

Scriptures and Doctrine :: A BALANCED PERSPECTIVE ON POSITIVE CONFESSION

A BALANCED PERSPECTIVE ON POSITIVE CONFESSION - posted by Solomon101, on: 2010/3/27 10:55

Although I posted the following under another thread it seemed it might be appropriate to give it a thread of its own to consider.

"Positive Confession", as it has been labeled, is nothing more than choosing to believe and agree with God's Word rather than circumstances or situations that indicate that God's Word is not true.

As an example.....

If I were to get up tomorrow morning and "feel" as if I were no longer saved would that mean I had lost my salvation? Of course not! I am born again because I repented of my sins, believed the Gospel, and fully embraced Jesus Christ and His precious blood as the only means of my salvation and justification. That is the truth no matter what my feelings say.

If I then begin to quote and take comfort in God's Word and promises that show me to be in right relationship with him, regardless of what devils, inlaws, or my fickle feelings say, THAT IS POSITIVE CONFESSION. It is when I confess God's word to be true no matter the circumstance, how I feel, or what my eyes see. God's eternal truth will be proven true when the dust is settled. To receive that promise, or truth, that God has made simply requires us to actually believe it and hold fast to it. Again, just like at salvation it is believing God's Word to be true by faith.

That is all that positive confession is. Undoubtedly some people have taken it to extremes at times. I admire their zeal and commitment but encourage them to be more accurate discerners of God's Word. On the other hand I have found it just as likely that the person up in arms over a so called, "error of positive confession", simply does not have the faith or nerve to actually take God at His Word, stand on it in faith, and be willing to confess it as true even when life circumstances say it won't be. I encourage folks to be cautious that you are not found guilty of speaking badly of those whom God may view as exercising great faith in Him and His Word.

In addition to obtaining two Bachelors degrees I also attended and graduated from Ken Hagin's Rhema Bible Training Center. How I described positive confession is EXACTLY how Hagin taught it....in a concise nutshell it is this.....

We can confess to be true and receive by faith anything that God has specifically promised us in His Word. If He has not promised it in His Word we can not receive it by faith for faith only comes by hearing the Word. Therefore we CAN NOT have faith for anything that is not promised in His Word.. but we can have faith in, confess as true, and receive anything He DID specifically promise in His Word.

That is the lock, stock, and barrel of the teaching on "Positive Confession" as taught by Kenneth Hagin to the students at RBTC. I fail to see fault in that... of course there may be any number of people you meet that teach in error on this point. However, it is also regrettable that many Christians now live well below God's desire in many areas of their life because they have wrongly understood the term "Positive Confession".

It really does just mean that we agree with God and His Word.

Re: A BALANCED PERSPECTIVE ON POSITIVE CONFESSION - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2010/3/27 14:00

Thank you brother for your post! There is a balance that the Church needs to be brought back into concerning "positive confession". The confession of the Word of God is for the Lord's purposes and for His glory, and we cannot use it to get things out of God that are apart from His will for our lives.

Near the end of his ministry, Kenneth Hagin dealt with many of the excesses and errors of the Faith and positive confession movement in a book entitled "The Midas Touch".

Kenneth Hagin's Forgotten Warning

by J. Lee Grady

Before he died in 2003, the revered father of the Word-Faith movement corrected his spiritual sons for going to extremes with their message of prosperity.

Charismatic Bible teacher Kenneth Hagin Sr. is considered the father of the so-called prosperity gospel. The folksy, self-trained "Dad Hagin" started a grass-roots movement in Oklahoma that produced a Bible college and a crop of famous preachers including Kenneth Copeland, Jerry Savelle, Charles Capps, Jesse DuPlantis, Creflo Dollar and dozens of others—all of whom teach that Christians who give generously should expect financial rewards on this side of heaven.

Hagin taught that God was not glorified by poverty and that preachers do not have to be poor. But before he died in 2003 and left his Rhema Bible Training Center in the hands of his son, Kenneth Hagin Jr., he summoned many of his colleagues to Tulsa to rebuke them for distorting his message. He was not happy that some of his followers were manipulating the Bible to support what he viewed as greed and selfish indulgence.

