean if we are free from sin that God will give us whatever we ask in prayer (ignoring the fact that none of us is sinless). This scripture goes with other scripture about prayer, such as 'this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him' (1 John 5:14-15). That makes it clearer that the things asked in prayer aligning with God's will will be granted. I talked about

these things in the Balancing the Truth and Prayer article [<http://3rdcompass.org/go?v=BALANCE>].

Teaching positive confession makes people believe God will give [absolutely] anything asked in believing prayer regardless of the situation. A question we need to confront with why positive confession may work a lot is that of false-christs and other imposters that are giving the prayers, like the case of the boy I wrote about in Light Within who prayed to the secular Santa Claus. He asked Santa for money and got it, but I don't believe that was God supporting Santa Claus at the North Pole. It was the enemy. Imposters are very tricky to deal with, because they back up their teachings with real miracles and powers. Just remember, 'Everything comes from God' (1 Corinthians 11:12), but not everything is directly from Him, which is something else I brought up in Light Within [<http://3rdcompass.org/go?v=LIGHT>]. We can't assume God is behind every single miracle."

I have heard of people who were confessing and proclaiming, yet saw no results for years. This practice kills people's faith, because they might not get what they profess. Something about confessing God's word is that what you profess may not actually be God's will at the moment. God doesn't want us making a fool of ourselves by confessing everything in the open, we should rather ask for the Lord will's to be done if things don't work out. The same scriptures that say, "I shall live..." (Psalm 118:17), are also the same scriptures that say, "The righteous perish..." (Isaiah 57:1; Ecclesiastes 7:15). We should acknowledge that God's will for believers isn't always to be rich and prosperous; even the righteous sometimes end up poor. Telling people otherwise is to distort God's word and to lead people astray.

Here is another statement of Pastor Chris from his daily devotional book:

"Some Christians, in their confessions are sometimes positive and other times negative, and that's why they experience 'ups' and 'downs' in their lives. [Having] made a wrong confession they'd say: 'I didn't really [mean] what I said'... Well, in the realm of the Spirit, you have whatsoever you say whether or not you meant it (Mark 11:23)."<sup>[5]</sup>

This is a false generalized statement, because not all Christians who confess facts (positive or negative), experience ups and downs. Some even wax great because they admit their flaws and shortcomings. There is a lot of bad confession in the scriptures, read Lamentations or the prophets. You will see Jeremiah made bad confessions yet God didn't take it to effect (it was fact, and was already even in effect, and it wasn't because of his profession). Many expressed doubt in God's promises, yet God still brought His promises to pass.

More examples opposing the doctrine of negative confession are: Elijah cried that God should take his life (1 Kings 19:4), Sarah laughed and expressed doubt when God told her that she would have a child (Genesis 18:12-15), the widow expressed her doubts to Elisha about God's promise of a son (2 Kings 4:15-17), yet God still preserved them and fulfilled His promises.

I am not saying we should doubt God's promises, but I am against generalized statements like what I cited from Pastor Chris. God is not limited to our faith or confession. He can bring His words to pass whether we believe or not. He is a sovereign God. The following scripture sheds more light that God's will isn't always for us to live or prosper.

"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.' As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil." (James 4:13-16)

Isn't it God's will that we always flourish and live healthy? Yet James says, "If it's the Lord's will, we will live and do this." This apparently means living to see tomorrow is not sure in itself. Why does he say "if" it's God's will? Because it certainly isn't always God's will. James says such boasting is evil, let us take heed.

- **Satan is completely defeated because of the cross, we therefore have all authority over him**



The Word of Faith movement and Pastor Chris assert Satan was completely defeated by the cross and that we have absolutely authority over them, but this isn't entirely true. Because everything has not been fully subjected to Jesus, Satan will be completely defeated at a later time.

This is Ty Alexander Huynh's contention on this issue:

"No, Satan was not totally defeated by the cross, nor do believers have absolute authority over him or all demons. God is the only one who has absolute authority over the enemy. Also remember Satan is often used as a name for all the enemy and not just the fallen archangel. Also remember, God's angels fought and I believe continue to fight Satan and demons. If they or we had absolute authority over them, then there would be no battles.

Satan and his angels were defeated in that war in heaven when they tried to take over God's kingdom. We don't know when that war was, but I think it was before the time of Adam and Eve. In that defeat, the enemy was judged by God, were thrown to earth, became demons, and were given domains for them to work and reign in - they are called princes, rulers, and authorities in the Bible for that reason.

That means they have control where God allows, and that mostly has to do with the domains of sin where they attach to people. They also interfere with God's works where He allows. If the enemy were truly defeated by the cross, Paul wouldn't have said our fight is with these dark powers and authorities when he talked about the Armor of God (Ephesians 6:12). He also wouldn't call them rulers or principalities if they were completely defeated and had no power.

The questions you asked are some common myths that are spread in the church, likely by the enemy to mislead believers into thinking the enemy cannot hurt them or that using Christ's name and power will always defeat them. That was a misconception I talked about with John Dau's dream [<http://3rdcompass.org/go?v=JOHNDAUSDREAM>].

Sin will allow the enemy to attack, so if sin gives hooks it doesn't matter how much you try to use your authority in Christ or God's names to rebuke them. If the person continues to sin, they will remain or come back, likely worse, even if deliverance is successful.

