

# The Folly of the Artificial Apostolic Pentecostal Church



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# The Folly of the Artificial Apostolic Pentecostal Church

*Written by*  
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## Introduction

In a powerful sermon delivered at his church in Dallas, Texas, Elder Joel Pace addressed a pressing issue within the Apostolic Pentecostal movement—the folly of artificiality. This message resonated deeply, illuminating the dangers of pursuing superficiality over authenticity in our Apostolic Pentecostal Worship and Apostolic Pentecostal Preaching. The Lord Jesus Christ inspired me to write this book titled *The Folly of Artificial in the Apostolic Pentecostal Church* of our day and time. As we navigate the complexities of our Apostolic Pentecostal faith that was once delivered to the saints of God in a world increasingly characterized by artificial constructs.

The Apostolic Pentecostal movement is at a crossroads, with many being tempted like fish in a stream, drawn to shiny lures and artificial bait in the realms of Apostolic Pentecostal Worship and Apostolic Pentecostal Preaching. Instead of seeking a genuine word from the throne of God, we often encounter performances and professionalism designed to impress rather than to convey the burden of the Lord Jesus Christ. We witness “pretty boy preaching” filled with plastic performances, big words that few understand, and a lecture-style delivery of a Professor and a parrot at the same time that prioritizes knowledge over conviction and Acts 2:38 Salvation. Apostolic Pentecostal preaching of mercy and the grace of God which is the gift of the Holy Ghost with the evidence

of speaking in tongues with compassion and the love of God.

I come from the old school Apostolic Pentecost that's still up to date and on time for this hour. The real and genuine power of the Holy Ghost, the presence of God in a Apostolic Pentecostal Church, where seasoned Fivefold Ministers in the Apostolic Pentecostal Church would remind me that a message could be powerful without the need for excessive filler. Phrases like “come on, somebody, give me an amen.” One elder once told me, “Just preach the word God gave you. If they say amen or praise the Lord, that's fine, but don't beg for it.” This wisdom has shaped my understanding of authentic Apostolic Pentecostal Preaching, which should be rich in substance rather than reliant on gimmicks or catchy one-liners.

In the Apostolic Pentecostal church, we have the best preaching and Apostolic Pentecostal fivefold Preachers in the world—Seasoned Statesmen and Pulpiteers who are baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost and fire, with the evidence of speaking in tongues. They preach under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, wielding Apostolic Pentecostal Authority and Power. However, we must be cautious of the Artificial performances that can infiltrate our platforms.

# The Meaning of “Artificial”

## Hebrew Meaning

In Hebrew, the concept of “artificial” can be represented by the term מְשֻׁעָם (me’usah), which means “made” or “manufactured.” This term suggests something that is not natural or original, but rather created through human effort.

Also, in Hebrew, the term הָרִבְעָה (ta’avurah) can be interpreted as something that is not genuine or merely imitative. This word captures the essence of something constructed without the Apostolic Pentecostal Authenticity of the Power of the Holy Ghost and the Anointing of his inspiration or true Spiritual Substance.

## Hebrew Idiom

In Hebrew idiomatic expressions, בִּזְכָּה (hakzev), meaning falsehood or deception, warns against presenting a deceptive image, emphasizing the need for authenticity in spiritual matters.

## Greek Meaning

In Greek, the word for “artificial” can be derived from ἀνθρώπινος (anthrōpinos), which means “human-made” or “of human origin,” lacking divine authenticity. This

term emphasizes that something is created or constructed by humans rather than occurring naturally or by divine intervention.

Another relevant term is τεχνητός (technitós), which translates to “artificial” or “manufactured.” This word is related to τέχνη (téchnē), meaning “art” or “craft,” indicating that artificiality involves skillful human intervention.