Those who were close to Hagin Sr. say he was passionate about correcting these abuses before he died. In fact, he wrote a brutally honest book to address his concerns. The Midas Touch was published in 2000, a year after the infamous Tulsa meeting.

Many Word-Faith ministers ignored the book. But in light of the recent controversy over prosperity doctrines, it might be a good idea to dust it off and read it again.

Here are a few of the points Hagin made in The Midas Touch:

1. Financial prosperity is not a sign of God's blessing. Hagin wrote: "If wealth alone were a sign of spirituality, then drug traffickers and crime bosses would be spiritual giants. Material wealth can be connected to the blessings of God or it can be totally disconnected from the blessings of God."
2. People should never give in order to get. Hagin was critical of those who "try to make the offering plate some kind of heavenly vending machine." He denounced those who link giving to getting, especially those who give cars to get new cars or who give suits to get new suits. He wrote: "There is no spiritual formula to sow a Ford and reap a Mercedes."
3. It is not biblical to "name your seed" in an offering. Hagin was horrified by this practice, which was popularized in faith conferences during the 1980s. Faith preachers sometimes tell donors that when they give in an offering they should claim a specific benefit to get a blessing in return. Hagin rejected this idea and said that focusing on what you are going to receive "corrupts the very attitude of our giving nature."
4. The "hundredfold return" is not a biblical concept. Hagin did the math and figured out that if this bizarre notion were true, "we would have Christians walking around with not billions or trillions of dollars, but quadrillions of dollars!" He rejected the popular teaching that a believer should claim a specific monetary payback rate.
5. Preachers who claim to have a "debt-breaking" anointing should not be trusted. Hagin was perplexed by ministers who promise "supernatural debt cancellation" to those who give in certain offerings. He wrote in The Midas Touch: "There is not one bit of Scripture I know about that validates such a practice. I'm afraid it is simply a scheme to raise money for the preacher, and ultimately it can turn out to be dangerous and destructive for all involved."

(Many evangelists who appear on Christian television today use this bogus claim. Usually they insist that the miraculous debt cancellation will occur only if a person "gives right now," as if the anointing for this miracle suddenly evaporates after the prime time viewing hour. This manipulative claim is more akin to witchcraft than Christian belief.)

Hagin condemned other hairbrained gimmicks designed to trick audiences into emptying their wallets. He was especially incensed when a preacher told his radio listeners that he would take their prayer requests to Jesus' empty tomb in Jerusalem and pray over them there—if donors included a special love gift. "What that radio preacher really wanted was more people to send in offerings," Hagin wrote.

Thanks to the recent resurgence in bizarre donation schemes promoted by American charismatics, the prosperity gospel is back under the nation's microscope. It's time to revisit Hagin's concerns and find a biblical balance.

Hagin told his followers: "Overemphasizing or adding to what the Bible actually teaches invariably does more harm than good." If the man who pioneered the modern concept of biblical prosperity blew the whistle on his own movement, wouldn't it make sense for us to listen to his admonition?

Re: Positive Confession - posted by twayneb (), on: 2010/3/27 18:55

Amen brothers.

If I thought the definition of salvation as "Working really hard in my flesh to earn a spot in heaven", then I would be prone to denounce anyone who started talking about that "salvation doctrine". The problem in that case would not be the true teaching of salvation, but my erroneous perception of the term, though I may have come upon this wrong perception by looking at people who taught or practiced a perversion of salvation.

If I am ever to stand in faith, I must learn to call those things that be not as thought they were. I must learn to speak from my mouth the truth that the Word of God says about any situation in life. Positive confession by that proper definition is not only OK, but absolutely vital.

Let us not see the Word of God through the glasses of man's teaching or denominational doctrines or creeds. Let us dig into the Word prayerfully and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal that Word to us.

Travis

edit: By the way, you cannot "name and claim" anything that was not provided for you in the Word of God. But you can speak the Word of God in faith in regards to anything that is already provided for. These things are not automatic, but available through faith.

Re: , on: 2010/3/28 9:16

Though this was posted on another thread, however, twayneb, consider where you objectify your faith and place your focus.

