

21/07/2001 – This is a transcript of a talk given by Philip L. Powell in BRISBANE, Australia on Saturday July 21, 2001. It is available on a C90 audio as the third of four talks relating to modern false movements within Charismatic and Pentecostal Churches. The four talks are recorded on one audiotape and available for a cost of \$5 (Australian dollars) plus postage. They are also part of four video recordings, which feature messages by Jacob Prasch. This third talk by Philip Powell is on the video entitled ¹ “**THE TRUE GOSPEL OF HEALTH AND WEALTH**”: in which Jacob Prasch expounds ^{3rd} John verse 2. It is obtainable at a cost of \$25 (Australian dollars) plus postage. Orders to - Christian Witness Ministries (CWM), Christian Witness Ministries (CWM), PO Box 353, LOCH SPORT VIC 3851 - fax +61 (0)3 5146 0270. You may fax or mail your Credit Card (Visa, Bankcard or Master Card only) details plus your full address and your order will be processed as promptly as possible.

BINDING & LOOSING - What Does The Bible Teach About Territorial Spirits & Spiritual Mapping?

Are George Otis, Harold Caballeros & the transformations videos conning you?

*“And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” - 2 **Tim 4:4.***

If you approach the Scriptures from a Midrash frame of reference you cannot avoid the conclusion that the end of the Age will be marked by a lying spirit actively driving those of the establishment to a point where they believe “the lie” (2 Thess 2:11). It happened among the false prophets in King Ahab’s court to effect the death of a dynasty (1 Kings chapter 22 c/f 2 Chronicles chapter 18) and it’s happening again at the approach of the second coming of Christ and the appearance of the Anti-Christ. Then as now the entire scenario is within the sovereign will of God. This is something, which we as God’s people find difficult to understand and accept. While God doesn’t organise or orchestrate everything that happens He does over-rule. The story of the death of Ahab and the destruction of his whole dynasty makes this plain. There were 400 on Ahab’s side prophesying prosperity and success and just one true prophet of the Lord declaring the truth. Guess what – the 400 were wrong and the one was right. The key to the Kingdom of God is not what happens in the counsels of men but what takes place in the counsels of Heaven.

1 Kings 22:20-24 reads – *“And the LORD said, ‘Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. (21) And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. (22) And the LORD said unto him, ‘How?’ And he said, I will go and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And He said, ‘You shall persuade him, and prevail also: go and do it. (23) Now therefore, behold, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all your prophets, and the LORD has spoken evil concerning you.*

¹ Refer <http://www.christian-witness.org/pdf/briscovers.pdf>

(24) *But Zedekiah ...went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, 'Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak to you?'*

Jesus said that God's Word will never pass away, which means that all that is predicted in the Bible must come to pass. In order for the faith destroying apostasy to impact the Church there has to be a lying spirit in the mouths of the establishment prophets. So there are three things that we need to note:

Isaiah 30:8-15 *"Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: (9) That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: (10) Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits: (11) Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. (12) Wherefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, 'Because you despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon: (13) Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking comes suddenly at an instant. (14) And he shall break it as the breaking of the potters' vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a piece of broken pottery to take fire from the hearth, or to take water out of the pit.' (15) For thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; 'In returning and rest shall you be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength:"*

NOTE Three Things:

- 1. FIRSTLY, the majority within Christendom want to hear nice things – Prophecy SMOOTH things not RIGHT things.**

The word SMOOTH comes from a Hebrew root, which signifies – *"seductiveness and flattery"*. It relates to the idea of *"slippery places"*.

The word RIGHT derives from a root meaning *"straight, right, straightness"*. It signifies *"uprightness, right things, equity, straight in front, straight, right, straightness."* When applied to prophecy it signifies *"true things"*.

- 2. SECONDLY, the People Get the Leaders they Deserve –**

2 Timothy 4:3 – *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"*

- 3. THIRDLY, the Remnant Church Will Rest in the Assurance and Sovereignty of God**

"In returning and rest shall you be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength:"

Our job as watchmen is to alert you to what is happening and to provide a Biblical basis for an examination of the innovative things, which are happening within the Church. Not all new things are bad. By the same token not all new things are good. We must examine everything biblically.

Isaiah 8:20 – *“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”*

The major player in the new spiritual warfare emphasis is undoubtedly George Otis the man behind the so-called 10/40 window and the person who produced the two popular videos entitled *TRANSFORMATIONS*. Others include Harold Caballeros from Guatemala, Carlos Annacondia of Buenos Aires and of course the inevitable self appointed apostle Peter Wager. In our own country several have jumped on the bandwagon including Reg Klimionock who now resides on the Gold Coast. Let me say right away that I do believe in spiritual warfare as presented in the Bible but not in the way it is being presented by these men who consciously or ignorantly actually lie about the claims of the transformations that are supposed to be taking place to certain cities and countries. The facts show that this is just not happening. They tell lies.

Harold Caballeros visited Wellington in New Zealand and took up an offering at the main Elim Church of \$100,000 in gifts and pledges. He prophesied increase and then took up the offering for a new building and falsely prophesied what the building would be like:

Prophecy spoken by H Caballeros for the Wellington City Elim Church - 10:12:95:

“There is a wave coming your way – a wave of increase coming your way. It is very close – so close it is here even now, even today. The wave of the Holy Spirit will bring increase in three areas:

<First there will come increase in the spiritual realm. The power of the Holy Spirit will come here and the Holy Spirit will leave a deposit of His power upon the Church so that you will be able to say as Ezekiel said many, many times “the hand of the Lord is upon us”. And then you will say, “The hand of the Lord is strong upon us” and then you will be able to say, “The hand of the Lord is very strong upon us!” It is like water – water of the Holy Spirit that will come in this way and sweep this city of Wellington. There is increase coming into the spiritual life of the members. >

That type of predicted increase is very difficult to evaluate. However he went on to prophesy:

<Number two; the Holy Spirit says there is a wave of increase in the physical realm also. You shall see increase. You shall see growth. This Church is going to grow – not only arithmetically. It is not a division that will happen to this Church but multiplication what is going to happen to this Church. You will increase in numbers. You will increase not only up to 1,000, but up to many, many thousands of people to shake this city of Wellington and the nation of New Zealand. You will see a multiplication in these next 12 months. >

It didn't happen. Sadly Elim in NZ is going through a passage of recoil from a discovery of the moral failure of their president Ian Bilby, which was similar to the moral failure of his friend and colleague the former General Superintendent of AoG in New Zealand who now pastors a Church in Brisbane, contrary to scripture in my view for a leader must be beyond reproach. The point I want to make is that Harold Caballeros is a self-proven false prophet and the devil is gloating that these false prophecies are being given in the

presence of a defiled and unclean Church. The big boo boo in the prophecy, however was yet to come:

Caballeros continued:

<You will move to a new building that this Church is going to build. This is going to be on a cliff, on a hill. It's going to become a torch for New Zealand - a torch for the nations of the world. >

He went on describe the parking details etc of this building, none of which happened or can now ever happen. Interestingly the Elim Church in Wellington was already planning a building programme so with the pledges and gifts amounting to \$100,000 that were taken up on the basis of this false prophecy they went ahead with a building programme the location and parking arrangements of which are almost the exact opposite of what the so called prophet predicted.

This man brought the “gold-dust” and “gold-teeth” phenomena to New Zealand, causing a great discrediting of the Church by the National media who exposed the whole thing as a sham and a scam. That’s the sad thing about what’s happening. Because the Church won’t judge herself in the things that are happening the world’s media is now acting as judge.

1 Peter 4:17 – *“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”*

What about George Otis? He’s the front-runner of this false “spiritual warfare” movement. His credit rating is high on account of the popularity of the 10/40-window concept. Ostensibly the idea is good. Anything that promotes prayer and evangelistic endeavour cannot be all-bad. What is bad is the totally unbiblical methodology that is adopted and the down right false reports of entire cities being changed by the method that is promoted. It just isn’t happening and it won’t happen because there is no biblical precedent for God working that way.

In Vanguard Issue 13 (March 2001) we have documented and analysed the claims made by Otis and others. The claims and the facts are poles apart. Here’s the introduction to the article, which is available on our web page at ² www.christian-witness.org/

REFLECTIONS ON THE TRANSFORMATIONS VIDEO

By Olympia Barczynska

“In 1999 a video called ‘Transformations’ was produced in the USA and, within a matter of months, it was sweeping the world. This video is a graphic presentation of four cities across the world in which the alleged presence of God has transformed not only the churches, but also entire communities. George Otis Jr., of The Sentinel Group, presents this hour long documentary where largely undated film footage is interspersed by interviews with various church leaders in their respective cities. The message that the video seeks to put out is as George Otis said, ‘Learn how the power of prayer can

² Refer <http://www.christian-witness.org/archives/van2001/video13.html>

*deliver similar results in your own neighbourhood'. The video taken at face value seems to confirm that revival will break out, churches will grow, and communities will change their social and moral characteristics if Christians unite, pray and practise spiritual warfare. However, when one simply seeks to compare what is shown in the video with the truth presented in the Bible a very different picture emerges. The same would be true if one tried to examine the physical evidence of the claims in their actual locations. A great inconsistency would become apparent, ...*³

The message of the video is dangerous for four reasons:

