

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3tEv26OMTU>

***Analysis of the Bethel Movement —by Mike Winger (himself a Southern California charismatic)***

Prophecy and healing—both real and fake

Bill Johnson in Weaverville determined to see revival. Came to Bethel, in Redding, 1996

Half of church left

Bill changed the culture of Bethel in Redding, and want to do the same worldwide

They don't use the term NAR

They are part of signs and wonders movement

Apostolic Network with Bethel.

Jesus Culture; Bethel music — determined to promote a certain concept of revival

Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry — same goal, students go to their church elsewhere to change the church there

“The House of Generals” (houses relics from previous revivals, to be touched and prayed over) and “The Apostolic Center” takes the campaign to the next level

Bethel intends to become the Mecca for the hyper-charismatic and all streams of charismatic movement

Encourage people to be fake in prophesying

**Theology of Bethel**

Bill does not call himself a “Apostle” but the people do (Kris Vallotton is the prophet)

“God did not give us a list of the apostles’ teaching.” [but we do have them on record in NT]

The Gospel at Bethel is intact...with additions

They include in the Gospel universal instantaneous healing=“The Gospel of the Kingdom”

Bill anathematizes those who have a theology that allows for sickness, using Gal.1:8.

Teaching that Paul’s thorn is a sickness? “That’s a different gospel!”

*The one false doctrinal distinctive of Bethel:* We must look only at Jesus and filter everything in theology through His historical ministry. Always heals. Never allows sickness. It is “theologically immoral” to allow a biblical revelation of God to trump the revelation in Jesus. “Concepts based on disappointment; not on revelation.”

“How many storms did Jesus bless?”

Some things are true, but other things are more true. “The judgment of God is true, the mercy of God is more true.” “Anything that you know about the nature of God that is not seen in the person of Jesus is an inferior truth.” [*Limited to the three years of Jesus ministry*]

Scripture cannot correct Bill's understanding of Jesus.

In a Q & A when given the question whether God ever causes sickness, Bill answered:

"Jesus was sleeping in the bottom of a boat in the middle of a life-threatening storm. He was sleeping because the world He was living in had no storm. He was living in a realm of Kingdom Reality, He was actually living in a realm called 'peace.'" When they woke Him up...it says He released peace over the storm. Now, how did he release peace? Because He had it to give...You can only give away what you have. Can God give away sickness? No, He is not sick." (waits for the predictable applause)

1 Samuel 5:6 God gave boils

Rev.2:22-23 Christ will kill and make sick Jezebel's children with her

In Jesus' earthly ministry, did He teach I should expect full health and prosperity at all times?

Matt.26:11 The poor with you always

Should I have 12 disciples?

Should I stay single and celibate

Should I leave my employment to be a traveling preacher?

Bill's central verse: Matthew 6:10 "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (no death? No sorrow? Rev.21:4)

"Kingdom coming" is healing, miracles, signs and wonders. Dominion Theology.

No one in their congregation is allowed to die, but by old age —said prophet Kris Vallotton.

### **Practices:**

They encourage false prophecies and false healings.

Nabeel Qureshi received hundreds of prophecies that he would be healed of his cancer. All false.

They lower the threshold for confirming healings.

Decrease their ability to deny they were healed. If symptoms return, "you lost your healing."

Gimmickry not what Jesus did.

Always on the verge of the breakthrough they anticipate.

"The fragility of the anointing"

Bill's son has speech impediment from hearing loss. Bill can't think about that because "it will ruin the anointing."

The Healing Rooms have follow-up sessions teaching how to keep the healing

### **Prophecy**

More prophecy than healing goes on there.

Bill asked the men of his church in Weaverville, "What would Jesus say if He came into the room?" Every response he received, he said, is "prophecy."

Jeremiah 23:16, 25-26

Ezek.13:2

Every attempt at prophesying is applauded at Bethel—including those that are recognized as false. "Taking risks" and experimentation are necessary until the breakthrough comes. This is not moving in the Spirit, but social engineering.

The only prophecies allowed are the ones that are encouraging and uplifting.

Kris Vallotton contradicts himself all the time, but he doesn't care.

Prophetic dance. Prophetic art.

"Destiny Cards" (Christian Tarot Cards)