Should you walk in an ideology not supported in the teachings of Jesus and the apostles?

Is True faith all about Jesus finished work, or is it about what you do to acquire God's blessing through your own efforts?

FOCUS: One cannot look two directions at the same time,
yet one can become double-minded and expect to
receive nothing from God. One cannot rest their
confidence (aka: FAITH) in 2 things that stand
contrary to one another. > Jas. 1:7-8

by Solomon101 on 2010/3/27 6:43:09

>"Positive Confession", as it has been labeled, is nothing more than choosing to believe and agree with God's Word rather than circumstances or situations that indicate that God's Word is not true.

Situations and circumstances do not indicate that God's Word is not true. If any Christian thinks such, they are not resting their hope in what God says. Their focus is in the wrong place. II Cor. 4:17 II Cor 4:18

The Word of God is not the Bible!

Jn. 5:39-40

Jn. 1:1

Heb. 4:13,12

Rev. 19:12-13

H onestly
O penly
T ransparently
this is written.

When God has told me to speak into a situation, any type of situation, be it in regards to persons, places, or things, it has resulted in drastic immediate change; but, this is not done in thinking that it is what i say has any major significance, except in regard to obedience. As well, it is hardly always through quoting a verse of scripture.

Case in point,

Last fall, roofing a house, the compressor broke down.

After several attempts bypassing different electrical components/switches, -(not having an ohm meter to check)- plugging it back in, and trying to restart it, nothing worked. After disconnecting the power and taking everything apart, except the motor, the cause of malfunction could not be found.

The screwdriver and plier in hand were thrown to the ground below. Forcing this head between my knees, in frustration, yelled out were these words, "God, i can't fix it! HELP ME PLEASE!"

Immediately, He told me, "get up! Plug it in, and tell it to work." Immediately, this was done. when the words were shouted, "YOU WORK!" - while still disassembled, it began running.

The people who (i did not know) were watching were astounded. They also were quite shocked with antics of running and jumping and praising Jesus on a roof- 4/12 pitch.

Now, just because "in the name of Jesus" was not incanted, did that make that short prayer of frustration of any less effect?

I did not go through the rigamarole of using scripture to hedge the bet, like:

"Abba, Your Word said that where my treasure was my heart would also be, and because of this i am seated with Christ Jesus in Heavenly places, walking in His authority in the earth because of Matthew 28:18-19, and, Jesus said to ask in His name that my joy may be full...etc."

God working in your life is not so much a matter of knowing what you think you should say when you think you should say them so much as who and what you are depending upon.

There are well and way over 3,000 promises in God's Word covering everything we could ever need. As well, there are o

pen ended promises that cover everything not explicitly covered.

The problem is that so often, what we think we need is based on the way we see things and not towards God's purposes at all.

Herein is the neccessity in prayer.

In the finished work of Jesus Christ, before he gave up the ghost, he freed up for everyone who will believe and recieve, all that is revealed through His redemptive names in the O.T. >

Why would anybody want to preach anything other than Jesus Christ and Him Cricified, misleading others into placing th eir trust in what they themselves say or do, instead of what Jesus has done for them already when he gave up his life so we can walk in Him???

Rom. 8:32

(in this verse we find a catch-all for everything not found promised in the scriptures. Still, it is not our choice for certain 'all things' that neccesarly determines our lot in life. All things is all things: the good and the bad.

Jesus finished the work He came to complete before he died, and what one works into their speech is not going to make it more true, though it can often detract from God's work.

Jn. 6:28-29

"6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

~Gal. 1:6-9

(The AV is hardly strong enough in using the word 'accursed'. What the greek word actually means is, 'let him be cut off from any doings with the Messianic community of faith and cursed to eternal damnation.' It is not just stated once, but is reiterated, indicating that this is the most important statement embodied herein.)

Jer. 17:9

We all do good to ask ourselves, where is our heart?

II Cor 13:5

Mt. 12:34

(It's wished that you will do well to study into the example found in Jeremiah, ch7, paying special attention to the words found in vv. 3-11. The emphasis of the message can be found in v. 8)

CIAO!

