



NORWEGIAN
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Can Religion Be Too Much

A Research on Healing and Prosperity in Two Kenyan Charismatic Churches.

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Foreword.

A lot has been written concerning religion in general and concerning charismatic churches teachings, beliefs, doctrines and practices. There has been a lot of promises made, formulas of success created through prosperity gospel, taking the teachings out of context. Success has been seen as a means of measure to measure how close or ones relation to God. Calamities on the other hand have been seen as judgement passed down to the people or person, by God as a result of their way of life.

Charismatic Christians in this case, are expected to live a similar life regardless of which ministry they belong to. When you look at Christianity at a ministry serving level, you will experience the big contrast between the ministries practices, teachings and doctrines, yet they are all Christians.

This writing is shedding light on two charismatic Christian ministries and their doctrines, to show the differences amongst people's perspective in two charismatic churches in Kenya, when it comes to theological interpretation of prosperity and healing. It is not the first of its kind because several scholars have for years before written more on this.

Preface

In the world today, there are many churches that are operational, some run by ordained ministers and some run by self-ordained ministers. Each church has a doctrine they teach and they have a mission statement that governs their operations. There are different perspectives when it comes to teachings and doctrines in these churches. This makes it not a simple task to agree with each other concerning all matters that may arise concerning faith and things of the kingdom of God.

People join certain congregations because they feel the connection within them and are comfortable with the doctrines of a particular church. They go where their needs are met. When a church preaches about prosperity healing and success, you will notice that many people who are in need will be found there because they can relate to the teachings of the church. Same way it is when one is sick, they will go to the hospital, when one needs knowledge they will go to education institutions and not just any, but those that cater for their needs as per what they desire. When one needs a designer shoe, they will not go to the local market that sells vegetables, likewise when people have needs in life and are looking for a church to serve, they will identify the church that serves them according to their desire or need. Something else that matters is that, you can not go shopping in a designer shop when you do not have enough money to shop there, likewise you cannot go to a distant school that costs a lot, so you can get education while there is an option of another school where you can go and save the little you have. Those who have limited resources or provision, will identify with those of the like standards and mentality as them, and those with more, big visions, will identify and go where like minds like them are.

The two kinds of comparisons am making show that there is a difference in perspective and thinking and thus cannot be the same. They may think of the same thing but differently. When it comes to prosperity and healing, all have a different way they view the gospel, some because they want to get richer and support ministry work, some out of lust and desire to live a flashy life, some because they are weak in health and need healing, some because they are tired of living with limitations and some because they want to exercise their faith and try the word which is life by speaking it. I will end by saying there is a great difference in perspective amongst, charismatic Christians when it comes to theological interpretation of prosperity and healing in the charismatic churches.

1.0 Introduction.

Religion in general is a practice that is all over in the entire globe. For one to belong to a specific religious group depends on many aspects. This can also be said in regards to how deep in faith one can be when it comes to religious practice and belief. At times one can ask, Can religion be too much? And if yes what are the outcomes of too much religion or its misuse In this regards

In my life, I have been involved in both the Catholic and the Pentecostal Christian Life. In my Christian walk, I have noted that the two have a very big contrast when it comes to faith and practice. However, in both faiths, I have noted that there is a particular group of people with similar thoughts and practices. This has led me to my main concern, which has been how people in the faith do obey or follow instructions from their church authorities even if what they are asked to do is not right. My question is, how can one submit even when the outcome of the situation is crystal clear questionable? If told to go to war they will, if told to eat grass they will eat just to get healing or prosperity. Is it ignorance, respect and submission to authority or is it vulnerability of some sort? If I would categorise, I would say that most people who are involved in such practice are either people from needy family background or with little or no education. People who spiritualise everything even their life status believing that their poverty or suffering is according to Gods will. Comparing the materially needy and materially rich, can this bring some answers to the questions of why people tend to practice what they practice without questioning? I have decided to base my question on these two categories so I can see whether I will get more understanding of the situation at hand. I will be featuring on the main question, aim, theoretical background and prosperity gospel.

1.1 Main question

Is there a difference amongst people's perspective in two charismatic churches in Kenya, when it comes to theological interpretation of prosperity and healing? A Look at other authors work, Christian community in Kenya, Africa and the world today.

1.2 Aim

The aim of my writing is for me to get to understand why people do what they do and why they do not question whatever is handed to them, but choose to just obey. Is it their doctrinal teachings or theological interpretations of the word regarding prosperity and healing that make them bend so low? Is there a connection between religious manipulation, health and poverty?

1.3 Theoretical Background

A theoretical framework consists of concepts together with their definitions and existing theories that are used for a particular study. Concepts are ways we use to describe or to make sense of things. They are identification tags that we give to things to be able to define or categorise them according to common features they hold. Concepts are meant to serve several purposes when conducting social research. They are important in how we organise to attract audience in our research. They help by governing discipline wise on what we write about with care and at the same time help bring out the clear picture of what we want to find out.

I will not be presenting theories as a separate topic, but I will be expounding more on it in the discussion chapter.

1.4 Prosperity Gospel

What exactly is the gospel of prosperity? Prosperity gospel is the gospel preached or taught to encourage people concerning their situation and how it would be transformed to the better only if they believed in the gospel preached. An example of this is like; those who are sick can receive healing, those without can have, and those poor can be rich. The centre of the Gospel is Christ who gives the healing, prosperity and material success.

Prosperity gospel has been miss-defined by many. According to Silvanus Oluoch's book *Concerning Prosperity Gospel: A glimpse into one of the popular gospels of today* (2011) the Lord Jesus Christ should as a matter of fact, reign unrivalled in every believers heart, having their supreme affections; otherwise there's would just be mere religious profession. Since that is the case with its followers, it can be clearly deducted that prosperity gospel on its own is not the true gospel. As its name

suggests, it is just about prosperity and more so in the earthly sense. In it, Jesus, who should be Lord, is turned into a servant of the believers' wishes to service their wills or serve them all they want materially.

Lioy, Dan's journal from 2007 entitled; The Journal of South African Theological Seminary, An analysis and critique of its dogma indicates that prosperity gospel is predominantly anthropocentric, rather than Christocentric. This ego-focused outlook is likewise present in the health-and-wealth movement. One discovers that preachers of success are touting a religion of self in which people are the measure of all things. A detailed discussion of Ephesians 1: 3-23 provides a needed biblical response. One learns that the Son, not self, is at the heart of the Father's plan of redemption. In addition, it is in Christ alone that believers find forgiveness, hope, and wisdom. Only He is the meta-narrative of life, whether temporal or eternal in nature. Indeed, He is the sole reason for the existence of the church and the one who enables believers to complete their God-given work.

2.0 Research Methods and Methodologies.

This chapter presents the material and methods used in gathering information for the study. I will be looking at interviews, semi-structured interviews, research questions and Method.

2.1 Interviews

In my research, I am planning to conduct some semi-structured interviews, for me to be able to collect data enough for my analysis and further answering of thesis question. The semi-structured interview guide provides a clear set of instructions for interviewers and can provide reliable, comparable qualitative data.

2.2 Semi-structured interviews

The characteristics of Semi-structured interviews are clearly the guiding rules towards conducting the interviews. One of the characteristics is that the interviewer and respondent engage in a formal interview. The interviewer in this case me, will develop and use an “interview guide” which is a list of questions and topics that need to be covered during the interview/ conversation, it is advisable to follow the order that the questions are written in, but it can be open to change concerning how the respondent answers the questions.

The interviewer follows the guide, but is able to follow topical trajectories in the conversation that may stray from the guide when he or she feels it is appropriate. Semi-structured interviews are best used when there is no possibility of getting more than one chance to interview someone when out in the field collecting data. Semi-structured interviews are often preceded by observation, usually in an informal and unstructured interviewing in order to allow the researchers to develop a keen understanding of the topic of interest necessary for developing relevant and meaningful semi-structured questions.

2.3 Research Question and Questionnaires.

I will have sub questions, which will help me be able to find the answer to my main question. How does one formulate research questions? Research questions in qualitative research according to Alan Bryman have to be stated with varying degrees

of explicitness. Before asking a question, one has to consider what it is they want to find out about, and why it is important to find the answer to what they are asking themselves. After choosing the interview questions that they want answered, then the next step would be the interview, which has to be conducted at a particular place and on candidates of choice. I will prefer to interview them in their own surrounding that is their place of worship after agreeing with them on the interviews. I will prefer to choose my interview candidates. After analysing the information I get, I will then discuss what I have found out.

2.4 Method

I will be doing a comparative study concerning the difference between people's perspective in two charismatic churches in Kenya, when it comes to theological interpretation of prosperity and healing. I will be conducting a qualitative research, and will be following the strategy by Alan Bryman. First, what is a qualitative research according to him? According to Alan Bryman, qualitative research can be construed as a research strategy that usually emphasises words rather than quantification in the collection and analysis of data. It predominantly emphasises an inductive approach in relation to theory and research. Here the emphasis is placed on the theories, and according to Bryman, qualitative research theory is supposed to be an outcome of an investigation done rather than something that preceded from it. As a research strategy, it is broadly inductive, constructive and interpretive. However many qualitative researchers do not combine the three features. In qualitative research, the process has to be linked to each other. In other words, one has to show the relationship between the applied theory and research method.

For me to find out what am looking for, I intend to conduct interviews that will help me gather information that I will later use to build my research and thesis. For me to conduct the interviews, I have to prepare interview questions that I will use. The questions must be able to answer my main thesis question and will also consist of sub questions that will only be used to enhance answers given by interviewees where need be. I will conduct semi structured interviews where I will have a list of questions to be covered which will be my interview guide. I will not have to follow the way I have written them down. I will have sub questions that I may have already

written or can be developed with regards to the interviewees response. These will be used on each interview to be able to gather even response.

I will be interviewing eight people of different generations about the relationship between the gospel of Christ and prosperity gospel. The people I will be interviewing are from the Pentecostal church in Kenya in Nakuru, a city in the Rift valley province, which is two hours away from the capital Nairobi. Nakuru is the fourth largest city in Kenya and lies more central but a bit towards the west. In my interview, I will balance both the number of men and women, from both rich and needy background churches that is to say two men, two women, one male youth and one female youth. In the two men and women, two of them both male and female should be in leadership in the church (unless the leadership gender does not apply), a total of six from every side who have to be religiously active and involved. After my interviews, I will sample up the collected data, analyse it and see if there is need for re-interviewing my candidates. I will either record and write down the information from my interviews. I wish to understand how both groups of people understand and relate to this gospel of prosperity. I will also do participatory observation to get to understand the teachings and doctrines of their religion.

3.0 Presentation of Empirical Data.

This chapter presents the data organisation, transcribing of the interviews and an analysis of the interview data.

3.1 Data organisation

Data collection was done through semi-structured interviews with each interview being on a one on one basis. The interview candidates were informed of the use of recording device during the interviews. They got assurance that the information would be strictly used for the thesis purpose, and no names would be mentioned in the process and that the content would be kept confidential with only the researcher having access to it. Individual report would not be recognisable at the end of the writing. After I got permission that is when recording went ahead. Each interview lasted approximately 45 minutes using the semi-structured interview guide. The questions were prepared with a set of themes relevant to the research question and suited with different considerations whether the interviewee was in leadership position or just a member and the age bracket. The questions used were to guide the interview process, rather than dictate it. The interviews were conducted in both English and Swahili.

3.2 Transcribing the interviews.

The audio interviews were all transcribed into electronic text files to enable analysis. In order to organise and analyse the textual data, I tried as much as possible to transcribe the audio recorded interviews right after every interview or at least on the same day. The reason being to refresh my mind and to complement the level of analysis. Although the interviews were recorded, I took notes and wrote down the main aspects of the interview after each session. The field notes and transcripts proved useful in developing probes and follow-ups with more detailed exploration of more the final interviews. According to Kvale (1996), a transcript can never produce a verbatim record of discourse, given the ongoing interpretive and analytical decisions made. I came to realise that despite the way I transcribed, it would not fully encompass everything that takes place in the interviews.

3.3 Thematic analysis of the Qualitative interviews.

After transcribing the interview data, I went back to the transcripts carefully scrutinising the data for details in order to get hold of themes and categories constructed during interviews..... I read and re read the text, listened to the recorded interviews repeatedly. I was able to identify some themes that I wanted the analysis to answer and wrote them down. With the themes written down, I had a guide through the process of analysing and a suggestion on how to use the findings. I organised data by questions across all respondent and the answers they gave in order to identify consistencies and differences. I later regrouped all the data from each question together. I further divided the grouping according to the two churches and the response from the congregants. Themes and phrases identified were coded into coherent categories. The empirical material was from this level reduced to decontextualized units sorted as thematic codes across individual informants. I identified differences and similarities in the two groups. To link the two I used themes and connections, attaching meaning and significance to the synthesized empirical material in order to make sure the synthesized results reflects the validity and wholeness of the original context.

Through the exploration and coding of data, several themes emerged These broad themes will be the focus of the analysis and will help to shape the discussion, answering the research question. There is also some unanticipated responses which emerged during interviews that also became important in the findings and the discussion. When formulating questions I had themes in mind which during the interviews were added on thus the meaning of unanticipated findings

4.0 Analysis of Empirical Data.

This chapter presents an analysis of the interview data and presentation of themes and categories identified during data analysis.

Repentance and holiness is a ministry founded and headed by the mighty prophet of the lord Prophet Dr. Owuor. The Lord spoke to him about the church of Christ repenting and preparing the way for the coming of the messiah. The messiah promised that when the time came he must go to the father; in the book of John 14:2-4 he promised that he was going to prepare a place for the church; he promised the church that he would come back and take the church so that the church might be with him forever. Mathew 24 The disciples wondered and asked him, how do we know that the time for your coming is near? The signs like wars and rumours of war, pestilences, famine etc. An introduction of one church, whose members I interviewed. The second ministry was God of All Grace ministry. A ministry run by leader Peter and his wife. They work with collaboration from the western countries, thus having an umbrella over them. They believe in God and the holy trinity. They teach repentance and salvation. They have a mission statement and also teach the doctrine of the church.

I interviewed three persons in the position of leadership two men John and Peter and one Lady Ann. they were both in senior leadership positions. As for the youth Paul and Luke, I interviewed them, but as I approached matters deep in their faith, they seemed to not comfortable talking to me, and when they talked were very brief in what they said and did not want to speak anything for reasons they did not give me. I also interviewed another youth David who was willing to answer any question directed to him. In the end I got two short interviews with two female youth. The above interviewees have been given names, but the names are not their original names, but names I am using to refer to them at this point of analysis and discussion. I was in agreement with all of them that data collected was going to be used unanimously. Apart from the interviews conducted, this chapter will also include one more testimony of a man who has walked under the leadership of Repentance and Holiness ministry and left because he saw it not fit to continue serving there. I will be quoting scripture from different bible versions on biblegateway.com

4.1 Leader Ann

As I arrived at the church premises, I met some members of the church considering the way they were dressed, and I inquired where their offices were and they directed me. I met a woman whom after introducing myself, and what I wanted, informed me that I had to talk to a woman leader in the church. I waited at the church reception area and the woman leader appeared. She gave some instructions to people at the reception who she called at and lastly she talked to the other woman at the reception, and got information of my visit. I stood up and went closer and she listened to me. I presented the introduction letter from the school. She agreed for an interview immediately and we went back to her office that was in this big go down that had wooden partitioning. I will call her leader Ann. Leader Ann introduced herself she said she was in a leadership position, was a mother and a wife. She mentioned that due to the responsibilities she held in the church, she was running on a busy schedule since they were planning meetings where the prophet was to in a few days' time. Leader Ann mentioned that the church was following the vision that God had given to His servant "the prophet" and its basis was purely on repentance and holiness. "God saw need for raising a servant in Kenya who would restore his people back to him through repentance and holiness."

