

Have faith in God

(not in yourself)

Handling challenging doctrines within the Church

- We will handle these doctrines the same way we handle other discussions. We will ask questions to guide the discussion and look for opportunities to use our other tactics to help.
- We will be ambassadors for Christ. In this case we are trying to help point our brothers and sisters to a closer relationship with God.
- We will need biblical and doctrinal knowledge to succeed.

Once Upon a Time

- God lived on his own planet.
- He visualized man and the Earth. Through the force of faith He created man as an exact duplicate of himself. Adam was a little god. The Earth was an exact duplicate of his world.
- Adam and Eve committed cosmic treason against God by listening to Satan and sinning. They became satanic and Satan became ruler of Earth. God was kicked out.
- God got back into the Earth by cutting a covenant with Abram. Jesus, who never claimed to be God, purchased our salvation in hell as he was tortured by Satan. Though Jesus had died spiritually before the cross in Gethsemane, he hadn't sinned, so God beat Satan on a technicality. He got the Earth back and Jesus became the first born again man.
- We can now be little gods again by speaking our own reality through the formula of faith.

The Faith Movement: Outside of Orthodoxy?

- It is linked to the mind sciences and Christian Science.
- It is not Charismatic or Pentecostal.
- E.W. Kenyon is who introduced these doctrines. He is the link to the cults.
- Some of the doctrines are cultic. It is not a cult.

Dangerous Doctrines

- Force of Faith.
- Faith of God.
- Deification of man and Satan.
- Demotion of God and Jesus Christ.
- Redemption in Hell.
- Positive confession for healing and wealth.

Key Players

- Kenneth Hagin (many current Word – Faith teachers base their teaching on his sermons.)
- Kenneth Copeland
- Benny Hinn
- Joel Osteen
- Joyce Meyer
- Many others

How Do We Help Them?

- Know the truth. (Understand what the Bible says about their doctrines.)
- Ask them to define terms and how they came to that understanding. (Columbo 1 and 2)
- Context, context, context
- Be Gracious. (Be ambassadors)

Who They Say God Is.

- “ I was shocked when I found out who the biggest failure in the Bible actually is . . . The biggest one in the whole Bible is God . . . Now, the reason you don’t think of God as a failure is He never said He’s a failure. And you’re not a failure till you say you’re one.” (Kenneth Copeland, Praise the Lord: Praise-a-Thon, Trinity Broadcasting Network, April 1988.)

What They Say About Jesus.

- And somebody said, well, Jesus came as God! Well, how many of you know the Bible says God never sleeps or slumbers? And yet in the book of Mark we see Jesus asleep in the back of the boat. Please listen to me. Please listen to me. This ain't no heresy. I'm not some false prophet. I'm just reading this thing out of the Bible. I'm just telling you, all these fantasy preachers have been preaching all this stuff for all these years, and we bought the package. (Creflo Dollar, Creflo Dollar Ministries: World Changers, 8 December 2002)

What They Say About Redemption.

- The Bible indicates that for three days, Jesus went into the very depths of hell. Right into the enemy's own territory. He did battle with Satan face to face. Can you imagine what a showdown that was? (Joel Osteen, Easter message at Lakewood Church, Sermon # CS_002 – 4-23-00, 23 April 2000)
- There is no hope of anyone going to heaven unless they believe this truth I am presenting. You cannot go to heaven unless you believe with all your heart that Jesus took your place in hell. (Joyce Meyer, *The Most Important Decision You Will Ever Make*. (Fenton, MO: Life in the Word, 1991),37.
- Jesus was then born again in hell so you could be born again.

What They Say About Faith.

- “Faith is a power force.” { Kenneth Copeland, The Force of Faith, (Fort Worth, TX: KCP Publications, 1989), 10.}
- “God can’t do anything for you apart from faith”, “faith is God’s source of power”. {Kenneth Copeland, Freedom From Fear (Fort Worth, TX: Kenneth Copeland Ministries, 1980), 10-11.}
- Faith of God is linked to Mark 11:22.
- Faith is the force and words are containers of the force. (Name it, Claim it)
- Confess positively and you get health/wealth. Confess negatively and you get poverty/sickness.

Questions to Ask About God's Sovereignty

- Can you create your own reality by faith spoken words?
- How did you come to that conclusion?
- What about God? Is he the Sovereign of the Universe or are we the Sovereign?
- Did God need faith to create the Universe?

What Happened on the Cross?

- Did The death of Jesus on the cross purchase our salvation?
- How did you come to that conclusion?
- Why did John the Baptist call Jesus the Lamb of God? (John 1:29, 1 Cor. 15:3, 1 Peter 1:19)
- What did it mean when Jesus said it is finished?(John 19:30)
- Have you looked at Acts 20:28?

Why Did Jesus Have to Go to Hell?

- Could you please show me in the bible where it says Jesus was tortured in Hell?
- Why does Jesus need to be born again? He never sinned.
- Please explain why Jesus said on the cross, “Father into your hands I commit my spirit”.(Luke 23:46, NKJV)
- Why did Jesus say to the thief that today he would be with Jesus in paradise?(Luke 23:40)

How Big is Your God?

- Are we in God's class?
- How are we like God?
- How are we different from God?
- Are we gods?

Is God Our Genie?

- Does He have to do what we speak in faith?
- Does God always heal?
- If he doesn't heal us, is it our fault?
- Does the atonement guarantee healing?

Why Do We Suffer?

- Are we to identify with Christ in Suffering?
- If we suffer, are we sinning?
- Is all sickness caused by Satan?