

INTRODUCTION

*A neighbor of mine mentioned the famous televangelist Joyce Meyer to me one day and suggested that I read one of Meyer's books. So I read the book my friend gave me: **Managing Your Emotions: Instead of Your Emotions Managing You**, first published in 1997 and still sold in hardcover, digital and audio formats. Most of the quotes mentioned here are from that book, but the teachings discussed are the theme of Joyce Meyer's books and sermons to this day. The same teachings have been preached by other televangelists for decades and are now being taught in hundreds of churches across the USA.*

Early in her book Meyer warns;

“There is a lot of spiritual ‘junk’ being offered today, and some of it sounds so good and feels so right. Make sure what you are following is in line with the Word of God and is initiated by His Holy Spirit.” (p 81)

Are Meyer's teachings "in line with the Word of God and initiated by His Holy Spirit"? For those who care to check, let's take a look. And may the truth of Christ, who is the truth, enlighten us all.

Chapter 1

LEAVING OFF THE EVERLASTING ARMS

"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— which is really no gospel at all." Galatians 1:6

Meyer presents herself as the object of envy early in her book; “My husband and I have a fabulous life” she writes, “many times things are so wonderful

for us I feel like a fairy princess.” “Here I am traveling all over the world, people are coming to hear me speak, I’m on radio and television, and God,” she claims, “is opening doors to me everywhere I go – I am so blessed!”

And her readers? After claiming that she is just as “blessed” as Abraham was, Meyer goes on to tell them, “Each of us can be blessed as Abraham was, **if** we will be as faithful and obedient as he was.”

Notice the “if”. Meyer crams her book full of “if”s and “unless we”s like that one, piling up a long list of hurdles that she insists her followers must jump before they can hope to approach the “fairy princess” “fabulous life”, the supposedly “blessed” life that she claims she has and that she assumes they want.

A few examples from this book;

“**IF** we are willing to control our emotions, God will bless us.” “...**IF** we will submit to His way, everything will work out for us.” “**IF** we will learn and act on the Word, God will bless our lives.” “**IF** we do things God's way, we will experience God's victory.” “**UNLESS WE** are obedient to God’s Word, the Word will have no effect on us.” And an endless list of others, right up to the present; “**IF** we choose to live according to God’s commands, our lives will be blessed, and if we don’t, we cannot expect his blessings,” Meyer writes as recently as last year in **Loving People Who Are Hard to Love**.

Meyer paints the picture – she is so “blessed” because, according to her, she “controls her emotions”, “submits to His ways”, “learned and acted on the Word”, “does things God's way”, is “obedient to God's Word,” “lives according to God's commands” and because, she insists, she is just as “faithful and obedient” as Abraham was. As for you, she always assumes, you're not there yet.

What's wrong with all this?

To start, Meyer ignores the simple fact that in the story of Abraham, there are no “ifs”. Contrary to what Joyce Meyer teaches, none of God's promises to Abraham are contingent on his behavior. Everything is a gift from the grace – the unearned, undeserved favor – of God. In fact, if God’s grace depends on

us and what we do, as Meyer claims, then it is no longer grace at all;

*Now if by grace, then it is not by works; otherwise grace ceases to be grace.
Romans 11:6*

Yet Meyer writes, “God told Abraham that **IF** he would obey Him, God would bless those who blessed him and curse those who cursed him.”

But the Bible says nothing of the kind. It simply says;

“Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;

I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;

and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Genesis 12:2-3

There is no conditionality to God's promises to Abraham, because they come by grace, not by fulfilling some requirement, so there is never any “**IF** you don't do this thing you won't be blessed” as Meyer constantly insists.

Unlike the gracious and forgiving God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and his trustworthy promises, the deity that Joyce Meyer is preaching cannot be counted on to keep his promises. How does she know this? “I know from personal experience”, Meyer writes, “that He does what He promises to do **IF** we do what He tells us to do.” According to Joyce Meyer, if you slip up, don't count on God's promises like Abraham did.

And that is exactly the opposite of grace.

Continuing to portray herself as a modern-day Abraham, Meyer writes “... like Abraham, in order to enjoy the promised blessings, I had to give up what I thought was the source of my happiness and security and set out, not knowing where I was headed or what was awaiting me when I got there.” But that's not at all like Abraham. Abraham didn't have to leave his home and family in order to “enjoy the promised blessings” as Meyer claims. It was exactly the opposite – Abraham gladly left everything because he had faith that he would be blessed and would become a blessing to others as a gift of God's amazing grace, not as a reward for anything he did or would or could

do.

*So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.
Galatians 3:9*

Rejecting this, Meyer even goes on to claim that she is so much like Abraham that promises were made by God personally to her "... just as there were when God called Abraham: '**IF** you will obey me and do this thing I am asking you, then I will broaden your tent and you will stretch out to the north, and to the south and to the east and to the west and I will bless you and make you a blessing to others.'

This is yet another example of just how "out of line" Meyer's teachings are with the Bible. Not only does she falsify the biblical text by adding yet another "**IF**" that isn't there but in the verses she refers to, God is speaking not to Abraham as she claims but to Jacob instead. In the Bible's account, Jacob is fleeing the threat of death from his own brother and is alone in the wilderness at night, destitute, with no idea of what will happen to him and with only a rock for a pillow. (Meyer, on the other hand, was contemplating changing churches in the comfort of her own home.)

Here is what God actually says to Jacob in the Bible:

"I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Genesis 28:13-15

Notice again that there is no "**IF** you will obey me and do this thing" as Meyer claims. Meyer is baldly lying – there are nowhere any "**IF**"s at all. What God promised to do for Jacob didn't depend on what Jacob did. Jacob didn't have to leave his home in order to get blessed, it was exactly the opposite – because he had gotten his Father's blessing, Jacob was forced to flee his home in order to escape the threat of death from his jealous brother. The promises to Jacob are the gift of God's grace to someone who had lost

everything, including almost his life, for seeking the things of God rather than the things of this world. And although he had to work like a slave for twenty years for everything he eventually obtained in this world, including his wives and children, Jacob still confessed to God;

"I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant." Genesis 32:10

Could Joyce Meyer possibly be more unlike Abraham and Jacob?

