By Whose Power Does Bill Johnson Perform Healings?

Let me state from the outset that I’m not a cessationist. God still does perform the miraculous in this day and age. Frankly, I don’t see how anyone can take an honest look at 1 Corinthians 12-14 and deduce that somehow these gifts of the Spirit are not for today. However, having stated this, I must admit in having difficulty with continuationism given all the excesses I’ve seen/read about. I am in a sort of mediated position believing it’s the Spirit who gives to each one “just as He determines” [12:11; NIV 1984] on an individual and case by case basis.

God can heal through elders of a local church praying over and anointing with oil the afflicted individual [James 5:14-15]. He can heal through the fervent prayers of the saints. He can heal through praise. He can heal through the hand of the skilled (and, even the not-so-skilled) physician or surgeon.

But, does the enemy heal? There are purported accounts of healing in the Eastern religions. There are also claimed healings in Santeria and other religious traditions. There have long been accounts of healing in Christian Science, New Thought and Unity.

Bill Johnson on Healing: The Long and the Short of It

Bill Johnson, of Bethel Church in Redding, CA, in his 2009 book Release the Power of Jesus recounts a few instances of healing regarding legs that were purportedly either too long or too short compared to the other. The first account involves a contractor who had broken his left leg 25 years prior resulting in the injured leg ‘healing’ and somehow remaining 1.5 inches longer than the other. The gentleman asked Johnson if he’d ever seen a leg shrink. Recalling a purported prior healing of a pastor who was injured in a snowmobile accident in which the clergyman had a similar problem, Johnson responded to the contractor in the affirmative (it’s not specified whether it was the formerly broken or the presumably uninjured leg of the pastor that was shrunk).

Johnson explains his resultant thought process at the time just prior to the attempted healing of the contractor:

…Then I paused for a moment and a thought occurred to me, “Should I shrink the long leg or lengthen the shorter leg? Most people wouldn’t mind being a little bit taller.” I caught him (and myself) completely off guard when I said, “Right leg, grow in Jesus’ name.”

The right leg began to grow out slowly. Then all of a sudden it shot out past the other leg three or four inches and the guy screamed in pain! It was as though years of growing pains were hitting him all at once. On the outside I’m sure I looked very calm, but on the inside I was wondering, “What have I done! This guy thinks he hobbled in here...wait until he tries to walk out!”

Recall that the ‘now-healed’, but formerly injured leg was already 1.5” too long (not sure how this could be understood as ‘healed’). This means that Johnson’s initial attempt at healing resulted in a normal-sized leg increased to 4.5” to 5.5” beyond its normal length.

Notice all the “I” phrases: “Should I shrink the long leg,” “when I said,” “What have I done!” Is Bill Johnson claiming this botched healing for himself? Perhaps Johnson really meant it was he himself being used as a vehicle through which God worked? Of course, Johnson did say ‘in Jesus’ name” – if that’s any indication.

There are a number of options I can think of regarding this ‘healing’:

1) It truly was the Holy Spirit working through Johnson
2) It was Johnson himself
3) It was the enemy working through Johnson
4) It was Johnson’s imagination
Come,” Shippensburg, PA; p 107. Ellipse in original, emphasis added.

1) Johnson was stretching the truth, as it were

Personally, I have a hard time with #1 as I find it very difficult to believe that God would inflict pain, especially to the point an individual would scream out as such, in the process of divine healing. As to numbers 2 through 5, I’ll let the reader decide.

Continuing this account:

I began to search my heart to figure how to pray when I remembered studying the word shalom. It means “peace.”...soundness of mind, health, prosperity...I thought, “This situation has to be covered in that word.” So I prayed, “And now Lord, just let the shalom of Heaven, your peace, rest upon this man.” His right leg then shrank back to perfectly match the other one...6

Because of my recent experience, for which God covered me, I took her leg and commanded the one with the metal rod to shrink. It yielded to the command...8

Note his words, “for which God covered me.” He is referring to the second ‘successful healing’ after his first attempt with the contractor. Is Johnson admitting that the initial botched healing of the contractor was done by himself rather than God? It would appear that way. Given that it apparently was not God involved in the initial attempt at healing the contractor, which of the remaining options – numbers 2 through 5 above – do you think applies? Or, is there yet another option I just haven’t considered?


3) Johnson, p 106-07

4) Johnson, p 106-07

5) Johnson, p 107. Ellipse in original; bolding added.

