

we develop our character, not our comfort. Remember, God is more interested in our holiness than our happiness (1 Peter 1:15-16). Happiness and solace can be by-products of our faith, but they should not be the driving force.

Riverbend Church's concept of worship may well play to the masses, but it is merely a repackaging of the unbiblical self-esteem concept. PFO director David Tyler, in his rebuttal of the self-esteem doctrine, expounds on the Beatitudes given by Jesus during His Sermon on the Mount:

"No man can put into practice what the Lord said in these verses unless he becomes dead to self. This means that he is not concerned about personal 'rights of self.' It is the absence of this tendency of constantly 'watching out for self,' of having 'sensitivity about self,' that is so delicate that the slightest disturbance can upset its equilibrium and devastate the individual. The Lord wants to produce in the believer an *indifference to self...*" (*Jesus Christ: Self-Denial or Self-Esteem?*, pp. 23-24, emphasis in original).

Market-driven churches, with their offer of low-impact Christianity, are the antithesis of the scriptural mandate and standard for believers. Weekly installments of a forty-five minute, cotton candy service just won't produce discipline in the life of a Christian. It will not produce sanctification. It will not produce growth.

True believers will experience the abundant life only when they give heed to the words of Christ: "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me'" (Matthew 16:24) and "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me" (Matthew 10:38). Low-impact Christianity may appeal to our fleshly desires and selfishness, but it will never produce the men and women which God desires for Himself.

—MKG

## BENNY HINN IS RIGHT!

Like a broken clock that is right at least twice a day, Benny Hinn occasionally, but rarely, says something that is true.

On the June 26 broadcast of his *This Is Your Day* program, Hinn aired highlights from his recent "Partners Conference" in Anaheim. During the conference, Hinn warned his followers to be careful what teachers they place themselves under since there would be a "transfer of spirits" from the preacher to his disciples. He explained that if a teacher taught falsehood, heresy, or unwitting error, his listeners would have that kind of spirit transferred to them and influence them. On this count, Hinn is right and our experience bears that out.

Hinn, of course, subtly leads his followers to believe that they could listen to him and not be affected in an evil way. Hinn, who has often cursed and castigated his critics, gives his devotees a regular diet of negative evil. For example, he growled at his 1999 Denver crusade: "Yes Lord, I'll do it. I place a curse on every man and every woman that will stretch his hand against this anointing. I curse that man who dares to speak against this ministry."

Hinn's devotees are picking up the "spirit" of their mentor and his harsh, condemning spirit is being transferred left and right. It seems to give some the idea that they can throw around curses and pronounce an awful future for any who do not come into line with Hinn. They are learning well.

The following is a telephone message left on PFO's voice mail by one of Hinn's supporters. It was from a cellular phone caller based in Columbus, Ohio, and was made to PFO "under the cover of darkness" (that is, the call was made at 1:29 A.M.):

"I have something to tell you guys. I was going through your Internet site and saw that you guys criticize Pastor Benny Hinn, man of God. And I just have to say, be careful, you are in danger of hell. You do not want to mess with the man of God. You can — serious things can happen to you. This is not something to play with. You are making fun of God. You are not making fun of a man. Because Pastor Benny Hinn is a servant of God. And be careful by speaking bad about the servant of God, you're speaking bad about the Lord and the Holy Spirit, and danger may await you. Be careful, do not mess with Jesus. Jesus is God, He is Savior, He still heals the sick, whether you believe it or not — you friggin' skeptic. You need to repent, get on your knees and pray. Because the Lord will forgive you, if you repent now."

So it is true: Like teacher, like student. Sadly, Hinn's blind followers do not realize the negative, judgmental attitudes they have acquired by listening to Hinn on a regular basis. We can only pray for those who condemn and curse us.

—GRF

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### NEWS UPDATES

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Elaine Moses, who claimed to be a former high-ranking witch, occultic diplomat to world leaders, and the wife of Satan. In late 1989, Moses disappeared from the scene when Brown married Daniel Yoder, who claims to be "powerfully anointed as a prophet, healer, and evangelist." Together they operate out of Clinton, Ark., under the banner "Harvest Warriors."