

“Why does God allow preachers to profit off his name?”: The Prosperity Gospel and God’s Sovereignty.

Context

God’s sovereignty means that God reigns supreme and there is no one higher than God. God’s sovereignty means God is supreme over all things including mankind, animals, and nations. God’s sovereignty doesn’t mean that God doesn’t give us choice and freedoms in our lives and over our decisions. God’s sovereignty just tells us that even through our own freedom and choice God is still God.

2 reasons why the Prosperity Gospel works:

- 1) _____ of those presenting the information
- 2) _____ of those receiving the gospel

The Charisma and Characteristics of those Presenting and Teaching

- 1) Prosperity Gospel is a direct result of its lengthy history.
- 2) History of _____
 - a) 1800s New Thought Movement
 - i) Phineas Quimby began with more hypnotism and concepts of healing through the mind, sin and sickness and wealth was a result of incorrect thinking. Worship services for New Thought was based around testimony of _____
(1) Notable literature: Think and Grow Rich by Napoleon Hill (1937) and The Secret by Rhonda Byrne (2006)—confirms its relevance today.
 - b) Word of Faith Movement
 - i) E.W. Kenyon and Kenneth Hagin
 - (1) Positive confession and affirmation over life’s issues and ailments.
This begins the _____ era. Liberation from poverty just as important as liberation from sickness
(a) Notable African American Figures: George Baker “Father Divine”, Charles Manuel da Grace “Sweet Daddy Grace”
 - c) Current state of Prosperity Gospel
 - i) 1940s-50s. _____ takes center stage

- (1) Oral Roberts introduces “Seed-Faith” claims suggest that money given to ministry and God would be _____
- (a) Notable figures: Kenneth Copeland, Joyce Meyer, Creflo Dollar, Benny Hinn, Joel Osteen
- d) Supported Scriptural Foundation
 - i) Use faith as a spiritual law that binds God’s word into legal guarantees. _____ to prosperity.
 - ii) Philippians 4:19
 - (1) Used as the first key blessing pact under the teachings of Oral Roberts
 - iii) 3 John 2
 - (1) This verse is _____ to support the idea that God desires believers to prosper and be in _____
 - iv) Deuteronomy 8:18
 - (1) Used to support the belief that God _____ to prosper financially.
 - v) Matthew 6:33:
 - (1) If one _____ God and His kingdom, material blessings will follow.

Condition and Culture of those receiving the information.

“Discernment is not knowing the difference between _____. It is knowing the difference between right and _____ right.” —Charles Spurgeon

- 1) The need for self-fulfillment, spiritual empowerment within community
 - a) Prosperity gospel brings people together who are in search of _____, deliverance and it _____ believers spiritually and economically.
- 2) Lack of social and economic security
 - a) We have a natural inclination to fear and uncertainty and insecurity.
 - i) Prosperity gospel attempts to _____ God’s sovereignty over lives and conditions. God’s sovereignty Acts 4:23-31
- 3) Victory over social issues
 - a) Giving or tithing a particular amount gives way to a maximum blessing.
 - i) Giving and tithing is a condition of _____. We can’t pay our way to blessings.