### Metaphorical Meaning

In worship and Apostolic Pentecostal preaching, artificiality can manifest as performances and professionalism that prioritize style over the the power of the Holy Ghost, drawing attention to the performer rather than to the Lord Jesus Christ, the one True God. Metaphorically, “artificial” signifies a façade or an imitation that lacks the depth or essence of the original. It may refer to:

- Superficiality: Something that appears pleasing on the surface but lacks substance.
- Deception: A representation that misleads or fails to convey true feelings or intentions.

For example, in a spiritual context, artificial worship might refer to performances that seem vibrant but lack genuine connection to God.

## English Meaning

In English, “artificial” refers to something made or produced by human beings rather than occurring naturally. It often carries connotations of insincerity, lack of authenticity, or being a substitute for something genuine.

### Examples:

- Artificial flowers (not real, but made to look like flowers)
- Artificial intelligence (technology designed to simulate human cognitive functions)

### Idiomatic Uses

In English idioms, “artificial” can be used in various expressions that convey a lack of authenticity or depth:

- “Artificial sweetener”: Used to describe something that is a substitute for sugar, often implying it lacks the natural taste or quality.
- “Putting on an artificial smile”: Refers to someone who is pretending to be happy or friendly, masking their true feelings.

### Summary

- Greek: ἀνθρώπινος (anthrōpinos) - human-made;

τεχνητός (technitós) - manufactured.

- Hebrew: מְעֻשָּׂה (me'usah) - made; תְּאוּבָה (ta'avurah) - imitative or not genuine.
- English: Refers to something not natural, often implying insincerity or lack of authenticity.
- Metaphorical: Signifies superficiality or deception.
- Idiomatic: Used in expressions to convey a lack of authenticity or depth.

This comprehensive understanding of “artificial” can help clarify its implications in various contexts, especially within discussions about authenticity in worship and preaching.

Here is a list of things that are commonly considered artificial:

## 1. Artificial Food Products

- Artificial Sweeteners: Such as aspartame, sucralose, and saccharin.
- Processed Foods: Items that contain preservatives, artificial flavors, or colors.
- Synthetic Ingredients: Such as artificial flavorings and colorings (e.g., Red 40, Yellow 5).

## 2. Artificial Plants and Flowers

- Silk Flowers: Non-natural flowers made from synthetic materials.



- Plastic Plants: Imitations of real plants that do not require maintenance.

### 3. Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- Chatbots: Programs designed to simulate conversation with human users.
- Machine Learning Algorithms: Systems that learn from data to make predictions or decisions.

### 4. Artificial Materials

- Synthetic Fabrics: Such as polyester, nylon, and spandex, which are made from petrochemicals.
- Artificial Leather: Faux leather made from polyurethane or PVC.

### 5. Artificial Environments

- Artificial Turf: Synthetic grass used in sports fields and landscaping.
- Aquariums: Man-made water environments for fish and aquatic plants.

### 6. Artificial Structures

- Synthetic Buildings: Structures made from prefabricated materials or designed with artificial elements.

- **Theme Parks:** Entertainment complexes designed to mimic real-world experiences or environments.

## 7. Artificial Reproductive Technologies

- **In Vitro Fertilization (IVF):** A process where an egg is fertilized by sperm outside the body.
- **Artificial Insemination:** A medical procedure to introduce sperm into a female's reproductive system.

## 8. Artificial Light Sources

- **LED Lights:** Light-emitting diodes that produce light through electrical currents.
- **Fluorescent Bulbs:** Lights that use gas and phosphor to produce illumination.

## 9. Artificial Cosmetics and Beauty Products

- **Synthetic Makeup:** Products containing artificial ingredients, such as certain foundations and lipsticks.
- **Fake Eyelashes:** Eyelashes made from synthetic materials to enhance appearance.

## 10. Artificial Sports Equipment

- **Synthetic Balls:** Balls made from artificial materials, such as rubber or plastic, used in various sports.
- **Artificial Ice Rinks:** Man-made ice surfaces for skating

and hockey.

## 11. Artificial Companions

- **Robotic Pets:** Such as robotic dogs or cats designed to simulate real pets.
- **Virtual Assistants:** Programs like Siri or Alexa that provide assistance through voice commands.

