

## Red Flags and Spiritual Abuse

Parts I and II of Dominion Theology discuss its unbiblical doctrines. So, there are a lot of interpretations out there. So what? we may think as we read these lines. I'm saved; it doesn't concern me. However, we need to awaken to the fact that *Kingdom Now/ Dominion Theology* is a propaganda assault from a menacing Goliath to a vulnerable David whose victory is yet unknown. I believe the myth of *Kingdom Now* has to be assassinated for it is a myth of such malicious proportions as to hover over every believer like a toxic airborne event. Only the poison is leaking so slowly that we when all gasp our last breaths for the truth, it will be too late.

It is important that Christians be so familiar with the Word of God that they will not fall for a lie. We must have a love for the truth and forgo an “oh well” attitude that accepts someone's doctrine because of his popularity as prophet, author, or conference speaker. Jesus said:

“For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, the very elect” (NKJB, Mat.24.23). **Jesus' words are not idle but are a resounding warning.**

### Contending for the Faith

Jude 1.3 tells us to contend earnestly for the faith “which was **once and for all** passed onto God's people” (CJB). Jude is quoting from Deuteronomy: "You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor diminish ought from it . . . ." (Deu. 4:2).

And, “Every word of God is tested . . . . Do not add to His words, Lest He reprove you, and you be found a liar” (AV, Pro. 30. 5-6). Jesus says that whoever hears these “words of mine” may be compared to the wise man who built his church upon the rock (Matt. 7.24-27). Jesus is the Word made flesh and He is the rock that all must be built upon. Everything else is shifting sand.

The doctrines of Kingdom /Dominion and Replacement theologies are adding to the Word of God. They are dangerous because they diminish the impact of judgment as they alter the entire End Times scenario as outlined in the Bible.

Each believer must gird up his loins, put on the full armor and carry the sword of Truth as they approach the task of analyzing what is spread over the Christian airwaves and what is contained in myriad books sold in Christian bookstores. One of the most difficult tasks regarding these new movements is to decide: *so they believe such and such; so what!* How much leniency should ministers have to peel the onion of the rich text of God? Every person needs to develop discernment regarding the interpretation and preaching of the Word. We must always be on the look out for deception. And ask, is it biblical, is it biblical?

Paul warned against receiving another Jesus, Gospel or Spirit

“. . . be warned of false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; or Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light (2 Cor. 11.4; 11.13).

So, this section will give warnings that may possibly indicate another *Gospel, Jesus, or Spirit*.

### Red Flag #1: a redefinition of familiar terms

For example “*sons of God*” is an important description of the believer. John says “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (St. John 1.12) To be a son of God means that you have believed in Jesus as savior. You are no longer a son of Adam in a state of condemnation. However, the term *manifest son of God* subtly twists John's scripture. Be forewarned.

The *Manifest Sons of God* doctrine implies that glorified body we look forward to may be “manifested” *now* before His return. Powers may be accessed *now* that are on hold till the resurrection. Abilities of the resurrected body may be accessed *now*.

**Mike Bickle** says:

“God intends us to be like gods, he intends us to be like the Son of God. ... God has conceived in His heart of a plan to make a race of men that would live like gods on the Earth. He has conceived in His heart to have Sons that would live like His Son, the Lord Jesus lived... That we were to be on earth the extension and manifestation of God's life in heaven” (“Dominion and Sonship.” Cassette Tape. qtd. in “The Way of Cain.” <http://www.apologeticsindex.org/r06a02.html>. P8).

John says: “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, **when he shall appear, we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is” (1 John.3.2). The emphasis is on “when he shall appear.” The biblical application is that when Jesus comes back we will see him glorified and we also will be glorified. But, in *Kingdom / Manifest Sons* circles, “when he shall appear” may have a slight twist of meaning such as a *spiritual appearing in the heart*, a not so kosher redefinition of the phrase. The upshot? the claim that resurrection abilities may be accessed sooner rather than later. So the more the leader demonstrates or claims to have accessed supernatural power, the more the gullible follow.

**Bishop Paulk** implies that the *Manifest Sons of God* may achieve immortality prior to death:

“Jesus Christ as the first fruit of the kingdom began the work of conquering death on an individual basis, but we, as His church will be the one to complete the task... Death will not be conquered by Jesus returning to the earth. It will be conquered when the church stands up boldly and says, 'We have dominion over the earth!' . . . . 'We will NOT die. We will stay here and be changed, and we will call Jesus Christ to return to this earth as King of Kings and Lords of Lords'? Yes, that is what I believe the church must do!" (Earl Paulk. “The Proper Function of the Church”. qtd. in “The Way of Cain”).

