

## Episode 242

### **Shea Houdmann**

Welcome to the Got Questions podcast. Today we've got a returning guest. I think she's been on two or three times before, Melissa Dougherty. She is the author of several books, but her most recent one, *Happy Lies, How a Movement You Probably Never Heard of Shaped Our Self-Obsessed World*. When I was first presented with the opportunity of doing this interview, I was like, well, what is this book about? I discovered it was about the New Thought Movement. I'm like, I know I've heard of that, but if you were to ask me off the top of my head to tell you anything about it, I don't know that I could. So fascinated to both of them have an opportunity to read the book and interview Melissa. So Melissa, thank you for joining me.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

Yeah. Thanks for having me on. And I should fact check you. I have actually never written a book before, and I think I've only been on once or twice before with Jehovah's Witnesses. I think that was the topic before, but yeah, this is my first book.

### **Shea Houdmann**

Congratulations.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

Thank you, yeah.

### **Shea Houdmann**

Yes. I think I interviewed you about the New Age Movement one time.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

I think it was New Age, yeah.

### **Shea Houdmann**

Definitely Jehovah's Witnesses as well.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

Yeah.

### **Shea Houdmann**

Good. This is going to be a fun conversation. So help me out here. What is the New Thought Movement and why is it both influential and yet not very well known?

### **Melissa Dougherty**

I always say that for those who might be listening and they're like, I don't know what that is. You do know what this is. And you don't know what this is. Clear as mud. But it's not a religion. It's a movement. I've always said I'm an ex-New Ager, but that's actually not entirely true. I'm actually an ex-New Thinker. And what I mean by that is that when I, in your last podcast, we

talked about one of them. We talked about Jehovah's Witnesses and how I even got into that and speaking with them and doing ministry with them because they played an integral part in me researching my own beliefs and coming out of what I thought was New Age. But I immediately started realizing, well, I was never into yoga. I was never into Reiki, sacred geometry, angel cards, or any of this other stuff. This looked different. I thought I was into things that were Christian like this. They claim to be Christian, used Bible verses and talked about Jesus. It just seemed a lot more evolved version of Christianity. And so it took me a long time to kind of weed that out and discover that, yes, these are indeed two very different movements. They meet in the middle with a lot of things, but they are separate.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

And when it comes to the New Thought movement, to define it in a word, I would say it's metaphysical. More precisely, metaphysical Christianity. My philosopher friends, they kind of get a twitch in their eye when I say that because they think of it in a philosophical sense where, like, I go to Southern Evangelical Seminary and they would always talk about your metaphysics of God. And that basically in classical theism just means, oh, what are the attributes of God? And why is he that way? And who is he? It's a very beautiful study.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

When I say metaphysical, that's not what I mean. What I mean is that metaphysical Christianity is a higher, more evolved, more tolerant, more spiritual version of Christianity. It's not as literal. It's more allegorical. It's beyond the physical. This is why it seemed super spiritual. It seemed like Christianity on steroids to me. Better. It was more powerful. That's kind of the simple way I'll put it. But in a sentence, I would say that New Thought is the positive thinking movement in America with Jesus as its mascot.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

What fundamentally sets New Thought apart from New Age is that New Thought claims to be Christian and looks Christian. New Age does not. New Age is grounded more in, you know, like Eastern mysticism, like Hinduism and Buddhism, whereas New Thought is more Gnostic in origin. They do claim Christian origins and they claim to be the correct way of viewing Jesus and the Bible. But I wouldn't say that they're inherently Gnostic. That's just how I would say how it originated as far as origins go.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

So when it comes to the practical beliefs of New Thought, this is why I say that Christians are like, oh, I've never heard of New Thought. No, you probably haven't heard that term, but you most definitely have seen the

teachings in society and in the church. And one of the thesis statements that I make in the book is that because of that, because it's designed to look like Christianity, it will deceive you before the New Age ever will. It's not the red dude with the pitchfork and the pointy tail. It comes looking like Jesus sitting right next to you, maybe even in your own belief system without you realizing it. And so that's the basic way that I would define the differences. And maybe we can get into more practical things that New Thought teaches later.