Leader Ann said, "The Lord spoke to his servant the prophet concerning his people and the need for repentance and awakening from their slumber and to begin to do the things of God". "The Lord preached that repent for the kingdom of God is near. It's only through repentance that restores the church back to its standards, its senses." "Our God is holy so we must be holy, and if we do anything, we must do it right. God is God of righteousness and holiness." We do not teach seed planting in our churches."

"The church deviated from the truth and thus God raised his prophet. The mighty man of god to bring people to repentance. The Lord does not do anything unless he reveals it to the prophet who is the head of the church. "He is the voice of The Lord in the world. That is the vision we hold in the world that is the ministry of repentance and holiness." They call on repentance and holiness and all the doctrines they practice, John had this to say. "Prophet Elijah told Baal prophets to bring their gods and see which one will answer with the sign of fire and they offered sacrifice."

“What does that tell you, you cannot mix the worship, it must be pure and holy and done righteously.”

“I have a family, and I serve God with my family. The first church is the family we have to observe holiness and serve God because no one knows the day and time so we must be prepared and be holy and righteous at all times, making it our way of life in readiness for the coming back of Christ. We teach our children to be ready at all times.”

“We as women have to be presentable before God thus we should consecrate ourselves every day through our dressings, speech and the way we present ourselves. As a woman, we are not expected to go showing our bodies out there by dressing inappropriately in trousers which is not a woman’s type of cloth to showing your curves. We should not lead our brothers to sin through our dressing.

Concerning prosperity, Jeremiah 29:11 King James Version (KJV) “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” “Even prosperity is there in him.” “We have business men in our midst, we wish them to prosper so we will pray that God gives them favour, they do not need to plant seed so they can prosper.” “Our bishop is a lecturer and we would love him to prosper in his work without Corrupting against what God has said, he did not create you to humiliate you.” “His joy is not when we suffer but in our prosperity, when we are lifted from grace to grace, that is his will upon us.”

4.2 Leader John

Leader John found me and my assistant waiting for him. (My assistant who at that time I had recruited was my nephew a university student in Kenya to help me do the recording while I asked the questions and wrote down where necessary) We were waiting at the waiting area near his office where I had been asked by leader Ann to wait for him to come and speak to me because she had to leave.

Two men accompanied leader John when he came. He greeted me and asked if I was the one whom he had been informed by leader Ann about and I responded yes.

After that, he walked in his office and talked with the two men briefly and as they came out they informed me that the leader had requested that I could go in and talk to him.

When we entered the office, I introduced myself and my Nephew and also introduced the work I wanted to do and then I handed him the letter of introduction from school. I also asked to record the conversation and informed him that the information could be solely used for thesis writing and that he would remain anonymous. We started the interview by me asking him to introduce the church and what they believed in. He said “The church was formed after The Lord spoke to the prophet and raised the senior arch bishop to raise churches so people can have a place to gather and pray and worship”. He further mentioned that “The ministry of repentance and holiness has a vision, and the vision is righteousness, purity, holiness”.

When The Lord gave the prophet this message, he came and gave it to the priests because the message was not for a particular church; it was for all that aspired one day to be with him. They said that the prophet was not supposed to start a church but after conveying the message as I wrote and it was rejected, then the people who had heard of the report did not have anywhere to go because somehow the priests refused to spread the word given to him by God. The message continued leader John, somehow opened the spiritual eyes of the sheep, they embraced the message and did not know where to worship because they saw that if they went back to their former churches they were distracted by what was taught there which was contrary to what they had received from the prophets teachings. The church was thus formed after The Lord spoke to the prophet and raised the senior archbishop to raise churches so people can have a place to gather and pray and worship.

The ministry of repentance and holiness has a vision, and the vision is righteousness, purity, holiness. Hebrews 12:14 New King James Version (NKJV) “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.” You cannot say to worship The Lord having the things of the world and deviated from his ways, bringing the world in the church and think you are still righteous and holy before him. He is holy and as Peter says be holy because I am holy”.

Leader John mentioned that though we have the bible it's like the church went asleep and deviated from the program given by the Lord. “When you see these signs know that my coming is near”. “These words were spoken through the word of God, but Instead of the church seeking God they waited until they lost hope and they started deviating into the worldly things yet the church is supposed to be the light of

the world by actions". He continued. He said, "Until the Lord saw that the church was not ready and that it was busy doing the worldly things to a level of inviting the world to the church". "They started doing the things of the world thus the result of prosperity gospel". Leader John said that these were the teachings they taught in their church and as a result of this, the prophet was called to restore the people to God through repentance and holiness.(The prophet he was talking about was the one who is the founder of their church)

Concerning prosperity gospel, he referred to it as a gospel from hell and said that it was one of the things that has corrupted the church. "Prosperity gospel brought corruption in the church which brought deception at the pulpit". "Instead of a preacher standing at the pulpit and preaching righteousness and holiness because the God they serve is righteous and holy, it has turned to plant a seed, like lottery, put here and win there like the selling of the doves, anointing oil, preachers going to Jordan to fetch holy water and selling to the people". "Yet The Lord did not tell people to look for such things, he said I am the way the truth and life". "He dint say go drink or bath with Jordan River and be holy, no!"

"The centre of the gospel is Christ and the reason Christ came is that we may have life and life in full, he gave his life on the cross so we could have life. Why have other ways, yet Jesus is the way to the kingdom of God. He knows the way to and from Heaven and he has come and revealed that to us." "The church deviated from the truth and thus God raised his prophet. The Lord does not do anything unless he reveals it to the prophet who is the head of the church. "He is the voice of The Lord in the world. That is the vision we hold in the world that is the ministry of repentance and holiness." He continued to say that as other churches preach about planting seed, for them they did not preach that gospel of the things you hear out there like "plant seed and if you plant more so will it be with your reward." He even answered by asking questions like, "Did Christ sell his blood? No he gave it freely." He quoted the bible and said it states, "Without repentance there is no remission of sins so why should you go to a pastor that you need your daughter to be prayed for to go abroad and they ask you to saw a seed so you can be prayed for?" "Did Jesus sell his blood?" "Did he ask for money to heal Jairo's son? No." You cannot sell the gospel nor the blood of Jesus. You cannot sell the anointing."

John further said that “Our behaviour is biblical (He was referring to the doctrine taught in their church) and the bible teaches righteousness, how can you receive righteousness unless you repent and turn away from sin, be like The Lord and prepare to enter his kingdom without sin.” “People are talking of a lot of things happening out there, that is why people are moving from churches to ours, because the sheep go to look for God.” “God has raised his servants that he has prepared and equipped so that they may let the sheep understand what the God they want to be with wants and what he says concerning certain issues how he wants us to uphold ourselves.”

“Now that you are going to theology school you cannot come and confuse the sheep, they will listen to you and think that they are worshipping The Lord that is what the priests did. They taught them and they thought that they were teaching them true repentance, but it was not so.

“In the churches you find gospel musicians of all kind, having dreadlocks and dressed funny and they say they are worshiping God, yet if you see the way the angels did it they bow before him and worship him with big words like in the Old Testament. How they reverend and worship God, then you ask yourself did God change? Did anyone go to God and came back with the knowledge that God changed he is not like in the old days?”

In a way to clarify why they do what they do; meaning why they call on repentance and holiness and all the doctrines they practice, John had this to say. “Prophet Elijah told Baal prophets to bring their gods and see which one will answer with the sign of fire and they offered sacrifice.” “What does that tell you, you cannot mix the worship, it must be pure and holy and done righteously.”

“God changes not in old and New Testament.” “Paul warns and says be very careful that you do not joke with grace.” “Grace is given to keep us from going to sin, but grace has helped us discover the ways of holiness that we may walk there until our destiny comes true.” “This is the time that Christianity must have incense must be pleasing holy and acceptable to God” he continued to say. “Old Testament Moses said that if one hits you on one side, turn also the other to them, but Jesus came and said if someone hits you on the right give him the left also and if he wrongs you , forgive them 77x7 times per day. That means the measure has gone up.”

“Our practices as believers should portray the high measure of forgiveness and repentance so we can attract others and draw them to God.” “We cannot corrupt the word of God because it is plain and open to everyone. Theology schools and seminars are sometimes complicated and they complicate things and because the bible is simple and clear, let the theologians also do the study and work towards helping the sheep.” “The biblical and theological schools have become liberal. You cannot understand the word of God without the Holy Spirit. The reverend, spirit of revelation. It is good to learn but most lecturers are not born again. They have doctrines and education. Understand what the purpose of your study is how it will be effective and put in mind you have to have the Holy Spirit to lead you.”

When asked if they do collect offering, as was the former preaching of the prophet in crusades, he said, “offering is scriptural and thus they now practice it.” “Of course it is biblical, tithe offering.” “All is biblical but we are not going there because of the tithe or the offering.” “We give to thank God because it is biblical, but we gather to worship our God who is holy and righteous then we are instructed how to live and present ourselves in public and at home.”

Leader John on matters of healing said, “We worship The Lord God who created everything and is powerful and like you can see the compound names of The Lord are very powerful.” (Exodus 15:26 Jehovah Rapha), “The Lord our healer.” “When God declared that he is Jehovah Rapha and that the diseases will not get the children of Israel because he says he will send his word and the word will heal them.” “When preaching the word raises the faith of the sheep to believe The Lord, we tell them raise your faith and The Lord can do anything including removing diseases and calamities, whatever you bring to him.” “When we pray it is The Lord who heals. (Contrary to the actions of people bringing their sick from hospital so the prophet would heal them). James 5:14 New King James Version (NKJV) “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.” “If The Lord says then he must do it.”

I asked leader John. Do you see that as a kind of prosperity because the word says that I wish that you may prosper and be in good health even as your soul prospers? “When God Made mankind Adam and prepared a Palace for His comfort in Eden, having everything there.” “He clearly showed that he is giver of all that is good.” “The one who eliminated themselves is Adam because of sin.” “So He never

created you to humiliate you.” “He said I give you dominion over everything.” “He does not want us to suffer.”

“Healing is the children's bread.” “Proverbs 10:22 New King James Version (NKJV) “The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.” “Why should I then tell you to plant seed to receive healing?” “Is that the will of God?” “That is Manipulation and giving false word to the vulnerable.” “If God want to bless you He will bless you and if He sends you to me to bless you, I will bless you, if anything, I will ask you to seek God and do His will because it is His will for His children to live well.”

Rebellion and respect to authority. “When you rebel against the will of God, you can always see the repercussion of it.” “The devil was rebellious, thus he was cast down.” “If any nation rebels against God then who will protect them?” “From the beginning if we rebel against God there are consequences an example is the children of Israel when in the desert, they would not have gone for 40years if it were not for rebellion.” “They hardened their hearts, but when a nation repents and adheres to the will of God, then the bible says he will hear them from heaven and heal their land, (2chronicles 7:14).” “There are repercussions on rebellion that is why respecting the leadership is important and respect goes hand in hand with submission and obedience.”

How would you classify prosperity? “Prosperity is a message from the devil!” “When The Lord found them selling in the temple of the Lord, he cast them out, He said my house is a house of prayer not a market place,” Leader John said that he came from a church that used to do the buying and selling and fund raising before joining the now church he is serving at. He also said, “We know people are needy then we have power to pray for them. When there is need in the house of God, people should commit as per their ability.

As I said prosperity is the message from the devil and he has used it to kick the church to a level of not doing Gods will. That is why you see churches came with projects that until today people are crying about them” Most of those involved were preachers. If you observe holiness and righteousness even bankruptcy cannot find you. Christian riches is big, adhere to his will and he will not finish you. If you acquire anything, acquire it rightfully.

Leader John had something about theology schools and he kept referring back to them, in this case, he said, "I keep hitting the theological schools because that is where you hear people being taught to be prophets, who can teach that?" "Unless God calls you to be one." "They are taught the language of convincing people." "They come up with books and magazines concerning "seven ways of prosperity or acquiring wealth" then they teach you and as you fill in the forms in the book give your details and account numbers and indicate how much you have." "Did The Lord come for money?" "No he came for souls." "Our call is to be fishers of men." Matthew 6:33 New King James Version (NKJV) "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." "I serve as a full time minister have 4 children of my own and 2 more. I do not do business but God gives us our needs." "Is that not enough testimony to give so people can hear come to God repent and go to heaven?" "I know I need the rest like house rent because I do pay, but I do not go begging." "Why should I go involve myself with corruption while God is able?"

Concerning prosperity, he said that, "That is the voice of the devil, prosperity. Let's teach the truth he is also God Jehovah Jireh (Genesis 21:14-17) he is able to provide, it is like we fear God is not able." "Luke 1:37 New King James Version (NKJV) "For with God nothing will be impossible." "He is able to provide as He provided for Abraham when he asked him to leave his people and go and God led him to Canaan and provided." "When tested to give his child God provided a lamb." "God gave the children of Israel manna for food because he was able to provide." "The preachers of today see things of the world and not spiritually." "God proves himself and helps us if you can follow the most blessed ministry is one that observes holiness and purity." Referring to their ministry. "If priesthood would be purified and stand with the truth, then the church will be saved." "He gave water in the wilderness."

"If we teach Gods word and put faith in the word then we shall prosper." Mathew 16:18 says he "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prosper" "he raised the church and took keys from the devil, the gates of hades shall not prevail." "Given the keys to Gods kingdom if you believe whatever it is it shall be given to you." Mathew 16:19 "and I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven, whatever is loosed on earth so it is loosened in heaven if

you bind on earth so will it be bound in heaven.” In conclusion he said, “The word of God is sharp and can penetrate has power over anything”

4.3 Paul.

Paul was a presentable young man, who seemed very polite and very respectful. He was in a youth leadership position in the church and was thus a role model to the youth of the church. He talked about the prophet being their church leader and a mighty man that God speaks to before He does anything. He talked of confirmation of prophecies given by the prophet which happened. He touched on submission to authority and said that the child should listen to his parents when they talk to him, they should respect and not argue with them because, the parents have wisdom more than the child has. He mentioned that he was a football player sometime back in school and after school and later discovered that those are worldly, things that he needed to do away with. On prosperity gospel, he said he did not advocate for it even if some scriptures talked about prosperity, they did not refer to the prosperity some pastors were teaching today.

