

# **In God We Trust ?**

By "the Phoenix"

In God We Trust?

What a far cry from today, has this motto changed since first shouted and proclaimed by the forefathers of our country. No longer a statement but a question.

A stand; a statement ringing out throughout the land. In God We Trust, or perhaps it should be correctly stated; In God We Place Our \_\_\_\_ Trust.

No longer as a nation do we possess such trust, and we as a nation, are a nation fallen away. For we no longer place our trust in Him or in His word.

A trust where we put our entire faith and reliance upon him, and him alone. Such is a part of faith. The true faith. True saving faith.

The forefathers of our country understood this, and so do I. Sadly most today do not.

Any reliance upon ourselves and/or others Psa 146:3-5 replaces this full trust and reliance upon God.

Nor are we to place our trust in wealth, or things of this world. Pro 11:4

Often as of late, there has been a growing following among those in and outside the Body of Christ to do just that; to place their trust not only in the things of this world, but in themselves. How can you place your trust in and seek wealth, and Christ at the same time?

Brother and sisters, you cannot.

There is a growing movement within the Body known as the Faith Movement. To put Faith in one's Faith.

What has happened to putting one's faith in the creator, in God; whom we trust?

False teachers within this faith movement, (Kenneth Hagin and those of Rhema, Kenneth Copeland, Frederick KC Price, Paula White, Paul Crouch, Charles Capps, Happy Caldwell and many others) emphasize putting one's faith in their own faith. Add in that their message often "twists" scripture and has grown into a sole

"prosperity preaching" message. What has happened to the message that God is saying to us in the following scripture:

Pro 1:29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

Pro 1:30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

Pro 1:31 **Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.**

Pro 1:32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, **and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.**

Wow. This can apply **to many** in the Church today.

Kenneth Hagin himself has stated that in the first half of this year, judgement would come. Then overflow. Well judgement has arrived. Just as he stated in his prophesy.

The time has come for judgment. For scripture tells us that we should judge ourselves, first individually and then as a collective whole. 1 Peter 4:17. And that is what this "smooth stone" is all about, to perhaps correct the wrong, and bring about sound judgment.

Perhaps this is why the Lord warned of this in the parable of the sower, and the seed among the thorns:

Mat 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; **and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word**, and he becometh unfruitful.

And in this parallel scripture from Mark:

Mar 4:19 And the cares of this world, and **the deceitfulness of riches**, and the lusts of other things entering in, **choke the word**, and it becometh unfruitful.

Mat 16:26 For **what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?** or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

1Ti 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, **nor trust in uncertain riches**, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

1Ti 6:18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

1Ti 6:19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, **that they may lay hold on eternal life.**

1Ti 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

1Ti 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: **which while some coveted** after, **they have erred from the faith**, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

To pursue prosperity as the faith teachers teach **is coveting!**

And now a brief excerpt from "The Channel - Grace through Faith":

Receiving a financial blessing from God is about giving more. Give not to receive wealth; but give from love and a pure heart, and for the furtherance of the kingdom of God. If and when God blesses you with increase; increase your giving as you have been blessed. We are bought and paid for with a price and are not our own. Every good thing comes from God, and yes belongs to him. I truly believe, if I hear another "give a gift amount to match this bible verse, prosperity pledge" (such as \$66.12 for Psalms 66:12) I will spue.

Recently, Paula White and TBN were more like a carney hawking their goods, then a bearer of the gospel of peace. Step right up, lay down your money and win the prize! I am sure that a lot of the work Mrs. White does is truly a good work for the Lord, however she needs to reassess this one.

To Mrs. White, your story on the turkeys was great. And yes God did increase the woman's business. After the woman helped cook them, and didn't ask for a return. An example of a pure heart toward giving.

