



# The Plumbline

Assessing Current Teachings, Issues and Events with Scripture

## Bam Bam Bentley

Todd Bentley delivers a spiritual punch and fells people onstage (spiritual ring) for the count by yelling "Bam." It goes without saying Bentley is not your grandmother's evangelist. This evangelist is part rock (heavy metal), part Joe Six Pack and a violence akin to a WWF wrestler. In the extended meetings going on in Lakeland Florida, there is no preaching, but rather a promotion of Bentley's supernatural prowess and exploits and his drive to make this into a world wide phenomena surpassing Rodney Howard Brown (Holy Spirit bartender), Toronto, and Brownsville altogether. Indeed, Toronto and Brownsville must be considered "outpouring lite." The "Bam" command replaces the "fire" command of Toronto/Brownsville, before sending people to the floor. There was a WWF wrestler, now deceased, called "Bam Bam Bigelow." But Bam Bam Bentley can surely lay claim to that title among extreme Charismatics. He is their spiritual WWF champion.

Reports are pouring in of what has become dubbed the "Florida Outpouring." The meetings commenced with a four night stand at Ignited Church in Lakeland Florida. This church was also the launching pad for Rodney Howard Brown a decade ago. The meetings were extended and as the crowds swelled they moved to a larger church and then later to the Lakeland Concert Arena. This venue is already booked in the future, so shortly they plan to use the Joker Marchant Stadium where the Detroit Tigers play spring baseball.

Bentley is a bald headed and essentially obese performer. This fact is incongruous because of his claim that his anointing cures baldness and drops pounds of the obese. His body is literally covered with tattoos. *Most often he dresses in jeans and often wears a black T Shirt with "Legendary Killer" written on the back.* This denotes his love of "heavy Metal" groups especially "Mortification." The tattoos include a Jesus Death Mask from a heavy metal group. Some of the images tattooed on his body include Japanese Kanji letters which mean in Japanese "Big", "Great", "King", and "Ruler."

Concerning his stage antics, there is an exhausting chronicle of these on the internet and UTube, so much so that it is a huge task to choose what to share. But you can also watch Bentley every night on God TV. But first let's give some attention to his biography which is rarely shared at the meetings except in passing antidotes. Bentley was born in British Columbia in Canada in 1976. In his youth he struggled with drug addiction and criminal activities including sexual molestation which he readily admitted to in one his meetings when accused by his victim. He was converted at age 18 and sometime later was mentored by Pat King, aka Pat Coking, who leads a ministry called "Extreme Prophetic." It was here that he was introduced to extreme Later Rain manifestations and teaching. Bentley later established his own ministry called "Fresh Fire

Ministries” and has been traveling the world for some years. Todd Bentley consciously wants to be seen as following in the Latter Rain hall of fame going all the way back to the 50’s and William Branham. Bentley claims the same angel that assisted Branham is now assisting him in his meetings. Bentley doesn’t, however, seem to have the same clairvoyance gift which Branham credited to his angel. Still he makes the claim that whenever Branham’s angel shows up he gets a supernatural ability in his left hand to diagnose people’s sicknesses, get correct words of knowledge about details in people’s lives just as Branham claimed. But by all indications he is a novice in clairvoyance ability compared to Branham and Paul Cain. Bentley wants also to be seen as flowing on from the Kansas City Prophets of more recent fame. He has invited Paul Cain to his revival. In that meeting Cain denied his already confessed addiction to alcohol and homosexuality. Bob Jones of Kansas City prophet fame, noted especially because of sexual exploitation of woman during prophetic ministry, has also been invited to Bentley’s meetings. Bentley and Jones speak often on the phone and Bentley repeats his prophecies. John Kilpatrick and Steve Hill, AOG personages from Brownsville fame, have also visited Lakeland.

## **Bentleys Angels**

Bentley has had so many visitations of angels with different names we can only list the most prominent. Bentley claims he was visited in December 2000 by an angel who said, “I am a healing angel... you are going to take miracles, signs and wonders around the world. I was with Wm Branham.”... The angel appeared to me in 2001 in Albany Oregon... So I said, “Lord what are you saying?” He said, “I am going to release angels.”... At that point I was taken to heaven and I was taken into a football stadium setting where I saw thousands of angels in the stands. I was on the field and I had the ball. The time clock was running out. It was like the last play of the game... Why did I have the ball? I hate sports!... I realized they were healing angels in the stands. I thought, “Lord” they are angels just like the one I saw. “That’s is right.” He said, “Just like the one that was with Branham.” (Let us Reason).

### **The Emma the Female Angel**

Here is a paraphrase of Bentley’s words: Twice Bob Jones asked me about this angel that was in KC in 1980. Jones told Bentley that Emma was the angel that helped birth the prophets (Jones/Cain and others). Later Bentley was in ND in a service and in walks Emma. “The Lord said: “Here is Emma.” She floated a couple of inches off the floor. Emma appeared to be beautiful and young about 22...She glided into the room emitting brilliant colors and Emma carried bags and began pulling gold from them, and then she put gold dust on the people.” (Wolf Tracks). More recently Emma has been demoted and all reference to her on Bentley’s website has been erased. “Emma” is misnomer, for in Scripture angels are sexless.

### **The Angel of Finance**

Bentley states: “So let’s look at what happened. At first I saw heaven open and as I ascended a ladder into the heavens, I saw full vibrant wings and feathers. These feathers were white... wings that moved and there was an arm under each wing. As the wings lifted, I saw every precious gem you could think of under these wings; and then I saw the angel standing, having a body like a man with six wings. I knew it was the angel of finance... Next I saw a door called ‘treasure’ and the door was open and I found myself in a treasure room in heaven. The only thing in the room was gold coins; I began stuffing those coins into my pockets until they were falling out.” Bentley

goes on to say that this happened before the evening offering was taken. Well! That surely was a convenient and short trip.