### **Shea Houdmann**

I'd love to dive right into that because when we start discussing this movement, you say that people have been exposed to it. They just never have heard it by that name. So what are some of the key things that a person should be maybe listening for when they hear someone teaching or ministering or leading that would, okay, this person is starting to advocate New Thought principles rather than biblical or truly Christian principles?

### **Melissa Dougherty**

Let me explain a little bit how New Thought would redefine terminology because here's the thing. I mean, last time we talked about Jehovah's Witnesses, I mean, you got Mormons. Sandra Tanner, she's a former Mormon, former LDS, and she said once that if you, Christian, find yourself agreeing with a Mormon, that means that somebody hasn't defined their terms because they're going to use the same words. It just has a different meaning, exactly the same thing in New Thought. It's the same exact terminology, same words. So prayer to them means something different, the atonement, born again, love. And so you're going to hear all these things, even Christ, okay, which actually is going to be my official term to define here.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

People have heard the term Christ Consciousness, all right? A lot of people think that is New Age, but it's not. That is actually a New Thought concept. What the Christ Consciousness is, is in New Thought you separate Jesus, the man, who's a human just like you and me, with Christ. Remember, it's metaphysical Christianity. That's why I defined this, that everything has a higher spiritual meaning. Therefore Christ, when we hear that, we think anointed one, Messiah, Old Testament prophecy happening. That's not what that means in New Thought. Christ is separate and something that Jesus obtained, he became conscious of, and so can you. Christ is the inner dormant divinity within all of humanity. All of us have the Christ within.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

So if you, Christian, go up to somebody with these beliefs, maybe they have the Christ Consciousness belief and you say, yeah, the Bible says Christ is in me. They would say amen to that. And you don't know any better. You're

thinking, yeah, man, we're on the same page. We're quoting the same scriptures and we believe the same thing, but their meaning is fundamentally very different. And so some Christians might just kind of like, what? Hold on. What you're saying is biblical, but it's also not what's happening here. So the Christ Consciousness is a New Thought term.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

The other term going off of this are I AM Affirmations, capital I, capital AM. This is a big one. This one probably stumps a lot of Christians because Affirmations, as the term is meant to be, like you're affirming, originated with New Thought. There was a founder of Center for Spiritual Living or Religious Science. His name was Ernest Holmes. And I go over him and who he is a little bit in chapter two when I give the history of New Thought. Ernest Holmes, a New Thought leader, is who we can thank for Affirmations becoming a cultural explosion in the culture. And he influenced a woman named Louise Hay, who some people may recognize. Other people are like, who's that? Louise Hay is one of the people that the other person we can thank for the popularity of Affirmations. She became very popular, wrote a lot of books about these, and founded the number one New Age publisher in the world, Hay House. And so we have all these connections here.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

But to define Affirmations, this is important. With a Christian, we say that we pray to God. Scripture says, you bring your request to him. He's a separate being from you that you are petitioning to. Okay, that's usually Christian prayer. New Thought prayer is technically, it's Affirmations. So it's affirmative prayer. You don't ask, you say it as if you already had it, because it's guaranteed that it's your birthright as a child of God. And New Thought, being made in the image of God, equals a child of God. The Bible doesn't say that. You have to become a child of God.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

So their viewpoint of this is important. If you're divine, who are you praying to? The most honest answer anybody in New Thought could give, at least in the beliefs, even if they don't know it's called New Thought, is that you're praying from within. It's from within that you are able to manifest to these things, okay? And so I Am Affirmations are declaration. They're declarative prayers.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

Which leads me into another. It's more of a movement that's been affected by New Thought, which is the Word of Faith movement. Okay, Word of Faith movement. They've given themselves this name because the words that you speak create your reality. And I remember after leaving, what I thought was

New Age. And let me define that real briefly. The Law of Attraction, that is a New Thought term. People, again, think that that's a New Age. And there's some overlap, but that fundamentally originated with New Thought, because it's the power of your mind. Your mind can create your reality based on what you think and what you speak, okay? And they use scripture to do it.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

Now, divorce that from what we see in the church, and you isolate that. That's pretty fishy. Why are there so many similarities between what New Thought is saying here and the prosperity gospel? What's happening? And that's not a coincidence. That is not just some sort of random correlation. So they both take the same scriptures. They take the same formulaic ways to produce an outcome that you're trying to basically think that you are entitled to. It's your birthright to be healthy and wealthy. That originated with New Thought.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