4.4 Luke

Was a young man still in his secondary school and had recently joined the church. He said he joined the church because he realised it was the only church that was calling upon repentance and holiness, and because the world is full of evil and these are the last days, he thought to change his ways and live for God in a proper way.

He did not have much to say because he was new to the gospel teaching from a non-Pentecostal background and as he said he was still learning.

4.5 Leader Peter

The second church I visited was also a Pentecostal church and I was welcomed and as I introduced myself to the leader, He was so happy to have me there and he even helped me identify some people I was to speak to. Leader Peter is the senior pastor of that church that he is pastoring. In the second church I went to, I

was able to interview the pastor and one youth because it took time before I got the permission to do so. The church believes that there is heaven and there is hell, "it is Gods will for one to go to heaven and if you go to hell, it would be as per your own will." Said leader Peter. They believe that God is the centre of the gospel and in the world; he is manifested through Jesus Christ. "It cost his life for us to have what we have in Christ because he is the way to see God." Leader Peter said that, they believe and speak all scriptural promises given by the word of God.

Concerning prosperity, he agreed with the scripture that it is Gods will that they may prosper and be in good health even as their souls prospered. "There can be hindrances but his main will is that his people may prosper." He said, "God wishes prosperity to both the poor and suffering and the rich too. It is unfortunate that some have to live a life of limitation from Gods abundance that He has freely given us." Leader Peter said that, "Prosperity is a whole package that consist of all things not necessarily material things." All you do in the spiritual leads to what you do in the natural, so you cannot prosper spiritually and not physically, this does not necessarily refer to material or earthly possession.

When you give yourself to him, he draws near and meets your point of need because one needs to eat, so you get food to eat. When you look at poverty, "it has been there since before in the old testament." "We see this in the scripture where there was a poor woman who gave all she had, and Jesus called her blessed. Sickness on the other hand is something talked of in the bible, Job was sick and lost everything, his children, his possessions and he was left without anything. On top of the loss, he became so sick that his wife asked him to curse his God but because he was faithful, all was restored to him, faith made him do more. If only we as Christians would have faith as Job had during his difficult time, the devil would have a confirmation of whom we belong to and he would not even dare ask for permission to tempt us. He further said that prosperity gospel is a gospel based on individuals fooled by the teaching but not true gospel.

Concerning prosperity, leader Peter said that when God wants to prosper you, he speaks to you directly like it was in the case of Abraham, he was called from his people who worshiped the moon and was separated to a different land where he was blessed the land of Canaan . The scripture that says I wish that you may prosper in good health, even as your soul prospers, does not reduce God in anyway or does not

mean he is not accountable in your life because of sickness and poverty. It means that even in your daily endeavours God wishes that as you prosper in other things, you might prosper in good health too. Prosperity in his thought was not based on worldly prosperity or riches, because prospering in worldly things makes you miss heaven. He also gave an example that he would count himself prosperous if he made it to heaven. "Prosperity is not only about material things but the spiritual things. He gave an example of when a new believer gives their life to Christ and start growing and the next time they are at a different level from where they started that is what he called prosperity not the material earthly kind only.

According to giving, he said, "Giving should come naturally not being told to give, you have to do it willingly not out of being pushed or lured through scriptural misinterpretation. He gave an example of the scripture "whosoever lends to the poor, he lends to God. Giving does not solely have to be in the church as an offering or because you need something, giving can also be done through helping the needy in the society.

"Prosperity gospel talks about receiving worldly blessings and for you to receive you have to give , what would be the essence of your giving if it is not from your own will, but because you have been told to give? Freely you should give and freely you should receive." Malachi 3:10 New King James Version (NKJV) "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing

That there will not be room enough to receive it.." This is a scripture that we use to teach, how people should give in church, but unfortunately, others misuse the same scripture to suit their false teachings. "For one to be healed, they do not have to give because Jesus was the great healer and he did many miracles and he never asked anyone to pay anything for them to get healing. We see that in the case of ten lepers, one returned to give thanks and was asked, "were there not ten of you who got healed? Where are the nine? We're there not found who returned to glory the Lord except this foreigners?" He was told "arise your faith has made you whole." Jesus never said the others will not be healed, but the one who returned to give thanks got total healing. It was his will to come back and give thanks, he was not pushed thus received more. Giving after Gods will. The same way Christians should have it in

their hearts the desire to come back freely to give thanks through whatever way they choose, whether giving or serving God, whichever way.

“On obedience and submission to authority, he said that obedience is the key to blessings, if only one is willing and obedient, they eat the good of the land. You obey leaders according to their level of leadership, you do not obey leaders who mislead you, and definitely, you will develop a rebellious spirit towards them because you know they are misleading. “It is both good to tell people about prosperity and also how they can miss heaven. There should be balanced teachings, not just about prosperity, but heaven first then prosperity comes after. Failing to see heaven means that prosperity will not also matter. We should also not be afraid to teach the true gospel because we are afraid that people might leave church, no. We should preach what sin is, repentance, salvation and the kingdom of God in Heaven and all the earthly consequences of not obeying God. Teach key things leading to prosperity then it will come later. Teach the whole gospel not just where it suits the needs of the people.”

“Serving God should not limit one to just expect blessings, when you serve God only in times of need then you are in problems.” “Leaders should identify a problem and address it in a way to fight it but not to capitalise on it and make it a source of extracting money from the people. If you know God you should work like him and do great things godly things making him known.” “Prosperity gospel is all about winning people to church congregation because you need what they have but not for you to reach their soul. Using cunning language to entice people to fill the church. Using scripture to cause condemnation and guilt. Giving false prophecies of what God says. Some even go to an extent of asking member to book their blessings by the way they give.”

4.6 David

David was the youth in church I interviewed. This young man was in his early twenties as he mentioned. He stated serving God in his high school years because his mum led him to church and taught Him Godly ways. He was well established in church, loved his walk with Christ, and was involved in the ministry of charity thought not in the church he served but at a children’s home somewhere that was according to how he introduced himself. He was a very presentable young man, well groomed

and descent. He was a person with respect according to his language and actions. By this I mean you could see him greeting you with respect and talking in the respectful African way, his words were well spoken and referred to his leaders and others with respect. The young man said he follows the teaching at the church, the true gospel, but not any kind of doctrine. Malachi 3:10 New King James Version (NKJV) "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it."

"When you have knowledge of truth, it helps when it comes to obedience. For one to question or disagree with the authority in the church, they need wisdom. If whatever is being fed to you is not right, you just listen then not do it and when questioned, then you get an opportunity to explain your opinion. If the leadership consist of wise people, they will understand why you did not do that which was required of you. In this case it would not be termed as disobedience." "Respect to authority has been turned to fear of authority and it makes people do things differently from how it should be done. "I cannot do things that please man and displease God; I would rather please God than man." I cannot sit and see the congregation being led astray I will question because it may happen am not the only one who has observed what is going on. We can join hands and question the situation in a respectful obedient manner. When the congregation is fearful then knowledge is lacking because once fear grips in, one becomes a slave forever and have to submit no matter what.

Some people can be leaders but lack knowledge; wise leaders will work with you when they see you have wisdom." "Religion can be too much if it has lies and manipulation on it. When one speaks about the church and how they do things, than about God, then true doctrine is lacking. If taken for personal gain, religion can be too much." You see we the youth like to be where things flow well. We have so much energy that if channelled the wrong way, one might find that they lost their faith and went back to the worldly pleasures. I would say this gospel is challenging to many youths and is making some feel comfortable in their sin because they know when they give, they will receive from God no matter the situation." The scripture says in 1 Timothy 4:12 New King James Version (NKJV) "Let no one despise your youth, but

be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
“In all these areas we are told to be examples. How can you be an example if you are walking in the darkness of this worldly pleasures?” Asked David.

4.7 Stephen

I happened to read an article and watch a documentary of one person that had served under Prophet Owuor who is also referred to as a doctor because he is said to hold a doctorate. You can read more about him here.

<http://www.freecdtracts.com/endtimevision/DrOwour.htm#vision> (accessed 10.08.2015)

This gentle man walked with the prophet in the beginning of the ministry of “Repentance and Holiness”. He drove him places for crusades, organised meetings for him and even dined with him. He was then and still is a teacher of the gospel to this day but is not serving under the prophet any more.

The gentle man was introduced to the prophet by a friend, who called him and asked him to watch the prophet preach on television. The prophet was preaching a gospel that was timely at that time and he saw need to work with this man to preach this gospel to the people. As a teacher of the gospel, there comes a time when you see people sliding back to compromise, complacency (the feeling you have when you are satisfied with yourself, the relaxation). As a minister of the word, you see the need for revival so the people can get up from their comfort zone. “The prophet came at such a time and was preaching about repentance and holiness and the need to God back to God. We had a common ground and perspective, thus why we contacted him and from there we started having meetings and working together.”

The prophet would call the gentle man(let us name him Stephen which is not his real name) to take him places for meetings and he would go, because he believed he was helping spread the word and as a watchman of the Lord, Stephen was willing to go tell it to the world. Stephen mentioned that during his walk with the prophet, it was not possible to question the prophet concerning anything because “the way he would answer would intimidate you that you would not ask again.”

The more Stephen worked with the prophet, the more he got withdrawn from his church where he served as a minister, from his family as a father and husband and from his business profession. He noted that all those who worked with the

prophet had the same qualities and were withdrawn from their families and everything was fully on working with the prophet. Stephen mentioned that today, if you look at people from the ministry, they are very withdrawn from other people and do not relate well, not only with others, but also with members of their own families. Some have missed functions in the families like burials or weddings of their siblings, just because they were not told to do so by the doctor.

Stephen continued to say that, "in each ministry there is a doctrine of the church, and in this particular ministry, the doctor is the doctrine and the doctrine is the doctor."

"The bible rebukes self-exaltation, but many at times you can hear the man of God talk in ways that are self-exalting." "Take an example this one time, he said that he desires the day he will walk in and miracles happen."

"When one serves closely with the doctor, you are to put away your spouse several days before you meet with him, and in my case I was with him almost every single day so I was missing out on my family as the head of the family. He is not married so you will never see him with his wife. One day Stephen happened to attend the crusade with his wife, and because he was not the one driving the doctor, so he saw no problem with it. When he met with the doctor in the crusade in the company of his wife, the Doctor never said hi to Stephen. He did not know why and out of curiosity, he asked one of the close associates who told him, "There is something you should know about walking closely with the doctor, you never walk with your wife, and I you are to meet with him, you should not be with your wife for 7 days." Because of this, Stephen says that there are so many broken families in the ministry because those working with him are told either their spouses are evil, are freemason, not the right person or need to be put away. This happens to be those uncommitted partners or the doubting partners.

"Surprisingly, people do put their spouses aside. I have received so many calls and emails of people asking for help with this." "God hates divorce, for them they are blinded to see how many divorces are taking place." Malachi 2:16 New King James Version (NKJV) "For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the Lord of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit that you do not deal treacherously."

"In case one of them died, the prophet would say they had been judged by God."

In 1 Corinthians 1:18 New King James Version (NKJV) For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. Stephen said to those who are perishing, the message of the cross is foolishness, that even if they were told otherwise, they would not listen they would just perish. He compared this to the situation at the ministry where he said, "Even with what people see when they are in the ministry under the doctor, they seem to be blinded and do not see the wrong in it."

Stephen says, "Fear blinds people, fear reigns and intimidates, fear suspends all reasoning through intimidation, this is what is happening here." The heavenly kingdom or the kingdom of God operates through truth; on the other hand, the devil operates through deception. When the son of God sets you free you are free indeed and that is freedom attained; on the contrary, the devil's kingdom operates through fear, thus no freedom to do anything." "When you are under fear you cannot think, you cannot see, you cannot question, you cannot reason you cannot move freely, you cannot leave when you desire to. In other words, you are limited or bound." "When under fear, one tends not to think, someone else does the thinking for them."

"They speak about the negative preaching's in the prosperity gospel planting seed and the like, while they themselves are also practising wrong doctrine." "You cannot point out something wrong and you are in the same wrong and you cannot see the wrong you are in. Worshipping man is equally sinful." "In the ministry of repentance and holiness, the doctor takes the position of Christ and I can say he is sited in Christ's position. He is the mighty, they refer to him as "my lord", they even remove their coats and put them down for him to walk on, and they even worship the ground he walks on. They literally bow down and touch where he steps and worship him."

The word of God calls on His people saying in 1 John 4:1 New King James Version (NKJV) "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world." It is also warned of false prophets. Deuteronomy 18:22 New King James Version (NKJV) "When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him." "The doctor has given

several prophecies that have failed to accomplish and I believe this scripture talks of such prophecies.”

“Concerning the consecration he demands upon those who works closely with him, I believe it should not come from without the family setting but should be between the husband and wife for the sake of fasting or out of agreement. The consecration is as a result of a mutual agreement between spouses, but not as the pastor says.” When a calamity or something happens to someone walking with the doctor, he refers to this as judgement from God and would not even pray or lay hands on the person or thing.

John 9:2 New King James Version (NKJV) “And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.” People should be careful believing all sorts of teachings and doctrines; they should test the word and see so they do not end up falling into sin. Every believer should take upon himself to read the bible and when they experience doubt or cult, elevating the man of God, seeing one’s self righteous than others, should be signs enough to warn believers of dangers ahead. By the doctor calling all that happens to people, judgement from God, I find it wrong says Stephen.”

“When leaders are given titles that magnify them it is wrong, in this example is the way he is referred to as mighty prophet of God” The doctor at one pint confessed to me that he was the Elijah. James 5:17 New King James Version (NKJV) “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.” The first part of this scripture indicates that Elijah was a man with a nature like ours. When you look at the doctor, though he refers to himself as Elijah, he does not seem to have like nature like the people, but is up there somewhere elevated as a lord.”

With financial exploitation, there is give more, do more, be more. What is the difference between financial exploitation and this kind of exploitation because you give more of you losing relations, you do more of what you are told to do whether good or questionable, and you become more by just but following. Ezekiel 3:17 New King James Version (NKJV) “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me. God has called us, to be watchman over his people, and by this command, we

cannot just sit down when we see anything wrong, I believe we have to tell and that is what I am doing. I am giving warning to Gods people, not because I left the ministry, but because I see the danger people are falling into. He said he had been doubted many times because he was speaking from outside and it was seen as a grudge, but even when he wrote his reasons and that he still respected the doctor, people did not believe so he made an interview so many would see him and see that it is a true testimony. He also said that he received news that the doctor said he had died after he left the ministry.

The two video interviews can be found on you tube and the links are provided here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-JHpl4ZXrg>

Part 1 (accessed 10.08.2015)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Z1eaFY4b8w>

Part 2 (accessed 10.08.2015)

Chapter 5.0

In this chapter, I will start by introducing the theories that developed after the data analysis. I will combine these theories together with the ones I had before and I will be using them as sub topics in the discussion. I will also use scripture, books on paper and on Kindle and other scholars' work and my own thoughts, to expound on a few areas.