## 12. Artificial Clothing and Accessories

- **Costume Jewelry:** Imitation jewelry made from non-precious materials.
- **Synthetic Shoes:** Footwear made from materials like faux leather or plastic.

## 13. Artificial Trees and Landscaping

- **Man-Made Trees:** Structures designed to resemble trees for aesthetic or functional purposes.
- **Rock Formations:** Artificial rocks used in landscaping or aquariums.

These examples illustrate the wide range of artificial items and concepts present in various aspects of life, from food and materials to technology and environments.

The concept of “artificial” extends beyond mere physical objects to encompass ideas, behaviors, and societal

constructs. Here are some metaphorical interpretations of artificial things in life, along with insights into their implications:

## 1. Artificial Relationships

- Metaphor: Relationships that lack depth or authenticity, often based on superficial connections rather than genuine understanding and care.
- Insight: In a world dominated by social media, many relationships can become artificial, characterized by curated images and highlight reels. This can lead to feelings of isolation and inadequacy as individuals compare their real lives to the polished versions presented online.

## 2. Artificial Happiness

- Metaphor: The pursuit of fleeting pleasures or temporary fixes (e.g., substance use, consumerism) that mask deeper issues rather than addressing them.
- Insight: Many people chase after artificial happiness through material possessions or temporary experiences, neglecting the importance of inner peace and fulfillment that comes from meaningful connections and self-acceptance.

## 3. Artificial Intelligence

- Metaphor: Technology designed to simulate human

thought and behavior, representing both advancements and ethical dilemmas.

- **Insight:** While AI can enhance efficiency and provide solutions, it raises questions about the nature of consciousness, creativity, and the essence of being human. It challenges us to consider what it means to truly connect and engage with one another.

#### 4. Artificial Norms and Standards

- **Metaphor:** Societal expectations that dictate behavior, appearance, and success, often leading individuals to conform rather than embrace their true selves.

- **Insight:** These artificial standards can stifle individuality and creativity, leading to a culture of comparison and competition. Challenging these norms can foster authenticity and encourage people to live in alignment with their true values.

#### 5. Artificial Beauty

- **Metaphor:** The use of cosmetics, surgery, or filters to create an idealized version of oneself that may not reflect reality.

- **Insight:** The obsession with artificial beauty can perpetuate insecurity and self-doubt. Embracing natural beauty and imperfections can lead to greater self-acceptance and a healthier self-image.

## 6. Artificial Success

- Metaphor: Achievements that are pursued for external validation rather than personal fulfillment, often measured by societal standards.
- Insight: This kind of success can lead to burnout and dissatisfaction. True success should align with one's passions and values, fostering a sense of purpose rather than merely meeting societal expectations.

## 7. Artificial Communication

- Metaphor: Conversations that lack authenticity, often filled with clichés, jargon, or insincerity, rather than genuine dialogue.
- Insight: In a fast-paced world, meaningful communication can be sacrificed for convenience. Prioritizing authentic conversations can strengthen relationships and foster deeper understanding.

## 8. Artificial Freedom

- Metaphor: The illusion of freedom created by societal structures that limit true autonomy and self-determination.
- Insight: Many people believe they are free when, in reality, they are constrained by societal expectations, consumerism, or digital distractions. Recognizing these limitations can empower individuals to seek true freedom through self-discovery and intentional living.

## 9. Artificial Faith

- Metaphor: A belief system that is practiced out of habit or societal pressure rather than genuine conviction and relationship with the divine.
- Insight: Many individuals may engage in religious practices without a true understanding or connection to their faith. Cultivating a personal relationship with spirituality can lead to a more profound and meaningful experience.

## 10. Artificial Time Management

- Metaphor: Rigid schedules and the constant pursuit of productivity that prioritize tasks over meaningful experiences and relationships.
- Insight: While time management is essential, an overemphasis on productivity can lead to a lack of presence in our lives. Embracing flexibility and prioritizing what truly matters can enhance well-being and fulfillment.