Also remember that God doesn't always deliver from demons or other curses. Paul asked the Lord three times to take that 'thorn of the flesh' from him, which was a messenger of Satan, but the Lord answered, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness' (2 Corinthians 12:9). The Lord wanted Paul to mature through the curse and have success or victory in the weakness. Deliverance ministries tend to spread that the enemy was [totally] defeated and feel more that believers have absolute authority over them because they deliver people from demons."

Everything isn't totally subjected to Jesus yet. They will eventually, after the final war when Satan will be finally defeated (2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelations 19:19-21). It is evident in the church that we don't have "absolute" authority over Satan, in fact God has left Satan to do his thing (Matthew 13:25-30), that's why there is great confusion and delusion in the church. Those who treat Satan like he is nothing defy Satan, and this is one way to know false or errant teachers (Jude 1:8-10; 2 Peter 2:9-11). We are to continue fighting the devil in this age, and try to keep ourselves clean, because Satan's work is in the church. This is why we need to examine the roots of every new doctrine.

There is need for more explanation on this matter. The Bible says everything has been made subjected to Jesus (Ephesians 1:22; Hebrews 2:8), but everything is still "being" subjected to Jesus as noted in the following scripture:

"[Jesus Christ] is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, angels and authorities and powers being made subject to him." (1 Peter 3:22)

Also, "everything will be made subjected" to Jesus (2 Thessalonians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28). Paul explained what the situation is currently:

"You put everything in subjection under His feet." In subjecting everything to Him, He left nothing unsubjected to Him. However, at present, we don't see everything subjected to Him [at least, not yet.]" (Hebrew 2:8 CJB)

Although it says everything is subjected to Jesus, yet currently, this isn't totally fulfilled. It's just like how we are saved (Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:5-8), but we do not yet possess our eternal inheritance through Christ. We have eternal life (1 John 5:11, 13), yet we will have eternal life (Titus 1:2; 3:7). This is why Paul said:

"For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently." (Romans 8: 24-25 NIV)

We aren't currently in our resurrected body, so also we don't inherit most of God's promises of salvation while on earth (1 Corinthians 15:55). That's why we hope. To say that we are in our final state of salvation is to distort God's word. So also, to say the enemy is totally defeated currently, is also to distort God's word. We need to divide God's word rightly and truthfully (2 Timothy 2:15). The timing of blessings in the Word of Faith movement is wrong. It's actually at the end of the age when many of God's blessings in eternal salvation will be fulfilled. It's when we finally inherit God's kingdom, that God will totally wipe away our tears and pains (Revelations 21:4). This is why we are told to set our eyes on the unseen (2 Corinthians 4:18).

- **Uninspired Prophecy - Misrepresenting God**

Pastor Chris says every Christian can prophesy, he went further to say,

"Everything you need is inside you. All the capital you need is inside you. When you take a tiny orange seed in your hand, it has all the potentials to produce roots, a stem, branches, leaves and many orange fruits with many seeds in them. All you need to do is put that little seed in the right environment (the soil) and its potentials will be released. Just like that seed, everything you need to become the 'you' that God has destined you to be is inside you. I say it all the time that I can never fail, I can never be sick or poor. It's impossible; I just can't. I know who I am; I've found my place; I've found my roots!"<sup>[6]</sup>

He says this is because of this scripture, which he often quotes:

"Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence." (2 Peter 1:3 NASB)

But we know the things God has given us to life through Christ, are definitely not always materialistic things. Because of the scriptures that were already brought up, we know all

believers are not promised wealth and prosperity. We also do not own everything literally. Peter is speaking figuratively about the new life in Christ. It's just like another scripture Pastor Chris quotes:

"Whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all are yours" (1 Corinthians 3:26)

This scripture brings out the real truth of the matter. We do not literally own life or death nor do we literally own Paul and Apollos. Pastor Chris has once again tried to distort the Bible in order to prove his beliefs in the Word of Faith movement. This is what I did when I still believed in Take His Heart Ministry's false teachings. I tried to make the Bible correlate to something that wasn't true. The scripture which makes me sure that God has not given us (believers) possessions through Jesus as it pertains to material life, is this one:

"Then [Jesus] said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.' " (Luke 12:15 NIV)

This is a statement that Christ made. I don't think Jesus gave us abundance of material possessions as a result of His atonement, because Jesus said life itself doesn't even CONSIST of abundance of materialistic possessions. Jesus gave us a new life. This new life supersedes what we have or see now.

Back to the subtopic. Not all believers can prophesy as Pastor Chris says. He asserts that all Christians can prophesy in his book<sup>[7]</sup>, *Prophecy*, where he quoted these scriptures:

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith" (Romans 12:6 NIV)

"For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged." (1 Corinthians 14:31)

This is Ty Alexander Huynh's contention on this matter:

"About prophesying - To do this as the prophets did or through the Holy Spirit, like at Pentecost, I believe is to speak words directly from God. Not everyone will get the gift of prophecy or temporarily be anointed to prophesy like at Pentecost. It isn't simply about having the faith. God needs to give us the gift or that power to prophesy by the Spirit, like at Pentecost.

...