6) Johnson, p 107. Bolding from italicized original.

7) Johnson, p 108

8) Johnson, p 108. Bolding from italicized original.

Advertisements
Kris Vallotton and the “Mantle of Jesus Christ” / Bill Johnson on Corporate Anointing

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“…Not just the mantle of William Branham, how about the mantle of Jesus Christ? That’s even a bigger one there…”

– Kris Vallotton, August 15, 2010

Kris Vallotton is Senior Associate Pastor of Bethel Church in Redding, California under Senior Pastor Bill Johnson. The above quote of Vallotton follows an August 15, 2010 sermon of Bill Johnson titled, “The Real Jesus” (with complete context below). Johnson had just spoken of his desire for a “corporate anointing” and Vallotton was making a few comments after this sermon. The following YouTube video captures both Johnson and Vallotton (my understanding is this video is available at www.ibethel.tv if one registers at the site):

Here’s a portion of Johnson’s “word”:

“…Here’s what I’m believing for – I know it’s never happened; but, I know that it must before the end. There must be, not just individuals – I’m thankful we have individuals that are rising up with such anointing, such strength, we have people scattered all over the planet right now that are just making a mess of things in all the right ways. We are so encouraged. But, what I’m believing for is a generation – a generation that’ll rise up with a corporate faith, a corporate anointing to press into realms because it’s my conviction that as much as God put on a William Branham, or a Kathryn Kuhlman, or a Wigglesworth, He’ll put far greater anointing on a company of people than He ever would on an individual. To do that, there must be that corporate sense of, ‘we have to deal with the issue of obeying the rules of this kingdom to tap into the resources of this kingdom’...we cannot use the principles of this world and expect to tap into unlimited resource of the kingdom of God.”

After finishing his sermon and following up with some prayer, Johnson relinquishes the podium to Vallotton who goes on to reveal a purported conversation he had with God:

“...so, I was in a prayer chapel and laying on the floor and I said, ‘God would you give me the mantle of William Branham?’ And, He said, “Well, how could I do that? If I did that it would destroy you.” Then, I was layin’ there and it was like, the Lord asked ‘how could I do that’ so then I said – I waited about a few minutes – I was thinking about and I said, “Well, you could put the same mantle on a whole generation then we wouldn’t stand out from one another.” He said, “Alright, I’ll do that.”

Isn’t that awesome? That’s what the Lord wants to do. He wants to put the, He wants – not just the mantle of William Branham, but how about the mantle of Jesus Christ? That’s even a bigger one there, and, uh, He wants to put it on every single person.

So, wasn’t that just a great word that Bill brought us right there...”

I agree “that’s even a bigger one there” but not in the same way as Vallotton, I’m sure. First, note that by the usage of the word “mantle” Vallotton is equating it with Johnson’s “anointing.” Bill Hamon states these terms are similar in meaning if not synonymous. He defines “anointing”:

*An in-depth study of the word anoint reveals that it was used to consecrate people to a particular
Clearly, Branham was a false teacher propounding heresy. Branham claimed – and others claimed as well – that he and his leadership had a special anointing or mantle. He taught his followers that he was the angel of the Lord “standing on the earth” in the last days and that the church needed to be “set apart” for Him. In his view, the church was a body corporate, an “inhabitation” of the Christ who was to return on earth at the end of the current dispensation. He taught that the church was the body and the Christ the head. He would write:

“The Word of the Lord has promised that He would send to the earth once again the spirit of Elijah in the form of that end-time messenger who is the angel to the Seventh Church Age in these final closing days of time. We firmly believe that this promise was fulfilled in the vindicated ministry of our precious brother, William Marrion Branham.”

Branham also taught that all Christian denominations lacked full revelation (Branham’s, that is), that denominations were the mark of the beast [Rev 13:16], and, thus, all those attending denominational churches were not really saved and are, in fact, antichrist. All congregants of denominations are actually the pale horse, death, of the fourth seal of Revelation [Rev 6:7-8] and will be killed off by the collective white horses made up of Jesus and the ‘church’ [Rev 6:8].

In addition, Branham denied everlasting torment claiming the lake of fire was created and hence could not be eternal:

“…Anything that was created is not Eternal… That’s the reason there cannot be an Eternal hell. If anybody ever tells you that you’re going to burn in an Eternal Hell, I want the Scripture for that…”

Well, here’s the Scripture: “And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” [Rev 20:10, NIV 1984; see also Matthew 25:41-46, etc.] It should be noted that Branham affirmed eternal life for the believer even though mankind is, of course, created thereby illustrating one of many contradictions in his teachings. Some claim that Branham was orthodox in the beginning yet went astray toward the end of his life and ministry.