## Conclusion

The metaphorical use of “artificial” in various aspects of life serves as a reminder to seek authenticity and depth in our experiences, relationships, and beliefs. By recognizing and addressing the artificial constructs that permeate our lives, we can cultivate a more genuine, fulfilling existence rooted in true connection, purpose,

and self-awareness. Embracing authenticity allows us to navigate the complexities of modern life with greater clarity and intention.

## The Current State of the Apostolic Pentecostal Movement

### The Temptation of Performance

Many in the Apostolic Pentecostal church are tempted to pursue a polished, professional style of artificial Apostolic Pentecostal worship and Apostolic Pentecostal Preaching that resembles secular entertainment. This shift can lead to a focus on aesthetics rather than the anointing of the Holy Ghost. The allure of “pretty boy, play boy Apostolic Pentecostal, parrot preaching” often overshadows the genuine burden that should come from a deep relationship with Jesus Christ.

### The Danger of Artificial Worship

Apostolic Pentecostal worship should be a heartfelt expression of our love for the Lord Jesus Christ who is our one true God and Saviour. We must have a reverence for the Lord Jesus Christ. However, many services have devolved into emotional hype from the music experiences, devoid of true Apostolic Pentecostal spiritual power in



our authentic Apostolic Pentecostal worship out of an Apostolic Pentecostal experience of the new birth (of the water and the spirit). The heart of our worship is all about the One God and his Name is the Lord Jesus Christ who is the one seated upon the throne.

We don't worship a trinity and we should never ever sing a K-Love trinitarian song in an Apostolic Pentecostal Church. All of our songs should be christological. All of our songs should be about the Lord Jesus Christ and, by the way, we need to start singing some of those old Apostolic Pentecostal hymns. I'm tired of singing these songs that you don't even know what they're singing. Killing the services all these camp meetings and if that's what you want to be, then, go to a trinitarian church.

I came out of the trinitarian church to the truth of one God and I like the Apostolic Pentecostal chorus' and hymns. There are even some new Apostolic Pentecostal songs that have the right recipe, the taste and the flavor and the sound of Apostolic Pentecostal music. I don't want artificial meat and artificial sugar and artificial butter etc. Give me the real thing! The emphasis on talent and performance can overshadow the need for genuine Apostolic Pentecostal worship rooted in the Holy Ghost and fire.

## The Call for Apostolic Pentecostal Authenticity

The Apostolic Pentecostal movement has a rich heritage of powerful Apostolic Pentecostal Preaching and worship led by individuals genuinely filled with the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues. However, the trend of artificiality threatens this legacy. We must return to a place of Apostolic Pentecostal Authenticity, where Apostolic Pentecostal Preachers and Worship Leaders are not only skilled but also deeply committed to living out their faith.

## A Warning Against Artificiality

### The Need for Discernment

The church must exercise discernment when selecting individuals for leadership roles. It is crucial to know those who labor among us and to ensure they are living sanctified lives. The presence of unrepentant sin among leaders can lead to a toxic environment that undermines the integrity of the church.

### The Consequences of Artificial Conversions

The rise of artificial conversions—where individuals are baptized without true repentance—has led to a generation that is spiritually lost. Many have experienced a superficial encounter with the church but lack a genuine relationship with Christ. This trend has resulted in individuals who are twice the children of hell, as they have

not truly repented or embraced the transformative power of the Gospel.

## The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Our Lives

In our society, we are increasingly turning to artificial intelligence (AI) for guidance and counsel. Some people have even begun to worship AI as if it were a god. However, we must recognize that AI is merely a tool created by humans, programmed with algorithms that reflect the input it receives. It lacks true wisdom, understanding, and divine insight. While it can provide information, it cannot replace the guidance of the Holy Spirit or the Word of God.