We can definitely misrepresent God with "prophecy" that doesn't come true or with statements that are not truly from Him. That is basically false prophecy that the enemy can bring us to speak out.

...

I don't think prophesying includes simply speaking from God's word like we do singing worship songs or reading scripture. It needs to have God's influence on what we say or write. This is what I believe is noted by singers and musicians prophesying with their instruments in 1 Chronicles 25:1. They were creating music and songs by the Lord's influence and then performing it. I don't think the prophesying meant there is simply performing songs already written by others, like King David.

...

1 Corinthians 14:31, 'For you can all prophesy...' Isn't saying everyone can do it. Paul is only talking about everyone who wants to prophesy at church should do it in turn so there's order.

In Romans 12:6, Paul notes prophesy is a gift that one (can) have in the first place, and then they should 'prophesy in accordance with your faith.' It isn't clear exactly what faith has to do with it since that verse can also be translated 'then prophesy in agreement with the faith.' I don't think you have to have greater faith to get the gift of prophecy. God's gifts come by His will and I don't think you even have to ask to get gifts of the Spirit." [My opinion: It seems to me that those with the gift of prophecy, are meant to prophesy in accordance to the Christian faith.]

All those Bible verses Pastor Chris mentioned were taken out of context. And the reason I frequently reference Ty Alexander Huynh's contentions is because he analyses scripture well, and what I reference is from our chats we had over some of these issues, so it wouldn't be right to just use his ideas without referencing him.

- **Sowing seeds in Christ Embassy to determine your season**

Just like the Word of Faith movement says we should pay seeds for God to work in our lives, so also Pastor Chris asserts the same thing. He once said, "...in the kingdom to which we are born, the seeds determine our season. Sow a seed to determine your season... nothing can stop you. It is your season."<sup>[8]</sup>

But we find this unscriptural. The Bible never says we should sow seeds to determine our future or season. However, the Bible does teach if we give, we shall have reward given unto us (Luke 6:38), yet the focus of giving in the Bible is not to receive or determine one's season (Luke 6:35). This fact may seem insignificant but it eventually grows into greed and thirst for money, which eventually yield fruits of every kind of evil and destroys people's faith (1 Timothy 6:9-10). Many lose faith in God because they don't see results from their seed sowing. This kind of doctrine kills faith and shouldn't be in the church.

- **Speaking in tongues is the evidence that a person is filled with the Holy Spirit**

Just like most teachers in the Word of Faith movement believe, Pastor Chris also believes speaking in tongues is evidence of a Holy Spirit filled person, as he asserts in his book titled, *Power of Tongues*. This doctrine comes from linking up scriptures and making conclusions too quickly. The following scripture takes this belief down by stating not all speak in tongues:

"Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?" (1 Corinthians 12:30 NASB)

Paul is saying not all Spirit-filled believers speak in tongues, therefore, speaking in tongues is not a test for knowing who's filled with the Holy Spirit. The speaking in tongues in today's Pentecostal churches have been investigated by linguists and a conclusion was drawn – they didn't think many instances of speaking in tongues were a real language. Some argue that the tongues the scriptures speak of is a heavenly language (2 Corinthians 14:2), and no one can understand it. However, some understood the early church when they first spoke in tongues at the receiving of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4-11). I don't want to go into all that here.

I still believe there are true speaking in tongues in the church, yet we should understand that many are not of God. Even, the church now focuses on speaking in tongues above

many things more than before. It shouldn't be the emphasis in edifying the church (1 Corinthians 14:4-5).

- **False holy spirits and false miracles**

The miracles in most Pentecostal churches have almost the same pattern of healing. I remember when I was about 7 years old, I used to see Pastor Chris do his miracle service. It all felt right and real, but a part of me didn't give my trust. It's been more than 10 years now, and I believe I now know why I didn't really trust his miracles. They are almost totally identical to that of T.B Joshua's, who is a Word of Faith teacher. We should understand that we can receive a different holy spirit that works mighty miracles, signs and wonders (2 Corinthians 11:4, 12-15). It will be foolish to think that all miracles are directly from God. Those who mostly do healing services in Pentecostal churches are in deception.

We don't see miracles like that of the New Testament's, where the command is given in Jesus name and there is a total healing. Many who go to these faith healers' healing services sometimes die, or were partially healed for a few moments, and then they go back to their original state of sickness. They will have their followers think these people lacked faith, but this is not the case. I also heard of a woman drop dead when a pastor laid his hand on her for healing<sup>[9]</sup>, though that was a different ministry. I guess the False Holy Spirit sometimes kills people or people are being judged unto death because they put their trust in a false holy spirit or false teacher.

I think some people still get healed, but they are few, because some were even paid to act as if they were healed. I heard of Sir John who was once a worker of this ministry, Christ Embassy, and he testifies against the false healing there. Here is his experience:

"Many have wondered and would like to know the truth about healing and miracle claims from the healing school of Christ Embassy. I'd like [to] say a few things about the genuineness of these miracles which have sparked endless questions. What I'm about to say may sound shocking to you but it is the truth. It is a first-hand account of my experience at the healing school. What you see on Loveworld videos/TV, especially miracle testimonies no matter how believable they appear, [they] are simply what Pastor Chris and his TV crew wants you to see. The truth is that a larger number of people including his pastors, partners

(and even you) hardly ever know what goes on behind the camera scenes. I was at healing school May 2008 session and the discoveries I made blew my mind and shook the very foundation of my faith. I spent a total of 4 weeks at the healing [school] (It had two sessions and each ran for two weeks) this period of time at the healing school afforded me the opportunity to observe certain unusual happenings which I must reveal.