Branham’s son, Billy Paul Branham, reiterates his dad’s claim that he was the end-time spirit of Elijah:

“The Word of the Lord has promised that He would send to the earth once again the spirit of Elijah in the form of that end-time messenger who is the angel to the Seventh Church Age in these final closing days of time. We firmly believe that this promise was fulfilled in the vindicated ministry of our precious brother, William Marrion Branham.”

Yet Psalm 24:1 states, “The earth is the LORD’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” In the book of Job, Satan must receive God’s permission in order to test Job [Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-6]. And, in Job 38:33 is the following: “Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up God’s dominion over the earth?” God is sovereign over all.

William Marrion Branham’s Doctrine and Practices

Both Johnson and Vallotton promote William Branham. Who was William Marrion Branham? There’s already quite a bit of info available regarding Branham, so, briefly: he declared a number of foretelling prophecies which failed to come pass, he denied the Trinity, and his doctrine included a belief in pyramids, astrology, and the Serpent Seed doctrine in which the claim is that the serpent in the Garden of Eden mated with Eve resulting in a tainted lineage beginning with Cain and continuing to this day. Apparently emanating from this perversion of the Fall is the following from Branham:

“Who does the world belong to? The Devil. Who controls it now? The Devil. Exactly right. The Devil controls the world…”

In present-day application, this means the manifest presence of God upon a person to meet specific needs:

“...Mantle has a similar meaning. If someone has prophesied that you have prophetic mantle, it implies that you can minister in prophetic ministry....”

It follows then that the desire to “put the same mantle on a whole generation” would be the same as what Johnson calls a “corporate anointing.” Further, this “mantle of Jesus Christ” would be akin to a “corporate Christ anointing.” This is the heretical manifest sons of God (MSoG) teaching. [For more on Bill Johnson and MSoG, see Bill Johnson’s ‘Born Again’ Jesus, Part II]. The most extreme view of MSoG culminates in the “Birth of the Man-Child” teaching in which the “birth” of the corporate Christ is through the corporate Church body. More on this in a bit.

It should be noted that Branham affirmed eternal life for the believer even though mankind is, of course, created thereby illustrating one of many contradictions in his teachings. Some claim that Branham was orthodox in the beginning yet went astray toward the end of his life and ministry.
was a prophet and a healer; but, with such aberrant theology, why would we believe he was truly of God? Is the sole criterion of a Christian the miraculous [see Matt 7:21-23]? Aren’t we to worship in both spirit and truth [John 4:23]? Given this, why would Bill Johnson promote Branham’s “anointing” and why would Kris Vallotton want his “mantle” as a “corporate mantle” / “corporate anointing”? Would God really want to give anyone, let alone the entire church corporate, the “mantle” of one like William Branham? Does God really talk to Kris Vallotton in this manner?

The “Mantle of Jesus Christ”

Setting aside for the moment the obvious blasphemy of even suggesting such a thing, what would it mean to receive the “mantle of Jesus Christ”? The context of the message in the video/audio seems to be, in general, the “greater works” teaching prevalent at Bethel. This may point to the Jesus Christ during the Incarnation as the model for this “mantle.” If this is the case then, given that Jesus’ primary purpose was to lay down his life in propitiation for the collective sins of mankind, would this be a part of this “mantle” as well?

Or, does this “mantle” refer to the current glorified Christ and/or Jesus at the Second Coming, when He returns to complete all of God’s purposes including the final judgment and the consummation of the Kingdom of God? This is certainly a possibility as will be made evident below. Either way, however, or if this “mantle” includes Jesus both at the Incarnation and in His glorified state, this is blasphemy of the highest order as it equates mere men to God. While Christians will receive a new glorified body in eternity, we will never become equal to Jesus Christ who was, is, and always will be God.

This phrase “the mantle of Jesus Christ” is not without precedence, however, as “The Mantle of Jesus” is the title of a ten year old article in which it is claimed the entire Church body will “operate in all the anointing that He [Jesus] did” as we “transition into the manifestations of the sons of God”.  

Bill Johnson’s friends Bob Jones and/or Todd Bentley could not have been much more straight-forward than that in their respective manifest sons of God teachings.

