



Discussion Questions

HAPPY LIES

by Melissa Dougherty

Chapter 2: New Thought, Old Lies

1. What potential problems for society do you see if truth is defined by everyone's "inner voice" and everyone's individual self is authoritative?
2. What was the historical context in which these ideas developed? (p. 14) If we already understand that these ideas are false, what is the value in studying their historical development?
3. Were there *any* elements of truth in the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg, Franz Anton Mesmer, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Phineas Quimby, Ernest Holmes, Warren Felt Evans, Napoleon Hill, Helen Schucman, etc.?
4. Why is New Thought "a spirituality that Satan loves"? (p. 26)

Chapter 3: The Teachings

5. How did Melissa Dougherty explain the difference between New Age and New Thought? (p. 32)
6. Do you have any personal experience with a church or a person you know redefining the definition of biblical words? Share your experience.

7. Why did Dougherty say “I am” statements are so crucial in New Thought, and what is the underlying presupposition? (p. 40)
8. How do you think New Thought would think about biblical teachings such as suffering, self-denial, and the pursuit of holiness? Who is at the center and is the touchstone of New Thought vs. biblical Christianity?
9. What tools or criteria can believers use to discern between biblical truth and New Thought influences? What steps can individuals and churches take to guard against the influence of deceptive teachings?