5.1 Theories Developed.

Before I conducted my research, I only had a few theories with me, but after the research and after putting down the data and analysing it, there developed several theories that the interviewees agreed on and I thought to adopt them. I will be using the developed theories in my discussion to help expound on the views of my interviewees, those of the reference books and writings I have used and those of my own. Below are a presentation of the Theories that I had before and those that were developed combined. They are as follows;

Gospel from hell.

Church sleeps.

Deviation from truth; seeking God to Worldly way.

Inviting the world in church.

Corrupting church.

Deception at the Pulpit.

Money transfers.

Selling oil and Holy Water.

Seed sowing.

False teaching.

Teaching total gospel not partial (only on prosperity).

Intention of Giving an Offering.

Way of Life.

Actions and Doctrines.

According to the Word of God.

According to prosperity Gospel Preachers.

Will of God.

God's desire upon humanity without strings attached.

Obedience and Faith.

Fear and submission to Authority.

Questioning Authority.

Rebellion Makes God not Respond.

Message from the Devil.

Church needs and Positive confession.

Preachers' Needs.

Business in church (selling to raise funds).

Church projects (Pyramids/saving groups in churches)

Preacher's vision distorted (Losing focus and faith).

Who is the centre of the Gospel?

Prosperity Gospel is whose will?

Preaching is Gods business (thus, congregation should support it, buy car, house for pastor)

Giving and Church Doctrine.

Can sickness and limitations portray Gods love?

Seek God first and all will be added to you.

Repentance and Holiness.

5.1.1 Discussion

Divide and rule as a terminology, has been used by many to describe a way of capturing the hearts of people by separating them from each other and from uniting because when united they are stronger than when they stand alone in a vulnerable state.

In my case, I am going to use separate in place of divide to make it "separate and rule". As a Christian, the source of ones heritage it being linked to the most high the Deity. In this case, we see that due to prosperity gospel preachers' cunningness, they have developed a tendency of first winning the souls, but not for Christ, only for themselves, to secure themselves as preachers of a certain congregation with financial sustainability in mind. When God's people are separated away from his love or from him through canal strategies in the name of "thus says the Lord" the people become vulnerable. This is when they become dependable and trusting in man, instead of trusting in God, who is the author and finisher of their faith. They are led to

believe that unless the preacher prays for them, then their prayers cannot be heard. The people end up forgetting that they can make their petitions known to God through prayers. Prayer petitions to God are instead shifted to letting their petitions known unto the pastor who will then lift them to God in prayer or give them a remedy to receiving the answer to their prayers.

People have forgotten that when they ask they will receive and they do not have to do something to seduce their way into God's blessings as is taught today. We see preachers teaching that unless one plants a seed or gives an offering, then their miracles or prayers will not be answered. By the way, this should not just be any offering but a good offering that will move God into blessing the person. There is no teaching about repentance and holiness or answered prayers, but about giving and receiving principles.

Preachers have identified scriptures that almost every one of them uses to convince and convict the congregation into giving.

Back to separation and rule, we see that when people are separated from believing directly in God, to believing what preachers tells them, considering what the word really says about such issues, (the preachers translation of the specific word) has made prosperity gospel prosper and paint a wrong picture concerning communication with God and answers to prayers. When people are separated from God, they will be able to depend on the person whom they see as superior and that communicates to God concerning their lives. This shifts focus from God to man, or preacher. The separation which is done in a cunning way, leads to people having to believe what the preachers say, because the moment they start questioning, it is termed as rebellion and lack of respect to church authority which according to them leads to no answer to prayers due to doubt. In case one had given an offering or if I may use the current term "planted a seed" the seed is said not to germinate and bear fruit because one has poured acid on the seed through questions and doubt developed when they disagree with the preachers actions. Some preachers even put fear on the congregation concerning the outcome of not listening to them, which becomes a leash on the congregants who might be thinking of leaving. They are very good at using scriptures to support their words.

I will be looking at some books written by people who have written about prosperity Gospel in support or in a disagreement of the practice. They are many who

have written about this gospel in the word and in Africa, and I happened to pick one writer a Kenyan Christian minister residing in Seattle Washington. I am basing my research in Kenya and will be comparing his work with what I have collected in my research, to see how he sees this gospel.

Silvanus Oluoch has published a book “Concerning Prosperity Gospel”(copyright 2012) He gives it a subtitle, “A glimpse into one of the popular gospels of today”. Silvanus Oluoch in his book “Concerning Prosperity Gospel” indicates that prosperity gospel alludes that a persons’ giving can unlock God’s abundance for them.(Preface XVIII) This goes in line with what I had indicated above that they teach about giving and receiving, the more you give, the better your reward. The beauty or weight of your giving is equal to the answer to your prayer. If you give sparingly, you reap sparingly.

Roiel David is a writer born in Arabia, but originally from Lebanon David I have decided to use his work because he has a different view of presenting the gospel as he calls it “Real Biblical Prosperity and how to live it”. He presents the topic in a more teaching manner, to enlighten people how to live according to the biblical prosperity. I chose to use the book by Roiel David, “Real Biblical Prosperity and How to Live it copyright (1982).”, because the book is written with the aim of helping discover the inheritance in the areas of finances and wealth. It does not talk about how to make wealth or get rich faster as some do teach. It is for edification and helps one discover their position according to the word of God the freedom that has already been provided. Roiel David;(1982; Loc 107 of 978) in his book , indicates that “ when you know God is your source, it does not matter whether you are graced with six figure salary or living in a squalor slum, all you got to see is see Him as your source and you will find your needs met”. He is the source of all abilities in the physical and spiritual realms that one inhabits adds Roiel David. He continues to say that the first key to freedom is to realise that your heavenly Father is your source. “Not only does every blessing originate from Him, but it is His pleaser to pour His love and favour on you”. His delight is in you in other words.

5.2 Gospel from hell.

If we go back to the Garden of Eden in the beginning in the book of Genesis 1:26, we see that God had made a garden with everything that man needed and He later

created man and woman from the man's rib. He gave them dominion over everything on earth birds of the air, fish of the sea and any creeping thing. He gave them every tree and herbs for food, but forbid them to eat from the tree that was in the middle of the garden. Satan however, came with his evil cunning ways and tempted them into thinking that God was hiding something from them, and if they ate of the tree, they would be like God. What a lie! They were already like God from the beginning because when God was creating man, He said, "Let us make man in our own image and likeness". How much more were they to be like God while they already were like Him?

Christians are meant realise their position in God and what they already have or what they have inherited through Christ's death on the cross where He gave up all for humankind to receive everything. Why does someone have to come and inform you differently? The word of God is the compass to the life map of the Christians. When it indicates something, then let no one tell you otherwise. I can quote leader Peter saying that, "It is both good to tell people about prosperity and also how they can miss heaven. There should be balanced teachings, not just about prosperity, but heaven first then prosperity comes after. Failing to see heaven means that prosperity will not also matter. We should also not be afraid to teach the true gospel because we are afraid that people might leave church, no. We should preach what sin is, repentance, salvation and the kingdom of God in Heaven and all the earthly consequences of not obeying God.

Teach key things leading to prosperity then it will come later. Teach the whole gospel not just where it suits the needs of the people." "Serving God should not limit one to just expect blessings, when you serve God only in times of need then you are in problems."

He also says that, "Leaders should identify a problem and address it in a way to fight it but not to capitalise on it and make it a source of extracting money from the people. If you know God you should work like him and do great things godly things making him known."

"Prosperity gospel is all about winning people to church congregation because you need what they have but not for you to reach their soul. Using cunning language to entice people to fill the church. Using scripture to cause condemnation and guilt.

Giving false prophecies of what God says. Some even go to an extent of asking member to book their blessings by the way they give.”

5.3 Church Sleeps.

Ministry should be all about God and fulfilling his cause, following his commands and teaching about repentance and holiness. It should also be about salvation and committing one’s life to God and to his work. When something other than the above is taught, then it shows that the focus has shifted from Christ and God to something else, and if the centre of the Gospel is not Christ’s death and resurrection, which calls upon repentance and holiness, then what is?

When Jesus sent his disciples to go preach and heal the sick after they had seen what Jesus had done, they were not able to do so because they did not believe in themselves that they were able to do what Jesus had done. Same case in the church today, Jesus gave an example and even said, “Greater things than these that in have done, will you do”. People have left their place and have ended up going from church to church looking for miracles, while those preachers in those churches cannot perform miracles, which makes them end up introducing some cunning behaviour to lure believers to believing that by giving, miracles will come their way.

Leader John in my research said that, “The centre of the gospel is Christ and the reason Christ came is that we may have life and life in full, he gave his life on the cross so we could have life.” “Why have other ways yet Jesus is the way to the kingdom of God?” “He knows the way to and from Heaven and he has come and revealed that to us.”

According to what he told me and according to what he said they teach their congregation, they believe the prophet was called to rescue the world from the current calamity after it deviated from the truth. “The church deviated from the truth and thus God raised his prophet.” Said leader John. “The Lord does not do anything unless he reveals it to the prophet who is the head of the church.” “He is the voice of The Lord in the world, and that is the vision we hold in the world that is the ministry of repentance and holiness.”

5.3.1 Deviation from truth; seeking God to Worldly way.

Prosperity gospel teaching portrays that a persons' giving can open doors for them to receive abundance from God In terms of worldly possessions.

Compared to that which is in the bible, this is a very different gospel and is embraced in the name of God. Meanwhile, this is a doctrine that seems to identify prosperity as something out there, and if acquired, it makes people's lives better indicates Silvanus Oluoch in his book. He says, "True prosperity is something not found out there, but within the church". "True prosperity should be in the churches or Christian gatherings, and should not be looked for out there". It should be a principal working within.

Apostle Paul's words indicate that there is power in every believer that is outworking Gods purposes in them.

Prosperity makes people desire God for what he can give abundantly, but not who he is.

This gospel sets focus on earthly things rather than on Christ and repentance.

Peoples canal fulfilment or achievements are benefits of prosperity gospel. Silvanus Oluoch (Introduction 2012:XX)

Birds of the air are provided for without them having to worry what they would eat or drink. The word of God says, his people are precious to Him and he will provide to their needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. How then does someone come and taint the clear message that does not need any interpretation to mean something different just for their benefit and that of their churches?

Take an example with football. I happen to love football and I love the coordination with players to build up the game with the aim of scoring goals and winning. If a football player, a striker in this case (strikers are those who play the finishing role of scoring, they are placed more closer to the opponents goal. Mind you, It is not only strikers who can score) I will be giving my example with a striker who has received a ball from his fellow players after they have worked hard passed the opponents and the only remaining thing is for the striker to score. When the striker gets the ball, instead of scoring, he sends the ball to the referee who is officiating the match, just because his decision in the match is final. Would this team ever win if the striker continues like this? Not at all. The same way it is with believers who tend to listen so much to their pastors that even when the blessings are set

before them, they still run to the church leaders for advice and for prayer even when there is no need for prayer but just a matter of waiting upon God and receiving.

Some Christians find it difficult to live by faith and prefer to live by sight. The worldly way. Material things have completely covered their vision causing blindness to the promises of God. This has caused many to take up an attitude of doing anything they are told to do to receive the blessings. Whether they be told to sell their property and give the money to the church, they will do. Little do they know that they are giving to the churches but their families are becoming poorer by day and in the end, they will have nothing and because they cannot question they end up depending on pastors' prayers the more. When they question the pastors, they are told that their attitude is what is making them not to receive from God because doubt is like acid to "a seed sowed" or an offering given for a certain purpose. When you question, it is disrespect to the church authority and as congregations are asked to submit to authority then they find themselves in trouble. For them to gain their position of blessings back, they have to give another offering or "plant another seed" as they call it, and wait for it to bear fruits, this time in silence and full submission to church authority or else it fails like the previous time. This makes many Christians to live in fear and self-conviction and a belief that they have no faith enough to receive blessings from God, but only if the pastors do it on their behalf. But how much faith is enough Faith?

5.4 Inviting the world in church

Some Christians come to God in prosperity circles mainly to receive help or meet their needs and achieve their dreams. They reduce God to someone they can use or manipulate to getting their provisions through giving. God only seems to be of help when difficult situations approach. People are coming to the church, not to commit to God, but to get what God has to offer.

"The world has come right inside the church with its mannerism, attitudes and methodologies, ambitions, pursuit and competitiveness and everything about it, except the reality of God; yet the church does not even know it" says Silvanus Oluoch (2012)().

He says, the world is expectant of Christlikeness, but it lacks God's life and hope, which it should be a leading example of. "Christianity without the true manifestation of

Christ within His people is like a map without reference points, without the Key, you would not know the units of measure or scale". Silvanus Oluoch likens this map to the prosperity gospel, and what it has proved to be. A form of godliness but without Gods animating life. Silvanus Oluoch; Concerning Prosperity Gospel, A glimpse into one of the popular gospels of today (Copyright 2012: 103)

Roiel David in the book "Real Biblical Prosperity and How to Live it copyright (1982). " Sees the source or scripture that has been misinterpreted and used to invite the world into the church. He says in his book that, **"It was out of His love for us that His mouth, a well-spring of eternal life from which sprung forth words of Spirit and life, uttered precious secrets so that His children could walk in prosperity and not property" by property it means everything whether financial spiritual emotional and physical prosperity. Roiel David says,** "It is imperative to understand what Jesus was at when He talked about money". We see people being misled by someone's interpretation of the context of which Jesus spoke concerning issues of money. We see preachers moulding such words to suit the day today needs of the people, whether they benefit those in faiths or not, they just teach to get multitudes to follow them because that is what they want to hear. We see multitudes after seeing Jesus performing miracles, they followed Him and asked Him to show them more signs that they may believe. This shows that their interest was not what Jesus taught but the signs and miracles was what they were after, and so it is today. Many are after miracles and signs regardless of who delivers them Godly or hiding in God's name.

5.5 Corrupting Church.

Leader John mentioned that though we have the bible it's like the church went asleep and deviated from the program given by the Lord. "When you see these signs know that my coming is near". "This words were spoken through the word of God, but Instead of the church seeking God they waited until they lost hope and they started deviating into the worldly things yet the church is supposed to be the light of the world by actions". He continued. These words were spoken as an answer to my question regarding who the center of the gospel is and he had to show me how the focus has changed from Christ Jesus to the current worldly things desiring world. He said "Until The Lord saw that the church was not ready and that it was busy doing the

worldly things to an extent of inviting the world to the church”. “They started doing the things of the world thus the result of prosperity gospel”.

5.5.1 Deception at the pulpit.

How much faith is enough faith? This is a term that prosperity preachers have been using, to convict their congregation, when it comes to them having their prayers answered. Some have been told they did not have enough faith to move God, which is why they end up depending on the preachers to stand in their place before God. These are phrases that give the preachers room to not tell the whole truth about prosperity gospel”. “It has the language, the phraseology and the terms, but it is different”. “It does not nourish the believer’s inner beings”. He further indicates, “There is no formula for believing when you already believe”. “There is no strong enough believe”. These so-called phrases are used by preachers to glamorize their faith exploits through testimonies given in their gatherings and witnessing done by those who work closely with them. They are used to entice materialistic desires or needs that the people have.

