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William Branham : Did He Start The Latter Rain Movement

Posted on Wednesday, March 24 @ 08:50:33 EST by [WMB1](#)

Background to the "Holy Laughter" Movement
A Historical and Doctrinal Study



by Tom and Sheila Smith
Tom Smith

Important - Please Read
Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented herein, however, we request that anyone who discovers errors, omissions, or other inaccuracies to please notify us as soon as possible so that the document may be corrected and re-issued.

We request that you provide two reference sources so that we can verify the accuracy of the information provided. The information provided is based primarily upon the reference documents given at the end of this document.

Australian Union Discernment : Seventh Day Adventist
<http://www.aucsd.com/discernment/backlaughter.htm>

(5) United Pentecostal Church

The UPC grew out of the Azusa street revival, and is a member of what is commonly known as the Oneness Pentecostal movement. The following

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are the key doctrinal beliefs that distinguish the Oneness Pentecostal movement:

- Doctrine of "trinity" considered to be demonic
- Speaking in tongues is an essential sign of salvation
- Denial of the pre-existence of Christ
- Jesus was Himself the Father
- Modalism - Jesus is the only person of the trinity, but appears in three modes at different times.
- Baptism "in Jesus' name" alone is necessary for salvation.

(6) William Branham

Started out with Missionary Baptist church. After a short stint, he joined the United Pentecostal Church (Oneness Pentecostals See note 5). He later rejected all denominations as being of the antichrist and formed the Branham Tabernacle as an independent church.

His teachings included:

- God's Word consists of the zodiac, Egyptian pyramids and scripture.
- Doctrine of trinity is considered demonic
- The claim that he was Elijah the prophet
- Millennium to begin in 1977.
- That he was the seventh angelic messenger to the Laodicean Church Age (Footprints, pg. 620).(Using the dispensational theory that each of the churches in Revelations represents an age of the church, the current one being the Laodicean Church Age).
- That anyone belonging to any denomination had taken "the mark of the beast" (Footprints, pp. 627, 629, 643, 648).
- That he received divinely inspired revelations (The Revelation of the Seven Seals, Branham; Spoken Word Publications, Tucson, Ariz., n.d.; pg.19; Questions and Answers, Book 1, Branham; Spoken Word Publications, Tucson, 1964; pg. 60.)
- The fall of man happened when Eve had sexual relations with Satan, that his sexual union produced Cain.(Branham said that "every sin that ever was on the Earth was caused by a woman....the very lowest creature on the Earth" The Spoken Word, Vol. III Nos. 12, 13, 14;, Branham; Spoken Word Publications, Jeffersonville, Ind. 1976; pp. 81-82. Quoted in The Man and His Message, pg. 41).

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- Branham denied the biblical triune Godhead. He pronounced it a "gross error" (The Spoken Word, pg. 79) and as a prophet with the authority of a "Thus saith the Lord," revealed that "trinitarianism is of the devil" (Footprints, pg. 606).

- Unsaved descended from the serpent.

(9) Latter Rain Movement

In the mid-1940's, the enthusiasm and fire of the Pentecostal revival that started at Azusa Street was waning, and people were looking for another move of the spirit, and wanted signs and wonders.

The movement is based upon William Branham, and therefore his theology formed the basis for the Latter Rain theology. He was seen as the "prophet" (Elijah) of the movement.

- See Note (6) (Theology of William Branham)

Manifest Sons of God theology/Christians are "gods"

The following are typical beliefs held by those following this doctrine. These views are not necessarily all held by all adherents to these beliefs.

- The revelation of the manifestation of the sons of God (extrapolated from Romans 8:19). This doctrine claims that those who are "anointed" have already been manifested as sons of God, and have already received their glorified bodies, or will prior to Christ's return and have/will be perfected in all ways, and will become "gods" in their own right.

Christians to subdue/dominate the world PRIOR to Christ's return.

- The revelation of the dominion mandate (We are to conquer the world and dominate it in order for the millennium to begin). We are to form an army referred to as "Joel's Army". According to this doctrine, the Millennium can come only after we conquer the world. Those who hold this doctrine typically believe that the rapture is to remove the wicked from the world (i.e. denominational churches), and Christ's presence is not essential during the millennium because they believe the church is Christ's body, and therefore is and has all that Christ is and has.

Replaced Apostasized Pentecostals

Movement intended to replace "apostasized Pentecostals" (who removed both Branham and the Latter Rain movement for cultic beliefs)

Restoration of offices of Prophet and Apostle/Branham is Elijah

- The restoration of "the fivefold ministry" as enumerated in Ephesians 4:11, with particular emphasis on the offices of apostle and prophet. (Branham was widely touted as the prophet Elijah reborn).

Names associated with this movement:

Oral Roberts, Paul Cain William Branham, Bill Britton, George Warnock, Franklin Hall, John Robert Stevens, Hatwin Brothers, Sam Fife, Myrtle and James Beall, Earl Paulk.

... more ...

(10) Word-Faith Movement

Popular today, but coexisted with, and grew out of the Latter Rain movement. tends to be predominantly trinitarian, as opposed to the Latter Rain movement, but hold to the primary doctrines put forward by William Branham, and most leaders in this movement uphold Branham as a man of God or prophet.

Because of the diverse nature of the movement, the doctrines listed below are representative of those held widely or predominantly throughout the leadership of the movement.

Doctrines:

- Christians are "gods", and therefore do not need to ask "in God's will", but rather use our own divinity to speak what we want into being.
- We are lacking faith if we are not healthy and wealthy. (God intended for us to be rich).
- Men are capable of saving themselves.
- Belief in faith as a "force" capable of being used for good or evil.
- Use of faith-force to change reality or to create through visualization
- God is unable to operate within the earth realm without our help
- Use of words (negative) releases Satan's power, while words (positive) release God's power.
- See Also Note 26, Manifest Sons of God; and Note 6, William Branham. Other than the acceptance of trinitarianism by the Word-Faith movement, the doctrines in these notes tend to be fairly representative of the Word-Faith movement.

Names associated with this movement:

Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin, Benny Hinn, Paul Crouch, Oral Roberts, Richard Roberts, E. W. Kenyon, Earl Paulk.

(11) * Paul Cain

Paul Cain started out as part of the Latter Rain movement, following the teachings of William Branham. Paul Cain still tends to follow Branham theology, with the possible exception of acceptance of doctrine of the trinity. Paul Cain is well known for his creation of the term "New Breed",

which is a new term describing the Manifest Sons of God theology taught by Branham.

Paul Cain went on to be the spark behind the founding of the Kansas City Fellowship, an organization based very much on the Latter Rain Movement. He is seen as the guiding prophet of the KCF, and is also highly recommended by leaders of the Vineyard and laughter movement, such as John Wimber.

His theology appears to consist of:

- Manifest Sons of God ("New Breed).
- Opposed to Christians trying to manifest their "sonship" too early. (i.e. trying to walk through walls before they are ready or presumptuously) (reference: See Bibliography, Ref document 36, chapter 6)
- "Joels' Army": We are to become an army made up of the manifest sons of God who will take control of the earth so to bring in the millennium.

.... (12) * Rodney Howard-Browne ... - Praises Branham as a great man of God, and the Latter Rain movement as a move of the spirit (See also notes 1 and 9).

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