Throughout her books and sermons Meyer relentlessly corrupts and perverts the biblical text like this, in this case creating an endless list of requirements while always holding herself up as fulfilling them and thus earning, according to her, a "blessedness" on a par with Abraham's. To the followers of the televangelists this may seem insignificant, but it represents the difference between the filthy-rags self-righteousness that Meyer is selling and the saving grace that comes free of charge by faith in Christ – *"who **IS** our righteousness."*

Unlike Christ's 'New Covenant' of grace, Moses' 'Old Covenant' of law from Deuteronomy 28 stated "You will experience all these blessings **IF** you obey the LORD your God" – like Joyce Meyer says she does – and if you don't "all these curses will come and overwhelm you".

But all those who try to fulfill Moses' covenant are cursed from the start because...

Anyone who tries to please God by obeying the Law is under a curse.
Galatians 3:10

And Christ, the only one who truly fulfilled the Law of Moses, suffered a horrible, painful death in order to free those who believe in him and in what he did, rather than in themselves and in what they do, from that curse ...

"Christ rescued us from the Law's curse, when he became accursed in our place." Galatians 3:13

In the fourth chapter of Romans, Paul examines the same story that Meyer was referring to about Abraham;

“What did he discover about being made right with God? If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God’s way. For the Scriptures tell us, “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners. ” Romans 4: 1-4

What Meyer teaches is exactly the opposite of what the gospel of Christ teaches. The apostle makes it clear that it’s not because Abraham was “obedient to the Word” and “walked in His ways” that God blessed him, as Meyer constantly insists. Instead, it was Abraham’s faith in God’s promise that was “counted to him as righteousness” – not in anything he did.

For the gospel reveals how God puts people right with himself: it is through faith from beginning to end. As the scripture says, “The person who is put right with God through faith shall live.” Romans 1:17

But Meyer wants none of that for herself or her followers. Instead she relentlessly portrays herself as having earned her “blessed” life through her deeds, brought about by her will, the reward of her supposed obedience. “It takes a constant act of the will to choose to do things God’s way,” Meyer insists, always promoting herself and her efforts, not Abraham and his faith, as the ideal. “To live the life of a winner, I had to show God prompt, exact obedience in all things” Meyer claims in her best-selling book **Battlefield for the Mind**. Jesus didn't need to bother fulfilling the Law and dying on the cross for Joyce Meyer. According to her she's fulfilled it all for herself through her "prompt, exact obedience in all things".

“All we have to do today,” Meyer breezily concludes on page 53, “is what Moses had to do – obey.” Her ignorance of the story of Moses is telling. Moses was denied entrance into the promised land because he disobeyed God, yet Meyer portrays herself as easily doing what not even Moses could do. And she teaches those who follow her that they can do the same **IF** they can just somehow summon the willpower to obey all of God's commands like she supposedly does. And Moses didn't.

But contrary to what Meyer teaches, even Moses, like Abraham, found God's

favor by his faith, not by earning it. And the ‘reward’ Moses was looking for was the same as Abraham’s; not a supposedly “blessed” life of money, property, power and fame like Meyer claims she has but the undeserved gift of eternal life with Christ – compared to which all of Joyce Meyer's bogus ‘blessings’ are nothing at all;

"By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ to be of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward." Hebrews 11:24-26

Could it be any clearer that Meyer has rejected the gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Christ and put her faith in herself instead?

Her disdain for her own followers should be equally clear; “To receive from God what he has promised us in His Word,” she again insists, “we must obey the Word. ‘Yes’, you may say, ‘but I have been doing the Word for a long time and I still don’t have the victory!’”

Meyer's response? “Then do it some more.”

“Why,” Meyer goes on to ask her myriad followers who "still don't have the victory" – “Why is it that one person is walking in victory, while the other has made no progress at all?” Why? Because one is walking in faith in Christ and his atonement for their sins and the other is not? According to Meyer, of course not; “The reason is one has done what he was supposed to do, and the other has not.”

But contrary to what Joyce Meyer over and over insists, what the Bible calls “the victory” is not the result of our effort or our doing, it is instead the result of our faith;

“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.” 1 John 5:4

Salvation by faith is an essential doctrine of the Bible. It teaches us that reconciliation with God, the righteousness that comes from faith, and the gift of eternal life are not earned by our obedience but are received as an

unearned gift by putting our faith instead in Christ's obedience – specifically in his self-sacrificing atonement for the sins of the world on the Cross.

*For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.
Romans 3:25*

It's "by his wounds that we are healed" not by following the self-serving teachings of a televangelist, and it's by abandoning faith in our own actions and putting our faith instead in His completed work that we receive that healing, as the Bible teaches over and over.

"I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.." Phil 3:9

"And just as all people were made sinners as the result of the disobedience of one man, in the same way they will all be put right with God as the result of the obedience of the one man." Romans 5:19

"By grace are you saved, through faith; and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God –not by works, so that no one can boast." Eph 2:8

And because Joyce Meyer thoroughly rejects this salvation, she boasts plenty;

"I am free in Jesus," Meyer claims in her book, and, she assumes, you aren't. "I live and walk in light and peace and joy," she brags, always assuming that her readers don't. "Do you want to continually bruise Satan's head, as I am doing in my life and ministry?" she asks. She is and you of course aren't. This is the basic premise of every cult leader and it's everywhere in Meyer's books and sermons; the guru's got it, you don't, the guru's there, you're not. "God fills every room in my heart, so that I am filled with His light," Meyer boasts. And her followers must read her books and listen to her sermons and try very very hard so that they too might someday get there, "sooner or later" just like she claims she has. And, of course, only "IF"; "... IF you will stay on that narrow path and leave all your excess baggage behind, sooner or later you will find the peace, joy and fulfillment you seek," she writes.

Fortunately, Jesus, who alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, puts no

such hurdles in the way of those who put their faith in him rather than in themselves;

“If anyone is thirsty, let them come to Me and drink. The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From their innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” John 7:38

And the God-given escape from the demanding arrogance of the self-righteous is the undemanding humility of the Messiah, who alone is truly righteous, and who alone completely submitted his "mind, will, and emotions" to God like Joyce Meyer falsely claims she has;

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28

Seeming to contradict herself, as she often does, Meyer writes: “I needed to know that God loved me unconditionally and His love was not something I could buy with works or good behavior.” So how does Joyce Meyer go about this? By putting her faith in Christ’s death on the cross as the proof of God’s love?

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us,” 1 John 3:16

Of course not – Meyer doesn't put her faith in what Jesus did. As in all her books she puts it in her own “works and good behavior” instead. “Through the process of continual study and meditation in this area,” she claims, “I became rooted and grounded in God’s love as the Apostle Paul encourages us to do in Ephesians 3.”