## **Bentley's Trips to the Third Heaven**

Bentley admits to scores of trips to heaven. In fact he claims daily trips. It is hard to choose from so many claims. Again because it is a long quote, I will need to paraphrase. In this particular trip he met the apostle Paul. He describes Paul as 5/2 and a little pudgy. When Paul touched his stomach, Abraham and David materialize from the "cloud of glory." Abraham was taller than David about 6/5/. Now Paul speaks to Bentley without words – spirit to spirit. Paul then communicates spiritually that it was Abraham who taught Paul the words for the NT book of Hebrews.

Another celestial trip was exceptional. Bentley speaking: "The atmosphere around me starts changing and becomes electric... So I'm sitting in the front row... It was like a whirlwind... It was 2-3 feet in front of me. And do you know what I saw? A pillar of fire.... That went through the church roof. A round pillar of living fire, blue, red, sparks... I'm having a Moses experience in Seattle, while Bill Johnson of Redding CA. is speaking. Then the Lord said to me, 'Get into the pillar of fire' ... So I get into the pillar of fire and my whole body starts going RAAAAA and I go up through the church roof in the pillar of fire. I'm through the church roof and all of a sudden I land, So I'm gone, I am in heaven on an operating table... And all of a sudden I hear this sound like a mitre saw... and they put this thing right here on my neck and it didn't hurt... then they went down to the lowards and all of a sudden my stomach went puchh and everything inside of me popped out onto the table , my heart, my liver... And the Lord says, 'Get off the floor get back to your hotel room- right now. I am going to visit your in power'... [In the hotel room] Instantly... boom! The Holy visitation fell on the room and everyone in the room was caught up in visions. I mean all you could hear was aaargh arrgh (torturing sounds) everybody was shaking. Charley was skiing the mountain of the Lord. I was screaming 'on fire, its consuming me,' y'know."

## **Bam Bam's Violent Ministry**

The following was transcribed word for word from a highly disturbing Todd Bentley video. On it Bentley describes several incidents where "God" instructed him to use violence against people. "The woman was standing in the back of the room when the faith of God hit the meeting and her tumor exploded out of her right leg onto the floor... And [God] said... I want you to grab the ladies legs and bang them up and down onto the platform like a baseball bat... I started banging them up and down on the platform- she got healed."

On a later occasion Bentley relates: "I am thinking why is God's power not moving? And He said to me 'it's because you haven't kicked that woman in the face.' And there was this older lady worshipping in the front of the platform and the Holy Spirit (?????) spoke to me and the gift of faith came on me and he (the Holy Spirit???) said 'kick her in the face with your biker boot.' I inched closer and I went like this (makes a kicking motion) Bam as my foot made contact with her nose and she fell under the power of God." (Deception Bytes).

On yet another occasion Bentley relates: "I saw em and a gift of faith came upon me and God said 'just run them down.' So I jumped on them and I went 'Bam' and I got on him and went into a full mount. ground and pound (WFF wrestling words), and something came over me and I

started punching him ... started choking him... I was in another meeting one time. I called out this Chinese gentleman and all of a sudden I went running down the aisle and I hit this guy so hard it drove him back several feet, hit the ground and his tooth popped right out of his mouth.” Jesus is our example and He didn’t “drop kick” the woman with an issue of blood, or pounce on people. Enough is enough. It is impossible for the HOLY SPIRIT to tell anyone to kick a lady.  
PERIOD

## **Is the anointing tangible and transferable: can we impart it?**

“Many people are taught to get an impartation from an anointed preacher. [But] there is no need when Scripture states we all have the same standing before God: all believers have the same Holy Spirit and Christ is our mediator. We can all receive from Jesus, who is the one we should all be seeking. Going to a certain person or meeting to seek an anointing by impartation is unbiblical. No other person is to be our mediator... Whenever men become mediators, Christ’s teachings diminish and men’s teaching increase. We are then giving them, not the Lord, control over our lives. Laying hands on the sick is not the same as imparting the spirit and watching them buckle. A transferable anointing is neither seen nor practiced anywhere in Scripture. We also find that the Apostles did not rush around laying hands on people to impart an experience of ‘fire’... Who is the Spirit of God? Only God can give the Spirit: Jesus is the baptizer in the Holy Spirit, not man. Man cannot control God. There is no teaching on how to obtain or release the anointing to another.” (Let Us Reason).

2Cor 1:21,22 reads, “Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also sealed us and has given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”... 1 John 2:27, “I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive. But ‘the anointing’ that you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about everything – and is true and no lie, just as it has taught you to Abide in him.”

## **Attempts of men to localize the “Glory of God”**

On YouTube there is a segment in which Bentley says that the “glory” is occupying a space right next to his pulpit. Even those who accidentally come near the pulpit are stricken by the so-called glory. At other occasions he calls people to come forward and get some “glory” or come and “drink the glory.” But in the OT Moses wanted to see God’s glory pass by and was refused. The glory of God did reside over the Ark of the Covenant in the tabernacle. And it is this fact that explains the oft repeated reference to the glory of God in Solomon’s temple.

In the New Testament “glory” is reserved to Jesus alone. While Jesus was on the earth He was the “glory.” It descended on Him at His baptism, and at the transfiguration. Finally, Jesus prayed that his disciples would be able one day to share His glory. This of course is a reference to the heavenly court of the glorified Jesus. In too many passages to quote, in the NT “glory” refers to the experience of eternal life in the presence of Jesus who still commands the Glory of God. Those who attempt to command a supposed localizing of God’s glory here on earth obviously are involved in lying signs and wonders, more akin to magic and are far from the glory of God in Christ Jesus.