



Pacific Waves  
P.O. Box 1759  
Pearl City, HI  
96782

Phone: 808-456-1031  
Email: ditc@hotmail.com

**APOLOGETICS SITE ADDRESS!**  
[HTTP://WWW.DECEPTIONINTHECHURCH.COM/](http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/)

## Ebb Tide by Sandy Simpson



Missionary Sandy Simpson is a missionary and editor of Pacific Waves Newsletter.

**Editor in Chief**  
Sandy Simpson  
ditc@hotmail.com

**Contributing Editors**  
Juanita Simpson  
Jaunitasimpson@hotmail.com

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I have been running a web site that was initially designed to help the churches in Micronesia keep informed on cults and false teachings entering their churches. Since that time people from all over the world have used my site which features thousands of articles and many other materials by hundreds of

pastors, teachers, missionaries, professors, apologists, researchers and Christians from all over the world who are helping keep the churches informed and steering clear of false doctrines. My hope is that you have been using this site to keep up with these issues, especially if you are in leadership in the churches, to be able to give an answer to those who bring strange teachings into the churches. Heb 13:9 *Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings.* I am always available to answer questions and give you resources to deal with the many false ideas that are coming into our island churches. Please use my web site if you need help. My email

address is:

ditc@hotmail.com

The web address is:

<http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com>

This special edition of the Pacific Waves is being sent to you so that you can have a reference guide to help you with questions and Biblical answers. May the Lord bless you and keep you! — Sandy Simpson

October 2009  
Special Edition!

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### Back Issues!

You can access back issues of the Pacific Waves Newsletter online by going to the following address:

<http://op.50megs.com/pw/pwarchives.html>

This will take you to the PWN Archive site where you can view all back issues of PWN online!

## Outrigger Productions



## Questions & Biblical Answers by Sandy Simpson

This is a special edition of the Pacific Waves. I wanted to provide some answers to questions that come up in the islands. This is an expansion of a booklet I wrote many years ago called "What Should I Say?". I hope this will be a handy guide you can use when you encounter false religions and false teachings inside and outside your church.

How do you answer an invitation to attend a meeting where you know nothing about the speaker or what will be done there? What happens if they want to announce the meeting at your church and invite everyone? What do you say to a person who tells you that you don't have the Holy Spirit even though you are a Christian? What should you do if you think something is wrong, or your conscience is bothering you about something that was taught? How do you answer cults who come into your home or church and claim they are Christians? The answer?

### Go to the Scriptures!

The Bible has all the answers to your questions. This article is an attempt to deal with a few of the typical statements you will hear from people who have become involved in cults

and unbiblical church movements.

Hopefully the statements and answers in this article will set you off on an investigation of your own in the Word. If you need help, and you have access to the Internet, you can visit my web site called "Deception In The Church" that deals with these issues and has the articles mentioned in this booklet as well as thousands more to help you with any number of issues impacting the Church. The web site is located at:

<http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com>

Paul praised the Bereans because they "were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." We must do the same in our day!

### Latter Day Saints (Mormons)



**LDS Statement:** We are born again Christians and worship the same God. May we come and worship with you in your church? We are giving out free scholarships to BYU in HI.

**Biblical Answer:** Mormons use the term "born again" as a ruse to try to suck Christians into their deception. Do not allow them to come into your church because they will try to get people involved in Mormon doctrines. They have four Scriptures, and though the Bible is among them their highest revelation is the Book of Mormon written by the false prophet Joseph Smith. They teach that there are many "gods" and that people can become gods. They teach that a "heavenly father" and "heavenly mother" begat spirits, one of which was Jesus who is the "spirit" brother of Lucifer.

**Question for Mormons:** "Did the devil tell the truth to Adam & Eve?" The Mormons believe we can become gods so they believe Satan told the truth to Eve. But Jesus said that the devil has no truth in him. (John 8:44) The Father, Son & Holy Spirit are one in YHWH, the I AM, Who is the only God. (Jude 1:28). Our God is eternal, not another creature. (1 Tim. 1:17)

**Articles to read:** LDS Article Archive, <http://www.letusreason.org/LDSdir.htm>

### Jehovah's Witnesses



**JW Statement:** We all worship the same God. We will be saved when paradise earth comes. Only the 144,000 will go to heaven.

**Biblical Answer:** JWs believe that Jesus Christ is not the Son of God but a created being who is actually Michael the Archangel. They believe that there is only one God not consisting of Three Persons, and that Jesus Christ did not create heaven and earth (Heb. 1:10).

**Question for JWs:** "Were you saved by the Gospel?" Their answer will be that they are saved when "paradise earth" comes. They teach that we are justified by our works. But our belief in the Gospel must be by grace alone (Eph. 2:8) not by works, through faith alone (Php. 3:9) in Christ alone (Acts 4:12).

