

Manifesting the Occult

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For Discussion: The Secret Of ‘Manifestation’ Is Occultism And The Worship Of Self

(harbingersdaily.com, Dean Dwyer, February 13, 2025)

<https://harbingersdaily.com/the-secret-of-manifestation-is-occultism-and-the-worship-of-self/>

Also: How Prosperity Preachers Have Distorted And Perverted The Gospel

(harbingersdaily.com, Jason Jimenez, February 1, 2025)

<https://harbingersdaily.com/how-prosperity-preaches-have-distorted-and-perverted-the-gospel/>

Our objective in this discussion is to connect the dots between the Occult, Manifestation, Prosperity Gospel, and Word of Faith.

What is the occult?

The dictionary defines occult as “hidden, secret and mysterious, particularly pertaining to the supernatural.”

- Examples of occult practices are astrology, witchcraft (Wicca), the black arts, fortune telling, magic (both black and white), Ouija boards, Tarot cards, spiritism, parapsychology, and Satanism.

Why are people attracted to the occult?

Occult practices appeal to our natural curiosity. Many people who get involved in the occult begin with “harmless” practices such as playing with a Ouija board out of simple curiosity.

- Many who have experimented this way have found themselves going deeper and deeper into the occult. Another fascination of the occult is that it appears to offer quick and easy answers to life’s questions.
- The astrologer gladly charts your future, the Ouija board and Tarot cards give you direction, and the psychic gets you in touch with your Aunt Esther who tells you all is fine in the afterlife.

What is the danger in the occult?

Occult practices attract demons, who offer just enough information to keep their victims intrigued, while exerting more and more control over them.

- The danger of occult practices cannot be overstated. God strictly warned the Israelites against being involved with the occult (Leviticus 20:6).
- The pagan nations around Israel practiced divination, sorcery, witchcraft, and spiritism... one reason why God gave His people the authority to drive them out of the land (Deuteronomy 18:9–14).

What is the prophetic significance of a growing interest in the occult?

The rise of interest in the occult is a sign of the end of the age:

1 Timothy 4:1 – *The [Holy] Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons*

The end times will also be spiritually dangerous...

2 Timothy 3:1-5 – *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves... having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

Revelation 9:20-21 describes the survivors of the Trumpet Judgments not repenting of worshiping demons and idols, murders, thefts, sexual immorality, or sorceries (pharmakeia, which is associated with the occult).

How are sorceries related to the doctrines of demons?

Demons are intelligent beings that are knowledgeable about all matters of ways to harm humans. This knowledge is revealed to humans who are open to such demonic revelation.

- If the Days of Noah are any indication of our times, we can expect demons to show humans how to alter DNA.

With that background, let’s take a look at some trending practices with less obvious ties to the occult...

What is the practice of “manifesting”?

It is the so-called ability to cosmically attract success in life through positive self-talk, visualization and symbolic action (ie. acting as if something is true).

- Adherents believe that by thinking positive thoughts, feeling positive emotions, and aligning personal energy with that of the universe, they can “manifest” their dreams.

From where did people get the idea of manifestation?

A related idea – the “law of attraction” dates back to the 1800s, it was popularized by Australian author Rhonda Byrne who misled the world through her film & book entitled “The Secret”. Some quotes from the book:

- “It is the desire of God that you should get rich. He wants you to get rich because he can express himself better through you if you have plenty of things to use in giving him expression. He can live more in you if you have unlimited command of the means of life.”
- “The universe desires you to have everything you want to have.”
- “You can serve God and man in no more effective way than by getting rich; that is, if you get rich by the creative method and not by the competitive one.”

Napoleon Hill released a book in 1937 entitled “Think and Grow Rich” (which is a bestseller to this day).

- The so-called powers of manifestation and law of attraction prioritizes material wealth.
- One Hill’s dangerous ideas is: “Whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve.”

Where have we seen manifestation being advocated in the popular culture?

- By motivational speakers and in their literature... not all motivational speakers employ manifestation but many do.
- Among Christians: Prosperity Gospel and the “Word of Faith” movement.

How is manifestation related to the occult?

