

EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH – July 2026

Southview Bible Church * 135 Bennett Ave. * Council Bluffs, IA. 51503

Phone: (712) 322-5743 E-mail: pastor@southviewbible.org * Web Site: www.southviewbible.org

YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD?

Heady pride seeks to be like God. Satan was the first to go there, saying in his heart, “I will be like the Most High” (Isa. 14:13-14). Then he said to Eve, “You will be like God” (Gen. 3:5). Ever since, FALSE teachers have advocated a “God-complex” in one form or another!

When it comes to God, there are what theologians call “communicable attributes” and “incommunicable attributes.” But only God is God, and only God can do what only God can do! Jesus, being God (the God-Man), put on display what only God can do. It was uniquely through Him that “the arm of the LORD” was revealed (Isa. 53:1). Jesus claimed to be “the Son of God” and said that the very works He did verified this reality (cf. Jn. 10:36-38). No one else can claim this, because no one else is the Son of God!

Pastor Bill Johnson of Bethel Church in Redding, California, says in his book, “The Way of Life, “Jesus promised signs and wonders would follow believers and they would do even greater works than He did. Miracles did not stop with Jesus and the apostles” (p. 207). Yes, Jesus did say those who believe in Him would do “greater works” (Jn. 14:12), but the sense is in the scope of outreach, not in the quality of SIGN miracles! Again, he says, “He made it possible for those who believe Him to experience the same reality He does. ‘Nothing is impossible for those who believe’ (see Matt. 17:20). Faith gives us access to a realm known only to God.” (p. 40) In his book, “Dreaming with God,” he says, “While it is true that God does not give His glory to another, we’re not another – we are members of His Body.” (p. 135) On page 38 he writes, “John the Baptist passed the baton to Jesus, who has passed it on to us *that we might increase*.” Bill constantly emphasizes that as believers we are “co-laborers” with God in the sense that we now are empowered to do “God-things.” In his book, “The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind,” he writes, “We are here as ambassadors assigned, given dominion over a planet, to represent His Name, to do what Jesus did.” (p. 152). On page 53, he says, “When you’ve been given the Spirit of God, you lose the privilege of claiming, ‘I’m only human.’ You are much more than that.”

Bill has developed a theology that says Jesus, as a mere man, did the miracles that He did, and therefore, we can do the same thing. In “The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind,” he says, “He [Jesus] had set aside His divinity. He did miracles as a man in right relationship with God because He was setting forth a model for us, something for us to follow.” (p. 43) While not denying that Jesus was God, Bill denies that Jesus functioned as God while on the earth, thus mitigating the doctrine of the “Hypostatic Union” (fully God and fully man in ONE person).

However, Jesus did what He did as the God-Man, and not merely as a man. John said that Jesus did His SIGN-MIRACLES so that we might believe that He is “the Christ, the Son of God” (Jn. 20:30-31). God, in these last days, has spoken to us “in SON” (Heb. 1:2), and this SON is “the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature” (Heb. 1:3). Jesus told the Jews that unless they believed in Him as “I am” [the ETERNAL GOD] they would die in their sins (Jn. 8:24; cf. 8:58-59). Jesus put His finger on the central issue of His ministry in asking, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man am?” Peter, under inspiration, responded with, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Mt. 16:13-17) When Jesus calmed the storm, those in the boat “came and worshiped Him, saying, ‘Truly You are the Son of God.’” (Mt. 14:32-33).

Yes, Jesus, in His humbled state of the incarnation, did set aside the independent use of His divine attributes, functioning in absolute dependence upon the Father (cf. Isa. 42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12; Jn. 5:19, 30, 8:28; Phil. 2:5-8). But in no way did He set aside His divinity!! Rather, He functioned as the God-Man through and through. The SIGN-MIRACLES He did put His divinity on display! To bring Jesus down to our level is blasphemously demeaning to Jesus!

Thot: Jesus ALONE is LORD, and we are not Him, neither can we do what He alone can do!

Earnestly Contending, Pastor Dwight J. Oswald