**Articles to read:** JW Tracts

- <http://www.letusreason.org/tract1.htm>
- <http://www.letusreason.org/tract4.htm>

### Unification Church (Moonies)



**Moonies Statement:** We promote families and want to

help youth in the islands by giving money for youth and family facilities. We also give free scholarships to our High School of the Pacific in Hawaii which promotes island culture.

**Biblical Answer:** Rev. Moon claims that he is the Messiah and even claimed he went to hell to rescue a man and took him to heaven while speaking at his High School of the Pacific. The scheme of the Moonies is to get people married but the fact is that they get people into their cult by marrying new converts to cult members.

### Question for Moonies:

"How can Rev. Moon be the Messiah when Jesus said there were many false Christs to come?" *Mt 24:24 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.* Moon stated that when Jesus died it was a mistake. Yet without the death of Jesus Christ we would have no sacrifice to pay the penalty of death for our sins. (1 Pet. 3:18, Gal. 3:13, Heb. 9:12)

**Articles to read:** Unification Church Article Archive, <http://www.letusreason.org/Moondir.htm>

### Third Wave, New Apostolic Reformation, Latter Rain, Word Of Faith



**Statement:** "You need to come to a meeting where this man can lay hands on you and give you the Holy Spirit anointing. You may be born again but you may not have the Holy Spirit."

**Biblical Answer:** I am a born again Christian, therefore I am already sealed (Eph 1:13,4:30; 2

Cor 1:22) and baptized (1 Cor 12:13) by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is working (1 Cor 12:11; 2 Thes 2:13; 1 Pet 1:2) within me (John 7:38; 1 John 3:24,4:13; Jam 4:5; 2 Tim 1:14) convicting (1 Thes 1:5; John 16:7-8), empowering (Eph 3:16), sanctifying (2 Thes 2:13; 1 Pet 1:2), bestowing grace gifts (1 Cor 12:4-11), and producing fruit (Gal 5:22). The Holy Spirit of God is sovereign (Heb 2:4; 1 Cor 12:11) and He cannot be transferred "by" human hands, which was the misconception of Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:18-23). A few times in Acts the Spirit was given "at" the laying on of hands (Acts 8:17; 19:6) which was always done in submission to the will of God and in agreement with His purposes (1 John 2:17). The Holy Spirit, in this age, immediately indwells all who believe (Eph 1:13-14) which does not necessitate the laying on of hands.

**Article To Read:** *What Is The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit? How Does A Person Receive It?* by Dr. John Bechtle, 1996, <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-acb/acb-t004.html>

**Statement:** "We are seeing a great revival in these last days where millions will be saved in preparation for the return of Christ."

**Biblical Answer:** The Bible does not indicate a great end times revival or awakening but rather a great deception (Mark 13; 2 Thes 2:3; 2 Pet 2:1; Mt 24:4), delusion (2 Thes 2:9-12), and the love of people growing cold (Mat 24:12). The end times are marked by many false prophets and teachers (2 Pet 2:1; Mat 7:15,24:24; 1 John

4;1), false Christs (Mat 24:24; Mark 13:22), a different spirit (2 Cor 11:4, 1 John 4:3), and false doctrines (2 Tim 4:3; 1 Tim 4;1,6:3-5). Mat 24:14 says that the gospel will be preached to the ends of the earth, but it does not say millions will be saved. Rather, those who believe are a little flock (Luke 12:32) who have little strength (Rev 3:8) — a few who find the small gate and the narrow road (Mat 7:14). Jesus also asked "When I come will I find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8)

**Article To Read:** *Revival Or Apostasy?* by Dave Hunt, 1997, <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/oct97tbc.htm>

**Statement:** "Come with us to an exciting event where God is doing a new thing and where there is new revelation not really mentioned in God's Word."

**Biblical Answer:** God may do a "new thing" (Isa 43:19) but it will always be consistent with His unchangeable character (Heb 13:8) his testimony (Isa 8:20) and His unchanging (Heb 6:17), unbreakable (John 10:35) Word. We are commanded not to add to or take away from Scripture (Rev 22:18-19) or to "go beyond what is written" (1 Cor 4:6). We should daily search the Scriptures to discern truth from error (Acts 17:11). New revelation that does not meet the above criteria must not be accepted (Deut 13:3). We do not need be afraid of false prophets who make up new exciting things (Deut 18:22; Jer 23:25) and prophesy falsely in the name of God (Jer 27:15) for these prophets and those who follow them will perish.