I trust that your vision will clear and you can see the difference. Brothers and Sisters, give not in the spirit, to obtain material wealth as some teach. Mrs White used this scripture in her hawk for TBN:

**Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place . - Psalms 66:12**

For...going through fire and water is a reference to going through trial and tribulation and then being brought into a place of abundance. A well watered place, a place of overflow. However, please note that in Psalms 66:13 the Psalmist sings:

**I will go into thy house with burnt offerings: I will pay thee my vows, - Psalms 66:13**

Payment of the vows of worship and personal commitment. After they have been delivered to the place of abundance. What has this to do with paying \$66.12 to Paula White and TBN? Not much, in fact nothing at all. For if we really look at true prosperity verses prosperity as to worldly gain, they are as if night and day. For what is true abundance, but that abundance of the spiritual kingdom...

abundance in faith... abundance in hope... and above all abundance in love. Abundance of that "peace" that only Jesus Christ can provide. The Overflow of the Spirit. And the Fruits There Of. The True Overflow. The Overflow of Grace. I believe that you can grasp what I mean. It is plain, as let's say, "The Writing On The Wall". As I believe that those that twist scripture and teach worldly wealth and gain over that of the spiritual, can perhaps grasp this:

**I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. - Revelation 3:15-18**

**And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods. And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward. Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed. I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses. So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord? And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty. Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore. And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light. And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations. He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? - Luke 16:1-11**

And now a bit of back up and commentary for my preaching; courtesy of Barnes New Testament Notes, on Luke 16:11:

True riches. The graces of the gospel; the influences of the Spirit; eternal life, or religion. The riches of this world are false, deceitful, not to be trusted the treasures of heaven are true, faithful, never-failing, (Barnes)

I believe perhaps you can see or grasp the point. Which will you dear reader reach out and grasp for? Unrighteous mammon and wealth of the world... or the true riches? Dear reader, I am only but trying to lift you up... a notch or two higher than perhaps you are. Go deep. Go deep into the word of God. Have vision. See the Unseen. Go Deep.

**If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain.** - I Timothy 6:3-6

**No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.** - Luke 16:13

Dear reader whom do you serve? **Do you serve me says the Lord?** Or unrighteous mammon? Perhaps you have forsaken My Word and My Son. Are you as Judas?

But give cheerfully and with love. Give as you have been blessed, above the tithes. Those that give the minimum will receive their portion. And **above all**, brothers and sisters **give of your time and natural and spiritual gifts to the building up of the Body of Christ**, and the furtherance of His kingdom. Be a "channel" yourselves. Any other purpose is disrupting a channel of faith. The channel of faith.

A true living faith that manifests itself daily. Not to be confused with salvation by works. One cannot give only in the hope or purpose of receiving wealth; for to covet after money is **to err from the faith. Channel broken. And planting a "seed" of money can never replace personal evangelism and commitment to Christ.** It can never replace Love. Ye cannot serve both God and (wealth) Mammon . Oh Oh, guess the TV preachers forgot that one. Brothers and Sisters, always look at what all of the Bible says on a topic.

But when Dr. Frederick K. C. Price stands and boasts of his 5 checking accounts... I believe he misses the point. In all fairness, yes he is correct, that when you tithe and yes give offerings to God, you shall prosper. And yes, Satan will use the lost sometimes to deplete your resources, of both time and money. True, discernment must be used, as there are abusers and users out there. I believe in helping people whole heartedly, and do so. However people must be willing to help themselves. But...how do you stand before Jesus Christ at judgment, with 5 checking accounts and children (innocents) starving in the world? Or anyone else truly in need? That one is beyond me. Or any Christian, professing to be Christian, (the light

and salt) reclining back on their coffer. I believe our Lord said to lay our treasures up in heaven, and not here on earth. Just glad I am not in his/their shoes.

But then again, I prefer my sandals anyway.

Money is a necessary fact even in ministry. And I understand that. And I understand that it is a needed fact, to live in the world today, but one must be careful. Yes, it is true that God wishes to prosper His children, and yes money must always be placed so to further His kingdom. Remember you are bought and paid for by a high price and are not your own.