We must seek the Lord through prayer, asking the Holy Ghost to lead, guide, and empower us. The real power of the Holy Ghost is not found in artificial constructs but in the Apostolic Pentecostal, authentic, Acts 2:38 experience of being filled with the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. And, being water baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. The only way to be baptized is in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, there is no other way, you need to be re-baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Not in the titles Father - Son - Holy Ghost. That's not a name at all, those are only titles. You need to be re-baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38).

In the context of the Old Testament and New Testament,

the concept of “artificial” can refer to various practices, objects, or constructs that are not genuine or divinely ordained. Below are examples of things that were considered artificial or imitative in both testaments:

## Old Testament

### 1. Golden Calf (Exodus 32):

- The Israelites created a golden calf to worship while Moses was on Mount Sinai. This idol was an artificial representation of God, leading to judgment and punishment.

### 2. Idols and Graven Images:

- Throughout the Old Testament, the worship of idols made from wood, stone, or metal (e.g., Baal, Asherah poles) was condemned as artificial worship that diverted people from the true God (e.g., Isaiah 44:9-20).

### 3. Artificial Altars:

- In some instances, the Israelites constructed altars that were not according to God’s specifications. For example, when they built altars to false gods, these were considered artificial in their purpose and intent.

### 4. The Priestly Garments:

- While the garments worn by priests were divinely instructed, any attempt to create garments for worship that deviated from God’s design could be seen as artificial in the context of true worship (Exodus 28).

## 5. False Prophets:

- Individuals who claimed to speak on behalf of God but were not genuinely called or inspired by Him were considered artificial leaders (Jeremiah 14:14).

## New Testament

### 1. Hypocritical Worship:

- Jesus condemned the Pharisees and religious leaders for their artificial righteousness, which was characterized by outward appearances rather than genuine faith (Matthew 23:27-28).

### 2. The Temple Practices:

- The commercialization of the Temple, where money changers and sellers operated, created an artificial environment that detracted from true worship (Matthew 21:12-13).

### 3. False Teachers:

- The New Testament warns against false teachers who present distorted versions of the Gospel (2 Peter 2:1). Their teachings are seen as artificial compared to the true message of Christ.

### 4. Religious Rituals:

- Paul often spoke against relying on artificial rituals or legalistic practices for salvation, emphasizing that true faith in Christ is what matters (Galatians 5:2-6).

## 5. The Armor of God:

- In Ephesians 6, Paul encourages believers to put on the “armor of God” rather than relying on artificial means of protection or strength. The armor symbolizes spiritual truth rather than physical or artificial defenses.

## 6. The Lord’s Supper:

- The practice of the Lord’s Supper is intended to be a genuine remembrance of Christ’s sacrifice. Any artificial or insincere participation in this ordinance is warned against (1 Corinthians 11:27-29).

## Summary

In both the Old and New Testaments, the concept of artificiality often relates to worship practices, leadership, and representations of God that lack authenticity or divine approval. The Scriptures repeatedly call for genuine faith, true worship, and adherence to God’s commands rather than reliance on human-made constructs or superficial practices.

## The Importance of Authentic Apostolic Pentecostal Worship and Preaching The Necessity of Genuine Worship

As we reflect on the state of worship in our churches, we must be cautious of the trend toward polished performances that lack spiritual substance. While we are

blessed with talented singers, musicians, and worship leaders, we must ensure that their lives reflect an Acts 2:38 experience and a commitment to holiness.

Too often, we witness performances that generate noise and emotionalism but lack the genuine power of the Holy Ghost. It is disheartening to discover that behind the façade of talent, there may exist unrepentant sin, immorality, and a lack of true spiritual commitment.

### The Dangers of Compromise

We must guard against allowing individuals with questionable character or lifestyles onto our platforms simply because they possess talent. It is imperative to know those who labor among us, ensuring they are living sanctified lives. The influence of liberalism and worldly ideologies can infiltrate our churches if we are not vigilant.