**Article To Read:** *The New Thing* by Tricia Tillin, 1997, [http://www.intotrueth.org/res/newthing\\_cont.html](http://www.intotrueth.org/res/newthing_cont.html)

through faith alone in Christ alone.  
5. **The Scripture:** It is entirely inerrant, authoritative and sufficient for all Christian life.

Study what they teach carefully. They may state that they agree with the above doctrines, but by what they teach and "do" false teachers will deny one or all of these core doctrines. The Third Wave teachers have proven over time that they do not hold to these doctrines by teaching heresy that undermines them. For instance, when they treat the Spirit as a substance, an "it", both Deity and personality is denied, thus denying the Triune nature of God. Or when they preach a gospel of "repent and come to Jesus" without mentioning the cross or resurrection, salvation by grace through faith in Christ is denied. Be on the alert and study to show yourself approved, rightly handling the Word of Truth (2 Tim 2:15).

**Article To Read:** *The Five Basic Doctrines* compiled and written by Sandy Simpson, 1999

### Church Growth & Emerging Church



**Statement:** Churches need to do anything they can to get people to come to church. This includes using things that are popular in the culture to attract and entertain unbelievers so they will think that the churches are up-to-date with the postmodern culture.

**Biblical Answer:** The church is not here to take a poll in the community to ask people what they want in a church, but is a gathering of believers (Acts 14:27, 1 Cor. 14:33). We are not to cater to the postmodern mindset which views truth as relative but to help people change it to a Biblical worldview which believes in ultimate objective truth (John 14:6, 17:17, 2 Thes. 2:13). The church should not be a place where people party (1 Pet. 4:3-5, 2 Pet. 2:13-22) but a place where people can hear the Gospel (Mr. 13:10) and be disciplined after they believe (Matt. 28:19, Tit. 1:9).

**Articles To Read:** Church Growth & Emerging Church Articles Archives: <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/churchgrowth.html>  
<http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/emergingchurch.html>

**Statement:** In order to appeal to postmodern relativists we need to incorporate things from outside Christianity into our Christian practice like yoga, martial arts, eastern meditation, trance dancing, labyrinth walking and other New Age practices.

**Biblical Answer:** None of the practices of false religions are advocated for Christians in the Bible. In fact they are forbidden (Mt. 6:7, 1 Cor. 10:20, 1 Pet. 4:3). We must be salt and light (Mt. 5:13-16), not become more like the world (John 17:14-16).

### Indigenous People Issues



**Statement:** We urge indigenous churches to look back in their former religions to find a god that has some similar characteristics to YHWH and worship him. The gospel has always been available to every culture through the stars from the time of the tower of Babel. What needs to be done is for IPM adherents to write a new theology that fits their First Nations culture from their oral tradition.

**Biblical Answer:** Here are eleven reasons to reject the World Christian Gathering of Indigenous People and their teachings. (1) IPM leaders teach that God has been redeeming cultures and that He placed in all cultures a way for men to have a relationship with God outside of the Gospel. (2) They teach that the gods being worshipped in cultures were really the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and deities are renamed accordingly. (3) They teach the spiritual warfare techniques of John Dawson, C. Peter Wagner and other Third Wavers to rid cities and nations of demonic influence, so that people will just find themselves wanting to get saved. (4) They teach that God can be worshipped using cultural methods heretofore used to worship other gods. (5) Richard Twiss says Indian/First Nations peoples worship the Great Spirit who is really the Holy Spirit. (6) Twiss teaches that the Gospel was a source of division and stumbling for First Nation's peoples and this is blamed on Western missionaries. (7) Twiss has taught that the Bible is no longer our sole source of Truth, nor should we be tied down by doctrines taught in the Bible. (8) Daniel Kikawa states that the Gospel needs to be presented to "shame based" societies in terms of "Jesus Christ came to take away your shame." (9) WCGIP leaders promote the

IPM's unbiblical usage of the example of Paul at the Areopagus in Acts 17. (10) Kikawa taught that if we reject a culture worshipping a pantheon of gods, we would have to reject Judaism as well. (11) WCGIP leaders pull Romans 1 from its context and misuse it.

