

# THIS IS MY BIBLE

## DECLARATION

*Quoted by Pastor John Osteen  
Founding Pastor Lakewood Church*

This is my Bible.

I am what it says I am.

I can do what it says I can do.

Today, I will be taught the Word of God.

I boldly confess:

My mind is alert,

My heart is receptive.

I will never be the same.

I am about to receive

The incorruptible, indestructible,

Ever-living seed of the Word of God.

I will never be the same .

Never, never, never.

I will never be the same.

In Jesus name. Amen.



## **John Osteen**

August 21, 1921 – January 23, 1999)

Osteen was born in Paris, Texas. He earned a bachelor's degree from John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, and a master's degree from Northern Baptist Seminary. He also held a Doctor of Divinity degree from Oral Roberts University.

In his biography, Osteen said he did not begin thinking seriously about God until 1939. Within a couple of months, he began preaching in Paris, Texas and was apparently ordained to the gospel ministry shortly before his 18th birthday by a church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. He served as an Associate Pastor at First Baptist Church in San Diego, Texas after completing his studies at NBTS and by the late 1940s as a minister at First Baptist Church, Hamlin, Texas. Osteen left Hamlin in 1948 to become an itinerant preacher, but within a year he became pastor of Central Baptist Church, Baytown, Texas.

He married Dolores "Dodie" Pilgrim on September 17, 1954, and the following year resigned his pastorate. Before long, Osteen again entered pastoral ministry at Hibbard Memorial Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, but left in 1958.

That same year, John and Dodie's first daughter Lisa was born with severe health issues. As he wrestled with her circumstance, his theological beliefs began to shift and he had ecstatic religious experiences, based on what he called "baptism of the Holy Ghost." A year later, on Mother's Day May 10, 1959, he and Dodie started Lakewood Baptist Church in "a dusty, abandoned feed store" in northeast Houston as a church for charismatic Baptists. The church soon dropped "Baptist" from its name and became nondenominational.

In the mid-1980s, Osteen launched the Lakewood Bible Institute (LBI), an "unaccredited school devoted to biblical training from a charismatic perspective." LBI offered a variety of classes including principles of Bible study, healing, conversion, and prayer. Osteen served as LBI's president until its closure in the late-1980s.

Osteen founded Lakewood Church in 1959 in Houston, Texas and developed Lakewood into a body of approximately 15,000 members with active ministries in televangelism, conferences, missionary support, and food distribution. [5] He hosted the weekly John Osteen television program for 16 years, reaching millions in the U.S. and in many other countries with his preaching. On January 23, 1999 he died after a heart attack at the age of 77. His youngest son Joel Osteen later became the pastor, who has expanded his father's church. Lakewood now receives over 52,000 in attendance and reaches millions of people around the world by television and online.