I have been a member and a consistent financial partner of the ministry since 2004. Pastor Chris Oyakhilome had been my role model, mentor, prophet and father. I have followed his teachings and doctrines to the letter so much that you couldn't talk with me for 10 min's without knowing I was his follower. I had taken someone who was in a wheelchair (bound as a result of spinal cord injury) to the healing school with hope that Pastor Chris would minister to him at the end of the session (at least this is what I was made to believe from several healing school publications) but this was not to be, and the events that followed were shocking and beyond my imagination. After the first session, there was to be a healing service where the students having received/exercised faith to be healed, were put on the healing line to be ministered to by Pastor Chris. This was where my questions started. The reason is that not only did we not make it to the healing line but several other folks with obvious physical disabilities were also not put on the healing line. I made efforts to find out the criteria for the selection that was made. This was what I found out:

I discovered that all wheelchair cases taken to the healing line for ministration were people whose conditions were not such that they couldn't stand or walk. In other words, the people you see popping out of wheelchairs in those videos can both previously stand and walk. They are carefully selected through a process I will discuss later.

Secondly, to my utter amazement, I also discovered that several other people whom I had seen on different occasions walking around the hall unaided and without any sign of pain or disability during the two weeks session were put on wheelchairs or made to lie on stretchers during this healing service. After much waiting, the "Man of God" walks in touching everyone on the healing line and then proceeds to the wheelchair section; with one touch here and there he instructs them to get up "and they do"; wild shouts of excitement reverberated



across the auditorium as partners and pastors who have been specially invited to witness the miracles jumped for joy.

I felt like sinking through the solid ground, I couldn't believe my eyes. Once in a while I would utter a word of prayer, I'd say: "Lord please don't let this be what I think." I remember a particular man who came for that session; he had been involved in a motor accident, which left him with a spinal injury. He had difficulty walking normally because he couldn't bend both knees while walking (I had seen him walking). He came with a neck guard and two crutches to support himself properly while walking. I observed that two days after coming to the healing school, he started exercising his faith by moving around without the neck guard and crutches, that was how he moved around for two weeks. During the healing service, I was shocked to see the same man with his neck guard and crutches which he hadn't used for two weeks.

Pastor Chris prayed for him and took the neck guard off as though it was a big deal, the congregation applauded and stood to their feet as he went on to take the crutches from the man; he then asked the man to walk. The man obviously walked but not any better than he had walked for two weeks without Pastor Chris praying for him. After the service, as the partners left the hall, the students and the "healed" were asked to wait behind. I observed that one of the two ladies who got out of the wheelchair half an hour ago quietly sat back in her wheelchair with pale look on her face, the people who brought her all the way from Benin didn't seem like they had seen a miracle; this puzzled me more. The borrowed wheelchairs were returned to the real owners as I looked with great surprise."<sup>[10]</sup>

Sir John isn't the only one who testifies about this. There are many more, these people refuse to cover lies and would rather expose them. I still acknowledge that there is power or anointing people feel when they are touched or ministered to in Christ Embassy, yet I believe it to be a false holy spirit.

Christ Embassy has also picked some things from the New Thought and Metaphysics, such as some can't do their healing without music, which they use to hypnotize people. They also use the power of suggestions, telling you exactly what to expect. This isn't found in scriptures.

Ty Alexander Huynh shares his thoughts:

"I remember we talked about music before and that we can get addicted to religious music and listen too often, especially worship music. If anyone can't be without worship or gospel music for long, then they are addicted and likely have religious spirits. We don't need to have it playing constantly to be connected with God. Any kind of music can create certain moods, though, and the kinds that use a lot of repetitive rhythm is especially hypnotic, like the use of drumming in tribal rituals or the rhythms in techno dance music. Archaeologists studied the acoustic effects of Stone Henge and found that it amplifies certain frequencies, like that of ancient drums, much like more modern amphitheatres amplify sound. This amplification of repetitive drumming makes our minds and bodies synch to them and create more dreamlike, hypnotic states. I believe this is used in pagan rituals to induce trances that aid demonic and other spiritual experiences, like getting visions, so the very long, intense use of gospel music seems to be helping people to get into a trance or brainwashed state, like the speakers in the videos said. Also remember, repetitive music is used in brainwashing people.

Simply using music in itself isn't bad. The prophet Elisha asked for a harpist in 2 Kings 3:15 to hear the Lord, though, God's word seems to have come quickly, not after an hour or two of listening to music. I also don't know of other instances in the Bible where a prophet or anyone else had to have music to hear the Lord.

One of my Bibles notes that Elisha used music to get him into a calm state to better hear the Lord, though, I don't think that is necessary. That suggests we have to use things like meditation to hear the Lord, but meditation is more often used in divination to get guidance from imposters and demons, like in yoga and Buddhist practices. The methods of Take His Heart and God Calling also train people to get into more meditative states using silence that may aid getting the spiritual guidance from their imposters."