**Article To Read:** *11 Reasons To Reject The Teachings Of The WCGIP Movement* by Sandy Simpson, 3/4/06, <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/reasonstoreject.html>

### IN CONCLUSION

Stand firm in your faith! Always be discerning by checking everything with the Word of God. (2 Thes 2:15)

Stand up for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints! Don't ever let anyone cause you to stop doing that. (Jude 1:3-4)

Be aware that many false teachers have gone out today. Test their teachings in the Word because they are deadly dangerous. (2 Pe 2:1)

Finally, correct, rebuke and encourage because many are turning from true faith in Christ to heresy. Endure hardship from those who persecute you and tell you that you need to get involved in some "new" thing. Preach the gospel and live in obedience to the Word and Will of God. (2 Tim 4:2-5)

Be a  
**Berean!**

may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Eph 3:16-19)

Here again Paul is praying for the Ephesians, not for himself. He prays that the indwelling Holy Spirit will show them how much Christ loves them so they may be "filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." This speaks of empowerment to have love and faith and to understand Christ in a deeper way, not power to perform miracles or for an ecstatic experience. There is no prayer for "power" to be found in the Bible. Christians need to pray according to the will of God and leave empowerment up to the Holy Spirit in His time.

**Article To Read:** *Healing And The Kingdom* by Dr. Paul G. Hiebert, 1989, <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/hiebert.html>

**Statement:** "Why don't you come and be healed at the revival meeting? God guarantees healing for everyone who has enough faith."

**Biblical Answer:** First of all, there are all kinds of healing. When God heals, He does true creative miracles that last (John 12:1-10; Mat 11:5). There are also "healings" that are just people getting excited and thinking they are healed, but when the excitement wears off they are just as bad or worse than they were before. Remember, the enemy can also heal (Rev 13:14) as well as cause sickness (Job 2:7). Healings and miracles by the devil are temporary and do not last very long, or are false miracles (2 Thes 2:9-10). Those who allow people who are not living in obedience to God's

will to lay hands on them for healing give the enemy a foothold in their lives (Eph 4:27) that he will not let go of without repentance and deliverance. Be very careful of those who claim they can heal you. You had better know a whole lot about them before you allow them to lay hands on you (1 John 4:1). Secondly, God does not guarantee healing for everyone who believes (Job 2:2-4; 2 Cor 12:7). Sometimes He allows sickness and difficulties in our lives to teach us lessons such as: our weakness and His strength (2 Cor 12:10, 13:4), our dependence on His grace (Rom 9:16), our need for an overcoming faith (Rev 3:12). It is true that we are told to pray for the sick in faith and the Lord will heal and forgive (Jam 5:15) but sometimes we must also suffer sickness and persecution (1 Pet 1:6,4:14-19, 2 Cor 1:6). Trials are used by God to develop perseverance and faith. (Jam 1:2-4).

**Article To Read:** *Biblical Divine Healing Versus Other Types Of Healing* by Sandy Simpson, 1/25/02, <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/divinehealing.html>

**Statement:** "You should come to the meetings because there is a prophet there who will prophesy over you if you ask him. He has been wrong a couple of times, but then prophets today do not have to be 100% correct, only about 60% as prophet Bob Jones prophesied."

**Biblical Answer:** The Bible is clear on this: "But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death." You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?" If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the

LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him." (Deut 18:20-22) This precept is not cancelled out in the New Testament. Bob Jones is a false prophet who conveniently ignored the Word of God so he could continue to falsely prophesy. The scriptural precept of 100% accuracy for a prophet is for our own protection. Many Christians mistake human intuition and even demonic voices, whether actually correct or incorrect, for the "still small voice" of the Spirit. It is a dangerous thing to promote what you are saying as a direct word from God. Once you say, "Thus saith the Lord" and what you have prophesied does not come true, then you are a lying false prophet and church discipline must be applied. Only God can truly forgive false prophecy when a person chooses to speak directly for Him. The church should ignore false prophets (Jer 23:16). People who continue to sit under their teaching are opening themselves up to deception. (Jer 23:10-12).

**Article To Read:** *False Prophets* by Dr. Kenneth Johnson, 1994, <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/fprophet.html>

**Statement:** "The speaker last night had a wonderful vision where Elijah appeared to him and told him what would happen in our island. Listen to what he said ..."

**Biblical Answer:** If any dead person is allegedly appearing and giving messages, that is expressly forbidden in Scripture for believers. "There shall not be found among you [any one] that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, [or] that useth divination, [or] an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter

with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer." (Deut 18:10-11). Talking to dead people is necromancy, or being a medium. Talking to the dead is actually talking to demons. Benny Hinn has done this on numerous occasions, seeing dead people like Kathryn Kuhlman and Aimee Semple McPherson. He even visits their graves to get more of the "anointing". Stay far away from people who are into necromancy, whether they claim to be believers or not. "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, [it is] because [there is] no light in them." (Isa 8:19-20).

**Article To Read:** *Benny Hinn and Necromancy (Talking to the Dead)* by Dr. Joseph R. Chambers, 1997

**Statement:** "The teachers at the revival meetings teach some things that are a little different from what the Bible says, but they are so powerful and sure of themselves. It must be of God."

