

# Exposing Joyce Meyer

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Peter promised in [2 Peter 2:1-2](#) that false teachers would come upon the people just as they had plagued the people of God in the Old Testament days. He said, “***But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.***”

Unfortunately, many of these false teachers are abundantly available on the television programs of T.B.N. and other affiliates across the world. One of the most popular television teachers who must be categorized as a heretic and a false teacher is Joyce Meyer. She is extremely popular with women and many men alike. She teaches on many practical issues which make her popular, but hidden beneath her practical teaching are troublesome doctrines that need to be exposed. Joyce Meyer (like most false teachers) teaches extra-biblical doctrines as if they are divinely inspired. Meyer even goes as far on one occasion as stating that the Bible is insufficient to reveal the truth and you must get specific knowledge through divine revelation.

## Errors on the Atonement

Meyer can be classified as a Word-Faith teacher and as such has shown an inclination to waffle on major doctrines. In her 1991 booklet, *The Most Important Decision You Will Ever Make*, an evangelistic work aimed at nonbelievers, she resounds the Word-Faith view of Christ’s atonement:

“During that time He entered hell, where you and I deserved to go (legally) because of our sin. He paid the price there ... no plan was too extreme ... Jesus paid on the cross and in hell” (pg. 35, underlining in the original).

“God rose up from His throne and said to demon powers tormenting the sinless Son of God, ‘Let Him go.’ Then the resurrection power of Almighty God went through hell and filled Jesus ... He was resurrected from the dead — the first born-again man” (pg. 36, underlining in the original).

“His spirit went to hell because that is where we deserved to go. Remember in the very beginning of this, I said, ‘When you die, only your body dies. The rest of you, your soul and spirit, goes either to heaven or hell’” (ibid.).

“There is no hope of anyone going to heaven unless they believe this truth I am presenting. You cannot go to heaven unless you believe with all your heart that Jesus took your place in hell” (ibid.).

“Jesus went to hell for you” (pg. 38, underlining in the original).

## **Errors on Sinless Perfection**

Her now-unavailable taped message, “What Happened from the Cross to The Throne?” Meyer continued to teach the “Born-Again Jesus” doctrine. In this message, Meyer claims to have received the Baptism of the Spirit and sometime afterward felt a strange “flipping and turning” insider her body (stomach). She claimed that this experience led to a greater understanding of salvation and a greater revelation of Jesus’ “spirit death” in hell. Meyer, like many others in the Charismatic movement, believes that Jesus suffered in hell under the power of demons.

Joyce Meyer also claimed that she no longer sins in the same taped message:

**“I’m going to tell you something folks, I didn’t stop sinning until I finally got it through my thick head I wasn’t a sinner anymore. And the religious world thinks that’s heresy and they want to hang you for it. But the Bible says that I’m righteous and I can’t be righteous and be a sinner at the same time ... All I was ever taught to say was, ‘I’m a poor, miserable sinner.’ I am not poor, I am not miserable and I am not a sinner. That is a lie from the pit of hell. That is what I was and if I still am then Jesus died in vain. Amen?”**

## **Troubling Facts About Joyce – Found on her Website**

*From her website:* <http://www.joycemeyer.org/AboutUs/FAQ/faq.htm>

### **Is Joyce Meyer an ordained minister?**

Joyce was ordained over 25 years ago. She has a worldwide congregation through the *Enjoying Everyday Life* television and radio programs. Joyce speaks regularly at public conferences in the United States and around the world. She also preaches occasionally at the *St. Louis Dream Center* church, an inner-city outreach of *Joyce Meyer Ministries*.

*Should women be ordained ministers of the gospel according to the Bible?*

**ANSWER:** Although ordination is not specifically spelled out in Scripture, the office of elder (pastor) is not open for women. Women are not called to be pastors. This is clear from the qualifications of the office in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

*Should women teach the Bible to men?*

**ANSWER:** No. Women are not to be elevated to authoritative positions over men with the Scriptures. This is abundantly clear in [1 Timothy 2:12](#) .

### **What is Joyce Meyer's educational background?**

Joyce holds an earned PhD in theology from Life Christian University in Tampa, Florida; an honorary doctorate in divinity from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma; and an honorary doctorate in sacred theology from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona.