It's not just inherently New Thought, though, the Word-Faith Movement. If you were to take the Mind Cure Movement of the 1800s, Pentecostalism, and New Thought, and you mix them together, if they were to have a baby, it would be the Word-Faith Movement. So people that say, oh, it's just New Thought, it's not. There are some orthodox things in the Word-Faith Movement that we can't deny, and it would be foolish to deny. But I traced that lineage back to New Thought and the Word-Faith Movement. That's another way it's really in the church.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

And then the other thing is, I mean, you have the I Am Statements, you have declarations, you have affirmations, you have Christ Consciousness. The other thing is, this might be more of a progressive view. I have a whole chapter on the connections between New Thought and progressive Christianity, because that one blew my mind too. But the true self versus the false self. So you have the true authentic self, which is really who you are inside. It's divine, all right? And that's what they would consider your true authentic self. That's where you get wisdom from. It's from within. So if you're wanting to know what to do with a decision, well, you pray, and then you wait for some sort of leading that looks a lot like your feelings, which is no coincidence. Because feelings are looked at, and your emotions are looked at, almost as if it's the Holy Spirit guiding you into your decision making.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

So if you don't feel good about a certain thing, well, that must be your authentic self inside guiding you. Whereas your false self is where all this negative stuff comes from. Remember, it's the Positive Thinking Movement.

So if there's any negativity, it's looked at as coming from this false self. So think about that for a second. Whenever something happens that maybe isn't in line with what you're believing, you can't critically think about that, because that's considered negative thinking. So it goes back to this Positive Thinking Movement that's really a lot of toxic positivity that involves you turning off your critical thinking capabilities to even believe it. So these are very basic definitions, a very basic understanding of what New Thought is. There's so much more to know.

### **Shea Houdmann**

As you were describing it, each of the major points is like, yeah, I see hints of that in this Christian movement, or if I've experienced someone in the church saying something along those lines, but especially the connection with the word faith, the prosperity gospel. And multiple times, I mean, I have family members who were involved in that movement, and I remember them praying, instructing me, no, Shea, you don't pray, you don't ask for things, you claim things. You claim that you already have them. And then I remember one time praying, Lord, if it's your will, and then asking, and they're like, what are you doing? That's a faith-destroying prayer. You're supposed to claim that as your right from God rather than asking for it. And I'm like, well, the Bible doesn't say that's our right from God, so therefore I'm asking. And Jesus prayed, not my will, but yours be done, and instructed us to, if we ask anything according to his will. So I've just experienced this again and again. It's interesting to see what some of that comes from, because you really study scriptures, it does not teach the word faith movement. So where did the originators, whether it's Kenyon, Hagen, Kuhlman, the really early prosperity gospel preachers, where did they actually get these ideas? Because they definitely didn't get them from studying the Bible.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

Yeah, 100%. I'm so glad you asked this. This was a big help for me to understand the origins of this, because when you see it just like that, you're like, something's wrong here. Where are you getting this from? It's not in the Bible, and your teachers teach it. That's really where it comes from is the leaders. And then who's influencing them? Where did they get it? And so there is a breadcrumb trail. You have Kenneth Hagen, and he's looked at as the father of the word faith movement.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

But there's another character who's a lot more obscure in the history of the word faith movement, and his name is Kenneth, not Kenneth, E.W. Kenyon is his name. Now, a lot of people don't really, they think that E.W. Kenyon was some sort of charismatic Pentecostal. He was not. He was a Baptist. But he

was very popular in a lot of Pentecostal charismatic circles. This is the 1800s. You're talking about an era that was a long time ago, but it kind of wasn't.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

What Kenyon did is he went to this college, it was a metaphysical college called Emerson University, Emerson College. And there on the curriculum, metaphysical beliefs and metaphysical Christianity, new thought beliefs dominated the curriculum. All right. And in the chapter, there's an argument that Ralph Waldo Trine is well known as a new thought leader. And he was a professor at Emerson College. And one historian in particular that I was reading his stuff, I wrote a few of them, Christians who have really delved into the word faith movement, is that he said it's almost certain that Emerson studied under Trine. And there's no doubt that he read metaphysical books like new thought books with eagerness.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