That’s what Joyce Meyer says Paul says but it's not what the Bible says Paul says. According to the verses Meyer is referring to, it's not by “continual study and meditation”, or any work on our part, that we are rooted and grounded in love. It is, of course, by faith;

"I pray that he would give you, according to his glorious riches, strength in

your inner being and power through his Spirit, and that the Messiah would make his home in your hearts through faith. Then, having been rooted and grounded in love, you will be able to understand, along with all the saints, what is wide, long, high, and deep— that is, you will know the love of the Messiah, which transcends knowledge, and will be filled with all the fullness of God." Eph 3:16-19

Self-will, what Nietzsche called “the will to power”, is at the heart of Meyer’s teaching. An essential point of Meyer’s book is her contention that “we fight against our emotions –by using our will to make a decision to follow God’s Word.” According to Meyer, she is saved by her will, her effort, her supposed obedience to God's Word – all to her credit and glory, not Christ's. She insists that she is using her will to follow God’s will, but in doing so she makes it plain that she refuses to abandon faith in herself and in what she does and to believe instead in the gospel of Christ and in what he did – she’d rather believe in herself. There’s no more “worldly” attitude than this; rejecting faith in Christ’s atoning death on the cross and replacing it with faith in one’s self, replacing confidence in God with "self-confidence".

One only needs to read the titles of a few of Meyer's other books to perceive the spirit of self-will that she is selling: “Never Give Up!: Relentless Determination to Overcome Life's Challenges”, “Winning the Battle in Your Mind”, “Overcoming the Obstacles to Your Happiness”, “21 Ways to Conquer Anxiety, Fear, and Discontentment”, “Overcoming Your Need to Please Everyone.” The message is repeated over and over again; it’s all about one’s self and one’s efforts – “overcoming”, “conquering”, “winning” –not about giving up on believing in one’s self and instead putting one's faith in Christ, who by the painful sacrifice of his own life overcame the world, conquered death, and won eternal life for all who put their faith in him and what he did rather than in themselves.

"This is the work of God, to believe in the one whom he has sent." John 6:29

That one is Jesus, not Joyce.

Chapter 2

BLESSED ASSURANCE, MONEY IS MINE

“Beware, and be on your guard against every kind of greed.” -Jesus

Meyer constantly boasts in her book of her “blessedness” – recall her proclaiming in the previous chapter “I am so blessed!” What does the Bible mean by “blessedness”? After discussing Abraham’s true blessedness, Paul makes clear exactly what that is;

However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them. Romans 4:5-8

What does Joyce Meyer mean by “blessedness”?

Money.

In 2003, when Meyer was [questioned by a local newspaper](#) about her \$900,000 per year salary, her husband's \$450,000 per year salary – both on the Joyce Meyer Ministries payroll – her \$20 million office complex, full of millions of dollars worth of antique furniture, her \$10 million private jet, her multi-million dollar family “compound” (see below), her half-million dollar vacation home and her expensive luxury cars – everything paid for by her followers and all worth twice that amount now – her response was curt and unequivocal; “There's no need for us to apologize for being blessed.”

There is a serious problem with Meyer calling herself “blessed” due to her worldly wealth. It’s not just Meyer's false claim that she has earned this “blessedness” by her supposed obedience, as we saw in the first chapter. Worse than that, Meyer is deliberately contradicting the words of Christ

himself on the subject of just who is and who isn't "blessed";

*"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.*

*But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort."*

Luke 6: 20, 24

Following the 'prosperity preachers' before her, Meyer completely perverts Christ's clear teaching as to just who is and who isn't "blessed." In the good news of Jesus' gospel it's the poor who are blessed and it's the rich who are in trouble with God – yet Meyer teaches exactly the opposite. Meyer boasts of her "joy and blessedness" yet Christ teaches that it's those who are weeping who are blessed – exactly the opposite. Meyer calls herself "so blessed!" due to her thousands of loyal followers but according to Jesus it's those who are hated, those who are excluded, those who are insulted because they're following him that truly are blessed – exactly the opposite.

And to those who, like Meyer, have acquired a cult of adoring, unquestioning followers Christ warns...

*"Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their
ancestors treated the false prophets." Luke 6:26*

In announcing the misery in the next world awaiting those who, like Meyer, are rich with false "prosperity" in this one, Jesus was speaking entirely within the biblical tradition. A few examples;

*"...my feet had almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my foothold.
For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
They have no struggles;
their bodies are healthy and strong.
They are free from common human burdens;
they are not plagued by human ills.*

*...This is what the wicked are like—
always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.*

*...Surely you place them on slippery ground;
you cast them down to ruin.
How suddenly are they destroyed,
completely swept away by terrors!
They are like a dream when one awakes;
when you arise, Lord,
you will despise them as fantasies." Psalm 73*

*“Why should I fear in times of trouble,
when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me,
people who trust in their wealth
and boast of the abundance of their riches?*

*... they leave their wealth to others.
Their graves are their eternal homes,
their homes from generation to generation,
though they have named estates after themselves.*

*... This is the way of those who are arrogant,
and of their followers, who approve of their words.
Like sheep they are headed for hell;
Death will shepherd them.." Psalm 49*

*"Why does the way of the wicked prosper?
Why do all the faithless live at ease?*

*You have planted them, and they have taken root;
they grow and bear fruit.*

*You are always on their lips
but far from their hearts.*

*.... Drag them off like sheep to be butchered!
Set them apart for the day of slaughter!" Jeremiah 12*

“Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches,

but give me only my daily bread.” Proverbs 30:8

What both Christ and the book of Proverbs call “my daily bread” is clearly not enough for Joyce Meyer, to put it mildly.

In her book, Meyer talks at length (p135-136) about a particular solid gold watch she ardently coveted, but had postponed buying while she considered a less expensive gold-plated version. When her husband unexpectedly gifted her that solid gold watch, along with an expensive suit and gold ring to match, Meyer exults, “I thanked the Lord that I had had the sense to let Him work out His plan for me”, otherwise “I would have ended up with a cheap watch that I would not have been happy with very long.”

That “cheap”, merely gold-plated watch cost \$800 in 1997 – that's over \$1500 today.

Meyer, who boasts in her book “I am filled with peace and joy” makes it clear where her joy originates; “when Dave presented me with that 14-karat gold watch I had wanted so badly, I was filled with joy.”