In addition, “the mantle of Jesus Christ” is mentioned by the Order of Christ–Sophia [Sophia means “wisdom”] as it’s included in their “purposes” statement which is based on the “ancient Wisdom Teachings,” or, in other words, New Age / New Spirituality teachings. Among other things, the site desires “that all may know the love of their Creator and the reality of their Divine Birth” and to demonstrate to all “the Christ Consciousness and the Way of Return to the Creator.” Part of “ancient Wisdom Teachings” is the belief that we can attain sonship as fully manifested sons of God here on earth.

The Manifestation of the Sons of God

As noted at the beginning of this article and evidenced by the immediately preceding section, this “corporate anointing” and “corporate mantle” which Johnson and Vallotton refer to respectively in the context of the video/audio is tantamount to manifested sons of God (MSoG) doctrine. To illustrate further, I’ll quote from a few other proponents of this teaching. Bill Hamon explains this teaching in his 1997 book Apostles, Prophets and the Coming Moves of God [with foreword by C. Peter Wagner and endorsements by Oral Roberts, Cindy Jacobs among others] which come to the enlightened via so-called “present truths” purportedly by the Holy Spirit. These manifested sons of God will emerge “in one generation” displaying all kinds of “signs, wonders and miracles”

This will culminate in what Hamon terms the “Resurrection-Translation” (R-T) of the saints – his terminology and version of the Rapture:

“…We must realize that the Resurrection-Translation (R-T) of the saints does not take place because of a negative situation on earth. It is a positive event that takes place to fulfill God’s timely purpose. The positive purpose of the R-T is to enable the army of the Lord [Joel’s Army, or MSoG] to operate in all the anointing that He did as we transition into the manifestations of the sons of God.”

“…As we come into the unity of the faith the mantle of Christ will arise upon us, in ONE HEART and ONE MIND. It is the will of Father for us to be in unity of heart and mind as this occurs the scripture will be fulfilled.

“…We will not come into the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, the perfect man until we stop causing separation of the mantle of Christ. There still is a season where these callings and anointings will operate separate but soon as we grow in Christ and become ONE MIND and ONE HEART we will beat together as the BODY of CHRIST.”

“…God has predestined a certain quantity of members with Christlike qualities for the full functioning of His eternal Church…”

“The [New] Apostolic Reformation will cause believers to manifest the supernatural grace, gifts, and power of God. The one-man show will be over…”

“God has released the Holy Spirit to bring His revelations and activation to the end-time Church. This will bring forth the last generation of mortal people, unlimited power…dedicated to fulfilling God’s present-truth purposes.”  

Ernie Gruen
Eschatology
esoteric
Essenes
Eugene Peterson
False Gospel
false teaching
Garden of Eden
Gnosticism
Gospel
Greek Language studies
Healing
hell
Holy Communion
Holy Spirit
House of Generals
Humor
ICHTHYS
IHOP
International Coalition of Apostles
International House of Prayer
Jack Deere
Jackie Alnor
James Goll
Jesus
Jesus Christ
Joel Osteen
Joel’s Army
John MacArthur
John Paul Jackson
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Kansas City Prophets
Kenneth Copeland
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Kenosis
Kingdom Now
Kingdom of God
Kris Vallotton
Kundalini
Latter Rain
legalism
Latter Rain
Leonard Ravenhill
Lou Engle
Lucifer
Lucis Trust
LXX
Manifest Sons of God
Master Jesus
Max Lucado

This will culminate in what Hamon terms the “Resurrection-Translation” (R-T) of the saints – his terminology and version of the Rapture:
These fully manifested sons of God, or, Joel’s Army, will execute judgment on those who will not go along with their plans. Hamon claims Joel 2:1-11 is a prophecy for this near future ‘army of God.’

“God’s great end-time army is being prepared to execute God’s written judgments with Christ’s victory and divine judgment decrees that have already been established in heaven. The time is set when they will be administered and executed on earth through God’s saintly army. All that is destined and needed will be activated during God’s restorational Army of the Lord Movement.”

Bob Jones and Todd Bentley are other proponents of the manifest sons of God teaching. Here, in the following, Jones calls them the “New Breed.” From August 08, 2008 [for full transcription, see “New Breed of Elected Seeds” section of Bethel to Feature Bob Jones at Upcoming Prophetic Conference):

“...The New Breed will be those that are partaker of the divine nature. As you begin to grow into the likeness of Christ you’re gonna begin to partake of the divine nature. And, once you begin to grow up in that-a-way you’ll continue to mature until you look like Christ all over the world. Jesus was one person. Now get ready for Jesus[sic; plural of “Jesus”] all over the world.”