That's not what Kenyon did. Kenyon went through them and said, hmm, what can I use here that could be used as an authentic version for Christianity? How do I make a better version of this, a Christian version of this? And that's exactly what he did. So he took these and I'm looking at his books over here, the ones that I read about these concepts, like metaphysical concepts in essence, and taking them and using them for the church. And so he wrote a lot. He's preaching a lot. He goes out and he's very popular, again, with Pentecostal charismatic groups. But he never would have said he was a Pentecostal or charismatic. He always remained like a Baptist preacher.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

So what ended up happening is that you have Hagen, Kenneth Hagen, who gets a hold of his books, okay? And it's well documented that Kenneth Hagen plagiarized Kenyon. He used his teachings and his sayings and his books and his own books and his own sayings. And it's just very clear that it's like a straight line in that regard.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

And you have to ask yourself a question, okay? In the sake of steel manning the position that he's not the common denominator, then what was? I had to ask myself this. I'm like, okay, so why are there so many similarities if it's not Kenyon? It's not Hagen. Where did Hagen get it from? So these are the questions we have to wrestle with. Like if you're in a Word of Faith church or maybe you really respect a lot of Word of Faith preachers, this is something we have to ask about the origins because Kenyon's beliefs came from somewhere. He wasn't just in a vacuum somewhere, reading his Bible, doing

his job. No, he drew these from somewhere. And you can historically see in his own writings why he wanted to Christianize them.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

How can we take this very pragmatic belief system, these metaphysical beliefs that are getting a lot of results for these people in health and wealth, and that originated with New Thought, the prosperity gospel, these health and wealth teachings that you are a human being who's divine, who's entitled to health and wealth, originated with New Thought. And he's looking at that thinking, huh, how do we Christianize this? How do we take this and use this for the church? So his intentions weren't like evil. I think that he was trying to look at something that was yielding results and thinking, how are they doing that? I want that for us. I want that for the Christian body, right? And so I think that his intentions weren't like something of a wolf or anything like that. I don't think he was trying to do that. But I think that his hunger for power, I think his hunger for results, I think blinded maybe the question that should have been asked, does this honor God? Is this biblical? And so I think that that is really the basis in which the foundational way that the Word of Faith movement came to be what it is, and why so many people are seeing those correlations.

### **Shea Houdmann**

When I hear you teaching on this, I mean, obviously having a background in the Word of Faith movement, that's what stands out. But I love what you said at the beginning, the fact that the New Thought movement is ultimately, it's Gnostic.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

Yes.

### **Shea Houdmann**

Many movements are like, yeah, so traditional Christianity, it's okay. But what you really need to discover is what are the spiritual truths behind or underneath the traditional? Yes, Jesus is the Messiah who died for our sins, but he's also the Christ. And we can also be, so seeing how that infiltrates the church and Christianity in different ways that we're completely ignorant of. I've witnessed this and the type of questions we receive, like, where are people getting these ideas? And not from the Bible, possibly from other teachers, but what are they hearing outside of the church that they're trying to make compatible with Christianity? It's like, that's a good idea. Or even you described it a couple of times, for some people, it really, really works. And so therefore, how do I Christianize that?

### **Shea Houdmann**



So maybe my last big question for you is, why does it seem to work? Why does the New Thought movement's emphasis on self-actualization or positive thinking, those sorts of things, the word faith, why does it seem to work?

### **Melissa Dougherty**

This is a huge... Okay. I actually tackle this in the book as well, in this regard, because this was a big hangup for me. And this is a big hangup for a lot of people, because what do you do when you're changing your thinking and you have stage four cancer and you're told, hey, your thoughts have vibrations and frequencies that can change that negative frequency in your body? It's about the power of your mind. So if you change your mind, you will change your body. And it works. You go to the doctor and he's like, I don't understand it. You're supposed to get chemo and it's gone.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

And I'm actually, there's a book right here, this book. It's a New Thought book. I'd hold it up, but my tea is on top of it. I've read so many New Thought books that just most people don't know are out there. All this book is are testimonies about people that have done New Thought techniques, positive thinking, manifestation, visualization techniques, and have been healed, like radical stories. As Christians, we hear the same thing. So what do you do when this person's quoting scripture and this person's quoting scripture and they're both doing the same thing and they both get results? Well, doesn't that mean that both are true? Not so fast.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

Here's my argument. There's a few things to go off on here. Number one, a lot of the origins of these beliefs, whether it's New Thought, New Age, whatever, begins with the occult. Let me give you an example. A lot of the things that we talked about with health and wealth and prosperity, well, what do you do when you do these things and they work? Okay. And we're talking about speaking, believing.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

Well, I kind of geek out in the second chapter and I talk about the history of New Thought. And there's one man, his name is Emanuel Swedenborg.