**For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. - 1 Corinthians 6:20**

The faith and prosperity movement's message is contrary to scripture, and God's word, for one's faith must lay in God and our Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone. Listen closely to what they are saying and you will see the difference.

Faith is "The Channel" by which Grace flows, and scripture tells us in that by God's grace we are saved through faith.

But this is not the same.

And such is a breach of trust, a breach of faith. The true faith.

Now let us go onward as to "trust", fear, and our reliance upon God:

Mat 8:26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

Quite often I have heard the excuse that God has provided us reasoning to protect ourselves. This thinking often is only a hinderance, and a product of the carnal mind. To the carnal Christian. Rom 8:6-7.

But to be spiritually minded is life and peace. No small wonder that there is an absence of true peace in people that attempt to protect themselves and their families from those of the outside world. For this type of thinking of the carnal mind, a hinderance of the flesh, not only destroys one's ability to place their full weight and trust in God; but hinders in many ways their ability to administer the Gospel as well. See Luke 12:22-24, 1 John 4:18.

Now for two "true to life" examples.

Example one is a christian woman, widowed aprox. 60-65 years of age. She has a handicapped 38 year old son that resides with her. This woman, a charismatic as well, hides in her closet with her son at night when they hear sounds outside their

home. Outside as in behind locked doors. And yes she knows well the number 911.

Is this trusting God? Is this saving faith?

Mal 3:6 For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Fear and Trust/Faith in Protection:

**Psa 27:1** <A Psalm of David.> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psa 4:8 I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.

Pro 3:24 When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

Pro 3:25 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

Pro 3:26 For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

Luk 12:4 And I say unto you my friends, **Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do**

Luk 12:5 **But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.**

Psa 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do *his commandments*: his praise endureth for ever.

True to life example two:

A Pastor of a Pentecostal Church of God, is concerned always with the safety of his family. He receives a call from someone for assistance, and refuses assistance at that specific time, for it would perhaps expose his family to an element of the world. I believe you know what I am saying. Has this attitude in some ways hindered the Gospel?

Sure it has. Think about it.

Does he fear what man can do to him? Or God?

Pro 1:7, Pro 9:9, Pro 9:10, Pro 15:33,

1Jo 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

1Jo 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

1Jo 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

Carnal fear has torment. Perfect love casts out and removes all fear.

Trust and Faith in Provision:

Luk 12:27 Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Luk 12:28 If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more *will he clothe* you, O ye of little faith?

Luk 12:29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

Luk 12:30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

Luk 12:31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luk 12:22 And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.

Luk 12:23 The life is more than meat, and the body *is more* than raiment.

Luk 12:24 Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?

It is true God uses others to provide for his own. Both in financial as well as all areas of life. I myself have experienced this in many ways just as Elijah. I have been fed both by the Ravens (those that apose, or teach falsely the true Gospel), and the widow and her son (the woman mentioned in eample number one).

Additional syudies are as follows:

Protection and Provision redrawn from:

Backsliders:

Jdg 10:12 The Zidonians also, and the Amalekites, and the Maonites, did oppress you; and ye cried to me, and I delivered you out of their hand.

Jdg 10:13 Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more.

Jdg 10:14 Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation.

And from the Book of Joshua:

Jos 23:11 Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God.

Jos 23:12 Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, *even* these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you:

Jos 23:13 Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out *any of* these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.

And to the returning backslider:

Job 22:23 If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles.

Job 22:24 Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the *gold* of Ophir as the stones of the brooks.

Although a reference to wealth and physical provision, think of this prosperity in the light of spiritual wealth. - Phoenix

Withdrawn from the Untrusting and Unbelieving:

Isa 7:9 And the head of Ephraim *is* Samaria, and the head of Samaria *is* Remaliah's son. If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established.

And what of our nation? That no longer places their trust in God as our fore fathers once did? It's ver simple...

Trust and Obey.

There is no other way.

7

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