Johnson, himself has referred to a new breed of believer resulting in “a reformation [that] will impact society on all fronts” in his book Face to Face With God. Recall Johnson’s words from the above transcription, “I know it’s never happened; but, I know that it must before the end.” Here’s Bentley from May 28, 2008 at Lakeland making explicit references to what is called ‘birthing the man-child’ – the ‘birthing’ of the “corporate Christ” which he states is a prerequisite for Jesus Christ’s return:

“Tonight is a crossing over and we have a moment, ‘says the Lord, ‘where we can labor and travail until Christ is formed in you’...”

“...I feel if we gave it a big push that we can literally form Christ – Christ in you. I’m talking about a maturity tonight – and it’s being formed in you. God promised a day where heaven and earth must retain Him until the restoration of all things. Heaven will hold back the coming of Jesus Christ until sons and daughters come into maturity. It’s called the Manifestation of the sons of God.

“Heaven will hold back the Second Coming... A mature church manifests the glory of God. A mature church manifests the Word of God in truth and power. A mature church walks in holiness and character. A mature church walks in miracles, signs, and wonders.

“I’m talking about a maturity tonight – and it’s being formed in you. Let Christ be formed in maturity. Let the full man, let the fullness of God come forth, and let the womb open tonight... and let there be a great birthing...”
The New Age of the Manifested Sons of God

Constance Cumbey, in her 1985 book *A Planned Deception* illustrates how an adamant New Ager from a Unity Church in Kansas City recognized the Manifest Sons of God doctrine as taught in hyper-charismatic churches, or “Neo-Pentecostalism” as being New Age in nature (see also Ascended Master under “Glossary of New Age/Occult Terms and Concepts” and “Jesus of Nazareth / Master Jesus” in the “Christ” in the New Age article on this site):

“Rev. Ernest Ramsey, an associate pastor at Unity’s Kansas City Founder’s Church, Unity on the Plaza, is an enthusiastic follower of the Alice Bailey and Benjamin Crème teachings. In his Research Report #2, he tells of something he was led to by a spirit guide – what he terms ‘Neo-Pentecostalism.’ An aberrant branch of Pentecostalism, this is more commonly known as ‘Manifest Sons of God.’ That movement is also referred to as ‘Sonship’ or ‘Overcomers.’ Ramsey concludes based on even less evidence than I have personally collected that this is part of the New Age Movement.

“…The most interesting section of Ramsey’s report dealing with ‘Neopentecostalism.’ Ramsey spent a semester at one of the Neo-Pentecostal or Manifest Sons of God seminaries – in upstate New York ‘at a location surrounded by tall pine trees.’ Already familiar with the Alice Bailey writings, he was amazed to see that there was a branch of Pentecostalism that embraced the same teachings – albeit using different terminology.

“Like those seeking the ‘Age of Aquarius’ these people too were seeking a ‘New Age.’ Like the other New Agers, these people taught that ‘The Christ was an anointing’ – not necessarily one man. They taught that Jesus was a pattern son who was to be a sign of something even greater to come – the ‘Manifestation of the Sons of God.’ They too believed the earth was to be cleansed of evil. And chillingly like the other New Agers, they believed they were to be ‘God’s instruments to do such cleansing.’ The New Agers believed they were gods. The Manifest Sons of God likewise taught that if one accepted their ‘new revelation’ that they themselves would actually become Christ at the time of the unveiling or manifestation of the Sons of God,…”

Theosophist/New Ager Alice A. Bailey (mentioned above by Cumbey), in her 1937 book *From Bethlehem to Calvary*, an occult rendering of the life and work of Jesus Christ, teaches the MSOg doctrine:

“Let me state here briefly and succinctly, what it would appear really transpired when Christ died on the Cross. He rendered up the form aspect and identified Himself as Man with the life aspect of Deity. He thereby liberated us from the form side of life, of religion and of matter, and demonstrated to us the possibility of being in the world and yet not of the world; living as souls, released from the trammels and limitations of the flesh, while yet walking on earth…”