Silvanus Oluoch; Concerning Prosperity Gospel (Copyright 2012: 80) indicates that as long as something works, it should not be considered right and that should not be the means of measuring how true something is, especially Gods truth.

When God called Moses to go deliver his people from Pharaoh, there were things that hardened Pharaoh’s heart because magicians did them by their own powers and by Moses through the power of God. As I have indicated above, truth can be experienced even when it is not the intended truth from God. Such truth made Pharaoh not care about God’s truth since his magicians were able to achieve what Moses also achieved. Saul was the first king of Israel, he was the people’s choice, God allowed it. This is similar to today’s prosperity gospel; God allows it, not because it is the best for his people but because it is what they want, their choice.

Silvanus Oluoch; Concerning Prosperity Gospel (Copyright 2012: 89) says that, “Prosperity gospel thrives on false impressions. It mixes up priorities about God and his kingdom there by diverting believers’ attentions to temporal things”. People need the person of Jesus Christ Himself. Proverbs 10:15_“the wealth of the rich is

their fortified city, but poverty is the ruin of the poor". (NIV) Roiel David says, "It means that those that think they have a lot of money can sometimes be lulled into a false sense of security. While those who see themselves as lacking money on the other hand, end up being miserable because that is how they see themselves-poor". 2Corinthians 8:9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich". He died on the cross so that you would have that which you did not have.

When someone gives you a gift, he or she delights to see how delightful you would be. Same thing with God, when he gave Christ to die for humankind, so that they would receive riches that was meant for Christ, His delight was to see a delightful people, but what does He see? A confused people still waiting and hoping for blessings they already have. Romans 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service, and do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Paul in his writing gives advice and asks people to be holy and live as living sacrifices and after doing so, they could prove that which comes from Gods will". The blessings He has already given to us. Roiel David (copyright 1982;kindle edition. Loc 168 of 978). says, "Poverty breeds a mind-set of poverty, and it is in the mind that poverty is broken". When you believe then it shall be established because you are entitled to the inheritance, it is just a matter of believing so and it be established. There is no formula that needs to be applied for the blessings to come your way, you just have to believe. 2Peter 1:4 indicates that, "In Christ Jesus, we are now made sharers of His divine nature". That in itself is a total affirmation of whom believers are in Christ.

5.6 Money transfers.

People should not just accept things because they seem to work, but they should authenticate their verity source. 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 New King James Version (NKJV) And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth

but had pleasure in unrighteousness. Prosperity gospel as taught, cannot be separated, from money and giving because giving is the soul of prosperity gospel.

Leader John when asked about giving, he said, “We know people are needy then we have power to pray for them. When there is need in the house of God, people should commit as per their ability.

5.6.1 Selling oil and Holy Water.

Concerning prosperity gospel, he referred to it as a gospel from hell and said that it was one of the things that has corrupted the church. “Prosperity gospel brought corruption in the church which brought deception at the pulpit”. “Instead of a preacher standing at the pulpit and preaching righteousness and holiness because the God they serve is righteous and holy, it has turned to plant a seed, like lottery, put here and win there like the selling of the doves, anointing oil, preachers going to Jordan to fetch holy water and selling to the people”. “Yet The Lord did not tell people to look for such things, he said I am the way the truth and life”. “He dint say go drink or bath with Jordan river and be holy, no!”

5.7 Seed sowing.

As I had mentioned earlier, there are scriptures that are curved out to suit the prosperity teachings and such scriptures are misused. An example is Ecclesiastes 11:1-2, 4-6 King James Version (KJV) “Cast your bread upon the waters: for you shall find it after many days.” “Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for you know not what evil shall be upon the earth.” “He that observes the wind shall not sow; and he that regards the clouds shall not reap.” “As you know not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so you know not the works of God who makes all.” “In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening withhold not your hand: for you know not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.”

I will agree with Silvanus Oluoch; Concerning Prosperity Gospel (Copyright 2012)(53) where he says that there is so much biblical illiteracy in the church folks today. He says Christians accept anything without confirming its truth, as long as it comes from the mouth of a leader. There is so much trust which at times can be seen as naivety.

Silvanus Oluoch; Concerning Prosperity Gospel,(Copyright 2012 (54-57) comes up with another approach of prophet Baal and his character, compared to the prosperity gospel. “Baal was considered the god of fertility and increase; anything the people wanted be it good relationship, debt cancellation, bountiful harvest, safe pregnancy, healthy baby, or even personal health and material gain, Baal was the god to call upon.” Baal’s religion was based on what people wanted, not what he wanted. People gave to Baal so they would receive blessings in return and because of the many need of the people, the giving was much and it just benefited the prophets of Baal. This is similar to the kind of worship we have with us today. Could it be the same Baal worship with a different name?

“We do not teach seed planting in our churches”, said leader John. When asked if they do collect offering, as was the former preaching of the prophet in crusades, he said, “offering is scriptural and thus they now practice it.” They never collect offering in crusades, but now they do collect offering in their churches. “Of course it is biblical, tithe offering.” “All is biblical but we are not going there because of the tithe or the offering.” “We give to thank God because it is biblical, but we gather to worship our God who is holly and righteous then we are instructed how to live and present ourselves in public and at home.” Their focus is not the giving, but the teachings on how to live their lives.

Leader John concerning prosperity and seed sowing, Jeremiah 29:11 “I have good plans for you says the Lord to give you hope and future; even prosperity is there in him.” “We have business men in our midst, we wish them to prosper so we will pray that God gives them favour, they do not need to plant seed so they can prosper.” “Our bishop is a lecturer and we would love him to prosper in his work without Corrupting against what God has said, he did not create you to humiliate you.” “His joy is not when we suffer but in our prosperity, when we are lifted from grace to grace, that is his will upon us.”

5.8 False teaching.

Teachings in churches are an everyday practice. This is meant for edification and help growth within the life of a Christian. However, the teachings being taught in churches determine what kind of Christian one becomes. Some churches concentrate on the prosperity side of the gospel, painting a picture that this is a basis

of requirement to show that you are a Christian. Such teachings concentrate on directing people to God and his abundance, the things God is able to give them when they believe and follow the teachings. Prosperity teachings is a surface teaching, not meant to deepen a believers spiritual life, it is usually partial truth. In prosperity gospel teaching, Jesus who should be the Lord is turned into a servant of the believers, to supply their material needs, in other words, he is the servant and not the Lord. This is a gospel of materialism. The use of psychological mechanism to attain success and fulfilment is one nature of the prosperity gospel teachers. Prosperity gospel promises people blessings without submitting to Gods ways. His is seen as the teaching of the gospel do not put God as the centre.

Silvanus Oluoch; Concerning Prosperity Gospel (Copyright 2012 (110-111) indicates, "Prosperity gospel misinterprets the bible and mixes the law and grace, prosperity gospel peddlers thrive in deliberate misinterpretation, disinformation and at times misrepresentation of biblical tenets". There is proof texting where one matches chapter verse and ideas, thoughts and concerns in a way to validate them, " it is the use of scriptures to prove a given preconceived idea". There is also misinterpretation which is "simply putting our label, our own meaning or deciding what we think God might have really meant which involves adding or subtracting to the words of God so as to give it our meaning" Silvanus Oluoch says. Misinterpretation leads to misinformation. A scripture can be removed from its context.

2Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness". That is what scripture should be used to do. "True Christian faith stands on what God Himself says rather than on what church leaders or teachers think", which is the problem with prosperity gospel which is based on the preachers' personal experience says Silvanus Oluoch Concerning Prosperity Gospel,(Copyright 2012 (114-115). He further indicates that, "the church leaders' first major work is to equip and prepare the believers to be able ministers in their own rights/capacity, able to discipline others in the kingdom. Unfortunately, prosperity preachers keep believers in babyhood Christianity throughout so they can be the sole leaders/gurus in the work of God.

5.8.1 Teaching total gospel not partial (only on prosperity)

One is taught to search scriptures that teach on Gods promises and then to identify themselves as heirs with Christ, thus taking their place and claiming their possessions.

The bible says, “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all will be added to you.” There is no adding without seeking God first. You cannot separate the two.

Christianity has been known for ages, to be all about bible study, theology, prayers and church, it is more than that. Christianity according to Revelation 1:6 states that, “and has made us Kings and priests to His God the father...” Jesus came to restore the heritage of the people and not to make them servants but kings and priests.

Roiel David (copyright 1982: Loc 169 of 978/ Loc 181 of 978) indicates, “Your heavenly father has given you an inheritance in Jesus the heir of God” he further says that Jesus died so that mankind could receive what he himself deserved as a son of God and the first born of all creation. “He willingly gave us His entire kingdom along with the inheritance of Christ” He says, “You can choose to squander your inheritance like Rehoboam, by foolishly ignoring it or you can cherish and savour it enjoying the love of our Father”. Rehoboam made his decisions based on what his peers told him to, while he ignored the counsel of the elders.

2Peter 1:4 “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature” In Christ believers are made sharers of His divine nature.

1Timothy 6:10 “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”. Paul in this scripture says that the love of money was the root of all evil. We see the love of money in today’s churches everywhere, especially the ones focusing on prosperity gospel, and as their love for money increases, so does evil find its way in the churches and in the lives of those believers who buy the teachings based on the love of money.

Gaius was from a city known as Derbe and was a resident from Macedonia. He was among the first disciples of Pauls early ministry work in Corinth, the city of

corruption. He was baptised by Paul, and later became one of Pauls travelling companions in ministry work. He also suffered great persecution together with Paul. He went through a lot with Paul and this is what made him even stronger in faith. He was not going to let anything separate him from the love of God. Why I wrote about Gaius is to show his commitment and love for God no matter what he went through even in persecution. He was a pillar in Gods kingdom and that is why Paul wished him well “I wish that you may prosper and be in good health even as your soul prospers.”

Silvanus Oluoch; Concerning Prosperity Gospel,(Copyright 2012)(97) indicates that elevating miracles as the predominant feature of Christian service and ministry is to misdirect people’s focus from God. Instead, let the purpose be to form Christ in each one of them. Miracles never establish faith nor changes anyone’s character by keeping him or her in faith.

John 6:25-30 tells of how multitudes followed Jesus, found him across the sea, and asked to be shown miracles so they would believe. When we look back at John 6:2 it says that multitudes followed Jesus because they had seen His miracles. They were only after miracles and so are some people today, running everywhere they hear miracles being performed.

Mark 16:17-18 “And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak in new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. Miracles and signs should have their source as Jesus Christ. Silvanus Oluoch; Concerning Prosperity Gospel (Copyright 2012:106) adds, “Miracles are a manifestation and demonstration of God’s spirit. They can occur only by his grace as His spirit administers them for His glory”. “They should not be ignored or adored, but must be balanced in our conception of them lest we fall into trying to control”.

An example by Silvanus Oluoch; Concerning Prosperity Gospel,(Copyright 2012)(103) Miracles and signs can be compared to road signs, once you are not familiar with a place; you follow the signs and when you get used to the place, you do not need the signs anymore says Silvanus Oluoch. This is the same with Christians; they should not keep running from place to place looking for signs while they already are familiar with the things of God. Miracles and signs are for spiritual truth and

principals' significance, therefore salvation of souls should never be attained by any amount of miracles unrelated to salvation. Preachers can believe with you and perform miracles as a manifestation of God's spirit that the minister has no control over.

Leader John said, "We cannot corrupt the word of God because it is plain and open to everyone. Theology schools and seminars are sometimes complicated and they complicate things and because the bible is simple and clear, let the theologians also do the study and work towards helping the sheep." Here he was trying to warn me, not to accept blindly, the teachings at the schools because they do corrupt people's minds. He continued, "The biblical and theological schools have become liberal." "You cannot understand the word of God without the Holy Spirit." "The reverend, spirit of revelation." "It is good to learn but most lecturers are not born again." "They have doctrines and education." "Understand what the purpose of your study is how will it be effective and put in mind you have to have the Holy Spirit to lead you." "Our God is holy so we must be holy, and if we do anything, we must do it right." "God is God of righteousness and holiness.

5.9 Intention of giving an offering.

Michael D. Fortner: *The Prosperity Gospel Exposed* (Kindle, page 13 of 242) in his book indicates that they came out of the mouth of one prosperity gospel preacher words that said, "The purpose of the ministry is to help people get out of debt and help people prosper so they can give large sums of money to spread the gospel". See there is very different perspective of the gospel when it comes to some preachers. It is not bad to be rich, but to totally focus on riches in the name of spreading the gospel, to me is wrong because faith decreases when the hearts are not fed with the right teachings. Romans 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God". By such teaching is faith build up with the wrong priorities set first. The teachings can have begun based on good will, to spread the gospel, but with time, it gets too much focus so that it develops to something else like obsession. If one gives for good will without being pushed to give through conviction or without the thought of being rich, but purely for spreading the gospel. When one gives because it comes from the heart then the generosity is based on what the bible teaches "giving generously" One does not have to be made rich to give, but can give

from what they have, like the woman at the temple whom Jesus said gave her all, she was not rich, but she gave what she had. That is how true believers should give, out of what they have and not expecting to be made rich so they could give.

What prosperity gospel teachers preach is that the more one gives, the more they will receive and they will have abundance. Naturally is man's nature out to try out things, so many do give because they are taught to give by their church leaders and they will receive blessings in return. Many are told they will live the lives they desire after giving abundantly. They give to an extent of denying themselves basic needs or those of their families.

Michael D. Fortner; *The Prosperity Gospel Exposed* (Kindle, page 13 of 242) continues to say that a certain preacher he calls Z teaches that, Christians are taught that "for the great commission to be completed, Christians must take over all the wealth of the world". Most of prosperity gospel teachers are motivated by greed in prospering and getting rich, having big churches, big congregations and getting famous. They do this by sending a word to their congregations that the more they give the more they get blessed, but in the end, the churches get more money and become rich, the ministers become rich too because they pay themselves well, while the congregation continues to be poor. The only thing they are able to hold people with is the

teaching of receiving healing in return and that their faith is what made them receive.

Proverbs 4:7(NKJV) "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and in all your getting get understanding".

Proverbs 8:10-11 New King James Version (NKJV) "Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; For wisdom *is* better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her". Here the bible which is the guide to what God desires that his people should do, indicates that wisdom that is found in God's word is better than worldly possessions. He desires that people may receive wisdom more than anything else. This teaching is contrary to what the prosperity teachers teach. When the gospel preacher contradict with the gospel itself, then there must be something wrong with what they teach about giving.

Biblical prosperity is not the same as what prosperity gospel preachers teach. God desires that when one becomes prosperous, they be of assistance to those in need around them. Prosperity teaching on the other hand teaches that when one

becomes prosperous, the more they should give to the church for more blessings to come or so that they can spread the gospel to the rest of the world. Leader John said it simple, “We do not teach seed planting in our churches.”