- 1) It cons people into the idea that ecumenical unity is essential for Christians to influence their cities. This is false and dangerous;
- 2) It presents the idea that our task is to “christianise” our communities and cities. This is counterproductive to true evangelism. Constantine 1 the Great of Rome in the 4th Century AD rendered a great disservice to the Church by institutionalising Christianity. The Gospel is most effective when it evokes persecution for the truth it proclaims. Our job is not to christianise our communities or cities but to preach the unchanging Gospel of Christ;
- 3) It introduces a model of spiritual warfare, which is not biblical. Nowhere in Scripture are we told to identify some imagined Territorial spirit or demon that has charge of the city and bind him before the Gospel can become effective. The NT Christians didn’t do this and they turned their world up-side down;
- 4) The claims that are made are lies. Cities are not being changed. Our VANGUARD analysis shows that what they claim is built upon a lie.

What we MUST realise is that all of this stuff is inter-related. The same group of false teachers and false prophets are behind the Apostles and Prophets, the Signs & Wonders, the Binding and Loosing and the Faith Prosperity movements that we are addressing in this series of meetings. Jesus called Satan “*the father of lies*” because he is the source of “*THE LIE*” which Paul the apostle tells us will be believed by those who are under the influence of ANTI-CHRIST.⁴

So here’s the question that my talk tonight begs: “*Is Spiritual Warfare legitimate and biblical?*” My answer is unequivocally YES.

Paul the apostle wrote in -

2 Timothy 4:7 – “*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*”

So the battle that we are in has to do with the entire Christian life and is related to keeping THE FAITH. Contending EARNESTLY for THE Faith is SPIRITUAL WARFARE.

And again in –

1 Corinthians 15:32 – “*If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me, if the dead rise not? Let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.*”

³ For more information click on – Refer <http://www.christian-witness.org/archives/van2001/video13.html>

⁴ 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 verses 11 and 12.

Read the record of what happened to Paul at Ephesus in Acts 19. Did he go looking for the devil or one of his minions to bind him before preaching the gospel? No he did not. Satan came after him because he was in truth plundering hell by simply preaching the Gospel as Christ commanded and what happened? Paul was almost killed. This idea that the Church will hold dominion over cities is just not biblical. Our Lord promised, *“In the world you will have tribulation but be of good cheer I have overcome the world”* (**John 16:33.**) That promise has not been revoked. It will apply to the end of the age.

So what of Ephesians chapter 6 and our conflict with Principalities?

This is possibly one of the most misunderstood passages of the Bible in respect of spiritual warfare. **FIRSTLY** because the tendency is to fail to see what Paul taught in the entire context of the message of the book. Watchman Nee the Chinese preacher best outlines the book in his *SIT, WALK, STAND*. The message of Ephesians is that as non-Christians we are dead in Trespasses and Sins and we can't do anything about it without the quickening life and power of God. At the New Birth or Salvation, call it what you will, we are infused with the life of God and made to sit with Christ in heavenly places. But that is not the end of the story. We are seated with Christ so that we can learn of and receive from HIM in order to WALK WORTHY of His calling in a real world. We can sing and talk all we like about being seated with Christ in Heavenly places but if we don't walk worthy of Him and of His calling in a real world it's all so much sentimental singing and hot air. But even that is not the end. We SIT with Christ and represent HIM before men and at the same time withstand the attacks of the enemy and this is where the whole issue of spiritual warfare has become confused.

Paul wrote:

Eph 6:10-13 – *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (11) Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For we do not contend against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (13) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”*

Paul is not talking about Territorial spirits let alone instructing us to identify and bind them when he refers to PRINCIPALITIES. He is simply describing the nature of the conflict. It is not a natural battle. It's not *“flesh and blood.”* It is at a higher level and on a different plain. The word that is translated PRINCIPALITIES here is most frequently translated as *BEGINNINGS* in the New Testament. We read of the *“beginning”* or origin *“of the Gospel”*. It is that same word PRINCIPALITY. Actually it is more frequently used to identify righteous forces than evil powers. The whole idea of the Gospel of Christ and the entire teaching of Ephesians is *“Greater is HE and more numerous are THEY who are for us than those who are against us.”* Our job is to do what our Commander in Chief commanded – Preach the gospel.

There are two fundamental questions that should be applied to all this new stuff that is coming into the so-called Church. **FIRSTLY** did Jesus command, teach or practice this sort of thing? Secondly did Paul or any of the Apostles teach or practice it?

In **Acts 20:27** Paul claimed that he taught “*all the counsel of God.*” Either he did or he didn’t. If he didn’t the BIBLE is not true. If he did these teachings that are surfacing today are not true. You have to make up your mind. We’ve made up ours. Come HELL or HIGH WATER we’ll follow the Lord and His Word.