The asterisk above denotes a reference in the original text to John 17:16 illustrating one of many instances of proof-texting. Note that, according to Bailey, Christ did not die for our sins so much as He died for our own delication – becoming a model, a pattern to follow in attaining our own godhood. The last part of the last sentence above is describing manifested sons of God with the claim that Jesus Christ had released us “from the trammels and limitations of the flesh, while yet walking on earth.” Bailey is also describing the dualistic Gnostic concept which recognizes the spiritual realm as the ‘real’ with the material realm as illusion and/or intrinsically evil. This is also alluded to in Bill Hamon’s book *Eternal Church* in which he states:

“…When the Church realizes its full sonship, its bodily redemption will cause a redemptive chain reaction throughout all of creation…”

This sounds not unlike the Kabballistic doctrine of divine sparks which are within all matter requiring mankind to liberate and redeem them to perfection.

In the following, Bailey is a bit more explicit in her manifested sons of God teaching:

“…Its form [orthodox religion] must be sacrificed upon the Cross of Christ in order that it may be resurrected into true and vital life for the meeting of people’s need. Let a living Christ be its theme, and not a dying Saviour…Mankind can descend from the cross as Christ did, and enter into the kingdom of God, a living spirit. The sons of God are ready to be manifested…”

The book goes on to quote Romans 8:16-24, just as those in hyper-charismatic churches do in promoting MSOg teaching. Continuing with Bailey:
“Towards this glorification of God we are all moving. Some of the sons of men have already achieved, through the realisation of their divinity.”

In addition to the ability to travel between the physical and spiritual realms at will, other characteristics of the fully manifested son of God are an impossibility to sin, being group conscious (the recognition of the imperative of unity), and a cessation of ongoing reincarnations. In the following, Bailey equates the attainment of sonship with entrance into the Kingdom of God and describes how Christ’s Incarnation furthered this possibility:

“…Christ’s incarnation, apart from its historical value, and apart from the keynote which He sounded, marked the closing of a great cosmic cycle, but it marked also the opening of that door into the kingdom which had opened only occasionally heretofore, in order to permit the entrance of those sons of God who had triumphed over matter. After the advent of Christ, the door stood wide open for all time, and the kingdom of God began to form on Earth…”

This “door into the kingdom” is also known as a “portal” or “veil.” The initiate “triumphs over matter” through meditation i.e., seeking the ‘presence of God,’ which brings increasingly deeper levels of “Christ consciousness,” or, in reality, increasing soul-control/possession. [See “Christ Consciousness” section of “Christ” in the New Age]. Bailey makes it clear that the ultimate purpose is to build the kingdom now and this purpose can only be accomplished by both the individual and the entire human race attaining divinity.

“It is time that the Church woke up to its true mission, which is to materialise the kingdom of God on earth, today, here and now…”

“This divinity in man must be brought to the birth, both in the individual and in the [human] race, and thus can the kingdom of God on earth be brought into being.”

Obviously, this is not the true Biblical Kingdom of God which should make the reader wonder just which kingdom Dominionists/Restorationists/Kingdom Now adherents are seeking to build. [See Fifth Kingdom in Nature and Kingdom of God under “Glossary of New Age/Occult Terms and Concepts” section of “Christ” in the New Age].

**Which Kingdom?**

The late Earl Paulk made a distinction between the “Gospel” and the “Gospel of the Kingdom” in a glossary near the end of his 1984 book Ultimate Kingdom. Here are the two definitions respectively:

**Gospel:**
The good news of God’s redemption to man. [Luke 4:18, 9:6; Romans 1:16; Ephesians 6:15]

**Gospel of the Kingdom:**
The good news principles of daily life taught by Jesus that the Church must demonstrate as a witness to the world in order to return the rule of the earth to God. [Matthew 4:23, 9:35, 24:14]

Notice again how it’s the Church which must “return the rule of the earth to God” which is, as already noted above, unbiblical. Bill Johnson, in his book When Heaven Invades Earth also differentiates between the “Gospel” and the “Gospel of the Kingdom”:

“…the company of people who have joined this quest for an authentic gospel – the gospel of the kingdom – is increasing.”

There is also a teaching in the New Age in which when “Christ” – actually the antichrist – ‘reappears’ (the belief is He never left the earth), He will have the ability to manifest Himself in many bodies at one time not unlike the “Birth of the Man-Child” teaching of MSoG.