Funny enough, the acts of healing and anointing we see in most Pentecostal churches are very similar to the occult, where there are abnormal behaviors, which is very much identical to the kundalini spirits in yoga.

Pastor Chris has also been showcasing anointing, waving his jacket and thrusting out his arms so that his followers can "receive it". Many fall back as a custom of "being slain in

the spirit" or being under the "anointing." The act of throwing anointing or showcasing anointing isn't scriptural. The Holy Spirit doesn't showcase Himself, instead He showcases Jesus (John 16:14).

This is Ty Alexander's opinion on the throwing of anointing or power:

"About throwing spiritual power around - I don't recall anyone in the Bible doing things like I see in those videos. Take His Heart was instructed by their spirits to do more physical "throwing" around of spiritual power in their meetings, though. And some years ago, I noted this practice of throwing the anointing of the Spirit with someone I believe is being deceived by a Python spirit - Kat Kerr - who I mentioned in the Ministry Warnings article [<http://3rdcompass.org/go?v=WARNINGS>]. She claimed to go to heaven hundreds of times and talked a lot about it, but I don't think they are experiences from the Lord or that she visited heaven. Her experiences have roller coasters and other odd things happening in heaven, and she taught to 'throw' the anointing of the Holy Spirit around to use God's power. This seems to be a similar thing to these Pentecostal and Charismatic preachers. I don't believe they are using the Holy Spirit or are using God's 'anointing'. The 'power' of these experiences seem more to be that of hypnotic suggestion and/or spiritual powers that are not from God. Black magic and sorcery are real things and have real power, so throwing around 'God's' power are likely related to that. If there were real miracles of healing going on then I might think it is gifts of the Spirit, but there doesn't seem to be any real miracles happening."

There might still be true healing in the midst of all this, but there is obviously a lot of false healing in Christ Embassy. We should stay on guard and examine these healings. Many are still dying under these faith healers, so warn people of the enemy in their midst, otherwise they might be judged unto death.

- **Misleading and untrue statements**

Pastor Chris made a lot false statements in the past and keeps making them till now. I acknowledge that he may have said some things out of zeal, or perhaps mistakenly, yet he is held accountable for what he says, just as the scriptures say:

"Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment." (James 3:1 NASB)

"But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matthew 12:36-37 NASB)

It would be better Pastor Chris doesn't be a teacher if he isn't ready to stand accountable for his words. It would also be good if he humbled himself to confess his flaws openly and amend his ways. I will go over some things he said:

"It is a sin to be poor"<sup>[11]</sup>

It's not amusing to see or hear this, because this is clearly part of the Word of Faith movement doctrines. I have heard my former pastor say this too. This is deceptive and insulting to God and His people. Many will start thinking they are not going to make it to heaven. Because of what? Not being rich materialistically? This has gone too far. We have tangible evidence in the scriptures that the righteous can be poor (Hebrews 11:36-37). The apostles and many Christians among the early church were poor (2 Corinthians 8:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:11), neither were they always successful. Paul gloried in such things (2 Corinthians 11:27-30). So were they (the early church) sinning against God?

Pastor Chris said another disturbing statement, which Word of Faith teachers keep asserting:

"He (God) only intervenes at our invitation"<sup>[12]</sup>

Pastor Chris said this because of the following scripture and other reasons I am not aware of, "The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth he has given to mankind." - Psalms 115:16 NIV

Yes, God gave mankind dominion over the earth, as it says in the scriptures:

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'" ( Genesis 1:27-28 NIV)

But we do not own the earth or dictate how God intervenes. God owns everything (Psalm 89: 11) and is in charge of everything. He doesn't need our invitation to intervene. He does whatever pleases Him:

"The Lord does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths." (Psalms 135:6 NIV)

The thinking of, "God needs me," was handled by John the Baptist. He warns the Jews not say such things:

"And don't suppose you can comfort yourselves by saying, 'Abraham is our father'; For I tell you that God can raise up for Abraham sons from these stones!" (Matthew 3:9 CJB)

This reflects how God doesn't depend on anyone to act, or intervene as Pastor Chris puts it. To say such statements is to be full of pride, and the apostles prophesied of such people (Jude 8, 16; 2 Peter 2:11-12). This is the same kind of pride the devil had, "wanting to be in control," "wanting to be God," and it's the same lie the devil proposed to Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:4-5). The Word of Faith movement has unknowingly accepted this lie. I wish they would come back to their senses (2 Timothy 2:25-26), and realize the sovereignty of God. Only God is in absolute control, everything is ultimately under Him.

Here is Pastor Chris' next statement:

"Why do Christians die? Christian die because of the consciousness of death. Read your Bible, why did the apostles die? Because, the Bible says they had the sentence of death in themselves... Why? The apostle Paul said, we carry that consciousness. We have given ourselves over to death that you may live. They thought that we'll live until rapture. By their sacrifices, they sentenced themselves to death, hoping that we'll catch the dream and live on... Everything I am telling you, these are from the scriptures... So death is based on a consciousness"<sup>[12a]</sup>

This is deceptive and erroneous as the previous statements were. But this reminds me of how God's people have been wondering why the righteous die. Solomon tackled this issue but didn't give a reason why they die. Isaiah being inspired by the Holy Spirit gave

one reason why righteous people die (Isaiah 57:1). But now in our age, we have handled the scriptures falsely and the enemy keeps trying to enforce false interpretations on us.

