

ANOTHER
SIDE OF THE
COIN

*The Other Side
of the Controversy Surrounding
the Faith Message*

By: Gregg N. Huestis

Another Side of the Coin—

*The Other Side of the Controversy Surrounding
the Faith Message*

Copyright © 1998 - 2008 by Gregg N. Huestis

All rights reserved under International Copyright Law. Contents and/or cover may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form without the express written consent of the publisher.

ISBN: Pending

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the *King James Version Bible*

Scripture quotations marked TAB are taken from *The Amplified Bible, Old Testament*. © Copyright 1965, 1987 by The Zondervan Corporation. *The Amplified New Testament*, © Copyright 1954, 1958, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NKJV are taken from the *New King James Version*, Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

All Scripture verses, dictionary/concordance definitions and quotations containing any *added emphasis* have been added by the author.

Published by: Blessed To Be A Blessing Ministries

E-mail: info@b2bablossing.org

Website: www.b2bablossing.org

Published in the U.S.A. by
Blessed To Be A Blessing Ministries

Ft. Collins, CO 80524

All Rights Reserved

I dedicate this book to
Emily P. Huestis,
my beautiful wife and best friend,
who gave of her time and editorial talents.
Without her wonderful devoted support, this
book would still be just a manuscript.

Acknowledgments

To **the Holy Spirit** for His guidance and inspiration to write. To all the Word of Faith teachers who assisted and encouraged me in the writing of this book. Finally, to all those who are uncertain about Faith teaching: May the Spirit of Wisdom & Revelation be yours!

(Eph. 1:17-21 TAB).

Table Of Contents

A Personal Introduction From The Author	x
CHAPTER 1:	1
Hanegraaff's Cast of Characters & Beyond	
CHAPTER 2:	17
The <i>Force</i> of Faith!	
CHAPTER 3:	31
The <i>Formula</i> of Faith?	
CHAPTER 4:	57
The Faith of God!	
CHAPTER 5:	71
The Hebrews Hall of Fame!	
CHAPTER 6:	87
Who's Deifying Man?	
CHAPTER 7:	101
How Would Someone Demote God?	
CHAPTER 8:	117
Who Has <i>Authority</i> To Demote Christ?	
CHAPTER 9:	135
Spiritual Death And The Cross	
CHAPTER 10:	193
He Who Knew No Sin <i>Became</i> Sin!	
CHAPTER 11:	215
The Firstborn <i>From Among</i> The Dead!	
CHAPTER 12:	233
Who's "Conforming" To Culture?	
CHAPTER 13:	251
P.T.L.—Pass The Lute?	
CHAPTER 14:	273
A Covenant <i>Is</i> A Biblical Contract!	
CHAPTER 15:	291
Sickness—Suffering, Symptoms; Satan And Sovereignty	
Some Closing Remarks	325
End Notes	345

PREFACE

Few have seen the books that have responded directly to Hank Hanegraaff's landmark book, *Christianity in Crisis*. Hanegraaff's book, according to him, exposes the Word-Faith Movement as a "cult" by quoting statements by its major leaders. Yet, many of the accused Word-Faith leaders have kept to an understandable policy to neither read nor respond to criticism. Nonetheless, many Word-Faith adherents have wanted someone to contend with Hanegraaff for what they believe to be out-of-context quotes, strawman arguments, false allegations, and bias theology.

One person attempted to answer that call. In 1994, Michael Bruno wrote *Christianity in Power*, responding to Hanegraaff using love, Scripture, and reason. We are thankful to God for Reverend Bruno's book, as it has restored the faith of millions of Christians. Though we laude Bruno's courage in responding to *the Bible Answer Man*, and his efforts were certainly blessed by God, Bruno's book did not address many of Hanegraaff's interpretations that make the faith teachers appear to be guilty of teaching heretical doctrine.

However, God has raised another author to take up where Bruno has left off. Gregg Huestis in his excellent book, *Another Side of the Coin*, not only answers Hanegraaff's literary investigation with scripture and reason, but he also takes the quotes that Hanegraaff used and places them within their contextual setting. By doing this, Huestis demonstrates to his readers that Hanegraaff *appears* to have put words into the mouths of the faith teachers that were not originally there.

Huestis also uses quotations by faith teachers that Hanegraaff did not cite since they would have proven counter-productive in painting them as "cultic" and "heretical." Many adherents to the Faith Movement believe that Hanegraaff has misinterpreted this teaching but cannot afford to purchase all of the books and tapes to investigate their position. Huestis, however, provides them with the necessary resource for this endeavor.