“The Christ, when He comes into incarnation, will most likely project himself into many parts and be where he wants to be. This is called the Law of Divisibility, a term used in Agni Yoga that means a highly developed spirit—one who is able to contact, simultaneously, various people in various locations. For example, a Master can be seen in various groups at the same time. He can even be in different planes serving and teaching on different levels to meet various needs of the people. He can do different jobs in different places at one time. He impresses the space with his images, and so forth.”

Paulk also defines “Man Child” in his glossary as “Jesus Christ” (while referencing Revelation 12:5, 13). Francis Frangipane, in his book In the Presence of God, espouses this “Birth of the Man-Child” doctrine implicitly in a chapter
titled "The Virgin Shall Be with Child":

"Secure this thought in your mind: when the Spirit of Christ comes into the physical world, He must enter through a physical body... When Christ first entered our world as a child, it was Mary whom God chose to give birth. Mary's life symbolized the qualities the Church must possess to walk in the fullness of Christ... [God is preparing us] as He did Mary to give birth to the ministry of His Son. Even now, in the spiritual womb of the virgin Church, the holy purpose of Christ is growing, awaiting maturity; ready to be born in power in the timing of God... the virgin church is 'in labour and in pain to give birth (Rev 12:1-2) even now, hell trembles and the heavens watch in awe, for I say to you, once again, the virgin is with child. Before Jesus Himself returns, the last virgin Church shall become pregnant with the promise of God. Out of her travail, the Body of Christ shall come forth, raised to the full stature of its Head, the Lord Jesus. Corporately manifested in holiness, power and love, the Bride of Christ shall rise."^{43}

As evidenced by the title of his 1985 book Held in the Heavens Until... Paulk believes we either hinder or hasten Christ's return. Paulk made no bones about his belief in MSoG as he writes:

"...When I say, 'Act like a god,' I can hear people saying, 'There he goes with the theory of the manifest sons of God.' Forget about theories! Forget about doctrine! Just go back to the simple Word of God! We are 'little gods,' whether we admit it or not."^{44}

Paulk goes further by explaining that we are an "ongoing incarnation of Christ":

"...Jesus was the firstfruit of God's incarnation, a man living out God's perfect will. Now He says, '...My people will bring forth life as they become the 'incarnate Word on planet Earth'...the Church is the 'ongoing expression' of God."^{45}

All things have been given to us, even to the point of allowing us to share the divine nature of Jesus. Sharing His nature is a definition of the ongoing incarnation of God on the earth. 'Christ in us, the hope of glory.' His inheritance is already ours.^{46}

"...The Seed, Jesus Christ, multiplied Himself by sending the Holy Spirit to indwell His followers...the Holy Spirit within us makes us become the incarnation of God. The seed begins to grow within individuals, and grows corporately into a tremendous church..."^{47}

Bill Hamon wrote regarding Paulk on the Rapture that his view "to most Evangelicals and Pentecostals [is] a denial of the rapture bordering on heresy":

"He [Paulk] taught that the departed saints would be resurrected and the living saints would be translated in the twinkling of an eye, but this was not for the purpose of leaving the earth. Rather, it was for establishing God's divine order for the human race and Christ's rulership over all the earth."^{48}

Please note this is essentially what Hamon teaches (see above). Even though Hamon does not specifically mention the already departed saints, it can be inferred from the "Resurrection" part of his "Resurrection-Translation" doctrine for "resurrection" can only refer to the deceased. While I may not have found what Hamon refers to explicitly regarding Paulk (if I do find something more definitive, I'll update this portion), here's Paulk, once again, from Held in the Heavens Until... implying this as he continues in his line of thought from above [this may well be the quote Hamon had in mind]:

"...'Christ in us' is God's continuing incarnation... The Church is Christ's body, the incarnation of Christ today. The mystery which has been hidden but is now revealed to His saints is Christ in you, the hope of glory.' The mystery of this generation is Christ in us. We never understood that mystery fully. We pray to a 'God beyond the clouds in heavenly places' when Christ is in us. The hope of glory is not in the heavens – the 'hope of the heavens' is on earth! Every departed saint is gathered, waiting to see how many of us are going to receive understanding and bring Christ from the heavens. They are waiting for total redemption as we are

"If God's love is going to be manifested on planet earth, who is going to demonstrate it? Christ in us, the hope of glory. God has no other place to show His love except through His body."^{49}

I do believe God is quite capable of displaying His love apart from the Church body.