Like the previous ministry I used to follow, they got dreams and inspired words from imposter spirits, thinking it was the Holy Spirit. They got inspired that the reason we Christians die of illness or prematurely is because we don't pay tithe, or we don't pay tithe properly. But even those who tithed in this ministry's pattern still ended up colliding with the inevitable (death). Kenneth Hagin also said Christians aren't supposed to die of illnesses or below 120 years, but he himself died of an illness when he wasn't even yet 120.

Pastor Chris asserts the same thing as Kenneth Hagin, but he gives a reason why Christians end up dying. He says the reason is because of the consciousness of death. He says the apostle Paul said, "...We carry that consciousness. We have given ourselves over to death that you may live..." Paul made a similar statement about how people gain eternal life through him and other apostles. But what Pastor Chris referenced of Paul is based on the twisting of Paul's letters, which Peter warned us about (2 Peter 3:15-16). He didn't say, "We carry that consciousness." Neither did he say, "We have given ourselves over to death..." Here is the scripture:

"For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that His life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you." (2 Corinthians 4:11-12 NIV)

They weren't delivering themselves to death, but were being delivered over to death, this isn't of their doing, as Pastor Chris says it is. That's a huge difference. It wasn't a sacrifice so that we may continue living on the earth. Pastor Chris skews things badly. The "life" mentioned above is "eternal life", this is what Paul meant. And neither is death based on a consciousness. He assures his listeners that he is saying the truth about God's word, but we find him doing the very opposite.

I will now tackle and evaluate some statements Pastor Chris made in a sermon he preached a while ago. He misconstrued and muddled a lot of things, but I selected a few parts to examine and share with here. He said:

"You only have problems when you don't trust the word of God."<sup>[13]</sup>

This is untrue. It's even when we trust God's word that we can experience some problems (Matthew 13:20-21), because the enemy will try to loosen our trust in God's word. To say we "only" have problems, when we don't trust God's word is false. However, sometimes we can experience problems because we don't trust God or His word, yet it's not the "only" reason we experience problems. What makes this a false generalized statement is the use of the word, "only."

Pastor Chris goes further to skew things in his sermon when he asserts:

"When things go wrong, don't start out in your life looking for what you did wrong... The first thing you should think about, is there is an enemy out there, and you are going to put him where he belongs... Don't start out looking at what I did wrong... if something is going wrong, it's the devil, start out with him..."<sup>[14a]</sup>

Pastor Chris says, if things go wrong, it is the devil. This shows how Word of Faith teachers accuse and are against the devil, yet they are unknowingly influenced by him (Jude 9-10; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15). The scripture speaks of how the Beast hates the Harlot in the Book of Revelation (Revelation 17:16-17), but it turns out that he actually influences her (Revelations 17:3).

Another disturbing thing about this statement is that it promotes a seared conscience, a conscience that is dead to right or wrong (1 Timothy 4:1-3). Because it refuses self-examination and suggests that everything going wrong is because of the devil. Pastor Chris states more of his mind below:

"I mean, if I leave my door open, and some scoundrel comes inside. Should I blame myself for leaving it opened? I should blame him for coming inside. It's my door. So I'll start out with him, instead of blaming myself about the door. So when I am through with him, then I and God can discuss the door issue."<sup>[14b]</sup>

This is very misleading. This statement undermines taking responsibility for our actions. Certainly we will eat the fruits of our deeds. God may not judge us swiftly for sinning, but we should be conscious of our deeds and amend what is needful. We shouldn't be faulting the devil for things caused by our doing. This thinking makes people ignore their sins and promotes a seared conscience.

Another issue about self-examining is that, though we can pray, "God forgive me my known and unknown sins," and have those sins forgiven. Yet we will keep eating from

the consequences of our unknown sins if we don't examine ourselves and turn from those sins. Just because it's done in ignorance doesn't make the consequences nullified.

The Lord said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge," (Hosea 4:6) which refers to suffering in judgments because of sin committed in ignorance. God's people don't know what sin truly is. But the same goes for our known sin, if we don't discipline ourselves and turn from those sins, we will still end up taking part in its consequences. There is need for us to continually examine ourselves because it will benefit both ourselves and others (1 Timothy 4:16).

"If we examine ourselves, we would not come under judgment." (1 Corinthians 11: 31 CJB)

### **Other Falsehood and Problems:**

- **Mandatory tithing**

We are no longer obligated to pay tithe under the New Covenant. The entire law has been summed up to love (Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:14). The main reference people use to say believers are to tithe is Malachi 3, which doesn't promote mandatory tithing for Christians as some think. We are no longer under obligation to pay tithe. God has delivered us from bondage, to freedom (Galatians 4:22-31; 2 Corinthians 3:17), so that we may serve and give to God voluntarily.

We should understand that the pattern for how we conduct ourselves to God has been set even before the law came. It was a mystery before Christ came (Ephesians 1:9-10). And according to this pattern, Abraham gave a voluntary tithe to Melchizedek (Hebrew 7:1-2), not under obligation, showing generosity that pleases God. So also in Christ, we can give voluntarily to Jesus as being children of Abraham through faith. We should understand there has been a change in priesthood, therefore a change in the law (Hebrew 7:12).