“Joy” is not at all the emotion that the Bible teaches is called for in this case;

*“Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you Your gold and silver are corroded. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the day of judgment.”
James 5:1-3*

Jesus declared Woe to the Pharisees who had him killed, Woe to those who lead children away from him, Woe to the cities that rejected him and Woe to Judas who betrayed him – and included the rich in that sorry crowd. Who but rich "prosperity preachers" like Joyce Meyer could be so spiritually blind and scripturally ignorant as to believe that a solid gold watch is "God's plan"?

Like all the 'prosperity' preachers, Meyer talks a lot about what they call “God’s plan”. “Since before we were born, God has had a unique plan for each of us. It is not a plan of failure, misery, poverty, sickness and disease. God’s plan is a good plan, a plan for life and health, happiness and

fulfillment,” she writes on page 169.

But what about Jesus? Was God’s plan for him a selfish existence of “life, health, happiness and fulfillment”? Or was it one of self-sacrifice for the sake of others to the loss of all things, including his life, motivated entirely by love? What about the apostle Paul, who was imprisoned and beheaded, Stephen, who was stoned to death, Peter, who was crucified upside down, because they all chose Jesus over "life, health, happiness and fulfillment"? And what about all the thousands of original Christians who lost everything, faced the worst tortures and death for knowing Christ and having him? What about Abel, murdered by Cain, Joseph, sold as a slave and thrown in prison? What about the prophets, rejected, persecuted, stoned, murdered and even sawn in half? What about Job, who was declared a righteous person then lost everything he had, including his children, and suffered miserably from boils? Where was that “life and health, happiness and fulfillment” that God supposedly planned for them? Has Joyce Meyer never heard of any of these people? Has she never actually read that Bible she so selectively quotes?

Jesus makes 'God's plan' clear for his disciples;

"Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Christ promises the kind of life that makes "failure, misery, poverty, sickness and disease" – and even death itself – into nothing more than minor bumps on the road to eternal life. *"The one who has the Son has life,"* Jesus teaches, not the one who has "health, happiness and fulfillment." Meyer, on the other hand, promises her disciples a "fabulous life", not trials, and "vibrant emotional health", not sorrows, as long as they keep on ignoring Christ's teachings like she does and follow her, not him. But in the end those who have "health, happiness and fulfillment", all those earthly "blessings", have nothing but death.

Meyer goes on in her book about the purchase of her mansion, part of the multi-million dollar family compound mentioned earlier – paid for, like everything else, by Joyce Meyer Ministries. “I knew the house was a gift from the Lord” she writes on p 137, describing it as “a good financial investment for us”. Ever the example to her readers of “Managing Your

Emotions”, Meyer explains how she didn’t get overly excited about suddenly owning such pricey real estate, as she might have in the past. Instead she was “filled with calm delight”. Why? Because by being too excited “we take away the joy and blessedness that should exist between us and the Lord when He does something special for us.”

This, according to Meyer, is where she finds “joy and blessedness”, not in Christ and his atonement for her sins but in her gold and real estate. What does Jesus have to say of all this?

You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. Rev. 3:17

After washing all 24 of his twelve disciple’s dirty feet, the humiliating, 'low self-esteem' job of the most menial servant, Jesus put an “if” before his disciples and promised them a blessing, provided they obeyed it;

“For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.” John 13:17

Meyer certainly must know these things, but following Christ's example and doing them she certainly isn't. Can anyone imagine Joyce Meyer personally washing the car or cleaning the toilet of even one of her myriad disciples?

While she revels and glories in what she falsely calls 'blessedness', can Joyce Meyer be anything but the very opposite of “blessed” according to Christ?

Meyer has a multi-million dollar mansion and a million dollar vacation home. Jesus, by his own admission, was homeless. Meyer has a private jet and a fleet of expensive luxury cars. Jesus briefly had a borrowed donkey. Jesus’ example was one of abject humiliation, of washing his disciples’ feet as if he were a slave, of being whipped bloody before those who hated him, and, though he could have had anything, giving up everything, held up to public ridicule naked, stripped even of his underwear, suffering horribly, executed as a criminal in order to atone for the sins of everyone. Meyer’s example is one of exalting herself over her followers, of reveling in her power and fame, of glorying in her millions of dollars in property, cars, furniture, gold,

jewelry, expensive clothes, and all the loyal servants at her command – everything paid for by those same followers, who get nothing in return but the poisoned anti-gospel that she is selling them.

“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.” Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him. And Jesus said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.” Luke 16:13

Could Meyer, who holds herself up as the example while proudly parading every kind of greed, possibly be more unlike Christ’s example? Could anything possibly be more detestable in the sight of God than the ill-gotten wealth of a ‘prosperity preacher’ like Meyer, the filthiest of all "filthy lucre"?

Isaiah dealt with such greedy 'shepherds' thousands of years ago, writing;

“The dogs have big appetites; they are never full. They are shepherds who have no understanding; they all go their own way, each one looking for monetary gain.” Isaiah 56:11

Meyer has been deluded by what Christ calls “the deceitfulness of riches”, the mistaken belief that having money is somehow proof of God's "blessing" and if you're poor it's not because of your circumstances, it's because God is cursing you with poverty since you aren't as "faithful and obedient" as Joyce Meyer says she is. Like the ‘prosperity preachers’ before her, not only does Meyer teach that Satanic lie, she has gotten rich spreading it around the world for decades – while, even worse, calling it a “Christian ministry” in the name of the Christ who teaches exactly the opposite.

Fortunately, the Bible everywhere reflects Christ's clear teaching that it's the poor who are truly blessed and the rich who are in trouble with God. A few examples:

My whole being will exclaim, “Who is like you, LORD? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob

them.” Psalms 35:10

*For he will deliver the needy who cry out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.
He will take pity on the weak and the needy
and save the needy from death.
He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in his sight.. Psalms 72:12-14*

*You are a tower of refuge to the poor, O LORD, a tower of refuge to the
needy in distress. Isaiah 25:4*

*On that day the deaf will hear words of a book,
And out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.
The afflicted also will increase their gladness in the LORD,
And the needy of mankind will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah
29:18-19*

*The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor. Isaiah 61:1-2 and Luke 4:18-19*

*He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.
Luke 1:5*

*The poor man died, and angels took him to the place of honor next to
Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. He went to hell and was
suffering terribly. Luke 16:22-23*

*Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes
of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those
who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are
exploiting you? James 2:5-7*

Long ago Paul the apostle warned in First Timothy about rich 'prosperity
preachers' like Meyer;

*They have wicked minds and have missed out on the truth. These people think
religion is supposed to make you rich.*

Paul goes on to warn;