### The Role of the Fivefold Ministry

The fivefold ministry—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers—plays a crucial role in equipping the body of Christ. Each member of the fivefold ministry has a unique function that contributes to the overall health and growth of the church. By returning to the principles of the fivefold ministry, we can foster an environment where genuine worship and authentic preaching thrive.

# The Importance of Apostolic Pentecostal Authentic Fellowship

## The Challenge of Artificial Relationships

In our interactions with other Apostolic Pentecostals, we sometimes encounter individuals who exhibit an artificial demeanor—robotic, rigid, and lacking genuine warmth. It is crucial to foster real relationships characterized by love, kindness, and transparency. We are called to be a joyful, loving, and authentic people, representing the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Building a Genuine Community

As a pastor, I strive to ensure that our church is not an artificial Apostolic Pentecostal church. We must warn against the spirit of artificiality that can seep into our fellowship. We are called to be a community rooted in the old paths of holiness and conservative doctrine, embodying humility and meekness.

## Conclusion:

### A Prophetic Warning and Call to Apostolic Pentecostal Authenticity

As we draw this discourse to a close, let us weave together the threads of our reflections into a tapestry of truth. The Apostolic Pentecostal movement is at a



crossroads, where the choice between authenticity and artificiality looms large. We must heed the prophetic warning that echoes through the corridors of our faith: Beware of the shiny lures that tempt us to forsake the genuine for the superficial.

### An Allegorical Reflection

Imagine a garden, vibrant and full of life, where each flower represents the unique expressions of worship and preaching that spring from a heart devoted to God. Yet, lurking nearby is a serpent, whispering sweet nothings, enticing the flowers to consume artificial nourishment—plastic petals that may gleam but lack the fragrance of the Holy Spirit.

Just as the gardener tends to his plants, so too must we cultivate our spiritual lives, ensuring that we are rooted in the soil of prayer, fasting, and the Word of God. Let us not be swayed by the allure of polished performances or the empty echoes of artificial worship. Instead, let us strive to be genuine, allowing the Holy Ghost to breathe life into our gatherings.

### A Poetic Proverb

In the spirit of reflection, let us consider this proverb:

*“In the realm of praise, where hearts should soar, Beware the*

*façade that hides the core. For the song of the Spirit is sweet and true, While the echo of artifice is hollow and blue.”*

## A Call to Apostolic Pentecostal Action

We must shape our congregations to represent not only the man of God but also the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us guard against pride, artificiality, and harshness, striving to embody the true essence of holiness—both within and without. As we do so, we will ensure that the Apostolic Pentecostal movement remains a beacon of truth and authenticity in a world that desperately needs it.

May we be a people characterized by genuine love, humility, and a fervent desire to please the Lord above all else. Let us not compromise our convictions but rather stand firm in our faith, embodying the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. As we navigate these challenging times, let us be vigilant and discerning, ensuring that our worship and preaching reflect the heart of God.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, may we never allow our churches to become artificial sanctuaries, but rather vibrant havens of His presence, where lives are transformed, and souls are saved. Let us rise up as a united body, committed to authenticity and the unyielding truth of the Gospel.

## A Final Reflection

As we reflect on our journey, let us remember that the essence of true Apostolic Pentecostalism lies not in the performance but in the presence of God. We must strive to be a community that embodies the love of Christ, where every word spoken and every note sung resonates with the authenticity of our faith.

Let us be vigilant against the encroachment of artificiality, guarding our hearts and our churches against the temptations of this world. May we be known as the people of the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, a people who live out the Acts 2:38 experience with sincerity and passion.

In closing, I pray that our churches will be filled with the genuine outpouring of the Holy Ghost , that our worship will be a true reflection of our love for God, and that our preaching will be infused with the power and authority of the Holy Ghost. Let us go forth, not as artificial representatives of a movement, but as authentic vessels of His grace, love, and truth.

Written By Elder Keith Joel Walker  
Read and Obey Acts 2:38