5.10 Way of life.

Leader John talked about the way of life, how one is supposed to be presentable, the kind of dressing to wear and even the hairstyle. Just to take you back to my interview preparations, I decided I was going to try to dress “presentably” according to the doctrine of that church as I had observed and heard from people who had integrated with people from the church. I dressed in a long African dress that covered up to my ankle. I knew in the church, women are not supposed to show any curves in their bodies to avoid causing their “brothers”, male congregants of the church into falling in sin, so I was not going to “sabotage” my interview by dressing “indecently.”

The women and girls dress in long loosely fitting long skirts with big hanging over coats that hung almost half the skirt. They cover their heads with headgear; either a scurf or hat. Some of them are also seen without head coverings, but they either have short hair or neatly combed natural hair. What I did not do, and I did not mind so much about, was to cover my head when going for the interview. I have “dreadlocked” shoulder long natural hair but to some, dreadlocks are not a descent hairstyle and as we continued with the interview, I received an indirect backlash from leader John concerning the hairstyle, which I did not mind so much about because I was there to accomplish my purpose of visit.

He started with my being a theology student to show me that we students who are theology students at times go to theology schools and come back thinking that we know so much, which makes us mislead people. Those were his words reported and he later said, “I don’t mean you will do the same but I know some who do so.” He continued saying,

“Now that you are going to theology school you cannot come and confuse the sheep, they will listen to you and think that they are worshipping the Lord, and that is what the priests did.” He was referring to those misleading with the false doctrine of prosperity. He continued to say that, “In the churches you find gospel musicians of all kind, having dreadlocks and dressed funny and they say they are worshiping God,

yet if you see the way the angels did it they bow before him and worship him with big words like in the Old Testament.” “How they reverend and worship God, then you ask yourself did God change?” “Did anyone go to God and came back with the knowledge that God changed he is not like in the old days?” By this, he was referring to the way people worship God just the way they are, without looking “descent” as per the Old Testament teachings of covering up and being holy and clean. He meant that people have changed and left Gods ways of decency while God was still the same God He was from before. He also mentioned that believers should not separate their Christian life with their day-to-day life, they are meant to portray themselves the same way every time. What I noticed is that, dressing and one’s presentation mattered a lot in this congregation and they believe what the prophet says they do is what should be done. They believe so much in the prophet that they even end up doing things in an absurd way.

During the time of my research, it happened that leader John told me that the prophet was going to visit the town I have based my research on Nakuru and he invited me for the meetings, but unfortunately, it was during my return back to Europe in August 2014. I happened to return to Kenya and Nakuru the same year in December, and one day, as I was doing my rounds in the city, I happened to hear a commotion and voices of people. The multitude was getting closer to us and I asked my friends who were with me in the car, what was going on. One of them informed me that “there was information of the prophets crusade so it must be prophet Owuor arriving or his people.”

There was slow movement of cars, but what I saw made my jaw drop. I have never seen a multitude of people so naive in my life like I saw that day. As we approached the people, we noticed that they congregant were standing at both sides of the road carrying placards to welcome the prophet. There were ushers with identification dressings that were written on and they were helping hold order and with them were some officials from Kenya police who were also present to hold order by just looking on.

What was so shocking about the entire issue, was that, there was a lorry, a water tanker lorry that came pouring water on the tarmac road where the prophet was meant to pass, and the people were pouring washing detergent and using stick brooms to clean the road literally washing it with water to cleanse it so the prophet of

God would pass. The car I was in passed on top of the area they had washed and they continued cleaning while cars passed. This to me was a total blind fold to those who were worshipping the prophet to an extent of giving him a “triumphant” entry into the city.

I later gathered information that, whenever he was meant to spend the night at a particular location or hotel, everyone else in the entire premises that was a guest had to be evicted. The prophet and his people do not share with others; he even has his own chefs who make his food, meaning that during his entire stay, the premises chefs are given compulsory leave because their services are not required. Then one tends to wonder, this luxury life is it Godly? Is it not the prosperity life they claim not to be teaching?

This incident was covered on the news in Kenya and it was a pity whenever one saw the news. I used to hear stories, but I saw it first hand. I desired to talk to the prophet, but it was not easy to get access. During the crusade that was televised every day, there were people who literally checked their loved ones out of hospital, to go take them to the prophet to pray for them which left five people dead. They said, they would rather die in the presence of God, than in a hospital bed. This was putting too much faith on man than in God who is the healer. They believe he is the true prophet of God and God does miracles through him. They referred to him as “lord” on live television. To their disappointment, people died and things did not happen as per their expectations. Here is a link to one of the newspapers “Daily mail” online. <http://news-kenya.com/2015/01/five-dead-while-seeking-healing-at-prophet-owuors-crusade-in-nakuru/> (10.08.2015)

Another online news about it was on “Not Ashamed of The Gospel’s” news concerning the same. This link even shows some photos of that I described. <http://amredeemed.com/evangelism/cults/streets-washed-prophet-owuors-visit-nakuru-photos> (10.08.2015)

It is a great pity, how this gospel has led people to be exalted like gods. Yes they do not teach about extravagant giving, but they have given the prophet their all, mind and soul and what he tells them to do they do.

5.11 Actions and doctrines.

On another note, God has blessed me with two sisters and one of them happens to do her hair in one of the salons owned by one of the women from this church. One day as I was chatting with my sister, she told me that the woman who was fixing her hair had told her that, they had been taught in their church that a woman should not add anything to beautify her hair like with hair extensions, plaiting or relaxing hair. They were taught that it was against true Christianity. So as we were chatting with my sister I happened to ask her to help me ask the woman if she really meant what she said because if she did, then to her she didn't care about saving others but herself. Why? The reason is this, If hair additions is sin why does she still operate a salon, "destroying other peoples hair by adding hair relaxer, or plaiting it, while she knew it was a sin?" why was she leading others to sin? Or to hell?

In the book "Consumption and Spirituality" by Diego Rinallo, Linda Scott and Pauline Maclaran (2013), they have included a story concerning Pastor Chris Ojigbani visit to Kenya. The story can also be found online.

<http://www.africareview.com/News/Nigeria-pastor-fails-to-attract-Kenyan-singles/-/979180/1754914/-/89d4trz/-/index.html> (10.08.2015)

The story is well painted that I thought of using it to show how prosperity gospel not only affects health and wealth issues, but also other areas of life like marriage and single life. They have given it the titles Men, Marriage and Miracles in Kenya's religious Marketplace. See they do not even refer to it as church or Christian gatherings, but it is rather seen as a kind of booming business that people are engaging in. How come it has gone this far even the people who are not of their faith can clearly see the frustrations and desperation in the lives of the people who are practising this doctrine? Do they themselves see it from the same perspective and ignore or are they blinded by faith that they do not see when they are being manipulated?

It happened that in 2010 "thousands of women scrambled to reach the gates of Kenya's largest conference centre (Kenyatta International Convention Centre) Vying to hear charismatic pastor Chris Ojigbani, the self confessed Nigerian apostle of marriage"

Spread news on how to get married without delay." Women came in thousands of numbers well dressed to impress and came to the conference centre. There was

heavy police security to keep the ladies at bay from the apostle because each one of them wanted to get direct blessings from him. The media houses and the streets were not left behind because the buzz of what was going to happen, the great news of “the unfolding pandemonium” at the conference centre was heard everywhere.

I live in diaspora as they call it, and I happened to hear the news and I was surprised by how people seemed to be naïve in following blessings blindly. Did they not have enough patience to wait upon God? Was their grace period over and they had not received their answers to their prayers? Was it out of hunger for blessings that others turned up for the meeting or was it out of curiosity?

The attending women were engulfed in the praises and dancing, some could be seen crying and praying so hard with hopes that “ God would not pass them by” and that “the boyish leader of the Covenant Singles and Married Ministries(CSMM) would bless them with an instant wedding.”

Finally the moment came, Pastor Ojigbani entered the stage and (just to use the exact words the authors of the book used) “Like a Christian rock star” (meaning the lights were on him and praising music was played for the grand entrance), he announced to the women, “ good men are not all taken, by the end of today, you will get your suitor.” Can you imagine how the expectant women jumped and shouted for joy? He continued to say that “the spirit has told me that one of you by morning, will have four suitors” is God a God of confusion, or why would He send all four men your way if He really wants you to get married? He does not need to send them all but just the one that is to marry you because He knows who is right for you. Such messages passed along should make people curious enough to question the source of the message and even the bearer of the message.

Before the meeting whose theme was “Set Time of Marriage” concluded, “dozens of women” mounted the stage and gave testimony of how they had received marriage proposals through text messages in their phones. “I do not understand why they had to use phones in church, but maybe they were told to check on whether they had received answers to their prayers through such mean, I do not know, it is just a thought.”

There was so much expectations and even some went home with great wedding plans in mind and not only weddings but successful marriages.

Here come another testimony “ after the seminar, I met an old friend who has been admiring me since high school. I saw him last three years ago. Within 5 minutes of meeting him he started proposing marriage to me and said he had never stopped admiring me. He said, I want to marry, will you marry me? He had barely finished talking when I got a call from another man who I broke up with 6 years ago. He asked me where I was from and I told him from a singles program and he said, “you are no longer single, I want to marry you. In fact consider yourself married.” I was amazed ! My set time of marriage has indeed come.”

5.12. According to the word of God.

Quantitative measurement is not the manner at which Godly success should be measured. Paul encouraged the believers to give out of their own will in 2 Corinthians 9:6 New King James Version (NKJV) “But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” This was not said to affirm giving and receiving theory, but it was Paul who was introducing his partner Titus to the church that he and fellow teachers with him had boasted of through testimony of their good works when it came to giving in support of Gods work. Therefore, he was admonishing them to give bountifully so that their giving would be a confirmation of their testimony.

According to the word of God, God is the source of all provision for every believer. As a believer, you are meant to be the destination of the released blessings from God. You are a beloved child and God is your Father, He cannot withhold any good thing from His children. Jesus became a curse to redeem believers from the curse of the law so they would inherit the blessings of Abraham. Genesis 12:2 New King James Version (NKJV) “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.” This is a confirmation of the blessings God has bestowed to those who trust and believe in Him, His children.

I like the way Roiel David puts it in his book, He says that God is a generous God, and generosity is a gift from Him. He says, as you give as a child of God, “joy swells up in your heart because you are actually doing what you are; living according to your nature”. As you give, something should be felt from deep inside through the generosity practiced, and the love of money does not find room in the hearts of those

giving freely out of their generosity nature. One cannot be greedy out of giving, it is impossible.

“God does not need our riches, He wants us to be blessed and to be a blessing, but He does not want us to give with the worlds view point that if you have money, you are blessed, but if you do not have money, you are cursed”. For children of God, riches or poverty should not be measured by money, but your relationship with God and the knowledge and acceptance of God as the source of your blessings. God gave His best, His son. What more can believers give to God apart from that which He already gave to them in the first place?

Isaac son of Abraham dwelt in the promised land, but this land was dry and without rain nothing was going to grow. Isaac had decided to leave the land to look for a better place because of the drought, but God appeared to him and told him not to leave because He was going to bless him in that land. Isaac did like most people would do in todays day. Looking for a better way to get blessed or provision. He forgot that God had made a covenant with his father Abraham that He would make him a father of great nations. To him it was history being passed down until He encountered God and as he planted that season and when the harvest came, it was a hundred fold. That was the beginning of his prosperity. When God blesses, He blesses fully. Believers should find their place in God and receive what is rightfully theirs according to what God has already provided and given to them as an inheritance to those who are in Christ Jesus.

Believers should live on the word of God, by this I mean read it, meditate on it every day of their lives, let the word sink in their hearts and they will know the truth and the truth of the word will set them free. For Isaac, he sowed seed not hesitating, but trusting in God’s word that he was going to be blessed. The same way we should put our seeds to the ground by faith. The seeds do not have to be grain seeds but they can be talents or gifts, projects or investment. Do it by faith not hesitating, but having faith in God’s word that says Christ became a curse so that you would be blessed and if you are blessed, then you truly are blessed. God’s blessings to us are not for us to live filthy rich lives, but to embrace His generous nature of also giving to others who are in need. It should come from inside, but not a matter of being pushed to give or told to give, but to give with a pure heart.

Roie David says, "Prosperity is like a seed; the fertile soil it is planted in is your heart, a believing heart. Once the seeds of God's promises of prosperity are sown, it shall blossom", and shall bear you a fruitful harvest. "The prosperity that comes from enjoying our relationship with God opens the door for every type of blessing He has already graced us with to become manifest in our daily lives". "It has nothing to do with your performance or sins". It is in giving that there is receiving. Not that you have to give to receive, but that it is a blessing in itself to give. If we look at it the way people are told nowadays that they have to give so they can receive, then it would mean that people have gone back to serving under the old covenant of works and law. Jesus spoke of the woman that gave her all and mentioned that she gave more than anyone else because she gave with a pure heart. She had two pence but she did not focus on the money being her last, but on God being her provider. The same way people should give today, not out of abundance, but out of generosity of the heart and willingness to give out of love. Also not with a sense of expectation that their giving will be repaid as the prosperity gospel is taught.

When you see yourself as blessed, then you will be able to give because you believe you are blessed and because you are practicing the nature of God in you. Paul wrote to the church of Corinthians because of the assistance they were going to give "Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have *sown* and increase the fruits of your righteousness" 2corinthians 9:10. It shows his recognition of a God who provides seed to those working the ground and even food to the hungry. God is the provider of every need and he has already provided and will keep doing so as long as the earth remains. Genesis 8:22 New King James Version (NKJV) "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease." "Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His
commandments,
His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, lest when you have
eaten
and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them, and when your herds
and

your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage”. His is a scripture meant to caution people not to dwell so much on the wealth of this earth or else they would end up forgetting God who has been their God provider all this time.

5.12.1 According to prosperity gospel preachers.

Preachers end up prospering, because what they teach is that wealth can prosper the kingdom of God. People thus give to progress Gods kingdom, but end up prospering preachers. Prosperity seems to depend on one’s gift and the work they put into it. If you give then you receive in return, if you do not give, then do not expect from the Lord because the hand that gives is the one that receives.

The major principal of prosperity gospel summed up according to Silvanus Oluoch; Concerning Prosperity Gospel (Copyright 2012) (48) is “giving to receive in return.” “Christianity is simply the law of cause and effects couched in Christian terminologies.” The common terminologies used are like seed sowing and reaping/ harvesting, laws of increase or abundant living. When Jesus used the word sower, He used it metaphorically and not as it is being used nowadays. The word seed according to Jesus meant the word of God. This is seen in the parable of the sower. However, prosperity refers to the seed as money, and calls upon believers to plant seeds or sow seeds, meaning give money as a sign of a seed, which is meant to germinate and bear fruit, which one receives in return.

In prosperity gospel world, the preacher teaches that people should not speak negative words thus speaking about sin, judgement and perishing in hell is termed as negative so not a qualified topic to be shared in their sermons. God has not called people to choose what to preach but to preach the entire gospel.

Silvanus Oluoch; Concerning Prosperity Gospel,(Copyright 2012)(120) indicates that it is unfortunate that some church ministers regard sin from a psychological perspective as a harmful mentality from the past that destroys people’s self-worth. It is considered bigotry, when people are rebuked or called to repentance.