Prostrate yourself on your face before the Lord: never with confidence in what you consider to be so. In all you do, consult Him and give Him the credit, and he will clear a straight coursed path for you.

_Proverbs_3:5-6_

Re: A BALANCED PERSPECTIVE ON POSITIVE CONFESSION - posted by fieldlaborer, on: 2010/3/28 9:50

Thank you for your post, I agree that there are things that we must confess such as our salvation. We must believe God at His word no matter what we feel or what the situation looks like.

My only question on this topic is if what Hagin taught was correct then why is every preacher on TV that came out of the Rhema movement preaching a health and wealth gospel? Tell me of one well known Rhema teacher that is not teaching a health and wealth gospel. I have friends caught up in this prosperity movement, breaks my heart to see them more concerned with getting more material things on this earth than seeing the lost saved. That is a wicked doctrine of devils. They go to a church where there pastor went to the Rhema school, and the are caught up with things in this life. Show me in the bible where Paul, Peter, John, or any of the apostles for that matter were concerned with getting big houses and new chariots. I don't find it anywhere. I agree with Carter Conlon on this RUN FOR YOUR LIVES FROM THIS DOCTRINE.

This is a good sermon to listen to on this topic, preached the Sunday after 9/11.

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid1724>) Run For Your Life

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2010/3/28 10:42

Though this was posted on another thread, however, twayneb, consider where you objectify your faith and place your focus.

Should you walk in an ideology not supported in the teachings of Jesus and the apostles?

Is True faith all about Jesus finished work, or is it about what you do to acquire God's blessing through your own efforts?

Phanetheus: Though you have read my words, I think you have not understood my message. Anyone who teaches or believes that faith is about ones own efforts does not understand faith at all. In Hebrews we find that just as God ended His own labors, ceased from them, and entered into the sabbath rest, we too should come to a place where we enter into a rest that is a ceasing of our own labors. God does not have a personal faith-o-meter that he gauges our faith in order to see if we have "believed enough to get an answer". That would be to obtain by our own labors which we are to cease from. Faith is not about reaching out to obtain by our own words. It is positive response to what God has already done. It is receiving what He has already provided. But the things of God are not automatic. It is faith that pleases God. It is simply the way He set up the kingdom. Take your example of the air compressor. When you prayed did so with full assurance that God was able to provide the need at hand. He gave you instructions. If you did not believe, you would not have acted in obedience. Your actions were the works of faith that James talked about when he said I will show you my faith by my works. You received what God desired to do through responding in faith which manifests itself in obedience.

Faith is not about repeating the right words as though it was some sort of incantation. That is witchcraft. But confessing of faith is about proclaiming the Word of God over the situation. This exercise does not directly change the situation. A lost man can proclaim, "By His stripes I was healed." until he is too hoarse to speak and it will not change the situation. But if I as a believer and sick and in need of healing and if I am battling unbelief in my life, I can proclaim the Word of God over my body and as a result of speaking and hearing the Word of God my mind and heart can be renewed to His Word and faith will rise within me so that I can freely receive what He has already provided but what I must receive by faith.

What did Jesus tell His disciples when they were puzzled at a demon they could not cast out? He said their lack of success was due to their unbelief. Their focus was on what their physical senses told them, not on what He had told them. "Positive Confession" as some have called it, when rightly understood and applied, helps us to renew our minds and adjust our thinking so that we are Word minded instead of carnally minded.

Quote:
-----Situations and circumstances do not indicate that God's Word is not true. If any Christian thinks such, they are not resting their hope in what God says. Their focus is in the wrong place

Amen! I don't think anyone implied anything to the contrary. Lets say an emergency comes up and I am in need of fina

nces to meet my needs. This does not imply at all that the Word of God is not true. But, I may be focused on my need and the stress of the situation and be wringing my hands wondering what I am to do. My faith may be weak, or I may be in unbelief. How do I respond? I open the Word and begin to renew my mind about God's promise and desire to meet my needs. I speak those scriptures out loud in faith and in prayer as a means of renewing my mind. I am not implying the Word is not true. I am acknowledging the power of the Word to transform my mind Romans 12:2, and I am putting that into practice. I am, in a real and practical way, resting my hope in what God says.