People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. 1 Tim 6:9

Unlike Meyer, the apostle Paul knew what true “blessedness” was – not getting rich in this world, but gladly throwing away everything he had, knowing that he possessed the “exceedingly great reward” of Christ himself, through whom God made everything:

It's because of him that I think of everything as worthless. I threw it all away in order to gain Christ and to have a relationship with him. This means that I didn't receive God's approval by obeying his laws. The opposite is true! I have God's approval through faith in Christ. Phil 3:8-9

And the believers of the Bible found their joy not in gold, money and real estate like Meyer and her fellow televangelists so shamelessly do, but in having Christ. Those believers gladly gave up everything in this world, because they knew that in Christ they had the same “recompense”, the “very great reward”, the “lasting and better possessions” of the next world that Abraham and Moses looked forward to;

"Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering... You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded." Hebrews 10: 32, 34-35

That reward, the one that all those who believe in Christ ardently and patiently look forward to, is not in this world but in the next, as Christ teaches plainly:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be

also.” Matt 6: 19-21

But Joyce Meyer already has her fleeting “reward” and she makes it abundantly clear that her heart is set on her treasures in this world, not in the next; “If you stay in your faith you are going to get paid,” Meyer asserted in a [St Louis Post article](#), referring to her multimillion dollar mansion; “I’m living now in my reward.” And as Christ explains about all those who profit from religion like Meyer has,

"That is all the reward they will ever get." Matthew 6:2, 5 & 16

The antidote to Joyce Meyers poisonous teaching is, fortunately, simple:

“The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: ‘All nations will be blessed through you.’ So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.” Galatians 3:8

That blessing is faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God, for whom and by whom all things exist, and his atonement for our sins, which cost him everything, including his life.

Not money.

Chapter 3

I MUST LOVE ME THIS I KNOW, FOR JOYCE MEYER TELLS ME SO

"As I have loved you, so you must love one another." - Jesus

According to Joyce Meyer, she wasn't always such a "winner" as she claims to be now. She describes her earlier life:

“I was a controller and manipulator. I was out of control emotionally. I was depressed. I had mood swings. I had a bad attitude, a horrible self-image, and low self-esteem. I didn’t like myself or anybody else.”

How does Meyer find deliverance from this sorry state? Does she humble herself like Jesus' tax collector and pray "*God have mercy on me, a sinner*"? Does she follow Job's example and say "*I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes*"? Does she confess like the apostle Paul "*I am a sinner, sold to sin*"? Does she fall on her knees like Peter and say, "*I am a sinful person!*"

Unfortunately, no. To Meyer all such talk is just "poor self-image" and "self pity" and according to her such a "negative confession" would only assure that one stays a sinner as long as one confesses to being one. So instead she claims that Jesus himself personally told her that all of that repentance stuff would just be a waste of time, tauntingly asking her, when she was feeling so badly about her behavior, "Do you want to be pitiful or powerful?" And that gives her cover to do exactly the opposite of what the Bible everywhere teaches;

"Finally I had to learn to just look myself in the mirror and say, 'Joyce, I love you just the way you are, and I am going to get along with you. I am not going to be against you any more.'" (p 210)

Meyer claims her life was changed for the better, not by humbling herself before God, not by living in repentance for her bad behavior, not by accepting Jesus' atonement for all her sins – "*the one who loved us and died for us*" – and loving him forever in gratitude, but by loving her sinful self instead. And for those who aren't happy with their behavior, Meyer doesn't tell them to follow the many examples of repentance in the Bible but instead to admire themselves in the mirror too, just like she does;

"Look at yourself in the mirror every morning and say, 'I like you. You are a child of God. You are full of the Holy Spirit. You are capable. You have gifts and talents. You are a neat person –and I like you.' If you do that and really believe it, it will work wonders in overcoming a shame-based nature." ("Shame-based" nature, not to be confused with the Biblical "sinful nature", is a concept that Meyer has borrowed from pop psychologist John Bradshaw. More on that later.)

Meyer actually claims that her 'I love myself just the way I am' teaching is Christ's, when someone asked him what was Moses' most important

commandment;

Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’
Matt 22:36

About this, Meyer writes;

“He must have meant that it's as important to love ourselves as it is to love others. But it is not enough to love ourselves, we must also like ourselves... If you don't like you, you are going to have a hard time liking anyone else.”

But Meyer, as she constantly does, is reading into the biblical text something that is simply not there. She doesn't explain how it could be possible to simultaneously love one's self and not “like” one's self. She also never explains why we should take her word over the words of Christ, who makes no such differentiation. She simply expects it. She is, after all, Joyce Meyer and Jesus in Meyer's book is, well, just Jesus – another of her admirers, there to tell her how righteous she is.

1 John states,

"If we make it our habit to confess our sins, in his faithful righteousness he forgives us for those sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us"

But loving and admiring her sinful self every day instead of confessing her sins every day has, according to Meyer, worked such “wonders” on her that Jesus himself has personally told her that she no longer has any unrighteousness to be cleansed of, telling her, she claims, “There's nothing wrong with you, but there is a lot right about you,” on page 178.

This is another way Joyce Meyer deals with Jesus when her teachings contradict his. Following the example of the televangelists before her, she simply shoves her words into his mouth and that takes care of it.

Of course, Christ nowhere teaches that we are to love ourselves “just the way

we are”, as Meyer puts it. Instead he teaches exactly the opposite – that loathing our sinful selves leads to eternal life;

“Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. John 12:25

He teaches instead...

“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!” Luke 13:3

And he teaches instead...

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

This is the new commandment of Christ's ‘New Covenant’, a commandment that completely supersedes the commandment of Moses’ covenant – that we should love others, not like Joyce Meyer selfishly loves herself, but like Christ selflessly loved us, a love that cost him his life, the greatest love of all.

Since what Joyce Meyer calls the “wonder working” power of self-love is from nowhere in the Bible in general, or Christ in particular, from where does it originate?

Pop psychologist and regular guest of the Oprah Winfrey show – where self-love was the cure for every ill – John Bradshaw, wrote in his best-selling book, **Healing The Shame That Binds You**, “Total self-love and acceptance is the only foundation for happiness and the love of others.” Bradshaw makes his opinion about religion clear early in his book, writing "Religious addiction is rooted in toxic shame," and the phrase "rooted in toxic shame" appears repeatedly in his books. Meyer readily copies the phrase, writing, “When an individual is rooted in shame, it affects his entire life” and goes on to base her 'Rooted in Shame' chapter on entirely Bradshaw's writing though she never mentions or acknowledges him.