Prosperity gospel promotes self-will, peddles a Jesus who conforms to peoples own lifestyle, but not to Gods holiness, while the true Christ called on self-denial and following Jesus, Says Silvanus Oluoch; Concerning Prosperity Gospel,(Copyright 2012) (121). He further says, Prosperity gospel promotes self-will and the feelings of entitlement among its adherents, which then leads to pride.

Fortner Michael D. In his book "The Prosperity Gospel Exposed and Other False Doctrines" indicate that, "Jesus and the apostles all lived by faith. To live by faith does not mean to have enough faith to believe God for lots of money. It means to be in a position where you must trust God week to week or day to day to supply your needs. This means only the poor can truly live by faith. This is why James said, "Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith...?" (James 2:5) (NIV). Being poor forces one to trust God day to day, but the prosperity gospel preachers teach that a person rich in faith will own big cars, which is not so. It is the rich who greatly lack in faith by putting their trust in their riches, while the poor must trust God as the source of everything. Says Fortner Michael D.

Micah 3:11-12 (NKJV) "Her heads judge for a bribe, Her priests teach for pay, And her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the Lord, and say, "Is not the Lord among us? No harm can come upon us." Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed *like* a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins and the mountain of the temple Like the bare hills of the forest". The first part of the quote shows the behavior and practice of prosperity gospel teachers. Preachers always collect an offering after every preaching, people give for prayers, people have to give to be blessed, thus it seems like one has to bribe their way to receiving blessings by giving "cheerfully". They even end by saying that because God is with them, no harm can come their way. Look at the second part. It clearly shows the consequences of the false teaching practice. There will be destruction and bareness in their land without nothing, having been ruined. Hosea 4 also talks of how the children of Israel rejected the wisdom of God and it did not please God. The first part of verse six of Hosea chapter 4 says "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee..." This is not good news for those that have all along been taught that nothing could harm them because God was with them. God clearly indicates that He will reject such kind of people. People should be very careful not to inherit curses instead of blessings as a result of being subjected to

false teachings by prosperity preacher. Let people seek knowledge directly from the word of God and flee whenever they sense any kind of false teachings or else they would face consequences and the wrath of God.

Fortner Michael D. in his book indicates, "Prosperity gospel is the biggest hindrance to the spiritual growth of Christians in the charismatic movement and a blight to Christianity in general" He says "The doctrine of greed is perhaps, the largest single reason that many people turn away from charismatic movement". The true gospel does not want us poor neither does it want us to be so rich, because wealth can separate people from Him.

5.13 Will of God.

Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.

1 Corinthians 1:10 King James Version (KJV) "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." Paul in this scripture was referring to embracing the cross so that our lives can be crossed to enable us become true disciples. Jesus taught that to follow him, one has to take up their cross. A true Christian life is of continual denial, forsaking self-desires which include worldly entanglement and surrendering to gods will.

Can the prosperity preachers reject money from none believers? They cannot because for them it is more of business, paying bills and living large other than living according to their calling.

3John 7 King James Version (KJV) "Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles." This scripture shows that the ones who went to preach the gospel did not accept gifts from none believers or the gentiles. How I wish this would be the same in the church today. That they will teach true gospel and put the lust of the flesh and worldly pleasures away when it comes to the things of God, and not accept money from none believers who have been taught that they can receive from God by just giving even without committing their lives to following him.

5.13.1 Gods desire upon humanity without strings attached.

Prosperity gospel is a gospel that one would ask themselves, is it a gospel of self or the Saviour is at the heart of the prosperity gospel. "An analysis and critique of its dogma indicates that it is predominantly anthropocentric, rather than Christocentric." Christ is no longer the centre of this gospel as it appears. Its focus is more on the needs and provisions of man and how he or she can extract them from God. I used the word extract because, the way congregations are taught to demand what is rightfully theirs sounds like the prodigal sons story, where he went asking for his inheritance from his father instead of waiting for the time to come so he would receive it from his father. This story was told by Jesus as a lesson to show that there was greed in the son who asked for his inheritance, but the main lesson was the coming back after realising his mistake and asking for forgiveness. The Heart of the Prosperity Gospel: Self or the Saviour? By Dan Liroy (Abstract) (41-59)

How many times have people behaved like him without knowing or should I call it ignorantly and ended up demanding from God what they are taught that it is rightfully theirs through the inheritance by the death of Christ on the cross where it is said that he became poor that we may be rich. He took our poverty meaning, living in poverty is termed as an attack from the devil and when you are violent, you will take what is yours because "the violent shall take it by force." Matthew 11:12 King James Version (KJV) "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force." The scriptures indicate that when in need one should make their request known to God through prayers."

This article continues to say that, "This ego-focused outlook is likewise present in the health-and-wealth movement. One discovers that preachers of success are touting a religion of self in which people are the measure of all things." If we look at Ephesians 1:3-23 New King James Version (NKJV) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved." "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound

toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both[a] which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.” “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

The first part I have quoted shows how Christians receive their position in Christ through the death on the cross. Christ took all the peoples infirmities and gave them His inheritance that through salvation they may become heirs with Christ in His blessings in the heavenly kingdom.

Ephesians continues to state that, “Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.”

Here if you look carefully there is need for people to walk in wisdom and revelation, what I may say is lacking in the churches today because people are being led and blindly follow without having the revelation for them to discern whether what they are partaking or practising is Godly or not. “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

The scholar’s publication article continue that, “A detailed discussion of Ephesians 1:3-23 provides a needed biblical response. One learns that the Son, not self, is at

the heart of the Father's plan of redemption. Also, it is in Christ alone that believers find forgiveness, hope, and wisdom. Only He is the meta-narrative of life, whether temporal or eternal in nature. Indeed, He is the sole reason for the existence of the church and the one who enables believers to complete their God-given work.”

http://reference.sabinet.co.za/sa_epublication_article/conspec_v4_a3 (10.08.2015)

5.14 Obedience and Faith.

Faith and obedience go hand in hand, thus the teachers of the gospel say it is a basic requirement of the believer to have both qualities in life.

Teachers and advocates of the prosperity gospel believe that since it is the will of God for believers to enjoy life to the fullest extent possible, and the devil's will is to take from them as according to John 10:10 “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” Living in abundance including financial prosperity and entrepreneurial success. “Living in poverty violates His will and dishonours His name. A lack of faith is labelled as one reason why Christians fail to be healed, enjoy abundant wealth, and so on.” This is a very sensitive and difficult point in life that weighs so much or puts so much weight and thoughts in many believers because they do not know how more to have faith when they already have faith. How much faith is enough faith if I may ask?

Dan Lioy's Article,(41-59) “The Heart of the Prosperity Gospel” indicates that “Moreover, it is reasoned that God never wants His people to suffer or be poor.” “Satan and sin, not God, are said to be the culprits behind every form of sickness, tragedy, and hardship that exists. Allegedly, the devil uses pseudo-symptoms of non-existent ailments to trick believers into imagining they are not feeling well and to entice them to think or say a negative confession (Folarin 2007:78-79, 87; Hunt 2000:74; McConnell 1995:186; cf. Atkinson 2007:174, 184).”

While the theology of the prosperity gospel is not monolithic, its “teachings follow a general pattern” (Folarin 2007:80).”

Dan Lioy continues to say, “The movement's dogma blends “Pentecostal revivalism with elements of positive thinking” (Coleman 1993:355; cf. Sarles 1986:330). Adherents insist that faith is a supernatural force that believers use to get whatever form of personal success they want, including physical health and material

wealth.” The same faith is the measure “some” prosperity gospel teachers use when speaking about someone who has or has not been blessed as to either having faith or having little or no faith at all.

Faith is also claimed to be the medium through which the full power of the Holy Spirit is unleashed. Matthew 17:20 New King James Version (NKJV) So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you,” also “Luke 17:6 New King James Version (NKJV) So the Lord said, “If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.” It is very important for believers to speak positively and according to the scriptures as they are led by the Holy Spirit for them to be able to do what the two above scriptures indicate. That is what has been seen in the churches today being spoken concerning any situation in life. They are taught to speak to their lives and because what is established on earth it will also be established in heaven, thus the success of drawing multitudes to this gospel of prosperity.

5.15. Fear and Submission to authority.

Rebellion and respect to authority. “When you rebel against the will of God, you can always see the repercussion of it.” “The devil was rebellious, thus he was cast down.” “If any nation rebels against God then who will protect them?” “From the beginning if we rebel against God there are consequences an example is the children of Israel when in the desert, they would not have gone for 40 years if it were not for rebellion.” “They hardened their hearts, but when a nation repents and adheres to the will of God, then the bible says he will hear them from heaven and heal their land, 2 Chronicles 7:14.” “There are repercussions on rebellion that is why respecting the leadership is important and respect goes hand in hand with submission and obedience.”

On obedience and submission to authority, Leader Peter said that “obedience is the key to blessings, if only one is willing and obedient, they eat the good of the land.

You obey leaders according to their level of leadership, you do not obey leaders who mislead you, and you definitely will develop a rebellious spirit towards them because you know they are misleading.”

5.15.1 Questioning authority.

To speak something contrary to prosperity gospel is speaking against Gods covenant of blessings. This gospel has classified people in terms of their faith, those strong in faith and those weak in faith and even those without faith, in regards to their way of life. David one of the youths I talked to said “Religion can be too much if it has lies and manipulation on it. When one speaks about the church and how they do things, than about God, then true doctrine is lacking. If taken for personal gain, religion can be too much.” You see we the youth like to be where things flow well. We have so much energy that if channelled the wrong way, one might find that they lost their faith and went back to the worldly pleasures. I would say this gospel is challenging to many youths and is making some feel comfortable in their sin because they know when they give, they will receive from God no matter the situation.”

The scripture says in 1Timothy 4:12 New King James Version (NKJV) “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” “In all these areas we are told to be examples. How can you be an example if you are walking in the darkness of this worldly pleasures?”
Asked David

5.16 Rebellion makes God not respond.

“Respect to authority has been turned to fear of authority and it makes people do things differently form how it should be done. “I cannot do things that please man and displease God, I would rather please God than man.” I cannot sit and see the congregation being led astray I will question because it may happen am not the only one who has observed what is going on. We can join hands and question the situation in a respectful obedient manner. When the congregation is fearful then knowledge is lacking because once fear grips in, one becomes a slave forever and have to submit no matter what. Some people can be leaders but lack knowledge;

wise leaders will work with you when they see you have wisdom. Some leaders would call it rebellion but I do not see it as rebellion because it is out of what they are feeding us that the questions are arising, not from within me. They themselves will be rebelling from God by teaching what is not right because by doing so, God will not respond to us as a people no matter how much we pray. In short, we do not question out of disrespect, but out of knowing the truth, which sets us free.

5.17 Message from the devil (Prosperity).

“A theology of the spoken word (or rhematology) is the basis for these notions. There is an implicit confidence in the power of “positive confession” (Coleman 1993:356 in according to Lioy’s book),(41-59) in which faith enables what believers think and say to become actualized realities. Through the “force of faith” the “positive power (God) is ‘activated’, and the negative (Satan) is confronted and negated” (according to Lioy’s book Hunt 43 1998:275; Hunt 2000:75; cf. Atkinson 2007:174, 184; Beckford 2001:14, 17; Hummel 1991:12–13; McConnell 1995:186; Sarles 1986:332).”Believers reason that God has faith in the inherent, actualizing power of His faith.”

In the media houses today, we have been seeing all kinds of prosperity gospel. From casting out demons to gimmick and even turning flocks into grazing animals. One day, a friend asked me if I had seen the news from the South African church minister who had told his congregation to eat grass so they would get closer to God and get healing for those who needed it. I did not believe at first but to my surprise, it was so. The news made rounds in the media houses for a while and even today, it is still in the online news if one would search. I will share a link from the UK online daily mail where the complete news can be read. After the first incident, the same pastor went ahead and asked his congregation to drink petrol and surprisingly they did. The ministry name is Rabboni ministries and the pastor is Lesego Daniel.
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2794275/first-congregation-eating-grass-make-close-god-controversial-south-african-preacher-makes-flock-drink-petrol.html>
(10.08.2015)

The second link is from another online news channel “eNCA”
<http://www.enca.com/shock-scenes-grass-pastor-giving-his-congregation-petrol-drink>
(10.08.2015)

The same kind of gimmick has been experienced in a church in Kenya whose pastor by name Pastor Victor Kanyari who surprisingly is the son of an earlier convicted (in 2007) church minister in Kenya self-proclaimed Prophetess Lucy Nduta. Pastor Kanyari allegedly uses potassium permanganate to create miracles and even asking people to send money amounting to 310 Kenya shillings (according to malachi3:10 that is why he named his seed 310 when asked) seed for prayers. He asks for as low as 310 and can ask for more according to what one can get hold of even if it meant taking a loan. He has followers whose work is solely to call people for money, others are for miracles, to pretend they have received miracles; others who help him perform the fake miracles. This was recently documented in one of the media houses in Kenya and made as a documentary by name "Prayer Predators" that can be found on you tube, and was aired to show how everything was done. Surprisingly people still go to his church even after the exposure because it turned out as if it was an advertising rather than exposure.

A link showing the information about Lucy Nduta

<http://nairobiwire.com/2013/08/shocking-fake-prophet-pastor-kanyari-is.html>

A link from Patheos.com blog (10.08.2015)

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/friendlyatheist/2014/11/24/tv-program-brings-down-jesus-magic-charlatan-kenyan-pastor-victor-kanyari-who-preyed-on-the-poor/>

A link from the star news paper online. (10.08.2015)

<http://www.the-star.co.ke/article/worshipers-flock-pastor-kanyari-church-despite-fake-miracles-expose-besieged-prophet-locks> (10.08.2015)

5.18 Church needs and positive confession.

There are several scriptures that when looked at together bring similar reasoning that believers have been taught to use to establish their miracles or as a foundation to their faith belief.

Lioy's writings (41-59) continue "Correspondingly, at the dawn of time He used faith to conceptualize the universe and command it into existence All that is came into being by the word of mouth, God spoke. (Genesis 1 during creation, he spoke and it was established; Psalm 33:6 (NKJV) By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.; Hebrew 11:3 (NKJV) By

faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.; 2 Peter 3:5 (NKJV) For this they wilfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water). “Likewise, it is inferred that believers can use faith to conceive ideas in their mind and speak them into existence.” This is what has been taught, that one can speak to their situations and it be established as per what they spoke, just as it was God by faith spoke and it was established as seen in the three scriptures I have quoted above.

“Similar reasoning lies behind the assertion that Jesus was wounded on the cross so that every Christian who has enough faith can enjoy complete physical healing (Isaiah 53:5, “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”; Mathew 8:17, “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.”; 1 Peter 2:24). Not only are the reality of disease and sickness repudiated, but it is also maintained that God commands all faithful believers to experience perfect health (Lioy’s book; Beckford 2001:18-19; Coleman 1993:355-356; Folarin 2007:78, 83- 84; Hummel 1991:13–14; Hunt 2000:73; Sarles 1986:331; cf. Jas 5:14-16).