According to the law of attraction, our thoughts supposedly determine what we attract in life, be that bad or good things, poverty or riches, illness or health, abusive or nourishing relationships.

- This “mind over matter” approach claims that our thoughts have the power to shape the external world. That idea springs from occultism.

One occultist wrote in his book marketed as a practical guide for newcomers to occultism:

“No amount of theoretical knowledge in philosophy, theology or modern science can bring us closer to true power in this world or spiritual elevation. We have to rely on magick to access our dormant potential.”

Magick is a term for the practice of using rituals and beliefs to manipulate supernatural or natural forces. It’s sometimes spelled “magick” to differentiate it from stage magic.

What is the danger in manifestation and the law of attraction?

These doctrines promote of self-reliance and the belief that we can control our lives independently of God. Instead of...

Proverbs 3:5-6 – *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

What is wrong with positive thinking?

It depends on what your positive thoughts are rooted in... your ability to influence outcomes strictly on your own, or by seeking God’s help.

- While positive thinking can influence emotions and reduce stress, the concept of manifesting promotes a pantheistic view of God.

Those who seek to “manifest” something reduce God to a universal energy force they can manipulate with their thoughts.

Is there a universal energy force that we can manipulate by our thoughts and feelings?

No, the origins of this practice steeped in occultism which the Bible clearly exhorts God’s people to stay well clear of because the real power behind it is demonic.

How is the prosperity gospel related to manifestation?

The prosperity gospel shares a lot of ideas with manifestation and the law of attraction. Indeed, positive thinking and visualization are often advocated as part of the prosperity gospel...

- Prominent evangelical figures such as Joel Osteen, Joyce Meyer, and T.D. Jakes have been known to promote a concept often called “positive faith” or the “prosperity gospel.”
- This belief emphasizes the power of optimistic thinking and affirmations and that God desires to bless His followers abundantly in all aspects of life, especially in finances.

What is the problem with the prosperity doctrine?

The prosperity doctrine equates financial prosperity with spiritual blessing distorting biblical teachings and prioritizes earthly wealth over deeper spiritual truths.

- This blending of positive thinking with Christian doctrine doesn’t align with the core message of the Gospel.
- Prosperity theology sees the Holy Spirit as a power to be put to use for whatever the believer wills.

How is the prosperity gospel, not the true gospel?

Galatians 1:6-8 – *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.*

The true gospel is the blessing of eternal life for trusting in God's provision for the forgiveness of sins and this is totally independent of any financial or health condition in this world. Those who tie wealth and health to God's favor are advocating a different, erroneous, worldly gospel.

How do we recognize prophecy gospel teachers?

2 Peter 2:3 – *in their greed will exploit you with false words*

What they teach is not aligned with God's Word. They represent Jesus as being wealthy but He had *nowhere to lay His head* (Matthew 8:20). And they are always asking for money to support their lavish lifestyles.

1 Timothy 6:5 – *men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.*

How is it that Prosperity Gospel advocates usually employ Word of Faith in the teaching?

A favorite term of prosperity gospel teachers is "positive confession." This refers to the teaching that words themselves have creative power.

- What you say, prosperity teachers claim, determines everything that happens to you.

Who employs Word of Faith in their teaching?

It is a movement that is heavily influenced by a number of high-profile pastors and teachers such as Kenneth Hagin, Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, Paul and Jan Crouch, and Fred Price.

What does the Word of Faith teach?

At the heart of the Word of Faith movement is the belief in the "force of faith." It is believed words can be used to manipulate the faith-force, and thus actually create what they believe Scripture promises (health & wealth).

- Laws supposedly governing the faith-force are said to operate independently of God's sovereign will and that God Himself is subject to these laws.

This is nothing short of idolatry, turning our faith—and by extension ourselves — into god.

- From here, its theology just strays further from Scripture exalting man to god-status and reducing God to man-status.

What applications do we see from this discussion?

- Manifestation, Prosperity Gospel, and Word of Faith are all occultic practices that are increasing in our day.
- As people turn away from God, they turn to demonic practices that take them further from God.
- The occult is trending up as a sign we are nearing the end of the Church Age.