

# Reading Report

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The word and power church details Doug Bannister journey to a Pentecostal, Holy Spirit experience. Written from the reflection of Bannister experience which caused the question to arise, what will occur if and when the church seeks to obtain all that God has to offer? Using the word church, to preach in describing what he acquired during his time at Talbot School of Theology. With the term power church, he uses those words to describe the charismatic church. Bannister argued that miracles and of the Holy Spirit are present amongst us today. As a result of this experience he left his views and beliefs as a cessationist behind. It's also obvious that Bannister target audience were those who placed the word superior but disregard the spirit due to neglect or simply not knowing due to lack of experience.

The first portion of the book consist of Bannister's appeal to surpass the previous hostility that described evangelical and charismatics' relationships. The main strength is that both movements set forth to help us understand and have an appreciation for the convictions Bannister felt in relation to the significance for the word and power church.

Bannister said "Civil war requires two armies. Charismatics and Pentecostals have also committed war crimes. Every evangelical pastor knows a horror story about an overzealous charismatic brother... I have handed Kleenex to more than one sister who quietly shared the humiliation she felt when her friends tried to pressure her to speak in tongues, explaining that she couldn't be sure she was really saved if she did not" (Bannister 1999, p.27). This has been my experience with the pressure to speak in tongues in my current place of worship. I was made to feel as if it was a necessary to speak in tongues in order to be considered complete or fully Christian. It is disappointing to say that I found comfort in the words I read due to the trauma I experienced as a result which is why I have stopped partaking in altar calls. I was made to feel inferior due to not having this gift.

Bannister took on wanting to reconcile all denominations with his tone, he made various presuppositions that would likely be rejected largely by the evangelical community. Although an individual might not believe in all miraculous gifts, doesn't mean that their views of the charismatic movement with sensible cause for suspicion. Although Bannister quotes Dr. Gordon Fee saying, "the war is over [between the charismatics and evangelicals], the only people who are still arguing about it are talking among themselves" (Bannister 1999, p. 27). It is highly unlikely that this work has ended the battle between the two denominations. Even with this book appeal for unity, there will continue to be disagreements on vital issues regarding worship or the behavior of Christians.

Yet, I am now understanding the need of balance in the church. I have been to places where their focus is solely on the laws or the word of God neglecting the Holy Spirit or vice versa. But this brings great template on how to bring forth a holistic church. Reading books like the word and power church reminds me of how God can do amazing things such as bring these two groups that were so widely separated by what they believed to be true come together. The symbolism of two rivers coming together to function as one and reminded me that unity is what today's church is missing.

**With integrity, I have read this book (circle one):**

**Quickly but Completely 100%**

**Signed: Rubby Sejour**