**Biblical Answer:** If teachers do not hold to the basic doctrines of the church, they are not our brothers in the Lord. They are wolves in sheep's clothing (Mat 7:15; Acts 20:29). There are many doctrines, but here are five that are at the core of Christianity.

1. **The Trinity:** God must be one "What" and three "Whos" with each "Who" possessing all the attributes of Deity and personality.
2. **The Person of Jesus Christ:** Jesus is 100% God and 100% man for all eternity.
3. **The Second Coming:** Jesus Christ is coming bodily to earth to rule and judge.
4. **Salvation:** It is by grace alone

**Statement:** "Don't be afraid of 'slain in the spirit' because a Christian cannot be demonized or deceived."

**Biblical Answer:** There is ample evidence, both scripturally and experientially that believers can be demonized, which is the Biblical term, not meaning possessed but oppressed, tempted, persecuted and tested by the enemy (Job 1:8-9, 2:3, 2:7; 1 Sam 16:14-16, 18:10, 19:9; Mat 15:22-28,16:22-23; Mark 1:23; Luke 9:52-56,13:11-16; John 6:70-71, 13:27; Acts 5:1-11,8:9-24; 1 Cor 5:1-5,10:12-14; 2 Cor 2:10-11,11:3-4,12:7; Gal 3:1; Eph 4:25-27; 1 Thes 2:18; 1 Tim 1:19-20, 3:6-7,4:1-2; 2 Tim 2:24-26; 1 Pet 5:8-9). Christians can also be deceived (Mat 24:5,11,24; Eph 5:6; 2 Thes 2:3; 1 Cor 6:9; 2 Cor 11:3; Jam 1:16), give the devil a foothold (Eph 4:27), shipwreck their faith (1 Tim 1:19) and apostacize because they walk away from the Faith (Luke 8:13; Gal 5:4, 1 Pet. 3:17) which we are to hold on to till the end (Heb. 3:6, 14, 4:14, 1 Tim. 3:9, Matt. 24:13).

**Article To Read:** *Slain In The Spirit* by Rev. Jacob Prash, 1997, <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/ditc16.htm>

**Statement:** "If you don't come to the 'revival' meeting you might miss a blessing from God."

**Biblical Answer:** Christians are already experiencing blessings from God because of the gospel (1 Cor 9:23) of Jesus Christ (Eph 1:3) through the Holy Spirit (Isa 44:3; Gal 3:14). We also do not believe that revival comes before repentance (Acts 3:19). Repentance only comes as a result of the gospel message

being clearly preached (Col 1:28,4:4; 1 Cor 9:16; 1 Thes 1:5) which is "the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes" (Rom 1:16). The only way we can miss a blessing from God is to fail to "contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints" (Jude 1:3) and to "turn back and no longer follow Jesus" (John 6:66) being "carried away by all kinds of strange teachings" (Heb 13:9).

**Book To Read:** *Letters To The Church* by Sandy Simpson, <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/7churchesbook.html>

**Statement:** "It is easier for a person to receive the 'anointing' if they stop analyzing so much and empty their minds. 'God offends the mind to reveal the heart.'"

**Biblical Answer:** Christians are never to empty their minds. Our minds allow us to know God's will (Rom 12:2), show God we love him (Mat 22:37), and be kept in perfect peace (Isa 26:3). We need to fill our minds with the Word of Christ (Col 3:16). Emptying your mind is an occult technique used by Hindus and other false religions. God created our minds (Gen 1:27; 1 Tim 4:4) which are always to be submitted to His Will (Mat 6:10,26;42). Nowhere in the Bible does it say that "God offends the mind to reveal the heart". However, if we are offended by the "offence of the cross" we had better check to see if we are saved (Gal 5:11).

**DVD Series To Study:** *Discernment Toolkit DVD Series* by Sandy Simpson, <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/toolkitdvd.html>

**Statement:** "Come and sit under the teaching of latter day

apostles and prophets who are even greater than the Apostles and Prophets of Scripture."

**Biblical Answer:** The Bible says that the church is built on the Cornerstone, which is Christ (1 Pet 2:6) and the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets (Eph 2:20). The spiritual building of the church is in its last phase. We must not and cannot lay another foundation for a house that Christ has already built on the Cornerstone and the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets. Another question to ask is: are these people they are talking about being persecuted and put to death for the cause of Christ (2 Cor 4:8-9, 6:4-10; Heb 11:36-37)? Or are they making a name for themselves and becoming rich? It is likely you will find that they are "talkers and deceivers" who "are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach--and that for the sake of dishonest gain." (Tim 1:10-11) In fact Paul calls those who want to be considered equal to the foundational Apostles "false apostles". (2 Cor. 11:13-15)

**Article To Read:** *False Apostles* by Sandy Simpson, 2004, <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/allfalseapostles.html>

**The first way we are to judge a person or movement is by their doctrinal teachings.**

**Statement:** "God used the 'force of faith' to speak the universe into existence, so we can also use the 'force of faith' to speak health, wealth and anything else into being. Never pray 'Thy will be done' because

it shows you have a lack of faith."