**Paul Cain** has something equally extraordinary in mind:

'There will be a manifestation of the sons of God. And it won't be this baloney that we've heard of in the past. . . . I'm talking about a **true manifested son of God**; if anyone walks through this wall, over here, they're not going to tell you about it, I mean, they're just going to do it. And sons of God don't tell you they're sons of God, they'll just show you! Amen!" (“The New Breed.” qtd. in “The Way of Cain”).

I find it interesting that even Jesus didn't walk through a wall until in his resurrected body, but the *Manifest Sons of God* expect these abilities before the return of Jesus.

### **Red Flag # 2: Look for greater mystical experiences**

which include an emphasis on the senses and increased sensual experiences defined as spiritual. Of course the Bible says that we may hear God's audible voice, have dreams, visions, tongues, prophecies, words of wisdom, words of knowledge, healings and miracles. However, *Kingdom Now* prophets may be more in keeping with the New Age:

**William Branham** received his messages from an angel while in a trance like state.

**Joseph Smith** received the Book of Mormon with the assistance of a Peep Stone.

**Todd Bentley** received a prophetic Spirit from an angel named Emma. (Buddhism has a being called Amma, a transliteration from Sanskrit, very popular with New Agers. The Satanic Bible lists Emma-0 as the Japanese ruler of hell (Satanic Bible 32 ).

Jesus, dripping with oil came into **Ryan Wyatt's** room with a message for the Manifest Sons of God. Are these experiences counterfeit? A counterfeit is no less real. Anymore than a counterfeit bill is less material than a real one! I am not pretending to judge these matters. I just see red flags waving. The Toronto Blessing and Rodney Howard Brown introduced Holy Laughter. There is significant biblical evidence for the experience (Job 8.21; Ps 126.2). But when someone barks like a dog, I begin to wonder. Can he not control this or does he just prefer to bark when he gets happy?

Other ministries are experiencing *gold dust* and the manifestation of jewels. I have seen the gold dust manifest on Joshua Mills hair and shoulders until it sprinkled the floor, but I did not hear him say anything about Jesus. The meeting seemed to be more about Joshua Mills and what happened to him. What happened was real and material. The question is *what does it mean?* Are these men tapping into dimensions of glory or something else?

I have not seen the *jewels*. The jewels are reported to be taken to a jeweler, always, and they are found to be more perfect than anything that can be mined, always. But I have never heard of a jeweler buying one and a poor man helped out of his poverty. All the interesting things seem to be reported rather than observed. It always happens at another meeting or in another conference. *Here* are reports of it raining inside but not outside (supposedly proof of the outpouring of the latter rain); *there* are reports of resurrections from the dead (biblical)! But the most interesting manifestations do not occur in my presence. I truly have no explanation for these things. One must carefully weigh all experience and not be carried about by every wind of doctrine.

I recall a former student I had from Nigeria in the 70's. He shared with me some of his beliefs which I now recognize to be witchcraft and told a curious story. One evening back in Africa he performed a ceremony to win the love of a particular girl. Then he wished and wished while holding out his fists. He felt something in his hand; when he opened his fist he saw a large uncut diamond. I had forgotten that story until now. I believe the Lord has brought it to my remembrance for a reason.

I have heard about Pipestone, Minnesota where a house has been dedicated to these great outpourings of God. People go there who want greater spiritual experiences. Different rooms feature differing special effects. One room might have a cloud; in another room people drink nectar from the angel who walked in with vials; in another people may be fighting principalities with play swords. Either they are having experiences that are truly supernatural or everyone is admiring the emperor's new clothes. What I find most striking is that today's *revivals* are all so incestuous. During the Great Awakening or during *Finney's* revivals, entire barrooms would be emptied out. People weeping and repenting would run from the saloon to the churches, crying out to be saved.

God is a God of experience but what often accompanies unusual manifestations is a respect of persons. Look what happened to so and so? He must be more spiritually evolved, have a deeper progression into the things of God, the hallmark of the New Age. I am also hearing of the *manifest sons of God* claiming to be able to access the mysteries of Quantum Physics. Certainly Franklin Hall thought it possible.

