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Hinn and Wood's "Defining deception: Freeing the church from the mystical-miracle movement" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Hinn, C.W. & Wood, A. G. (2018) *Defining deception: Freeing the church from the mystical-miracle movement*. El Cajon, CA: Southern California Seminary Press. 174 pp. \$16.95 ISBN 9780986444241

Costi W. Hinn is the Executive Pastor at Mission Bible Church in Orange County, CA. He is the nephew of charismatic evangelist Benny Hinn and used to work on his team. Anthony G. Wood is the Teaching Pastor at Mission Bible Church in Orange County, CA.

The Theological identifiers of this book can be discerned by noting the groups mentioned in the “acknowledgements” section: Mission Bible Church Staff, Southern CA Seminary, IFCA International, Grace to You Staff, Midwestern Baptist Seminary, and Gateway Baptist Seminary.

Co-author Costi Hinn traveled on the staff of his uncle Benny Hinn for many years observing it. Co-author Anthony Wood counseled thousands of young adults suffering from illness & sin. These authors stress that this book is not a refutation of generally orthodox Pentecostals or Assembly of God but only of specific teachers who have strayed far off from the Bible. Secondly, they say the goal of the book is restoration not condemnation. Thirdly, they feel “defending the truth” is a biblical mandate for all Christians.

The Chapter on “**Gold Dust and Glory Clouds**” - Contains many specific examples of false teachings & false miracles. “**Hall of Generals**” - Overviews the tremendous growth of the Charismatic movement worldwide and lists some of the prominent historic leaders. Including: Charles Parham (1873- 1929); William Seymour (1870-1922); Smith Wigglesworth (1859-1947); Aimee Semple McPherson (1890-1944); Kathryn Kuhlman (1907-1976); William Branham (1909-1965); Oral Roberts (1918-2009); Kenneth Hagin (1917-2003); and those coming on the horizon like Bill Johnson & Todd White. “**Rupture in the Third Wave**” - Explains that the 3 waves are Early Pentecostalism (late 1800s to early 1900s); the Charismatic Renewal (mid 1960s - 1980s); Third Wave (1983- present) with the resulting split between disciples of John Wimber (the Founder of the Vineyard Association of Churches) vs C. Peter Wagner (the Founder of the International Coalition of Apostles). “**The Shady World of Stage Sharing**” - Gives specific examples of Benny Hinn; Todd Bentley; Todd White preaching in the movement. “**Master Manipulation**” - Explains

how using logical errors: False Analogy; Misinterpretation; & Monopolization can cause confusion. “**Doctrinal Deceptions**” mentioned are: You = Jesus; Sickness = Lack of Faith; Heaven = Right Now; Spirit Teachings over-rule Scripture; My Experience Proves My Truth. Finally, the book ends explaining how “true” healings always follow the Scriptures.

This short book covers a lot of territory & answers a lot of questions that need answering today. But, because it is short, it is not comprehensive. It is informative. The authors are careful in their wording & achieve their purpose to expose error & promote truth. It is recommended for any college that is preparing ministers, teachers, missionaries, church officers, etc.

Reviewer

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