**Biblical Answer:** If you believe this you have likely been watching too much Star Wars! You have also been listening to heretical teachers like Kenneth Copeland and Benny Hinn. God did not use any "force of faith" to create the world. He did so by His Word (2 Pet 3:5), His power (Isa 20:46), and by His will (Rev 4:11). We do not command God but we may ask, seek, and knock (Mat 7:7). However, we must ask according to His will (1 John 5:14) as long as His words remain in us (John 15:7). We do not believe in ordering God to do our bidding like Balaam attempted to do on behalf of Balak (Num 22:8, 2 Pet 2:15, Jude 1:11). That is witchcraft, which God forbids (Deut 18:10, Gal 5:19-21). We always pray "Thy will be done" just as Jesus, John, David, Peter, Paul, James and the Holy Spirit did (Mat 6:10,26;42; Luke 11:2; 1 John 2:17,5:14,15; Ps 40:8; Heb 10:7; Rom 8:27; 1 Pet 3:17; Col 1:9, Jam 4:13-16).

**Articles To Read:** Word of Faith Article Archive: <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/word-faith.html>

**Statement:** "Listen to all the positive testimonies. They are a good indication that God is doing a work of revival in these meetings."

**Biblical Answer:** Testimonies are subjective, that is, they are not easily proven. What really happened? Was the person really healed and for how long? Positive testimonies of life-changing experiences and miracles can be found in every religion and cult in the world. Testimonies are nice, but we must not base our faith on them. The first way we are to judge a person or movement is by their doctrinal teachings. If

they are teaching false doctrine you can be sure that it is not a revival from God. Here are some discernment questions to ask:

- Are the revival leaders “workers of righteousness” or “workers of iniquity”? Are they characterized by financial greed or good works? (Mat 23:25; 1 Thes 2:5) Good doctrine or fables? (1 Tim 4:1-8) Deep Christian character or selfish ambition? (Jam 3:14-18) Are they “law-full” or “lawless”? (Mat 7:15-23)
- What are the long term fruits in terms of Christian character – especially faithfulness, truth, love, mercy, and righteousness? (Mat 7:16-20; Gal 5:22,23; Eph 5:9; Jam 3:14-18)
- Does the revival as a whole display a love of sound doctrine? What are the revival leader’s attitudes about Scripture? (2 Pet 3:13-18; 1 Tim 4:1-8)
- Does the revival have a clear aim? Is it taking people somewhere? Can the results of the movement be built on by later generations? Is it a “house of straw” or a well-constructed foundation for the future? Is it built on Christ ie .the historical Jesus of Scripture? (Mat 7:15-29; 1 Cor 3:10-17)
- Are the revival leaders sound morally? Does the revival manage to avoid the twin dangers of immorality on one hand or overbearing legalism on the other? (Col 2:18-23; Jude 1:4)
- What is the attitude of the revival to the rest of the body of Christ? Is it humble or proud? Is it boastful? Does it separate

itself?

**Article To Read:** *How To Evaluate a Spiritual Movement* by John Edmiston, Eternity Online Magazine, 1997, <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/ditc12.htm>

**Statement:** “Did you know that since you belong to Christ you are a ‘little god’ or a ‘little messiah’? You are everything that God is. You are ‘I Am!’”

**Biblical Answer:** We believers are all children of God (John 1:12), sons of God (Gal 3:26), and together the bride of Christ (Rev 19:7). We are not Christ Himself nor are we God. If we are little gods then the statement that there is only one God would be untrue (Rom 3:30). There is also only one Father’s Son who is Jesus Christ (2 John 1:3). This “little gods” teaching by people like Kenneth Copeland and Benny Hinn is a doctrine of demons because it is one of the first lies Satan told Eve (Gen 3:5) and the sin of Satan himself (Isa 14:13-14). Also, the body of Christ is not Christ Himself. Christ is the Head of His church (Eph 1:10). Jesus is 100% man and 100% God for all eternity and physically sits at the right hand of God in His glorified body (Rom 8:34; Col 2:9). He is coming again bodily to rule and judge the earth (Rev 11:15).