**Franklin Hall**, one of the earliest proponents of the Kingdom Now doctrines, advocated not only fasting but said that without fasting, one's prayers will not be answered. He also wrote a book on how to become immortal through stages of spiritual growth where one would also learn from UFO's how to exercise control over gravity. Clearly his teachings were New Age and occult and many of the foundations of the Latter Rain Movements were based on his books (Franklin Hall. "The Return of Immortality." Phoenix Hall Deliverance Foundation, 1976 , pp 2-3. Cited by Apologetics Index).

### **Red Flag # 3. The emphasis on dialogue with God.**

**Rick Joyner** writes:

"In the near future we will not be looking back at the early church with envy because of the great exploits of those days, but all will be saying that He certainly did save His best wine for last. The most glorious times in all of history have not come upon us. You, who have dreamed of one day being able to talk with Peter, John and Paul, are going to be surprised to find that they have all been waiting to talk to you" (The Harvest. Morning Star. 1989).

Jesus said that his sheep hear his voice (John 10). God does talk to us in many ways. But will our supernatural dialogue become so developed that we will be chatting back and forth with the great cloud of witnesses? I know the disciples heard specific direction from the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit would say *You will be imprisoned if you return to Jerusalem or Don't go to Troas, go to Macedonia, etc.* But life, death and the gospel were at stake!

What I have begun to observe is an increase of what I call "*the chat.*" I am speaking of people who seem to dialogue with God at will but without signification. I was caught in the crossfire of such dialogue. One day visiting a friend, two Christians were at the table sharing Scriptures. When I was about to add my thoughts to the discussion, one man said, "Not yet. God said, "Not yet!" Later, when I dared share a couple of comments. He said to me: "God told me you would do it anyway." The brother was using his running dialogue as a means to control. There was no real purpose for this nonsense other than one up-man-ship. They were also able to see angels that I couldn't see. I was clearly a spiritual inferior.

Another situation found me traveling with a Christian who also seemed to develop this dialogue to a high degree. After consulting the voice, he would then say, "No" or "Yes" we can or can't do this or that. I said, "How do you do that?" I was told that all of my dedication had to be to God and when he could finally trust me, I would also be able to dialogue with Him. What was interesting was when we were lost for a couple of hours, the voice was mute!

### **Red Flag # 4 The Increase of Books and Studies and Seminars on "Hearing God's Voice"**

These books and studies are everywhere. Mark and Patti Virkler founders of *Communion With God Ministries* advocate methods to hear God. I have looked over their materials including a new study "Naturally Supernatural" and am concerned. The Navigator Press published Jan Johnson's When the Soul Listens. A common theme is returning to mantra's, and returning to stilling the mind of thought, a misinterpretation of "Be Still and know that I am God." Virkler, Johnson, and others argue that believers need to master certain techniques in order to really hear God. Troubling is that so many techniques of Contemplative Prayer are being brought back to life from the Desert Fathers who borrowed heavily from Eastern Religions. *The Emergent Church* (sometimes called Post Evangelical ) movement is reviving Eastern Hindu and Buddhist practices with their collaborative publisher, Zondervan. Beware of the Richard Foster's Renovare Bible and his book Celebration of Discipline having sold 21/2 million copies to Pastors and leaders. Foster says that Eastern religions

have techniques that benefit Christians. Rick Warren's Purpose Driven Church advocates catching Richard Foster's vision. Other authors are Brian McLaren, Henri Nouwen, and many more. This topic will be covered in a later paper.

### **Red Flag # 5 Promoting revelation outside of Scripture.**

Peter Wagner calls himself the godfather of the Apostolic Movement in his organization the NAR, the New Apostolic Reformation. He names Chuck Pierce, well known in prophetic circles, as his successor. His beliefs are well defined on his website, Global Harvest Ministries. Here is a sample of regarding prophetic revelation.

“Some object to the notion that God communicates directly with us, supposing that everything that God wanted to reveal He revealed in the Bible. This cannot be true, however, because there is nothing in the Bible that says it has 66 books. It actually took God a couple of hundred years to reveal to the church which writings should be included in the Bible and which should not. That is extra-biblical revelation. Even so, Catholics and Protestants still disagree on the number. Beyond that, I believe that prayer is two way, we speak to God and expect Him to speak with us. We can hear God’s voice. ***He also reveals new things to prophets as we have seen.*** The one major rule governing any new revelation from God is that it cannot contradict what has already been written in the Bible. It may supplement it, however” (C. Peter Wager in an interview with News. Oct.10, 2011).