#### **Life Christian University:**

From Life Christian University's Website (<http://www.lcus.edu/questions.htm>): The theological position of the University, reflected in the curriculum, is based on the truth that God wants to bless and protect His children, servants, and ministers. LCU takes a Spirit-filled, Word of Faith approach in its teachings, believing that every Christian has the ability to be empowered by the Holy Spirit for a victorious and useful life through the experience of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, in addition to the New Birth experience; that faith in God's Word for His various covenant promises can be continually increased in the believer's life through consistent meditation on the Word, along with prayer. LCU believes the covenant promises of God include – but are not limited to – divine healing and health, divine provision and prosperity, divine peace and unity in one's home, divine guidance for one's life, and God's anointing to fulfill one's calling.

Their position on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (<http://www.lcus.edu/questions.htm>):  
“The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is evidenced by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Holy Spirit gives utterance. This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. With the baptism of the Holy Spirit comes the enduing of power for life and service and the bestowing of spiritual gifts.”

Notice that the Life Christian University's position on the Baptism of the Spirit is an additional experience after the new birth. They clearly identify themselves within the “Word of Faith” group. These positions clearly twist Scripture and pervert the true meaning of the text.

## **Oral Roberts University**

Known to teach very perverted doctrine – including the health, wealth, and prosperity doctrine. This university fully embraces the charismatic doctrines that are extremely troublesome and clearly violate the truths of Scripture.

## **Joyce Meyer Teaches Prosperity Doctrine (Health, Wealth, and Prosperity)**

This is a doctrinal position that teaches God's desire is to make everyone healthy, wealthy, and happy. If a person does not obtain that status in life, it must be something wrong with their *faith* in God. This is very popular on the TBN network and should be rejected according to Scripture. For instance, Jesus was not wealthy, His disciples died for their commitment to Christ, and many missionaries suffered poverty and died for their faith in Christ. Therefore, we must reject this idea of healthy and happy doctrine.

Note what Joyce said:

<http://more.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/special/joycemeyer.nsf/0/c5099399d2fcc5fa86256ddf00661c5f?OpenDocument>

### **Joyce Meyer says God has made her rich.**

Everything she has come from Him: the \$10 million corporate jet, her husband's \$107,000 silver-gray Mercedes sedan, her \$2 million home and houses worth another \$2 million for her four children — all blessings, she says, straight from the hand of God. It's been an amazing run, nothing short of a miracle, says Meyer, a one-time bookkeeper who heads one of the world's largest television ministries. Her Life in the Word organization expects to take in \$95 million this year.

Just look around, she told reporters last month from behind her desk on the third floor of the ministry's corporate offices in Jefferson County.

**“Here I am, an ex-housewife from Fenton, with a 12th-grade education,” she said.**

**“How could anybody look at this and see anything other than God?”**

In many ways, Joyce Meyer is an American Cinderella.

Describing herself as sexually abused as a girl and neglected and abandoned as a young wife, Meyer has remade herself into one of the nation's best-known and best-paid TV preachers. She has taken her “prosperity through faith” message to millions.

**“If you stay in your faith, you are going to get paid,” Meyer told an audience in Detroit in September. “I'm living now in my reward.”**

## **Why Should Pastors Warn the Sheep About Joyce Meyer and Others Publicly?**

[2 Peter 2:1-3](#) – But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep (ESV).

[Romans 16:17](#) – I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them (ESV).

As a pastor, I am deeply concerned for the spiritual well-being of the people I pastor. I have a responsibility to tell the truth about people who teach things that are not confirmed by the Word of God. Joyce Meyer is one of those people. Rather than listening to her, we should all avoid her and her teachings since they **clearly** contradict the Word of God. Not only am I concerned about those entrusted to my care as a pastor, but I am also concerned for those who are being led astray by Joyce Meyer and other popular TBN preachers. I don't personally know Joyce Meyer, so I can't speak about her character. However, I can speak about her errors regarding Scripture. We have a responsibility to defend the faith once delivered to the saints. I hope and pray that you will have the discernment necessary to see the errors of Joyce Meyer's teaching.