

Spiritual Pride & Privileges conventions

The Bible strictly forbids creating premium tiers of believers or using wealth to buy position, attention, or proximity to leadership.

1. Rejecting Spiritual Elitism and Paid Proximity

James 2:1-4 (The Sin of Partiality): "My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, 'You sit here in a good place,' and say to the poor man, 'You stand there,' or 'Sit here at my footstool,' have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?"

Acts 8:18-20 (The Error of Commercializing the Spiritual): "And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, 'Give me this power also...' But Peter said to him, 'Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!'"

Matthew 23:6-8 (Warning Against Religious Celebrity Culture): "They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues... and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren."

The Proximity Paywall vs. The Free Gift

The Conference Method: The VIP ticket monetizes physical and spiritual proximity to the teachers (special lunches, closed dinners, front-row access).

The Foundations7 Lens: Scripture teaches that spiritual oversight is a service of humility, not a premium commodity. A matrix built on strict apostolic patterns rejects the idea that a believer should pay an extra \$150 to sit at a table with a teacher. In the New Testament model, leadership is accessible to the whole flock equally, making commercialized proximity look entirely fleshly.

2. They Introduce Financial and Spiritual Elitism

As with the VIP ticket structure, these platforms frequently adopt corporate, worldly frameworks.

The Structural Conflict: Charging a premium for spiritual proximity, creating an exclusive "inner circle" of those who are "truly awake," and elevating speakers to celebrity status directly contradicts the humility of Christ.

The Wisdom in Skipping: Walking away from these commercial environments protects your heart from the "fleshly pride" of thinking you belong to a special, elite class of believers who possess secret knowledge.

3. The "Gnostic" Trap: Exclusive Knowledge

The Conference Method: By labeling the event Remnant Rising, the marketing subtly builds an exclusive "us versus them" echo chamber. It implies that the people in that room (and especially the VIPs) possess a higher, deeper level of understanding end-times than the "sleeping" mainstream church.

The Foundations7 Lens: Foundations7 utilizes open, verse-by-verse exposition where all truth is laid bare in the text for any believer with a Bible. The moment a ministry implies you need a specific speaker's extra-biblical revelation, secret insight, or specialized geopolitical breakdown to truly understand the times, it steps away from Sola Scriptura and into a form of modern Christian Gnosticism (secret knowledge for a select few).

4. Trading Sensationalism for a Quiet, Grounded Life

Scripture warns against an obsession with endless debates, speculations, and chasing cultural headlines. It commands a quiet, disciplined lifestyle instead.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 (The Command to Live Quietly): "...that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside..."

1 Timothy 1:3-4 (Avoiding Endless Speculations): "...charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith."

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (The Addiction to Novelty): "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."

Isaiah 30:15 (Where Spiritual Strength is Found): "For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: 'In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.' But you would not."

5. What a True, Close Walk with Jesus Looks Like

True spiritual growth is measured by intimacy with Christ, humility, and quiet obedience rather than knowledge of geopolitical timelines.

John 15:4-5: Focuses on the mandate to "abide" in Christ, emphasizing that fruitful life comes from connection to Him, not external spectacles.

Micah 6:8: Summarizes the core requirement as doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God.

Matthew 6:6: Encourages personal, intimate prayer in the "secret place" over public display.

Choosing to skip these conferences can be a highly wise and spiritually mature decision if your primary goal is to develop a deeper, more intimate walk with the Lord.

When evaluated through a disciplined, text-first biblical lens, commercial prophecy conferences often introduce spiritual noise and structural patterns that can hinder, rather than help, true Christian discipleship.

6. They Trade the "Secret Place" for Sensationalism

A close walk with the Lord is built on the quiet, steady, and daily disciplines of the faith: private prayer, personal repentance, and systematic Bible reading.

The Conference Distraction: Events like Hear the Watchmen thrive on high-alert urgency, geopolitical panic, and speculative theories (e.g., secret societies, UFOs, or immediate headline fulfillments).

The Spiritual Toll: This constant state of hyper-vigilance creates anxiety and addiction to "new information" rather than fostering the peace, patience, and rest promised by the Holy Spirit.

7. They Often Subvert the Authority of the Local Church

The New Testament consistently establishes the local church - with its qualified, accountable elders and everyday community - as the primary environment for spiritual growth.

The Para-Church Trap: Prophecy conferences create an artificial, highly emotional "high" that can make your local church feel boring or compromised by comparison.

The Reality: Real spiritual maturity is forged in the unglamorous, day-to-day work of serving real people, submitting to local spiritual authority, and living quietly in your community.

8. Where to Focus Instead

If you choose to skip these events, you can redirect your time, energy, and finances toward foundational spiritual investments:

Deepen Contextual Study: Spend time in quiet, systematic study of the word, using grounded resources like Foundations7.org that stick strictly to the text without adding sensational or extra-biblical theories.

Invest in Local Fellowship: Pour your energy into a local body of believers where leadership is accessible without a ticket, and where you are known personally.

Practice Quiet Abiding: Focus on Jesus' invitation in John 15 to simply abide in Him. A closer walk with the Lord is not found in decoding the next global headline, but in obeying His commands and resting in His finished work.

9. Exposing the Convention's lineup's Theological Foundation

If you look at the specific speakers through a rigorous, text-first filter, their platforms rely heavily on things that a grounded, systematic Bible student would find highly suspect:

John Pounders & The Gilberts: They focus heavily on alternative topics like altered history, the Nephilim, and supernatural geography. While highly entertaining, a foundational biblical filter exposes that these topics require extensive reading between the lines of Scripture and relying on apocryphal books rather than clear, foundational doctrine.

Pastor Larry Ragland & Pastor Paul Begley: Their styles rely heavily on emotional urgency, high-alert prophetic declarations, and linking immediate current events to biblical text. A grounded filter slows this down, exposing it as high-energy "newspaper exegesis" that builds excitement but often lacks deep, systematic, historical root systems.

Jamie Walden: Of the group, Walden often focuses the most on holiness, repentance, and cross-bearing. However, the commercial framework surrounding his message still forces him into a system where a premium is placed on the personality of the speaker.

The Verdict of the Lens

Regarding "fleshly pride" hits the exact target. While these conferences may not be destructive cults in the traditional sense, they frequently employ a corporate, celebrity-driven framework.

They create a hierarchy where financial status buys spiritual access, and sensationalism replaces steady, foundational teaching.

It uses the language of the "Remnant" to flatter the audience, while charging a premium to belong to the inner circle.