He claims to advocate lining up with scripture but Kingdom doctrines have already strayed notably from the Bible. So do their prophetic utterances.

### **Red Flag # 6 Abuse and Control:**

When the sheep are under a prophet who claims to have superior revelation and light; who claims to hear from God, then the potential for abuse is present. Leaders may use tactics of fear and guilt to get their followers to conform to their message. We must remember that Scripture is of no private interpretation. Watch for the following characteristics: *claims to superior knowledge, attempts to control or manipulate, picking on people, humiliating people, bossiness, respect of persons, domination instead of servant-hood, any other exercise of entitlement.*

I am sure any thinking person reading the subsequent recitations should be able to see spiritual abuse.

A couple of situations close to me must be reiterated. A church I was going to had a visit from an *Apostle*. At that time the term apostle didn't ring any bells for me. I just thought it was part of the nomenclature of this denomination. After attending only a couple of meetings, I began to thinking, “something is wrong.” First the apostle had special meetings designed only for “leadership.” Or what I would now call spiritual respect of persons. The meetings were designated only for “those with greater understanding and responsibility.” Those who were chosen felt special and those who were left out, felt inferior. ***Any kind of elitism is a power grab.***

This *Apostle* also received from *the leadership* a list of who should be named in the new echelon as prophets, apostles, and teachers (in other words, who was in the in-group). This selection was arbitrary—not based upon a particular gifting in any area—not based upon how one functioned in the past—but more or less taking out a pointer and proclaiming, you, you, and you! Most, including myself, were excluded. In a way, I was once again blessed to be on the outside with my nose pressed against the window. *The guest apostle* gave me the creeps with his long, pointed, polished nails. My hackles went up. He implored us to understand that in Acts, believers laid their money at the feet of the Apostles.

*Follow the money* is always a good admonition. It turns out that the Apostle convinced the pastor to lead the local body into *Kingdom Now* doctrines. The church split as the result with the pastor leaving for greener pastures to trample and clearer waters to muddy. Confusion and hurt was the result.

I learned later that dominion theology accords their prophets and apostles great authority over the lay people. In the words of C. Peter Wagner

"In terms of the role of the apostle, one of the biggest changes from traditional churches to the New Apostolic Reformation is the amount of spiritual authority delegated by the Holy Spirit to individuals. And the two key words are authority and individuals — and individuals as contrasted to groups. So now, ***apostles have been raised up by God who have a tremendous authority in the churches of the New Apostolic Reformation***" (interview with NPR Oct. 102011).

Also, note the scandal and degenerate sexuality that often follows those who are in high position in the *Kingdom Now* circles. The following is all a part of the public record:

**Bishop Paulk**—many allegations including sexual child abuse, adultery, fathering an illegitimate child with his brother's wife; **Paul Cain**--homosexuality; Ted Haggart--homosexuality; **William Branham**—misogyny and abuse of women; **Todd Bentley**--adultery (prior incarcerations for child abuse and battery before becoming famous in Christian circles). After achieving fame, Bentley discarded his wife for another. Within months he was called *restored* by **Rick Joyner**. And, the **FOTM**, Fellowship of the Martyrs, an off shoot of Bentley, received revelations that they could have serial spiritual marriages, so the self-appointed leaders went into serial adultery.

**Peter** warns:

“But among the people there were also false prophets, just as there will be false teachers among you. Under false pretenses they will introduce destructive heresies . . . and thus bring on themselves swift destruction. Many will follow their debaucheries; and because of them the true Way will be maligned. In their greed they will exploit you with fabricated stories”  
(*CJB*, 2 Peter 2.1-3).

**Peter** continues:

Presumptuous and self-willed, these false teachers . . . . [act] without thinking, like animals without reason. When they are destroyed, their destruction will be total--they will be paid back harm as wages for the harm they are doing. Their idea of pleasure is carousing in broad daylight; they are spots and defects reveling in their deceptions as they share meals with you—for they have eyes always on the lookout for a woman who will commit adultery, eyes that never stop sinning; and they have a heart that has exercised itself in greed; so that they seduce unstable people. What a cursed brood” (2 Peter 2.11-14).

