

What you need to know about Bethel Church, Redding, California, which is endorsed by the pastor and leadership of South Norfolk Baptist Church on their website and Facebook:

Bill Johnson is the current pastor. What believers consider to be a supernatural revival began to break out shortly after Bill's arrival. People in the congregation began laughing uncontrollably and falling and rolling on the floor, believing themselves to be under the power of God during church services. A mass exodus took place shortly after manifestations began happening. An estimated 1,000 people left the church and the two Sunday services were reduced to one. From 1996-1997, Bethel Church saw very little church growth.

Bethel's members purport to have the ability to heal people through prayer and bring the dead back to life.

They deny the deity of Christ, they deny the Scriptures and add to and subtract from them, their schools of ministry are lessons in how to operate in the occult and demonology.

This church movement falls more in line with the "Word Faith" "Signs & Wonders" New Age Mysticism Hypnotherapy and the Prosperity movement. These teachers are embracing such teachings like:

1. They demote God and deifies man.
2. You are or can become a god, they teach that you can heal yourself and others. (the same temptation the serpent came to Eve and Adam with in Genesis)

Johnson teaches that Jesus was simply a man who was some how was spiritually connected to God.

3. Jesus became sinful and had to be born again.
4. They teach that Jesus went to hell.
5. Bethel's association with the New Apostolic Reformation NAR embracing the many false teachings coming from this group. Such as modern Gnosticism. The teachings of the 'Latter Rain' with self

proclaimed prophets like Bob Jones who would have women come into his office and disrobe in front of him in order to get a supposed word from god. More like a word from a pervert.

6. If you are not healed it is because you do not have enough faith.



Bethel was part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God until January 2006, when the church membership voted to withdraw their affiliation, and today Johnson hesitates to link Bethel to a specific movement or group.

Bethel Church has aligned itself with The Word of Faith movement, which is closely intertwined with the Third Wave movement, which blends mysticism and teachings from metaphysical cults. (Mysticism is the pursuit of a divine connection with God through direct experiences and usually revolves around a practice to encourage and facilitate the experiences.)

The Third Wave movement is based on the belief that there have been three distinct historical periods in which the Holy Spirit has been

extensively active. The first was the Pentecostal revival around 1906, the second was the Charismatic movement of the 1960s and the third began in the 1980s with a new commitment to signs, wonders and supernatural experiences with God.

Bethel thinks they can train people in the supernatural ministry and they can go out and heal people and raise the dead; it is false teaching. Every healing I've heard a Third Wave person (talk about) can't be verified.

One of the core differences between these movements and mainstream Christianity is that most Christian denominations teach that miracles stopped with the original apostles of Jesus, while the Third Wave/Word of Faith teach that miracles and supernatural gifts continue today.

Johnson mocks the word of God with his conversational, comedic preaching style and believes the feel-good messages of prosperity and miracles are what keep people coming.

He preaches a seeker-friendly message. He says what they want to hear. People go to that church because they want to get healed. People go there because they want to get a million dollars. Why wouldn't it be popular?

Several visitors to a Bethel Friday night service at the church, reported that they saw people painting on stage, dancing and flailing around on the ground. They found their worship music unconventional when one line of the same song was played for at least 11 minutes.

The repetitive music, dancing, painting and excessive stimuli serve to get people worked up into an emotional frenzy where they're expecting to see miraculous things.

They come looking for that feel-good feeling, that high, for supposed miracles, supposed signs and wonders, speaking in tongues, gold dust, diamonds, feathers....(that's another whole story.)

Some terms commonly used at Bethel Church:

“Come on Jesus”

A phrase generally used when testimony of a miraculous secret is shared or when someone is believed to be healed.

“Drunk in the spirit”

To exhibit signs of drunkenness while under the power of the Holy Spirit. Also known as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

“Fire tunnel”

A common practice at Bethel Church in which two rows of people line up as sides of the "tunnel" and a line of people file through to receive anointing of the Holy Spirit, similar to impartation.

“Holy laughter”

When one is overcome by laughter for no obvious reason, due to the power of the Holy Spirit. Also known as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit.