

Discussion Guide: “The Good and Bad Side of Faith—The Health, Wealth and Prosperity Gospel—Hebrews 11; Part 14”

Let us examine the Scriptures like the Bereans who "received the message with the great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."

Acts 17:11 (NIV)

October 26, 2003; Pastor Kimber Kauffman, Senior Pastor of College Park Church, discussed the health, wealth and prosperity gospel for the second time, and exposed it as false teaching. He mentioned three such false teachers:

- 1) Benny Hinn—famous “faith healer” with a TV program, “This is Your Day”
- 2) Kenneth Copeland—“Believer’s Voice of Victory” TV program—viewed by more than 76 million households on over 700 stations daily, with over 82 million on over 600 stations on Sunday
- 3) Kenneth Hagin (1917-2003)—read this segment from his website:

In 1917, Reverend Kenneth E. Hagin's mother was expecting her third child. Her husband had left her alone, money and food were gone, and she was ill. Afraid she would lose the baby, she decided to ask her parents for help. As she walked to their home, **Jesus appeared to her.**

Jesus told her not to fear, that the baby would be born and grow up to take part in the revival that **would usher in the Second Coming of the Son of Man.** This was Reverend Kenneth E. Hagin's purpose. He would not be the only one, of course, but **Brother Hagin would have a part in the last great move of God's Spirit.**

The **healing ministry** that began in 1950, God's divine commission to "teach my people faith" and the founding of RHEMA Bible Training Center have all been steps along the path to fulfilling that purpose: ushering in the last great move of God's Spirit and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Kim defined a miracle as: *“When God acts without, above and against His natural laws.”*

Based on his research, Kim said only about 10% of the Bible contains references to miracles and that 95% of the miracles occurred in 3 time periods:

- 1) The establishment of Israel
- 2) The establishment of the prophets
- 3) The establishment of the church---Jesus and the apostles

Acts 3 and 5 healings

- 1) Not humanly explainable
- 2) It was upon Peter’s command and Peter’s faith
- 3) It was not a secret—but obvious to all—especially to unbelievers!
- 4) Healing is immediately used to preach the gospel
- 5) In Acts 5:12-16 everyone is healed

Kim repeatedly gave the challenge to these faith healers to heal the attenders from “New Hope”—commenting that they were interviewed, but rejected by Benny Hinn!

The health and wealth gospel commonly uses 3 points

- 1) By His stripes you are healed
- 2) Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever
- 3) It is always God’s will for you to be healed—so never pray, “If it is God’s will...”

Final points:

***Everyone that was ever healed died

***Our hope is finally realized in heaven

***The healing of the soul is more important than the healing of the body [Mark 8:36; 3 John 2]

***God's will—ex. Gethsemane prayer...2 Corinthians 12 and Paul's thorn in the flesh

Kim mentioned briefly the "laughing revival"

Kim noted that the Hebrew word for "healed" in Isaiah 53 denotes spiritual healing and forgiveness

Discussion Questions

- 1) Has anyone in the group had any involvement in, or contact with, faith healing revivals, or had close friends/family members that did? Share your experiences.
- 2) Why is it important for Christians to understand the truth about those that teach a gospel that includes physical healing? Is there any harm in presenting the gospel this way?
3. Have members mention verses that discuss false teachers and money. Try to think of an Old Testament example and New Testament example of someone who was more interested in making money through teaching or healing.
4. How does Kim's message against "faith healers" and the "health and wealth gospel" relate to Rich's message on the groaning God [2 weeks ago]?

Here's some closing "food for thought" from Peter's description of such false teachers...

*These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm.
Blackest darkness is reserved for them.
For they mouth empty, boastful words and,
by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature,
they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error.
They promise them freedom,
while they themselves are slaves of depravity—
for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.
2 Peter 2:17-19 (NIV)*

So, how shall we then live?

*Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this,
be on your guard so that you may not be carried away
by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.
But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To him be glory both now and forever!
2 Peter 3:17-18 (NIV)*