**Article To Read:** *Unbiblical Doctrines, Teachings and Phenomena of the Third Wave Counterfeit Revival Movement* compiled by Sandy Simpson, 1997, <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/heresy.html>

**Statement:** “Those who question the teachings of the leaders of the revival may end up cursed.”

**Biblical Answer:** It is true

they may be cursed, but not by God. Many revival leaders have cursed any person to death that disagrees with what they are doing and teaching. Benny Hinn has done this many times as well as John Kilpatrick, Steve Hill and Michael Brown of Brownsville, and Paul Crouch of Trinity Broadcasting Network. God commands us to discern truth from error (Luke 12:57; 2 Pet 3:17, John 7:24), test the spirits (1 John 4:1), check what is taught with the Scriptures (Acts 17:11; 1 Cor 10:15; Isa 8:20; 1 Cor 4:6), and reject heretics (Tit 3:10). We are also commanded of God not to curse, like these men curse and persecute us, but to bless. (Rom 12:14)

**Article To Read:** *Accusers of the Brethren or Good Bereans?* by Debra Bouey, 1997, <http://www.intotrueth.org/tb/accuse1.html>

**Statement:** “The Bible says: ‘Judge not lest you be judged’. Don’t judge this move of God or its leaders. ‘Touch not the Lord’s anointed.’”

**Biblical Answer:** The kind of judging in Mat 7:1 is hypocritical judgment, in other words judging someone for what they are doing while you are doing the same thing.

**God commands us to discern truth from error, test the spirits, check what is taught with the Scriptures, and reject heretics.**

However, there are many ways in which we ARE called to judge. We are to judge what people teach (1 Cor 10:15, Acts 17:11), judge between right and wrong morally (1 Cor 5:11-13; Luke 12:57; 2 Pet 3:17, John 7:24), test the spirits (1 John 4:1) and judge those inside the

Church while God judges those outside (1 Cor. 5:12-13). If a person or movement is teaching false doctrine or making false prophecies, we are to rebuke them (Tit 1:13). If they do not repent we are to come away from them (Rev 18:4), mark them and avoid them (Rom 16:17), have no fellowship with them (Eph 5:1), withdraw from them (2 Thes 3:6), turn away from them (2 Tim 3:5,7), separate ourselves from them (2 Cor 6:17), and not even receive them into our homes (2 John 10, 11). As to the “touch not the Lord’s anointed” argument, David did not “touch” or kill Saul. But he did rebuke him in front of his entire army on two separate occasions. Though we do not kill false prophets as they did in the Old Testament (Deut 17:2-5; Lev 24:11-14), we are called to test them, rebuke them, and avoid them if they do not repent ...

**Article To Read:** *Judge Not?* by Rev. Jacob Prash, 1998, <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/judgenot.html>

**Statement:** “Gamaliel advised ‘... let them alone: for if ... this work be of men, it will come to naught: But if it be of God, you cannot overthrow it...’ Just wait and see how this revival turns out in the end. Don’t stand against it.”

**Biblical Answer:** Gamaliel was a highly respected Pharisee and teacher of the day, but he was no friend of the Christians. While his advice had saved the apostles, Gamaliel had actually given some bad advice to his fellow council members. Were people to follow this advice, one could never speak out against error. One could never stand up and say about a group claiming Jesus Christ as their leader that, for instance, Mormonism is wrong. We are called as Christians to discern

error (Luke 12:57; 2 Pet 3:17, John 7:24) and to mark and avoid (Rom 16:17) those who are divisive and heretical (Tit 3:10).

**Article To Read:** *Gambling On Gamaliel* by Bob Hunter, 1997, <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/gamaliel.htm>

**Statement:** “A great end time revival is preparing the earth to be subdued by the anointed. All authority will be given to the ‘manchild’ and then Christ can return in His Church.”

**Biblical Answer:** As stated previously, the Bible does not indicate a great end times revival or awakening but rather a great deception (Mark 13; 2 Th 2:3; 2 Pet 2:1; Mat 24:4), delusion (2 Thes 2:9-12), and the love of people growing cold (Mat 24:12). Our place as Christians is not to subdue the earth, as Christ will do that when He returns (Ps 2:9; Rev 2:27,19:15). Our job is to preach the gospel (Mark 16:15; 1 Cor 9:16; 2 Cor 9:13) and take care of the less fortunate, keeping ourselves from being polluted by the world (Jam 1:7). All authority is given to Christ (Mat 28:18). Any authority we have is based on obedience to the will of the Father (Col 2:10, Rom 15:18). We will not have authority over the nations during the millennial reign of Christ unless we overcome by faith and do God’s will to the end. (Rev 2:26)