We are no longer under the Mosaic law (Galatians 4:1-5; Romans 7:1-6), but under the law of Christ, which is to love God and our neighbors. Therefore, don't bring yourself under bondage again. We no longer take benefit of Christ if we subject ourselves to the Law of Moses or bondage of false teachings (Galatians 5:4).



There are still some of the Mosaic law that reflects into the law of Christ (love), yet we are no longer obligated to obey most of the ordinances (Colossians 2:16-17), like Sabbaths, tithing, eating foods the Mosaic law forbids, etc. We must understand the entire commands in the Mosaic law as summing up to love (Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:14) - the law of Christ. And when I mean "love", I am not talking about a love that is overly focused on adoration or affection, rather, I am talking about a love that prompts us to obey continually. The church has leaned excessively to the affection and adoration side, that she forgets to love Christ is to obey Him (John 14:15, 21, 24; 1 John 2:5). We should know that our adoration is counted as lip service, if we don't eventually or actually obey God (Isaiah 29:13).

Back to the subtopic. It's not a sin to tithe though, but being mandated to tithe is wrong. Pastor Chris teaches mandatory tithing and hence brings people under curses and bondage. Don't become a victim of curses and bondage. Christ Embassy and others may make you feel unspiritual for not tithing, but the scriptures say we shouldn't accept any condemnation for not obeying Mosaic ordinances (Colossians 2:16-17). And we should not accept false teachings that bring us under bondage again (Romans 8:15). Save yourself and others by unlearning the lies.

- **Off guard against false doctrines**

It has come to my attention that Pastor Chris is off guard against false doctrines. He doesn't speak much on this. He mainly emphasizes how we can just understand God's power within us, making believers obsess over manifesting things.

Pastor Chris mentioned some things when he wrote about how to identify false teachers or prophets. He said, "Don't forget that you are not made a pastor, a prophet, or an evangelist because you are perfect. So sometimes, some of them can make some mistakes and I don't want you to judge them with their mistakes, because sometimes, out of enthusiasm (that's over enthusiasm) or the expectations of those who are around..."<sup>[15]</sup>

This is actually true. Ministers do make mistakes. But they are still accountable to what they say and must take responsibility for what they do or teach, so it's best they are corrected openly, just as Paul corrected Peter (Galatians 2:11-14), or admit they taught wrong openly. We are a body. We should encourage and instruct each other (1

Thessalonians 5:11), and accept correction (Proverb 15:31-32). This is why we are told to examine our teachings, so we save ourselves and those who hear us (1 Timothy 4:16). This includes temporary and eternal salvation.

The following words of Pastor Chris show that he takes false doctrine with levity. He treats them as simple mistakes and implies they will simply wear off because it's done in ignorance: "So, I'm saying that's not enough to condemn them because they are using some things out of their ignorance. Someday soon they'd learn from those mistakes and stop using them."<sup>[16]</sup>

He assumes that those teaching false doctrines mistakenly will eventually realize their mistakes, which isn't entirely true. False doctrines don't wear off easily because the person is blinded by the enemy and thinks he is doing and teaching the right things. He also mentions other genuine ways to identify false doctrine, yet he doesn't bring up the need to continually examine our beliefs and teachings. He also doesn't speak about the consequences of believing in false doctrine.

All this makes his followers think false doctrines aren't harmful. It will make them off guard against false doctrines. A lot of doctrines in the church aren't the exact things Jesus or the apostles taught. Much is from new interpretation of the apostles' teachings, so there is need to examine every new doctrine (1 Thessalonians 5:21). To simply believe a doctrine you haven't come across before implies you are off guard against false doctrine. I was just like that when I believed Take His Heart Ministries teachings.

Pastor Chris goes further to state that we shouldn't speak against men of God and not be critics in the church, which makes people think that all men who claim to be "of God" are all actually true men of God. It also implies that everything the church does is right, hindering people from thinking and examining things and seeing their flaws. These are his statements:

"Don't become a critic in the house of God... All social critics are broke... it [criticism] will destroy you... they [critics] do nothing [to solve the problem]"<sup>[17]</sup>

This clearly undermines the fact that criticism may be true. He makes threats and false generalized statements, like saying all critics are broke. This implies he is trying to defend himself but not on the basis of analyzing what they assert with scripture, but to undermine and treat it as an attack. It's just as if Peter took Paul's correction as an attack, which he didn't (Galatians 2:11-14). The Bible says, "we commend ourselves to

every man's conscience..." (2 Corinthians 4:2). But Pastor Chris isn't commending his beliefs to be worthy and doesn't wish to be examined.

Pastor Chris also said, "Never speak against men of God. To do that is to bring curses upon you and your children."<sup>[18]</sup>

Here he makes treat of curses, which is nowhere in the scriptures. This is a thought stopping technique that hinders one from thinking and examining things. This statement will continually keep people blinded under false and errant teachers. We should know that not all who call themselves men of God are truly men of God. If we find them to be false or teaching false doctrine, we should rebuke them in love as the scriptures say, hoping that God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth (Titus 1:10-13; 2 Timothy 2:25-26) and so we don't contaminate ourselves and others. Nevertheless, we shouldn't be constantly finding fault or trying to discredit people out of hatred. We should simply examine things thoroughly, and rebuke in love.