Huestis begins his thesis by citing a number of apologists, those in the same field as Hanegraaff, who disagree with how he has handled the Faith Movement. Afterwards, Huestis covers such subjects as the *Force of Faith*, the *Formula of Faith*, the *Faith of God*, the alleged *deification of man*, the alleged *demotion of God*, the *Jesus-Died-*

Spiritually (JDS) *doctrine*, and other subjects of interest. You will find Huestis' handling of these controversial subjects done with care and precision?

If you have been questioning the genuineness of Hanegraaff's work, but have been waiting for someone to provide the needed answers, then your prayers have been answered in the form of *Another Side of the Coin*. You will find this to be a great resource for maintaining your faith as well as providing an accurate response to Hanegraaff's allegations.

Pastor Troy J. Edwards
Victorious Word Christian Fellowship

A Personal Introduction From The Author

This book has not been written as an attempt to say, “**We** are right and *they* are wrong!” Rather, this is a prayerful effort at giving a proper answer to the critics of the Word of Faith. It is the desire of my heart that this writing be a tool to bring about *restoration* between both sides of this controversial debate.

This book was birthed within my spirit because I have encountered many believers caught up in confusion concerning the Faith message. Jesus said, “You shall **know** the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” The purpose of truth *is not* to bring about confusion and disunity. As hard as it may be, we will have to get our doctrines and misunderstandings out of the way or we will *never* experience the freedom that Jesus referred to in this verse. Therefore, we will end up not really understanding the truth so that we can be made free.

In *Another Side of the Coin*, I intend to examine several portions of Hank Hanegraaff’s 1993 book, *Christianity in Crisis*, and pay particular attention to quotations of the various Faith teachers used by Hanegraaff. However, I also plan to use other quotations, by the same people, *not* cited by Hanegraaff, to show the *true* meaning behind the message of most of today’s Faith teaching.

Moreover, I am completely aware that many of the Faith teachers have a long standing policy by which they have chosen not to read, listen or respond to any public opinion *for or against* them and their teaching. I respect their decision and understand their reasons for choosing not to respond. If I had as much press as they have had, I probably would respond in kind. *Nevertheless*, the Lord has given me a clear directive to respond to and properly clarify various controversial teachings of the Word of Faith.

I further realize that this book may not “convert” those who are already opposed to the teachings of the Word of Faith. But I know that it will be an important source of help to many who are still *unsure* of their motives and teaching. I, too, was unsure until I began carefully listening to and researching various statements of the Faith teachers over the last 17 years, comparing them with the Word of God. *I do not agree with every word taught by the Faith Teachers. However, I disagree more so with methods of those attempting to correct them.*

I can say from my own *personal* experience with those who oppose the message of faith, that in those times of uncertainty I wished that I had had a book to assist me like *Another Side of the Coin*. My motivation **is not** to attack or slander Hanegraaff, but rather to clearly and openly show various misinterpretations so that one can properly decide for himself.

I pray that those who read *Another Side of the Coin* will take that which I have written, *plus* Hanegraaff’s writing, and compare both in the light of the Word of God. I do not ask that anyone should read this book and base their beliefs *solely* upon what I have written. *More than anything*, I desire that the reader will thoroughly examine both sides of this debate to see how they line up with *God’s Word*, and therefore form their own conclusion.

For so many thousands of years, people have *based* their whole belief system on what someone else has said or written, **without** taking the time to *research* the subject(s) in question for themselves.

The time has come for the Body of Christ to exam **both sides** of this coin, in order that the whole picture may come into focus.

Gregg N. Huestis

1

HANEGRAAFF'S CAST OF CHARACTERS & BEYOND

Before we begin to address Mr. Hanegraaff's book, I wish to make one thing **poignantly clear**—it has **never** been my intention to attack or defame Hanegraaff *in any way*. I simply want to accurately present his interpretation of the Word of Faith teaching found in *Christianity in Crisis*. It is important that one understands his line of logic in context. Many advocates of this book have felt I should have been more stringent in opposing Hanegraaff's remarks. Instead, I felt led of the Lord to be more polite and hospitable. That being said let us look into *Christianity in Crisis*.

Hank Hanegraaff opens his literary exposition on the Word of Faith, *Christianity in Crisis*, with a reasonably detailed exposé of the Faith teachers with whom he intends to openly expose for promoting *unorthodox* doctrine. I was shocked by his *manner* of writing, beginning with him calling them heretics to his denouncing their teachings as *cultic*:

“Twisted text, **make-believe miracles**, and counterfeit Christs are common denominators of the Faith movement's cast of Characters.”¹

Unfortunately, no spiritual experience *seems* sacred with him. His first official chapter opens with *his* interpretation of the origin and influence of each Faith teacher addressed in his book. Sadly, if words were bullets, these servants of God would've been fatalities sometime in 1993.

He proceeds by denouncing many of their private and personal spiritual experiences, of which he has *no possible way* of knowing the truth. As I've said, no spiritual experience *seems* sacred with this brother. Furthermore, he denounces many of them as frauds

and thieves, claiming they televise “make-believe miracles,”² and bilk the *unsuspecting* out of millions of dollars yearly.