“Shame-based people feel flawed and defective as human beings,” Branden wrote. “I cannot think of a single psychological problem— from depression to fear of intimacy to criminal violence —that is not traceable to poor self-concept...” Meyer follows Branden almost word for word, writing, “When a

person has a shamed-based nature, as I did, it becomes the source or root of many complex inner problems, like depression ...eating disorders like bulimia ... sexual perversions of all kinds; the list is endless.”

Although it sounds like the Biblical ‘sinful nature’, the natural tendency of all people to do the wrong thing, Meyer has taken her “shame-based nature” teaching from Bradshaw’s book, where the phrase "shame-based" appears 90 times. Rather than confessing one's sins and looking to Christ for the atonement for everyone's sins that he purchased on the cross, it allows people to blame their own bad behavior on their parent's bad behavior toward them. Meyer follows Bradshaw faithfully in her book, writing on p 184, “The end result of abuse is often willfulness, stubbornness and rebellion.” How does she know this? “I know from my own bitter experience. I was having problems being submissive because I had such a strong will, which was the result of having been abused as a child.” “I believe I stole things because I was being abused,” she adds.

But the Bible everywhere rejects excusing one's own behavior by blaming others – from Genesis, where Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the Serpent, to James, who explains;

"... each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. James 1:14-15

Although there's nowhere any ‘inner child’ in the Bible, Meyer claims on p 259 that “God has given each of us an inner child,” and even includes a ‘Restoring the Inner Child’ chapter in her book, based entirely on another best-selling book by Bradshaw, his 1990 **Homecoming: Reclaiming and Championing Your Inner Child**. In that book Bradshaw tells his ‘inner child’ “I love you just the way you are.” Rejecting the repentance that Christ teaches, Meyer instead follows Bradshaw's advice word for word, telling herself as we've seen, “Joyce, I love you just the way you are”. "We get our being needs met when we allow our inner child to play," wrote Bradshaw. "We need to recognize that fact and become more attuned to the playful child within each of us," Meyer parroted a few years later.

Jesus teaches exactly the opposite, that not only is there no “playful inner

child” that needs to be "restored", but that we need to repent and completely change in order become as humble as a child before we can have any hope of entering God's Kingdom;

“I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.” Matthew 18:13-14

And as anyone can see, humility is not high on Joyce Meyer's agenda.

Another regular guest of the Oprah Winfrey Show, the influential pop psychologist Nathaniel Branden, author of the 1994 best seller, **The Six Pillars of Self Esteem** wrote, “People who do not experience self-love have little or no capacity to love others.” Branden is famous as the founder of the “self-esteem” movement, for his adulterous affair with Ayn Rand, and also for his atheism; “Anyone who engages in the practice of psychotherapy,” he wrote, “confronts every day the devastation wrought by the teachings of religion.” Despite all this, Meyer not only follows Branden's directives about self-love to the letter, she promotes his theories about the necessity of self-esteem as unquestionable gospel truth to this day – though even Oprah Winfrey admits they have long since been [disproven](#). And although it's now referred to disparagingly as ‘the cult of self love’, Meyer remains a loyal disciple, insisting in her 2021 book **Authentically, Uniquely You**, “If you don't like yourself, you are destined” not for eternal life as Christ teaches, but “for a life of misery.”

“Trust and rely on Him to take away your hurt and pain and restore you to full and vibrant emotional health,” Meyer writes. And of course, you can't really "trust and rely on Him" because that's faith in the grace of God, and Joyce Meyer is faith's worst enemy. Instead, as always, Meyer goes on to explain that it actually depends on your "diligent obedience". "Healing of emotional wounds is a process," Meyer adds, "It requires an investment of time and diligent obedience to God's commands." That supposed "vibrant emotional health" Meyer flaunts before her followers is thanks to her "diligent obedience to God's commands". Faith in the grace of God she doesn't need.

But “emotional health” has nothing to do with righteousness; the world is full of “emotionally healthy” people who are evil, greedy manipulators. Christ died on the cross to purchase God's grace and forgiveness and the righteousness that comes by that faith for those who believe in him – not the self-love, self-esteem, self-confidence and self-satisfaction, the so-called “vibrant emotional health” that Joyce Meyer mistakes for righteousness.

Christ was “a man of suffering, and familiar with pain,” wrote Isaiah.

“I am so sad that I feel as if I am dying,” Jesus says in Mark 14:34 and Matthew 26:38.

Was Jesus miserable because he didn't “like” himself? Did he have a “complex inner problem, like depression”? “I am nothing but dust and ashes,” said Abraham to God. Wasn't that a “horrible self-image” and a “negative confession”? “I am less than the least of all the Lord's people,” wrote the apostle Paul. Isn't that what Joyce Meyer and Nathaniel Branden call “low self-esteem”? After God finally spoke to him at the conclusion of his story, Job declared, “I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.” Should Job have listened to Joyce Meyer instead? “I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people,” wrote David in Psalms. Well, no wonder with all that “negative self-talk”! “We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags,” said Isaiah. How sad that Isaiah didn't have the “diligent obedience” that Joyce Meyer claims she has!

None of these people had what Joyce Meyer calls a “healthy, godly view” of themselves and the supposedly “vibrant emotional health” that she claims she has. What losers they all must seem to her followers compared to that self-described “winner” Joyce Meyer! What an embarrassing failure Jesus himself must seem with his miserable crucifixion. “Which side of the cross do you want to be on?” Meyer asks in **Eat the Cookie, Buy the Shoes** and several other books, setting up a false dichotomy; “The crucifixion side or the resurrection side?” Meyer's going to get her resurrection her way – Jesus' depressing death on a cross she doesn't need. Is anyone a bigger enemy of that cross than Joyce Meyer?

‘New Thought’ advocate, ‘Science of Mind’ minister, and yet another guest

of the Oprah Winfrey Show, Louise Hay wrote in her phenomenally best-selling book **You Can Heal Your Life**, first published in 1984, "...there is only one thing I ever work on with anyone and this is *Loving the Self*. [emphasis in the original] ... Loving ourselves works miracles in our lives," she writes. Meyer not only follows Hay's 'Loving the Self' principle – even claiming it "works wonders" like Hay's does – she faithfully follows Hay's 'Science of Mind' principles throughout her books and sermons as well. Though the founder of the 'Science of Mind' movement, Ernest Holmes, called himself Christian his teachings were anything but; "Who is Christ?" he [wrote](#) almost 100 years ago, "... *not* the only begotten Son of God" [emphasis in the original]. Instead, according to Holmes, everyone is Christ; "We are now as much the son of God as we can ever become," he claimed. And who is God? "...I understand that the life I live is God. Amen. And So It Is." The dark influence of Holmes and the 'Science of Mind' cult lurks behind Meyer's every book and sermon.