Pastor Chris is living contrary to what he asserts, he speaks of accepting rebuke and correction, but he isn't treating criticism or rebuke positively (as some can be true). He speaks of examining prophets with the scriptures, but forgets to examine himself as the scriptures say. One characteristic of false and errant teachers is that they contradict themselves, they live contrary to what they assert, and neither do they even understand what they assert (1 Timothy 1:6-7; 4:1-2). We find Pastor Chris fulfilling this.

He probably thinks he's flawless, so he doesn't examine his beliefs or treat criticism positively. This will keep him blinded from knowing the truth for a long time. I and other Christians will keep praying for him and those blinded by him. We pray that they will see the explicit truth someday.

- **The ungodly set up in Christ Embassy**

The setup in Christ Embassy encourages an environment for pride, idolatry, bondage and condemnation. I can tell by what I have heard people like Summer Aku<sup>[19]</sup> say about Christ Embassy. I myself have also experienced this kind of bad teaching and focuses, and see it to oppose what the scriptures say.

Christ Embassy has set up a hierarchy, where people are strictly subjected to those in authority, whether this authority is from God or not, even subjugate people to unqualified men. Their hierarchy lords over the people at Christ Embassy, which defies the call of ministers and elders to shepherd righteously (1 Peter 5:2-3). They treat God's flock like "they are not grace mates with us", so the communal love in God's church begins to wear out, and pride begins to slip in.

Pastors begin to lift their heads high and not even associate with members. The poor people in the church are a disgrace to them. They discriminate the poor which James warned us about (James 2:1-10). Part of what sets up this hierarchy in their midst are the subconscious false beliefs imposed on common men, saying they must blindly accept those in authority as flawless or always right. People therefore subject themselves to those in authority, without questioning or examining them. When the minister speaks boldly, quotes scriptures that are appealing, speaks about his revelations, and works miracles, people start assuming there are no flaws in what he says. They accept him without further examination and unknowingly begin to worship him as God, placing too much trust in man, which is idolatry.

Like in the case of Pastor Chris, his boldness, facial appearance and fluentness in English language entices people to accept everything he says without questioning. They forget the scripture say we should examine everything and every spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:21; 1 John 4:1). Such kinds of people begin to worship him as God unknowingly, as I have heard some say: "He looks like Jesus" and "He is the Holy Spirit in human form."

All these attitudes create a bunch of drones, who don't really think. They just do and believe everything that is said, even when it doesn't align with scriptures. They simply just believe without questioning. With this twisted authority structure, they also begin to enforce rules and regulations on what you do and how you should behave, once you subject yourself under them as a worker. You are made to think you are sinning against God if you don't do exactly as they say.

Although Christian meetings are to be done in an orderly way, yet when there is too much "do and don't," it disturbs our freedom in Christ. We have come to be with the Spirit of liberty (2 Corinthians 3:17), which allows us to worship God in any godly form. People start feeling condemned for not coming early enough, for not singing well enough, or for not choosing church meetings over work, etc. God doesn't condemn us for any of those things.

Even among non-workers, among the congregation, the feeling of pride slips in. People don't want to associate with others, and say they are minding their own business. The church is meant to be a body, not separated parts. The communal love in the church is wearing out and pride is replacing it. May God help us relate with other common people.

## **Conclusion - We are of one body**

Like I have said repeatedly, the church is supposed to be a body functioning together, not of separated parts. We need each other. Some say "mind your own business and salvation." That's just like saying, "I don't need you," which Paul spoke about here:

"For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body... If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (1 Corinthians 12:14-16, 26-27 RSV)

God has designed His church to grow together and through each other in Christ. So we shouldn't say, "I don't need you" or "mind your business." If one part of the body is hurt, then the entire body is hurt. We should also be aware that no one is above correction, even the elderly and longtime elders of Christianity. We are tied together to support and build up each other. The truth of God's word is distributed to different believers, which needs to be put together to see the larger truth. If one leans to one side alone, he may not be able to see a larger part of the truth, so we shouldn't silent criticism. The Bible even suggests that we should be able to give truth that won't yield criticism (Titus 2:7-8).

Also, the Bible says we shouldn't be wise in own eyes (Romans 12:16). We should give room for other opinions. We need to build up each other (1 Thessalonians 5:11), just like how my former pastor helped me get dedicated to God, but now I have to help him get out of deception.

Ministers, especially, should be able to give truthful statements that won't yield criticism, and they shouldn't also be wise in their own eyes.

If you just noticed Christ Embassy's teachings or that of the Word of Faith movement is false, my advice to you is to separate yourself from these teachings and begin to unlearn the lies (1 Thessalonians 5:22). You may not know where to go, but you must act on the truth and be truthful to God. God is calling His church out of deception and harlotry (Revelations 18:4). It takes good faith in the truth to come out. Let's keep on preserving the truth of the gospel for generations to come (Galatians 2:4-5). Let's keep on praying for the entire church so that the Lord may purge our impurities, and so we can serve Him better. I pray God leads you to understand more of His truth and gives you the strength to act on it.

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