**Article To Read:** *Kingdom Theology* by Albert James Dager, 1992, <http://op.50megs.com/ditc/kingdom1.htm>

**Statement:** “It is better to have the devil manifesting in a meeting than for nothing to be happening.”

**Biblical Answer:** Rodney

Howard-Browne said: “I’d rather be in a church where the devil and the flesh are manifesting than in a church where nothing is happening because people are too afraid to manifest anything... and if the devil manifests, don’t worry about that, either. Rejoice, because at least something is happening.” (Rodney Howard-Browne, *The Coming Revival*. 1991, p.6) What an awful thing to say. It does look like the devil has been “manifesting” in many Third Wave meetings because the following have been observed: uncontrollable laughing, crying, shaking, running around the church building, fast dancing, running followed by collapse, barking-howling, trances, drunkenness, falling out, oinking, being “hot”, fanning self or blowing, walking like chickens, horse noises, mooing and crowing, swimming, women going through imaginary birth pangs, loss of consciousness, trying to soar like eagles, hissing and moving like a snake, inability to speak, involuntary body spasms, kung fu-like stances, vomiting, head-banging, and stripping off clothes. God is not a God of disorder, so we must conduct ourselves in an orderly way (1 Cor 14:33). These are not manifestations of the Holy Spirit because the Spirit builds us up to be more like Christ, not lowering us to animal behavior (Rom 8:9; Phil 1:27; 1 Thes 5:23). These manifestations are more like demonization described in Scripture (1 Sam 16:14,18:10; Mat 8:28,9:32,12:22; Mark 1:23,26,7:25,9:25; Luke 4:33-35,8:29,9:42; Acts 19:16).

**Article To Read:** *Answering “Counterfeit” Revival Leader*, Rev. John Kilpatrick by Sandy Simpson, 1997, <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/kilpatrick.html>

**Statement:** “Well, there are unusual things going on at the revival meeting! God can do

anything He wants to do. Don’t put God in a box!”

**Biblical Answer:** Is it possible for any person to put God in a box? What a ridiculous statement! God is sovereign, almighty, omnipresent, omniscient. However, God did limit the way He evidences Himself and the way He works in this creation. God could have made people purple with green hair. He could have made reincarnation true. But He didn’t. What He did do was put His Word and Testimony in the Scriptures (Isa 8:20) which we are to not go beyond (1 Cor 4:6). He set down His will in His Law in the Old Testament (Ex 24:12), and the Law of Christ in the New Testament, which is grace (Gal 6:2). God’s character is consistent and faithful (Rev 3:14,9:11; Ps 33:4) and He does not change (Num 23:19; Heb 13:8). If something unbiblical is happening in a meeting or to an individual, it is not from God.

**Article To Read:** *Weighed And Found Wanting* by Rev. Bill Randles, 1995, [http://web.archive.org/web/20040703040810/http://www.geocities.com/Bob\\_Hunter/1.htm](http://web.archive.org/web/20040703040810/http://www.geocities.com/Bob_Hunter/1.htm)

**Statement:** “I have been praying for the ‘power’ to come upon me for a long time and it is here. I can feel it! It has changed my life for the better.”

**Biblical Answer:** There is no place in the Bible where we are told to pray for power. Therefore this is a very dangerous prayer. We also should not summon the Holy Spirit to meetings because He is already present where two or three are gathered together (Mat 18:20). Summoning or invoking is sorcery. The Scriptures do show us what to pray for. Here are some

examples: Pray for the people of your nation (Num 21:7) for your city (Jer 29:7) for peace in Jerusalem (Ps 122:6) for your persecutors (Mat 5:43-44; Luke 6:28) for children (Mat 19:13) for escape from judgment (Luke 21:36) that you will not fall into temptation (Luke 22:40) for Christians (Job 17:9; 1 Thes 5:25; Heb 13:18) and for boldness in proclaiming the gospel and for God to do miracles in people’s lives (Acts 4:29-31). Pray all the time, be alert, pray for the saints (Eph 6:18) for fearless preaching (Eph 6:20) to be filled with the knowledge of His will (Col 1:9) for open doors for the gospel (Col 4:3) that the Word of God may be glorified (2 Thes 3:1) for deliverance from evil men (2 Thes 3:2) for everyone, kings, authorities, peace, quiet, godliness, holiness (1 Tim 2:1,2) and for life for dead sinners (1 John 5:16).

There are other things we are taught to pray for in Scripture, but the point is that we need to follow the Scriptural model of prayer. There are only two places where the words “prayer” and “power” are mentioned. “*With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfil every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.*” (2 Thes 1:11) He was not praying for them to get power but that God "by His power" would fulfil "every good purpose" of theirs and "every act prompted by your faith". This is by the sovereign will of God, which if followed will produce good works. If God's will is not followed, it can only produce fleshly or demonic fruit. The second reference is this: “*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,*