Another situation that I was involved in was with a pastor of a Morning Star group who had a church in a small town near me. It all began rather innocently but it wasn't long before he had a special group of **the prophets** who met with him at his house. I was excluded. Another underling was allowed at the meetings but could only take notes. He couldn't prophesy. It wasn't long before the pastor said that I could come to church but I must never pray for anyone (he heard that from the Lord). So, I elected to not come at all anymore. In only a few months, the pastor, a former alcoholic, went back to alcohol abuse. It took awhile before the other members were extricated.

Another group I know has a very controlling spiritual leader. New members are not encouraged (or maybe just those who think for themselves). And present members are forbidden to go elsewhere. A lot of fear is generated. The leader told one lady that she was not allowed to go the nursing home to

minister as she was “not ready yet.” Abuse does not have to involve bad doctrine. But often bad doctrine and controlling methods go hand in hand. Whenever the leader's “thus saith the Lord” is the end all and be all, watch out.

Other methods of control are shunning and humiliation. A couple with an apostolic calling sought to set up new churches in our region. The lady pastor stayed at my home and I was basically ordered to wait on her. It was irrelevant that I had a full time job and children in the house. I must have the foods she wanted prepared, have certain things on hand for her, and, even though busy in the kitchen, I had to have my face in her direction. “When I'm talking to you, you look at me,” she would order! Never mind that I might be putting her chicken in the oven. I enjoyed her as a person, but she felt entitled to boss me around because of her elite status. When I heard her say “If people come against (she named herself and her husband), God will kill them,” I had had quite enough. You can imagine the fear and control statements like that can generate.

Finally, I wish to expose a very rigid Kingdom Now group that is gaining momentum. Dear friends were members of a church under a very decent, insightful pastor in the Dakotas. But soon the church came under a different “covering.” (See Who is Your Covering by Frank Viola). Their new master was Steve Schultz of *Preparing the Way Network* an extension of Noel Woodruff from *World Breakthrough Network* (WBN), Trinidad.

Soon began the extensive indoctrination (Kingdom Now). They had pages and pages of overhead notes to take. Only to have to hear it all again. Members began to be ranked. Some who dared to question the teachings were accused of not being submissive and later dis-fellowshipped. The ministry goal was to prepare a church that was *pure and uncontaminated* and as such they had to bring the membership in line with their ideas of *kingdom community* in which all members were to be in unity and to walk in the same revelation.

They were required to listen to those who had the “greater light.” One person heard the preacher say: “Your safety and security lies 1st in WBN/ 2nd in Preparing the Way/and 3rd in this church.” Where was Jesus mentioned in all of this safety and security?

Many left the church. The absence of those who left was explained away. Those rascals had “unteachable spirits; they were “unwilling to go further in God.” Soon the church acquired a new name, The Summit, the epitome of pride. Later reports came back of remaining members having to stand up and confess sins that were already under the blood. Rumors circulated that an elder had been given the role to police the group to make sure they were lining up. Humiliation and control are typical of cult leaders.

***WBN has become the passion of many bloggers. T. Brown, one blogger, said the following:***

“Yeah, I'm in a church that's recently connected with WBN or Congress WBN as they're changing their name to... i'm in the process of challenging them (via my church leader) as I've been finding various things that don't seem quite right.

Their arrogance as apostles

Their self centered teaching

Their teaching that Paul would say is there to “tickle our ears” (II Timothy).

Their teaching on “The Elijah Dimension” is a new concept that glorifies us by moving us to a “higher spiritual place” such that we can “conquer over the rules of this physical place”, i'm feeling my ears being tickled!!!!

They don't seem to have any evangelistic focus, their aim seems to be to spread WBN across the

globe,not the gospel. It's suspicious ground, i've not made a decision on whether i'm sticking with my church, but it's not looking hopeful. I'd warn anyone who's looking like they're going to be involved with this network to weigh up EVERYTHING they hear, and check it with the ultimate plumb line... The Bible.”

<http://www.factnet.org/discus/messages/3/2554.html?1188990730>

I have pasted the blog just as I have found it. It is important that those who are under the dominion heresy or under the domination of self-serving prophets understand the subtleties of spiritual abuse as well as the subtleties of false doctrine. All that I have questioned is not just about theology but about the very plain matter of human morals and moral responsibility. My warning to the body is to have a very strong love for the truth, II Thess. 2.10-11. Do not give sway to the unremitting aggression of *Dominion Theology's* wind of doctrine.