A lot of people don't even know that name. Some people are like, oh, I know exactly who that is. He is a big player in the origins of New Thought, along with a few other people like Phineas Quimby, Warren Felt Evans.

There's a few other people. But he is pretty pivotal because he was not just some schmo out there. He was an inventor. He was very smart. He was a, I think he was a minister. He was just all around brilliant. Okay. He had a religious crisis, a spiritual crisis. And when this happened, it was because he was getting spiritual contact from other beings that he called angels. And

these angels would give him knowledge, spiritual knowledge on how to affect the spiritual world, what heaven and hell were like. And so people know him mostly for his writings on contact with his angels.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

And there's one teaching that came from him called the law of correspondence, which basically says that for everything in the physical world, there is a spiritual counterpart. Literally everything. You, me, my camera, my phone, everything, books, including your body and your words. So if something's wrong with your body, you don't fix it in the physical realm. You fix it in the spiritual realm. How do you do that? Through your thoughts and your words.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

Okay. So the idea is, is that, okay, if that can be done, well, then let's go and do this a cultic practice in order to yield that result. Here's my point. God tells us to stay away from the occult, not because it doesn't work, but because it does and that it can deceive you. That's the idea. People aren't attracted to occultic teachings because it doesn't work. That's the problem. That's the point. That's not the argument to make though. The argument is, okay, well, what's that source? Is that even true? Is that actually a good thing to do? I mean, every ex-New Ager will tell you, I would guess, that a lot of them would agree with me in this regard, that they were actually talking to spirits. They were actually getting information from this spirit about this person. And so that's my first point is that occultic things work.

That's a given.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

The second thing I'll say, so we talked about the law of attraction, right? And it's Matthew 7: 7. It's the formula for the law of attraction. They quote scripture. They say, this is what Jesus really taught. I'm using this as an example because they quote scripture a lot. They say it's scriptural. This is a higher way of thinking. You're not awakened, right? Only in this awakened state can you even understand the Bible, which is why, by the way, we see a hierarchy of some Christians in the church where they think that the more experiences you have, the more spiritual knowledge you have, the more spiritual wisdom you have. And so that's a danger to look out for.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

But my point is that a lot of scripture is thrown around in this to kind of back it up and say, oh, no, this is what the Bible teaches. But when you're quoting a scripture like Matthew 7:7 that says, ask in my name, believe it, and you will receive it, what I don't hear is the rest of Matthew 7. Because later on in that chapter, Jesus concedes, yes, yeah, there's going to be miracles, signs,

wonders, healings. There's going to be a lot of stuff done in my name. Be gone. I never knew you. Like, they should fear that. They should fear that. They think that they're doing what Jesus taught. They think that they are because it works, because they're getting the results, that they are doing this in Jesus's name.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

So I mean, there should be, I never see Jesus warn about not getting your healing. I never see Jesus warn about not any sort of spiritual experiences at all. He's like, oh, beware of the people that aren't having spiritual experiences. Beware of those that have never had their healing. No, he's saying beware of those that have it, but it's false.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

The third thing I'll say is that sometimes, this one's really important, I've talked about it being the positive thinking movement in America. Critical thinking is sometimes seen as negative thinking, because if you're questioning what you're going through or what you're hearing, and you're trying to think critically about it, well, then you're doubting. Oh, no, no, no, you can't do that. No, you're not going to receive your blessing. You have to have faith. You've got to have faith, which means no doubting, because it's in the Bible or something. And that's how we're going to get this healing. This is how we're going to get this or that. So what does it do? It stops you from thinking. All right?