It is never about my great faith or my ability to move God. It is all about my response to His Word in faith. There is a huge gulf between these two points of view. Unfortunately we divide the body into camps based on our perception of what the other camp believes. Yes there are those who preach error. Yes I need to avoid them. But don't throw out the baby with the dirty bathwater. There is a valid and legitimate truth to speaking the Word of God in faith that many are tempted to reject because they equate it with a perverse doctrine that some practice. In doing so we fall into the same error. To erroneously reject truth is no different than erroneously accepting a perversion of truth.

Travis

Re: , on: 2010/3/28 17:48

re: the following and other issues related:

T wrote:

>Phanethus: Though you have read my words, I think you have not understood my message. Anyone who teaches or believes that faith is about one's own efforts does not understand faith at all. In Hebrews we find that just as God ended His own labors, ceased from them, and entered into the sabbath rest, we too should come to a place where >we enter into a rest that is a ceasing of our own labors. God does not have a personal faith-o-meter that he gauges our faith in order to see if we have "believed enough to get an answer". That would be to obtain by our own labors which we are to cease from. Faith is not about >reaching out to obtain by our own words. It is positive response to what God has already done. It is receiving what He has already provided. But the things of God are not automatic. It is faith that pleases God. It is simply the way He set up the kingdom. Take your example of the air compressor. When you prayed did so with full assurance that God was able to provide the need at hand. He gave you instructions. If you did not believe, you would not have acted in obedience. Your actions were the works of faith that James talked about when he said I will show you my faith by my works. You received what God desired to do through responding in faith which manifests itself in obedience.

G wrote:

Yes, and immediate obedience, though it becomes more and more the norm here, hesitation, or just outright failure to obey= DISOBEDIENCE, is practiced by me, too. Considering this, and your words in the following paragraph, I Sam. 15:22-23 pops into this noggin.

T wrote:

>Faith is not about repeating the right words as though it was some sort of incantation. That is witchcraft. But confessing of faith is about proclaiming the Word of God over the situation.

G wrote:

Proclaiming the Word of God for what?

Is it through obedience to God telling you to do it?

Show me precedent in the scriptures, if by 'Word of God' you are actually saying 'proclaiming the scriptures' over a situation.

What for? You can call me dumb, but I do not get it.

T wrote:

>exercise does not directly change the situation. A lost man can proclaim, "By His stripes I was healed." until he is too hoarse to speak and it will not change the situation. But if I as a believer and sick and in need of healing and if I am battling unbelief in my life, I can proclaim the Word of God over my body and as a result of speaking and hearing the Word of God my mind and heart can be renewed to His Word and faith will rise within me so that I can freely receive what He has already provided but what I

must receive by faith.

G wrote:

Personally, there is no distinction drawn between being restored in health compared to sins being remitted- as both things are in God's testimony of what he has done for us in Jesus' Work towards our redemption. Now looking more closely, Rom. 10:10 says that confession is made 'unto' (meaning 'towards') salvation. Two verses later Paul declares salvation comes ...by yelling to God -Rom. 10:13-

*! * sudden flash of inspiration *!*

like was done on the roof regarding the compressor !!! ?

T wrote:

>What did Jesus tell His disciples when they were puzzled at a demon they could not cast out? He said their lack of success was due to their unbelief. Their focus was on what their physical senses told them, not on what He had told them.

G wrote:

Mt. 17:14-21 "because of your 'small-faith(fulness)' " is not 'unbelief', though that is what the KJV calls it. Jesus was not saying they did not have any, but that it did not amount to much. Still, if you continue in the passage, you find that prayer and fasting was the solution, and he makes no mention of what they confessed.

T wrote:

>"Positive Confession" as some have called it, when rightly understood and applied, helps us to renew our minds and adjust our thinking so that we are Word minded instead of carnally minded.