5.18.1 Preacher’s needs.

In the old testament, Levites were not to have inheritance nor were they supposed to work. They were eating from that which was brought to the house of God as sacrifice or offering. Likewise, todays preachers base their material and basic needs as the responsibility of the church. They even quote scriptures to affirm their thoughts. 1 Corinthians 9:9 New King James Version (NKJV) For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain..” This is also seen in Deuteronomy 25:4. Here the Ox is the preachers or pastors who’s work it to tend the flock of God, so they by this scriptures imply that they should be allowed to eat where they plough, and that is right according to the scriptures. What is not right about it is how the scriptures have been misused for personal gain. People have taken from the churches and begun to live “the American dream” with the church offering.

According to Hebrews 11:1, faith is being confident that what we hope for will actually occur. Also, it is being convinced about things we cannot see. At its core, faith is a matter of conviction. It is an assurance based on God's unchanging character. Popular opinion sees faith as irrational. Supposedly, it is believing something even when our mind tells us not to. In contrast, the biblical concept of faith includes both reason and experience. Such faith, however, is not limited to what we can see. It makes unseen spiritual realities perceivable, not by willing them into existence, but by a conviction that what God has said about them is true. Biblical faith is rooted in the knowledge of God. Those who possess this faith believe that God is real and that He rewards those who truly want to know Him. Faith is so foundational to the Christian life that one cannot be in a relationship with the Lord apart from it.

5.19 Business in Church (Selling to Raise Funds).

Prosperity gospel has many similar qualities to those of Baal time with people with corrupted morals and ethical values. Sadly, because of such morals, today we have preachers who can lie, cheat, swindle and convince just to get what they want. Such preachers have brought business in church by means of selling holy anointing oil, holy water, soil from Israel, blessed prayer, just to mention a few. They have also introduced pyramids in churches or savings groups to get members to invest at a profit and get loans. Severally, this is something that has been experienced in Kenya and the pyramid schemes at some point collapsed, and many people lost their money. They began blaming the church only for the church not to have answers to it and many people left due to bringing worldly stuff into the church. During my research, leader A mentioned this and said they do not encourage such teachings and practices because they are teachings from hell. These teachings bring money changing in the house of God, which is not according to their doctrine and the vision the prophet had been given by God. He mentioned that Jesus chased money changers from the temple, yet people are still doing the same to this date.

5.20 Church Projects (Pyramids/saving Groups in Churches)

“How would you classify prosperity? “Prosperity is a message from the devil!”
“When The Lord found them selling in the temple of the Lord, he cast them out, He said my house is a house of prayer not a market place”

Leader John said that he came from a church that used to do the buying and selling and fund raising before joining the now church he is serving at. He also said that “We know people are needy then we have power to pray for them. When there is need in the house of God, people should commit as per their ability.

As I said prosperity is the message from the devil and he has used it to kick the church to an extent of not doing Gods will. That is why you see churches came with projects that until today people are crying about them” Most of those involved were preachers. If you observe holiness and righteousness even bankruptcy cannot find you. Christian riches is big, adhere to his will and he will not finish you. If you acquire anything, acquire it rightfully.” Here he was referring to a certain church which advocated for a certain pyramid scheme by name “DECI” in Nakuru city. At first, the project went well, people got prosperous, but then something just happened that the cash flow in the pyramid project was no more and many people of the church and even many from outside the particular church lost their money. The issue was all over the news and the repercussion on that church made people leave church because they saw that they were swindled in the church. When they tried to seek audience with the senior pastor of the church, he could not be found and slowly he moved the headquarters of the church from Nakuru to the capital city Nairobi, because people were after his life for losing their money and possessions to something he convinced them to join. You can get more on the issue from a link below from one of the Kenyan news room dated back in 2007.

<http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2000149031/i-lost-sh31m-and-brother-to-the-pyramid-schemes> (10.08.2015)

5.21 Preacher’s Vision Distorted (Losing Focus and Faith)

Leader John had something about theology schools and he kept referring back to them, in this case he said, “I keep hitting the theological schools because that is where you hear people being taught to be prophets, who can teach that? unless God calls you to be one. They are taught the language of convincing people. They come up with books and magazines concerning "ways of prosperity or acquiring wealth" then they teach you and as you fill in the forms in the book give your details and account numbers and indicate how much you have. Did The Lord come for money? No he came for souls. Our call is to be fishers of men. “In a way to clarify

why they do what they do; meaning why they call on repentance and holiness and all the doctrines they practice, John had this to say. "Prophet Elijah told Baal prophets to bring their gods and see which one will answer with the sign of fire and they offered sacrifice." "What does that tell you, you cannot mix the worship, it must be pure and holy and done righteously."

I came to learn that everyone who was involved in this ministry and was walking closely with "the prophet", they had to consecrate themselves literally and stay away from their spouses 7 days before coming into contact with "the prophet" That is why John kept talking about it. Remember in the scripture prophet Elijah called on the people to consecrate themselves when they were to go offer sacrifice unto God to prove whose God was going to answer by fire. They follow that doctrine whenever they call on holiness.

5.22 Who is the Centre of the Gospel?

Unless we clearly understand Christ and his mission, we miss the complete meaning of Christianity. The centre of the gospel is Jesus Christ. I will bring along the apostles creed to sum up what the centre of the gospel is.

Apostle's Creed, Modern English Version

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
AMEN

5.23 Prosperity Gospel is Who's will?

Prosperity is a gospel within the wider Christian teachings, but not an independent gospel based solely upon faith. It is Gods desire and will that all may prosper.

Lioy (41-59) says according to Sarles (1986:347) it is observed that the gospel of affluence has robbed “human faith of its biblical foundation” and imposed on it “an entirely new meaning”. It has become a “form of magic, with the spoken word” operating “as the incantation” (348). In contrast, Scripture teaches that faith is a belief in what God has revealed in His Word. It is a trusting commitment. An exercise of faith involves the whole person—the mind, emotions, and will. With the mind, one believes in God’s existence and in the teaching of Scripture (Mathew 22:37; 2Thessalonians 2:13). With the emotions, the sinner exercises a personal faith in Christ as the only one who can redeem from sin (Luke 24:32, 41; Romans 15:13). With the will, one surrenders to Christ and trusts Him as Lord and Saviour (Acts 16:31; 1 John 5:1, 4-5). This faith helps us recognize that the one crucified on the cross and buried in a tomb was raised to life by the power of God. Faith helps us affirm that Jesus’ resurrection life also opens the way for us to live eternally. That is the basis of Christianity, but prosperity gospel is a gospel that has developed out of the daily needs of the people which are different every day according to how the world is progressing development wise and according to secularisation.

According to Sarles (1986:337), a “highly subjective and arbitrary” approach is used for “interpreting the biblical text”. Ministers who assert to be divinely commissioned apostles quote numerous passages of Scripture “without attention to grammatical indicators, semantic nuances, or literary and historical context” (cf. Hummel 1991:17). They also present themselves to be the Lord’s anointed prophets through whom He fulfils the promises of the Bible in the lives of His people (Hunt 2000:82). Congregants are told that God is working through these egotistical leaders to give them “the blessings of Abraham, the power of Joseph, the authority of Moses, the sovereignty of David, the exploits of Elijah, and ... revival and restoration of Israel itself” (Gifford 2007).”

5.24 Preaching is Gods business (thus, congregation should support it, buy car, house for pastor)

Some ministers who are teachers of this gospel teach it not because it is their wish, but out of necessity to support their ministries. of this gospel, can only take Gods revelation, so that they can understand the true gospel. This gospel is simply a show business attracting numbers. **Oluoch clearly differentiates between**

preaching and promoting. “Preaching is simply heralding or telling the good news, whereas to promote it to cause to appeal or to lure into by glamorizing.”
“True gospel is preached; but prosperity gospel thrives mostly on and, and cannot function without promotion and glamorization.”

5.25 Giving and Church Doctrine.

The gospel of Jesus Christ stands alone and does not need any promotion or rival competitors. Silvanus Oluoch; Concerning Prosperity Gospel,(Copyright 2012: 36) says, “It is only when Christians refuse to accept its singularity and uniqueness that they open ways to comparative competitions with other religions and factors that also vie for the human heart. However, the truth is that the church should not compete with the world; that is what the world is made of - competition. From Cain presuming that he was competing with his brother Abel, to the competing loyalties of today with even Christians divided into many antagonistic groupings that are suspicious of each other.” The gospel of Christ is not a gospel that just fixes lives it should be a way of life not an escape route or a quick fix program to life. Prosperity gospel is a gospel that proves it cannot stand on its own without gimmicks or religious promotions and marketing. Oluoch calls it a substitute gospel (man-Made) kind of gospel.

5.26 Can sickness and limitations portray Gods love?

According to Silvanus Oluoch Silvanus Oluoch; Concerning Prosperity Gospel (Copyright 2012: 39) true spirituality is not measured by abundance of material possessions. True riches are not possessed, but themselves possess one in grace and virtue. Luke 12:15 (King James Version, second part) indicates that “for a man’s life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses. “While theologically conservative evangelicals tend to stress the blessings awaiting Christian’s in the future messianic kingdom, ministers of entrepreneurship redirect the spotlight on obtaining worldly abundance right now. This shift from the transcendent future to the workaday present is seen in a more pragmatic approach to life in which the needs of the individual attain foremost importance (Lioy’s journal(41-59); Speck 2007:6- 49 7). In turn, the focus is taken off of “theocentric providence” and placed on “anthropocentric prosperity” (Lioy’s journal; Sarles 1986:329).” This has been shifted

from what it is in the real sense to what it has been defined as through the interpretation of the prosperity gospel.

5.27 Seek God first and all will be added to you.

James 4:2-3 New King James Version (NKJV) You lust and do not have. You murder, covet, and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. This is a self-explanatory scripture, that most believers have heard and it has been interpreted in a different way. They are often told that they have to give an offering to accompany their prayers or sow a seed as they call it, so it can bear fruit. Preachers have painted a picture that, unless you give an offering, your prayers will not be answered. This is contrary to what the scripture itself says. It says people ask a miss. Asking a miss does not mean asking without giving, it means asking for material things for the sake of pleasure out of the lust.

Gordon D. Fee in his book “The Disease of The Health and Wealth Gospels”(9) says that, these preachers or teachers give these teachings affirmations that are not biblical, “no matter how much one might clothe them in biblical garb.” He continues to say that “the basic problems here are hermeneutical; Free online dictionary defines the word as follows. (Hermeneutical; the theory and methodology of interpretation, especially of scriptural text. According to <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/hermeneutics>)(10.08.2015) i.e. they involve questions as to how one interprets scripture. Even the layperson, who may not know the word “hermeneutics” and who is not especially trained in interpreting the bible, senses that this is where the real problem lies.

5.28 Repentance and holiness.

Without holiness, no one will see God. However, holiness is never attained simply by confessing the holiness of the Lord. It is yielding to Gods spiritual deeds that eventually conforms one to the image and likeness of Jesus Christ. Taking up the cross and following him.

6 Conclusion

I conducted a qualitative research and in the research after I had written my research question. I prepared to do some interviews where I prepared a questionnaire that I would use during the interview. Comparing the two Pentecostal churches was the main agenda of this thesis. I have had a look at two charismatic churches in Nakuru in Kenya and have compared as much as I could, what they teach as their doctrine and their practices.

After the preparations and interviews were conducted, there was the analysis of data and after that I decided to not have Theory as a separate chapter, but have it in the discussion. Data transcribing had its challenges but I managed and worked on the discussion.

In the first chapter you find the introduction, the main Question or research question aim, theoretical background and prosperity gospel. These are used as sub topics to expound on the writing and what I have done step by step

Chapter two consists of research methods, interviews semi structured interviews, the questionnaires method the presentation of empirical data and data organization, transcribing and interviews. Chapter four is about presentation of the data as per the individual interviews.

Chapter five is where the assignment was built through discussion of the developed theories and theories from other scholars and also an inclusion of the collected data from the interviews. There were theories developed along the way and they helped build up the discussion and paint more clear pictures of what was being practiced.

Chapter six is the conclusion and then there is the presentation of the questionnaires. The interviews I conducted gave a positive report and even more than I had expected. There was a lot that was learnt, a lot that was shared and I have to say the entire process was a learning lesson for me, given that it was my first one to go out into the field and interview people. There was agreement in most questions like who the centre of the gospel was, they agreed that it was Jesus Christ and God being his father all joined as one God in the holy trinity with the Holy Spirit. They had all heard about prosperity gospel, and were not for it, according to what they said.

Some talked of the prosperity in the Bible and not the one being preached today of seed sowing. The centre of prosperity gospel most said it was the devil.

Health and wealth was a tricky question where some said it did portray one's walk with God in cases like calamities befalling a person or sickness. Some said it did not. Obedience and submission to authority was important to all of them, but there was one who added and said that, it also was important to obey a leader who was not leading astray. He called on people not to just follow blindly but test the spirits. Serving God was not limited to provisions or thing, it was out of the desire of the heart, so with or without they would serve God. Living in poverty is not Gods desire, but He would not reject one for this, His desire is that his people may prosper, but it does not make his name look bad in any way. Those who do not have, do not have because their time is not yet come. It is not because of sin or something.

There was some slight disagreement here because others said that it might be a sign from God. God's will upon His people is that they may live in abundance not riches, but abundance in every aspect of life, health, wisdom, provision all these. Causes of calamities to some was not known, some said it was the devil and gave an example of Job and some said it could result from sin and other it would be a sign God is showing concerning the person.

When we look at the research question now that we have done the interview, analysis and discussion, we can try and sum up everything into one answer to the thesis question which is; Is there a difference amongst people's perspective in two charismatic churches in Kenya, when it comes to theological interpretation of prosperity and healing when it comes to theological interpretation of prosperity and healing.

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Apostles' Creed, Modern English version <http://www.soe.org/explore/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/DoctrinalStatements.pdf>

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Gordon D. Fee; The Disease of the Health and Wealth Gospels.(copyright 1985,2006) All rights reserved.

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Real Biblical Prosperity and How to live it: David Roiel copyright (1982).

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http://reference.sabinet.co.za/webx/access/electronic_journals/conspec/conspec_v4_a3.pdf

Interview Questionnaires used.

Who is the centre of the gospel?

Have you heard the term Prosperity Gospel?

What is prosperity gospel?

Is prosperity gospel important to you?

In what way?

In what way do you identify yourself well to the teachings of prosperity gospel?

Who is the centre of the gospel of prosperity, is it Christ or people's well-being?

Why do you think so?

Does your health and wealth portray your relationship with God?

In what way?

Is obedient and submission to authority one requirement of prosperity?

What makes you think so?

Supposed, God has already granted you all your wishes, would you still go to him or serve Him?

Does living in poverty or limitation tarnish God's name?

What can the reason be, why Christians do not enjoy good health

Do not enjoy abundant wealth, and so on be?

What can be categorised as God's will upon His people?

What about Poverty, suffering, sickness and lack?

What do you believe is the cause of all hardships and calamities like sickness and tragedies?