Meyer's instruction to 'Look at yourself in the mirror every morning' and practice 'positive affirmation' originates deeper in the self-help grab bag. Norman Vincent Peale prescribed it decades ago in his best-seller 1952 book **The Power of Positive Thinking**; "Look at yourself in the mirror every morning," he wrote, "and say 'I am a success'" and that advice has been copied by the self-help gurus ever since. Louise Hay copied it in **You Can Heal Your Life**; "The most powerful way to do affirmations is to look in a mirror and say them out loud" wrote Hay. And Joyce Meyer follows them both to the letter.

But Meyer goes far beyond anything Norman Vincent Peale or Louise Hay wrote and insists that people's spoken words actually have supernatural powers; "Words are containers for power," Meyer claims in this book and 36 others as recently as last year, "they carry either a life-giving force or a destructive force." You can magically control God with your words by mouthing Bible verses, according to Meyer. "Start speaking His Word — words that release His power - and watch Him do something amazing in your life," Meyer insists in her book **Power Words**. "I was speaking faith-filled words into the atmosphere, and God began using them to reshape my circumstances," Meyer writes in **Hearing from God Each Morning**. You can even enhance your career by repeating "positive" Bible verses aloud

according to Meyer; "... declare that God will take care of you. He will help you keep your job, or He will get you a better one."

This belief in magical incantation – “a series of words spoken as a magic spell” says Websters, “formulaic recitations which describe the desired outcome” says the Anchor Bible Dictionary – is hardly original with Meyer. Despite its ancient origins in the occult, ‘Science of Mind’ founder Ernest Holmes, mentioned earlier, passed it off as ‘Christian’ over a century ago and it has been passed on ever since by the ‘word of faith’ preachers like Meyer who have followed him. According to Holmes his words *are* God’s words; “My word is the presence, power and activity of the Truth which is within me, which is Almighty, which is God. There is none other,” Holmes [wrote](#) in 1923. “We speak the word, it is brought to pass.” Following Holmes, Meyer claims that her words are Almighty as well; "If we speak negatively, we will have negative experiences. On the other hand, if we speak positively, we will see good, positive things happen in our lives," she teaches in **The Secret to True Happiness, Power Words** and several other books. You don’t have to pray to the deity that Joyce Meyer preaches. You can push him around with your tongue. "Tell God every day that you are expecting something amazingly good to happen to you," she asserts in **Change Your Words, Change Your Life**.

How does Meyer know she has this magical ability? Because, as usual, she has Jesus himself personally telling her that her words have God-like powers; “‘Call things that are not as though they were,’ He said. ‘Stop rehearsing the problem and start speaking forth the solution according to My Word!’”

But who alone has the power to “Call things that are not as though they were” according to God's actual Word? That would be the real God...

“...the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.” Romans 4:17

...not Joyce Meyer. And the 'faith' Joyce Meyer is preaching isn't faith in the power of God, it's faith in the power of her words to control God.

“You see, words are containers,” wrote the founder of the 'Word of Faith' movement Kenneth Hagin; “Words create or destroy.” "As you refuse to look

at the natural and begin to focus only on the supernatural you too can begin calling those things that be not as though they were," Hagin wrote, years before Meyer appropriated the same verse, minus the focus shift. "Words are containers," echoed 'Word of Faith' preacher Charles Capps in 1978. According to Capps, words are not only 'containers' but, following Holmes, they're an actual deity with as much power as the real God, claiming, "The words that you continually say will be god over the circumstances you face in life." "Words carry power," wrote Kenneth Copeland in 1980, "The very forces of life and death are powered by the tongue." Could the line from Holmes to Hagin to Capps and Copeland to Meyer be any clearer?

Imitating all those 'Word of Faith' preachers before her, Meyer's use of Proverbs 18:21 – *"The tongue has the power of life and death"* – to justify this Satanic delusion is laughable;

"See now that I alone am he; there is no God but me. I bring death and I give life; I wound and I heal. No one can rescue anyone from my power." Deuteronomy 32:39

How does anyone's tongue compare to that?

This is Meyer's procedure: stirring up a boiling pot of the perverted teachings of the 'Prosperity Gospel' and 'Word of Faith' preachers, adding heaping dollops of the advice of the best-selling pop psychologists and self-help gurus, tossing in plenty of chopped and shredded Bible verses, squeezing in a little twisted Jesus and – Hocus Pocus! – it's all magically transformed into something the pop psychologists and self-help gurus can only dream of; a tax-exempt "ministry". For every new fad in the self-help genre, Meyer has cranked out a Bibled-up version in response, happily distorting and falsifying its verses to fit it.

But Meyer is selling the pseudo-religion of the Oprah Winfrey show and the 'New Age' gurus, not the religion of the Bible, built on the sand of pop culture, not on the Rock of Christ and his teachings. For the 'self-esteem' that Meyer relentlessly preaches, the Bible uses a different term – pride;

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18

God opposes everyone who is proud, but blesses all who are humble with

undeserved grace. James 4:6

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Psalm 51:17

Is there anything that Joyce Meyer despises more than a "broken spirit" and a "broken and contrite heart"? Is anyone on earth a bigger enemy of true repentance?

The one and only time the Bible ever mentions 'self-love', it warns against it first and foremost among a long list of the reprehensible vices of religious hypocrites;

There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. Even though they will make a show of being religious, their religion won't be real. 2 Timothy 3:1-3

And Meyer diabolically perverts the teachings of Christ and of the Bible into a tool to transform her disciples into lovers not just of money but lovers of themselves as well, boastful and proud, just like her. “*What we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake,*” wrote the apostle Paul. But Meyer has stuffed herself so full of ‘self-esteem’ and has such a high ‘self concept’ that it's she who is the subject of her books and sermons, not Christ, her life she talks about, not Christ's, her opinions that matter, not his. For every time Jesus’ name is mentioned in this one book, Meyer's beloved ‘I’ appears over sixty times.

After extolling what she calls the ‘wonder working’ power of self-love, falsely based on Moses' command to “love your neighbor as yourself”, Meyer never goes on to bother with the “love God” and “love your neighbor” parts that Moses commanded. For Meyer it's all about ‘me’ ‘me’ ‘me’. “Stop blaming yourself and feeling guilty, unworthy and unloved. Instead begin to say, ‘If God is for me, who can be against me? God loves me, and I love myself,” she concludes. “Praise the Lord, I am free in Jesus’ name, amen.’ ”

But we are not free in Jesus' name because we say we are any more than we

are kangaroos in Jesus' name because we say we are. Contrary to the New Thought / Science of Mind / 'Positive Confession' paganism that Meyer and her fellow televangelists are selling under the pretext of a 'Christian ministry', no 'word of faith' or 'positive thinking' could possibly have the power to order God into doing anything, including free us. Teaching that our words or our thoughts have such power is teaching sorcery, not faith, Bible-verse voodoo, not the grace of God, Gnosticism, not the gospel of Christ.

It is only the Son of God, the Word incarnate, to whom alone God has given all power in heaven and earth, that can truly free us;

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36

And the true freedom that Christ alone can give – freedom from all of our sins – is not the result of the self-talk, self-confidence, and self-love that Joyce Meyer is selling but of His undeserved selflessness;

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.” 1 Peter 2:24

This healing, the soul-healing result of mankind's reconciliation with God, was purchased 2000 years ago by Christ's atonement for all of humanity's sins through his death on the cross. We can “stop blaming ourselves” not by blaming others like Joyce Meyer does but by accepting that the Son of God chose to take all blame upon himself for us. We can “stop feeling guilty” not when we tell ourselves that we are worthy like Joyce Meyer does but when we come to believe that Jesus, by his suffering and death, atoned for the sins of everyone, for which no one is worthy. And we can know what love really is, not when we selfishly love ourselves like Joyce Meyer does but when we instead receive by faith the unimaginably selfless love of Christ;

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.” 1 John 3:16

“...whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for

many.” Matt 20:26-28

This is the love of God that was revealed to the world in Christ – a love that inspires those who believe in Him to forget about themselves and instead to sincerely love and serve, not themselves, but God and others.

CONCLUSION

*“In their greed, these false teachers will exploit you with deceptive words.” 2
Peter 2:3*

Countless more examples could be given from Joyce Meyer's many other books and sermons showing how completely “out of line” her teachings are with the teachings of the Bible in general and the message of Christ and his gospel in particular. The issues covered here are not occasional errors on Meyer's part but the very foundation on which all of her teachings are built.

Meyer's books and sermons are full of folksy stories and of happy Bible verses selectively chosen to “sound so good and feel so right” in order to make her followers “feel good” but they are only the sweet bait for the deadly spiritual poison that is at the core of the false gospel that she preaches. As we've seen in the three chapters above, Meyer teaches her disciples to ignore the suffering and death of Christ that atoned for the sins of the world and to believe in themselves instead, like she does; to ignore the true blessings of God – the forgiveness of our sins and the hope of eternal life with Christ – and to run after the bogus 'blessings' of money, power and fame instead, like she does; to ignore the selfless love of Christ that opened to doors of heaven and to selfishly love themselves instead, just like she does. Even as she hypocritically calls Christ “our example and role model” and quotes his words from the Bible, Meyer boldly leads her followers to a life of arrogance, of greed, of egotism, of hypocrisy, of self-righteousness, of selfishness, of self-indulgence, of ignorance, and of lies – a life just like Joyce's, a life full of the rotten fruit of a corrupt tree, a life that is in every way contrary to both the example and the teachings of Christ.

After reading these few pages, one thing should be very clear: to follow

Joyce Meyer is to reject Jesus Christ.

My sheep hear my voice, I know them and they follow me.

They will never follow a stranger.

John 10:4-5

If you've read this far, please leave a comment. All comments are appreciated.

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Books and articles that examine in depth the origins of the anti-gospel that Meyer and her fellow anti-Christians are teaching:

[The Seduction of Christianity](#), by Dave Hunt and T A McMahon “Anyone who imagines that because he thinks certain thoughts or speaks certain words God must respond in a certain way, has slipped into sorcery, and, if not playing God, is at the very least attempting to manipulate God.”

[A Different Gospel](#), by Dan R McConnell “The Faith teachers interpret the cross of Jesus exclusively in terms of the benefits it confers upon the believer, such as prosperity. In so doing they create a mind-set in their followers which is entirely antithetical to the true meaning of the cross.”

[Christianity in Crisis](#), by Hank Hanegraaff “Men such as Joel Osteen and women like Joyce Meyer are living proof that error begets error and heresy begets heresy.”

Two theologians examine the results of belief in the ‘prosperity gospel’ and conclude:

“There can be no compassion for those who are not prosperous, for clearly they have not followed the rules and thus live in failure and are not loved by

God. The prosperity gospel also gives voice to another of the great heresies of our time, namely Gnosticism. It affirms that reality can be changed by the powers of the mind."

<https://www.laciviltacattolica.com/the-prosperity-gospel-dangerous-and-different/>

Two psychologists examine the psychological trap of the 'positive thinking' doctrine and conclude:

"... the level of thought disciplining that Meyer and Osteen propose is inherently impossible. It predisposes the subject to perceptual continual failing, creating anxiety and internal conflict. In various ministry communications, the audient-believer is driven to anxiously return to the ministries. Rearmament and reassurance are offered through processes of consumption (see Figures 2-4) and within self-help teaching products."

https://www.academia.edu/45478721/Overcoming_the_Battlefield_of_the_Mind

For a Manifesto by Paul Massey, a former employee of Joyce Meyer, explaining why he left the Meyer organization and the 'Prosperity Gospel' belief system altogether, click [here](#). For a video interview of Paul and his wife Emily, also a former employee of Meyer's, examining why they left, click [here](#).

For a deeper look into Meyer's 'Word of Faith' roots click [here](#). But note that although Meyer's books claim she has an "earned PhD" she has never taken any college classes, much less earned a PhD.

For an example of a 'New Age' endorsement of Joyce Meyer click [here](#). Though the site mentions Christ, note that "The Voice for Love uses the term 'Christ' to mean 'the Divine Consciousnes [sic] with humankind.'"

For a first-person account of the rotten fruit of "Word of Faith", Susan Puzio writes in [Seed Faith- Can a Man Bribe God?](#) "I never heard of anyone confessing they wanted cancer, yet "Word of Faith" people say oh, he or she must have had a bad confession, or they must have had sin in their life. We were the most uncompassionate bunch going. We were to love people, yet we looked down on the sick."

Thank you for your time.