

doctrine, is not submissive trust in God; faith is a formula by which we manipulate the spiritual laws that prosperity teachers believe govern the universe. As the name “Word of Faith” implies, this movement teaches that faith is a matter of what we say more than whom we trust or what truths we embrace and affirm in our hearts.

A favourite term of prosperity gospel teachers is “positive confession.” This refers to the teaching that words themselves have creative power. What you say, prosperity teachers claim, determines everything that happens to you. Your confessions, especially the favours you demand of God, must all be stated positively and without wavering. Then God is required to answer (as though man could require anything of God!). Thus, God's ability to bless us supposedly hangs on our faith. James 4:13-16 clearly contradicts this teaching: “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.” Far from speaking things into existence in

the future, we do not even know what tomorrow will bring or even whether we will be alive.

Instead of stressing the importance of wealth, the Bible warns against pursuing it. Believers, especially leaders in the church (1 Timothy 3:3), are to be free from the love of money (Hebrews 13:5).

The love of money leads to all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:10). Jesus warned, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” (Luke 12:15). In sharp contrast to the prosperity gospel emphasis on gaining money and possessions in this life, Jesus said, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal” (Matthew 6:19). The irreconcilable contradictions between prosperity teaching and the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is best summed up in the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:24, “You cannot serve both God and money.”

Recommended Resource: Christianity in Crisis: 21st Century by Hank Hanegraaff



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What does the Bible say about the prosperity gospel?

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In the prosperity gospel, also known as the “Word of Faith Movement,” the believer is told to use God, whereas the truth of biblical Christianity is just the opposite—God uses the believer. Prosperity theology sees the Holy Spirit as a power to be put to use for whatever the believer wills. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is a Person who enables the believer to do God's will. The prosperity gospel movement closely resembles some of the destructive greed sects that infiltrated the early church. Paul and the other apostles were not accommodating to or conciliatory with the false teachers who propagated such heresy. They identified them as dangerous false teachers and urged Christians to avoid them.

Paul warned Timothy about such men in 1 Timothy 6:5, 9-11. These men of “corrupt mind” supposed godliness was a means of gain and their desire for riches was a trap that brought them “into ruin and

destruction” (v. 9). The pursuit of wealth is a dangerous path for Christians and one which God warns about: “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs” (v. 10). If riches were a reasonable goal for the godly, Jesus would have pursued it. But He did not, preferring instead to have no place to lay His head (Matthew 8:20) and teaching His disciples to do the same. It should also be remembered that the only disciple concerned with wealth was Judas.

Paul said covetousness is idolatry (Ephesians 5:5) and instructed the Ephesians to avoid anyone who brought a message of immorality or covetousness (Ephesians 5:6-7). Prosperity teaching prohibits God from working on His own, meaning that God is not Lord of all because He cannot work until we release Him to do so. Faith, according to the Word of Faith

Future Dates to Remember

November 6th	Local leaders prayer and lunch 10am
November 9th	Taking school assembly at Cranford Infant School
November 14th	Church members meeting 7:30pm
November 16th	Taking school assembly at Cranford Junior School
November 19th	Cranford Support Trust meeting 7pm
November 29th	Local Firs Drive neighbourhood meeting 7pm

This Month's Speakers

November 4th	Family worship and God willing Pastor Robin Asgher will be preaching and leading the service. After the service, we will have fellowship lunch on bring and share basis. A crèche is also available for toddlers during the second part of the service. Family prayer meeting 2pm-4pm.
November 11th	God willing Pastor Robin Asgher will be preaching and leading the service. The service will be followed by the Lord's Supper. God willing we will have three BAPTISM on that day.
November 18th	God willing Pastor Robin Asgher will be preaching and leading the service. Sunday afternoon Baptism Class: 2pm-4pm.
November 25th	God willing Steve White from Carey BC will be preaching and leading the service.

Weekly Meetings

Sundays	Morning Service 11am <i>We thank God that He is a faithful God. We do not take up an offering during the service. Our offering box is located at the back of the church.</i>
Mon & Tues	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting at Local Detention Centre 2 - 4pm and 7 - 9pm
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting at Church 10 - 11am and 7:30 - 9pm
Friday	Klub 4 Kidz (Ages 4-10) 6 - 7:15pm Javan Group (Ages 11-up) 7:15 - 8:15pm
Saturday	Pastor's Rest Day

If you are interested in any of these meetings or would like further information, please contact Pastor **Robin Asgher** 020 8754 1184

Points for Prayer

We believe that the Scriptures call on churches as well as individual believers to pray fervently, reverently, humbly, sincerely, regularly and with faith (Luke 21 v 36 Watch therefore and pray always; James 5 v 16 The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much).

Please pray for Mrs Sam as she will be returning home to UK. Please pray for safe journey.

Please pray for a young man from Pakistan as he will be baptised in Nov.

Please also pray for Samyra and Saher Andrews will be baptised in Nov.

Please pray for local resident meeting in which we discuss growing issues of anti-social behaviour, drugs and gangs.

Please pray for our church members meeting this month. Pray for greater unity, love and servanthood.

Please pray for me as I will be taking two school assemblies at Cranford Infant/Primary school this month.

Missionary Interest

Money we have sent:

We have sent £200 to Barnabas Funds to support the fund raising for floods in Kerala.

We have also donated food collected over Harvest to London Seminary which they have very gratefully received.

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel!"

Isaiah 7:14

Thank you for turning off cell phones during the worship service.