### **Melissa Dougherty**

And here's what happens. When something good happens, oh, it's from the Lord. Amen. We are getting our blessing. We are getting... It works. Okay? Obviously, it works. And let this be a testimony to it working, because look at this outcome that we're having right now. But when you're not allowed to ask critical questions, and when you're not allowed to critically think because it's negative thinking, and it's a lack of faith or whatever it is, you don't see the other stuff that doesn't work. Because if it's up to your mind, and if it's in your mind that these things are created, co-creator with God, then your not seeing when it doesn't work. So in other words, its conformation bias.

### **Melissa Dougherty**

So these are only three things that I talk about in the book. I talk more about it in the book. Those are three things to consider when we are talking about these beliefs and beyond. And these practices and beyond working.

### **Shea Houdmann**

I love tracing the dots. I love filling in the blanks. Its eye opening to see how many connections there are between the word faith movement and new thought.

**Melissa Dougherty**

And that's just one chapter.

**Shea Houdmann**

One chapter, I'm sure there's so much more. That's why you wrote the book. That's why I'm really looking forward to having full access to it so I can continue to learn some of the backgrounds of some of the stuff that I'm observing, some of the questions we've received. So with the little time left Melissa, who is the book for? You can't just say I want everyone to read the book but especially who do you think would find this book particularly helpful?

**Melissa Dougherty**

Ya this is a great question. I when I was writing it had two audiences in mind. The first are maybe the 16 year old version of myself. Right? Like I wish that it was the book that someone had handed me when I first became a Christian. Because I'm oh, oh, ok there are thoughtful Christians out there that have asked these questions, that have dealt with this. Cause this was a major problem for me, which I talk about more in the book.

**Melissa Dougherty**

The secondary audience or second audience are those that may need to be convinced. Right? Maybe the ones that are believing in a few new thought things that might be having a hard time letting go. Because once you see it you can't unsee it. And I want them to see it to inform. What they choose to do with that is something different. But I want them to kind of lean into it. I want them to see it in hopes that they know there's something better. That if they really thought about what they are believing and doing. And they know what it is and they are like, oh I see this isn't from the Bible. I can see how its Biblical but it's not from the Bible. I want them to see why it's not better for them. Why this isn't something they should not pursue even if they have gotten results. That there's a beauty in letting go of your affirmations or letting go of our prosperity teachings. That there's a peace there that I want them to find. So its for Christians that fit into these categories.

**Melissa Dougherty**

And I would even say there's even a third audience. I kind of want people who don't agree with me to read this that might be secular into new thought teachings. I think of people might not know these teachers, but Michael Backwith. He's one of the most popular new thought leaders. He was on Oprah. And he teaches a lot about you know the power of the mind. A lot of the new thought teachings. And I think I wonder what would happen if someone like him read it. Because again they claim these are Christian in origin. And I read their material, there were no Christian sources, almost no Christian sources on the new thought movement so I had to go to the source

material to write this book. I went to the new thought books. I went to the new thought leaders. I watched new thought documentaries. I went into the new thought centers and did boots on the ground, face to face interviews with the people that had these beliefs. I did my best to do my due diligence to bring what this belief is and contrast it to Christianity.

**Melissa Dougherty**

So my hope is that maybe someone like that will pick of the book and thinks, oh these aren't the same thing. Ok I see what she's saying. Maybe they really don't agree with me but it's up to God. Its God's job to grow that seed in that way. So I just hope that I wrote it in such a way that somebody like that could pick it up and have an aha moment that God can use.

**Shea Houdmann**

I've already had a few of those and I can already think of a few people I'd love to give this book to. Both who I think would be fascinated in discovering some of the true origins of some of these things but also some people who are still trapped in the word faith, prosperity gospel type of movement who like, they know it's not directly from the Bible but they still think it's from God. So to show them no, this is where it came from could be very eye opening.

**Shea Houdmann**

So Melissa, thank you for all the research and writing and redos that went into writing this book. And you said you don't feel qualified but there's a saying out there that God doesn't call the qualified but God qualifies the called. So I firmly believe that God called you to write this book based on your experience but also your love of God's word and your desire to speak the truth in love. So keep doing what you are doing. Melissa, thank you for joining me today.

**Melissa Dougherty**

Ya. Thanks for having me today Shea. It's always a pleasure.

**Shea Houdmann**

This has been the Got Question podcast with Melissa Dougherty, Author of Happy Lies, How a movement you've probably never heard of shaped our self obsessed world. Got questions? The Bible has answers and we'll help you find them.