For example, Hanegraaff attempts to spoil the reputation of John Avanzini, who is a teacher of Biblical economics. In referring to Avanzini, he makes these rather unusual comments:

“John Avanzini is billed by his Faith peers as a recognized authority on biblical economics. The truth, however, is that he is an authority at separating poor people from their money...Avanzini runs the gamut from teaching people how to get their hands on the ‘wealth of the wicked’ to what might best be described as his ‘**hundredfold hoax**.’”³

He also makes a few unfaltering remarks about a man of God who has been a powerful influence in my life and ministry, Dr. Morris Cerullo.

“He purports to have first met God at the age of eight. Since then his life has been one remarkable experience after another...On another occasion, Cerullo claimed God was directing him to say, ‘Would you surrender your pocketbooks unto Me, saith God, and let Me be the Lord of your pocketbooks.’”⁴

I have been teaching on the hundredfold return for several years hence, I now understand this principle in great detail. I can assure you the Bible clearly affirms this teaching. Consequently, I can write with one hundred percent confidence that the teaching of Dr. John Avanzini is, in fact, doctrinally sound. I have studied under his ministry since 1983, when I first met him in Chicago, IL at the Morris Cerullo *Chicago Partners Seminar*. I have examined Avanzini’s teachings thoroughly and know them to be sound.

Concerning Morris Cerullo, I can say from **personal experience** with his ministry that he is a man of God of the **finest** quality that I have ever known. I have been blessed to meet Cerullo a number of times in person, as well as over the telephone. I also worked for him for a short time in 1986 at Morris Cerullo World Evangelism. I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the ministry of

Morris Cerullo is not only doctrinally sound, but it is also financially sound, regardless of the outrageous exaggerations Hanegraaff desires to establish *as fact*.

As for the other Faith teachers in Hanegraaff's book, I haven't met them apart from their books, cassettes and videos. Still, I have examined their teachings thoroughly and have never found *anything* heretical in nature. I don't agree with all that they do or say, but their teachings are Scripturally sound.

I must confess that I have seen some disturbing methods of fundraising by TV preachers that concerns me, but in recent years such emotional appeals are quickly fading away.

Who's Dividing Who?

"I have become both weary and wary of those who use the perversions of the Faith movement to drive a wedge between charismatic and noncharismatic Christians. Frankly, this is both counterproductive and divisive, for the Faith movement is not charismatic; it is cultic."⁵

Mr. Hanegraaff claims that the Faith teachers are promoting division between Charismatic and non-Charismatic believers. On the other hand, it was Hanegraaff who wrote a book with a *flare* of tabloid journalism, not Copeland, Hagin or Capps. He is a man of God who has set his heart on tearing down the reputation and ministry of many great men and women of God. Hanegraaff's actions, like the ones previously mentioned, are clearly counterproductive and divisive. I find no credible grounds for accusing the Word of Faith of causing division between Charismatic and non-Charismatic believers.

In addition, he has also **publicly** denounced the teachers of the Word of Faith in his book as cult leaders, or as teaching cultic doctrine. Rating them with the likes of the Mormons, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Christian Scientists.⁶ Hanegraaff does not *seem* to show any spirit of love toward those mentioned in his book. That is a direct violation of what Jesus said to do with our enemies, Matthew 5:44: "*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*"

On the other hand, *most* of the Faith teachers continue to love Hanegraaff and pray for him, without demeaning, slanderous remarks

against him or his ministry. The vast majorities of the Word of Faith teacher's believe he is a fellow believer and would consent to discussions with him if they felt these issues would be resolved.

It is seems obvious, from *Christianity in Crisis*, that Hanegraaff's intentions for writing were not primarily for the **restoration** of these servants of God. According to the Word of God, the Biblical prerequisite for confrontation is **always** restoration of those in error.

When love isn't the motive, fleshly desires will surely be the source of action. Love must *always* be the motivation for confrontation. When one confronts another out of love, restoration, peace, and spiritual growth will, *for the most part*, be the result. However, when one confronts another with improper motives, anger, or strife; then **division** will nearly always be the end result Proverbs 30:33c.

We hope that you enjoyed the sample chapter and additional partial chapter. We also hope that you will return to our site and purchase *Another Side of the Coin* in it's entirety.

Published by: Blessed To Be A Blessing Ministries
E-mail: info@b2bablessing.org
Website: www.b2bablessing.org

© 1998 – 2008 Gregg N. Huestis

Published in the U.S.A. by
Blessed To Be A Blessing Ministries
Ft. Collins, CO 80524
All Rights Reserved

Please visit us again soon!
Blessed To Be A Blessing Ministries