Quote: (of former text from G)

Situations and circumstances do not indicate that God's Word is not true. If any Christian thinks such, they are not resting their hope in what God says. Their focus is in the wrong place

T wrote:

>Amen! I don't think anyone implied anything to the contrary. Let's say an emergency comes up and I am in need of finances to meet my needs. This does not imply at all that the Word of God is not true. But, I may be focused on my need and the stress of the situation and be wringing my hands wondering what I am to do. My faith may be weak, or I may be in unbelief. How do I respond? I open the Word and begin to renew my mind about God's promise and desire to meet my needs. I speak those scriptures out loud in faith and in prayer as a means of renewing my mind. I am not implying the Word is not true. I am acknowledging the power of the Word to transform my mind Romans 12:2, and I am putting that into practice. I am, in a real and practical way, resting my hope in what God says.

G wrote:

The whole testimony of God in the scriptures is all about the everlasting covenant in Jesus Christ! Our faith(fulness) is always weak because it is limited. It might be that God's purpose in this is to get us to rest what faith(fulness) we have been given in Him who is always Faithful and True???

Where do the scriptures say that renewing your mind has anything to do with memorizing, meditation on, or confession of such?

v.2 is referring to v.1, which is a -(what's it)-'therefore', referring to the previous 11 chapters.

Rom. 12:1 is talking about 'worshiping in spirit'(Jn. 4:23), the word 'service' actually being 'spiritual-worship'. The central message of the first 11 chapters is found in 5-8:1. He is talking about a living sacrifice in Rom. 12:1.

Now taking Rom. 12:1-2 together how could it mean anything other than: I Pet. 2:21, Lk. 9:23, Mt. 16:24-25, etc... and re

newing your mind, in this context, being Phil. 2:5,8, Mt. 11:29, Rom. 15:3 etc.

T wrote:

>It is never about my great faith or my ability to move God. It is all about my response to His Word in faith. There is a huge gulf between these two points of view. Unfortunately we divide the body into camps based on our perception of what the other camp believes. Yes there are those who preach error. Yes I need to avoid them. But don't throw out the baby with the dirty bathwater. There is a valid and legitimate truth to speaking the Word of God in faith that many are tempted to reject because they equate it with a perverse doctrine that some practice. In doing so we fall into the same error. To erroneously reject truth is no different than erroneously accepting a perversion of truth.

>Travis

G wrote:

Travis,

i stake no claim into one camp nor another, maybe not as divided as you may think. Of a fact, there is error in any camp. Jesus saved how many from their sins and oppressions, yet how many ended up IN ONE ACCORD, together in prayer on the day of pentecost? This one accord was all about serving our risen 'Owner' (aka Lord).

You say we need not throw out the baby with the bathwater, but the bath-water definitely needs to go. You may have not had the opportunity to serve those who came to ruin by the W.O.O.F(tm) movement, however, it becomes most obvious that "a little leaven" ruins everything when helping these brothers and sisters who have been so deceived. Why is it that these who suffer have to be told the full and complete good news all over again, having no vision of who Jesus really is, and what he actually does in our behalf?

i see a valid legitimacy in meditating over scripture, 'letting it not depart out of my mouth', until rhema is birthed within. When told to speak is one thing, however, speaking of only our initiative is walking in the flesh.

Is taking on the mind of Christ really a matter of positive confession?

Just because someone claims, "Jesus is (my) 'Owner/Master'" does not make it so. Let such walk meekly before the Lord in thoughts, intentions, and outward actions.

Following Jesus in the fear (and reverence) of God is all about relationship. If we do not walk towards greater communion and communication with Him, we are walking away... in the wrong direction.

He is the Great Shepherd.

Follow into Him so that there need be no shame when he returns.

We are to be in faith(fulness) in prayer, and in Luke 18, he makes no mention of positive confession:

Lk. 18:1

Lk. 18:7-8

Has this confessionism become a replacement for depending in God through the finished work of Jesus and prayer?

Those lives known here who have been influenced by this new 'doctrine', whether in benefit or loss, seem to bear this out.

Is the W.O.O.F. movement about self(ish betterment) or is it about worshipping/serving Jesus in His planned purpose?

~Greg(oreo)

Heb. 13:20-21

I Pet. 1:18-19,20-21

Jesus is not just present for us to save us from our sins and then becomes unnecessary. Salvation is perpetual and not

only a one time act.
I Cor. 15:1-2
Col. 2:6-8