Concluding Remarks

This article has shown that a "corporate Christ mantle" or "corporate Christ anointing" is akin to Manifest Sons of God teaching. Further, the logical conclusion to this teaching in most quarters is an establishment of the "Kingdom of God"
through these manifested sons. These doctrines have a direct parallel to New Age teachings. Given that MSnG along with its associated doctrines are not Biblical, we must ask ourselves: Which Kingdom is Johnson, Vallotton, Hamon, Jones, Bentley, Frangipane, (and the late Paulk), et al actually attempting to establish?

Endnotes:

1 ‘Chasing River’ - The Real Jesus – Part 4 – by Bill Johnson. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhRI60j0HLI&feature=related>; as accessed 07/03/11
2 ‘Chasing River’ 0:36 – 1:30, emphasis added; as accessed 07/03/11
3 ‘Chasing River’ 7:28 – 8:18, emphasis added; as accessed 07/03/11
6 Branch; p 426
7 Branch; introduction
8 Branch; pp 259, 249-95
9 Branch; pp 281, 249-95
10 Branch; p 435
11 Branch; p 436
12 Jesus “R” Ministries. “The Mantle of Jesus” <http://www.jesusministries.org/Mantle%20of%20Jesus.htm>; par 2, 3; as accessed 07/03/11
13 Jesus “R” Ministries; par 3, 5. Emphasis added. Also note the very last paragraph uses Joel 2:1-18 presumably for the Latter Rain version of Joel’s Army as well as the IHOP version.
14 Order of Christ–Sophia (Centers of Light) ‘Purpose’ <http://www.orderofchristsophia.org/OCS_purposes.html>; points 3, 6, 5, 6 respectively; as accessed 07/03/11
15 Hamon, Apostles, Prophets; p 13
16 Hamon, Apostles, Prophets; p 11
17 Hamon, Apostles, Prophets; p 13
18 Hamon, Apostles, Prophets; p 11
19 Hamon, Apostles, Prophets; p 13
20 Hamon, Apostles, Prophets; p 18
21 Hamon, Apostles, Prophets; pp 264-65
22 Hamon, Apostles, Prophets; pp 255-56
23 Hamon, Apostles, Prophets; p 252
24 Morningstar Ministries, Media Store, VS19-0000, “Todd Bentley Healing and Impartation Service, 08-08-08” DVD. A truncated version on Jones’ site: <http://bobjonesnew.unionactive.com/Docs/Words%20of%202008/2008-09-The_New_Breed.htm>
25 Johnson, Bill. Face to Face with God. 2007; Charisma House, Lake Mary, FL; p 139. Emphasis added.
31 Bailey. Bethlehem; p 189. As per original (sentence fragment in orig.). Emphasis added.
32 Bailey. Bethlehem; p 202
34 Bailey. Praise; p 697
35 Bailey. Bethlehem; p 184
36 Bailey. Bethlehem; p 210
37 Bailey. Bethlehem; p 50
38 Paulk, Earl. Ultimate Kingdom. 1984, K Dimension Publishers, Atlanta, GA; p 335
39 Johnson, Bill. When Heaven Invades Earth, 2003; Destiny Image, Shippenburg, PA; p 27. Emphasis in original.
41 World Service Intergroup website. Dubois, J.D. “The Christ, His Reappearance, and the Avatar of Synthesis” <http://www.worldserviceintergroup.net/#christ-reappearance/4543145171>; par 5; as accessed 07/03/11
42 Paulk, Ultimate, p 337
Bill Johnson and all of his claims of miraculous power, Randy Clark and all of his leg-lengthening chicanery, Bethel children’s minister, Seth Dahl and all of his angelic visions, have been utterly and totally powerless to heal the child of Bethel’s “Music CEO,” Joel Taylor. According to CBN, Bethel Music CEO, Joel Taylor, is pleading with the public for prayer for his child to be healed. Of course, healing miracles performed in the Scripture by Christ and the Apostles were (A) immediate and instant (B) complete and total and (C) done without accompanying medical care, which could just as easily be credited for improvements. And yet, Bill Johnson writes on the Bethel website that if someone is not healed it is because of the “deficiency on their end,” rather than the will of God. Discover Bill Johnson famous and rare quotes. Share Bill Johnson quotations about Jesus, heart and giving. “Royalty is my identity. Servanthood is my assignment...” Bill Johnson (2014). “Experience the Impossible: Simple Ways to Unleash Heaven’s Power on Earth”, p.89, Chosen Books.