

This chart will attempt to show how a great many of these “declarations” (which is a NEW AGE practice that does not belong in the church), are unbiblical.

(Taken from website of BETHEL CHURCH, REDDING, CA) We love to declare promises and truth as we give our tithes and offerings. Below are declarations that we make during the offering time of our weekend services.

The first thing I would like to point out is that tithes are Old Testament. In the New Testament, ALL belongs to Jesus, our Redeemer, including financial and other resources, our talents and skills, and even our very lives. We offer prayers and supplications, NOT declarations. (Eph. 6:18, Philip. 4:6, 1 Tim. 2:1, 1 Tim. 5:5, Acts 10:1-2, Col. 1:9, Col. 4:2, 1 Thess. 1:2, 1 Thess. 5:16-18) God’s word is to be declared boldly. When we truly LOVE God, our desires and our joy MATCH His. (John 14-15) The allurements of the world hold no appeal for us—we know they will pass away, but His Kingdom will last forever. 1John 2:15-17

Offering Reading #1

As we receive today’s offering, we are believing the Lord for:

Jobs and better jobs

Raises and bonuses

Benefits

Sales and commissions

Favorable settlements

Estates and inheritances

Interests and income

Rebates and returns

Checks in the mail

Gifts and surprises

Finding money

Debts paid off

Expenses decrease

Blessing and increase

Thank You, Lord, for meeting all of my financial needs that I may have more than enough to give into the Kingdom of God and promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!!!

This verse appears to be “claimed”:

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 *Corinthians 9:8* This is true, but in today’s society, the key word is NEED. We THINK we need a lot of things that are really worldly wants. (New cars, electronics, vacations, extravagant homes and wardrobes, etc.) The context of the passage is that the one who sows generously will be rewarded in like manner. God IS generous, but most don’t understand that He doesn’t want our leftovers. Seek the kingdom FIRST; store treasure in heaven not on earth. Think of the widow’s mite. (Mark 12:41-44)

Jesus told a man that He was NOT there to arbitrate between him and his brother about an inheritance. (Luke 12:13-34) God already knows what we need, so as we walk in His ways, we should trust Him to provide as we ask for what is needed to accomplish HIS will. James 1:17 - God’s gifts, is preceded by resisting temptation and followed by how we are firstfruits to God. He requires our obedience and deserves OUR firstfruits as well.

Offering Reading #2

As we receive today’s offering, we are believing You for:

Heaven opened

Earth invaded

Storehouses unlocked and miracles created

Dreams and visions

Angelic visitations

Declarations

Impartations and divine manifestations

Anointings, giftings and calls

Positions and promotions

Provisions and resources to go to the nations

Souls and more souls from every generation saved and set free carrying Kingdom revelation!

Thank You, Father, that as I join my value system to Yours, You will shower FAVOR, BLESSINGS and INCREASE upon me so I have more than enough to co-labor with Heaven and see JESUS get His FULL REWARD. Hallelujah!!!

“Believe and you will receive it” refers to WISDOM. (Jam. 1:5-7) The context is how we must endure trials to inherit the crown of life. The rich must remember everything is from God and all will pass away. See Luke 12:32-48. Jesus doesn’t want us to put things before Him and His Kingdom. These declarations seem almost like veiled bribes—IF you give to me, THEN I will give some back. We all know that most people will take care of #1 first, and sadly, that is NOT God, as should be—how much is “more than enough”? From Mal. 3:8-12. See the rest of Mal. 3-4. God wants *entire lives* devoted to Him. (Luke 14:33, Matt. 10:37-39)

We were NEVER told to ask for angelic visitations! We were told to be hospitable to strangers, as they may be angels unbeknown to us. (Heb. 13:2) See the two “men” Lot sheltered in the city of Sodom, and Samson’s parents, for two examples. (Gen. 19, Judges 13) “Join value system”—like “you scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours”? We don’t give to get. We are His possession. (Eph. 1:14, Titus 2:14, 1 Pet. 2:9, 1 Cor. 6:19-20, Rev. 5:9)

Offering Reading #3

As we pray for new wells of revival, we pray for new economic wells in Redding to be created.

So Lord, we ask You for:

Favor for our city with CEO's, government leaders, and kings.

Manufacturing firms that produce goods for the nations and provide new jobs for our people.

Technology to establish new markets, energy sources, and efficient solutions to grow as a population.

Laws and Courts that measure with the justice and the freedom of our land's Constitution.

Civil Servants that encourage entrepreneurs and a media known for wisdom and truth.

Natural resources released, harvested, sold, and reproduced.

Education, books, and universities that develop mind molders who influence the influential.

Capital to build small businesses that provide services, arts, and culture attracting both young and old.

Medical community known for integrity and excellence. **REPENTANCE** from poverty, small thinking, and envy.

Courage to recognize opportunities and **make wealth**.

Abundance to bless the world and the prudence to save and invest.

Revelation to pass on wealth to our children's children...

So we declare, that when the righteous prosper, the city rejoices! Hallelujah!!!

Repent of poverty? If "joining God's value system" from the previous offering reading applies, then the repentance needed is from blending in with the world, who seeks WEALTH, pleasure, fame, freedom to sin, etc. *...people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith... 1 Tim. 6:5-12* Also see prior verse: *Disaster pursues sinners, but the righteous are rewarded with good. A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous. Proverbs 13:21-22* Also see "seek first." This is not only financial prosperity, but well-being, peace, flourishing in general. *When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy. Prov. 11:10*

Offering Reading #4

I am powerful and what I believe changes the world, so today I declare **God is in a good mood**

He loves me all the time

Nothing can separate me from His love **Jesus' blood paid for everything**

I will tell nations of what He has done **I am important**

How He made me is amazing

I was designed for worship

My mouth establishes praise **to silence the enemy**

Everywhere I go becomes a perfect-health zone

And with God

Nothing is impossible!

The phrases I have put in bold are the same ones they teach the children. This is a new age practice, and even beginning them with "I am" is an affront to God, since that is HIS name. (Ex. 3:4) The new age teachers who do this are well aware of what they are doing, regardless of whether their followers are or not. It is NOT all about US, it's about God, His way.

But to the wicked God says: "What right have you to recite my statutes or take my covenant on your lips? For you hate discipline, and you cast my words behind you. If you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you keep company with adulterers. You give your mouth free rein for evil, and your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son. These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you. Mark this, then, you who forget God, lest I tear you apart, and there be none to deliver! The one who offers thanks-giving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!" Psalm 50:16-23

Sounds suspicious, but found in Psalm 8:2; I would also say see Eph. 6, armor of God, and James 4:7 "submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee." (Also 2 Cor. 10:3-6, note the obedience part as well.)

But not necessarily...

See my article "Letter of Caution" for these responses.