

Mikerline Laurent

PMN101: Introduction to spiritual Formation; NA

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February 25, 2020

Outrageous Love Transforming Power

Terry Wardle does a fantastic job in the novel “Outrageous Love Transforming power. As Christians our personal goal is to first seek the kingdom of God and everything follows after. But how can we reach our ultimate goal of being welcomed into the Kingdom when as man we falter every day? Many might answer this question by saying “go to church, lift your hands and worship and follow the law in which the Bible instructs you to, have a good heart, do good actions, and many many more.” In this Novel we learned that we have been wrong in fact and I have learned a new definition of being “Christ Like”.

Terry wardle gives examples of how we constantly make the mistake of spiritual fantasies and calls out the church and it’s people for being spiritually immature. This book teaches true Christians That is made for intimacy with the father, Can be secure in their identity as a child of God, can walk in spiritual power, can exercise spiritual authority in ministry, and can be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. The essence of the message that Terry wardle the author of “Outrageous Love Transforming Power” touches on a special subject that would influence today’s society. It seems that maturity is something that takes place inside of each person in the church. She said “ It is not simply believing or doing the right things it means being transformed by God at a heart level ,Particularly in the body of Christ.” In a different chapter of the book she claims that " Churches are declining and losing the content and

directions to represent the Body of Christ as it was in the past.

Terry present a particular view of the churches today that are constituted by men and Women who are spiritually immature like Paul said: 1 corinthians 13:11 “ when I was a child, I talked like a Child , I thought like a Child, I reasoned like a child, when I became a man, I did away with childish things.” Through the theme she alleviates the intense inquiry of what being like Christ, shows the need to understand the cause of why Christians continue to struggle with the issue of immature spirituality and what it is to be Christlike. Many people lack knowledge and consciousness as said in Hosea 4:6 “ my people destroyed for lack of knowledge” They are deprived of sight and most of them are leaders. The Author provides a well description and explanation that we can not obtain the characteristics of Christ by our self effort though He already formed in us His living spirit. As a Christian we can’t even begin to comprehend the experience of how much we are loved by an awesome God until we’ve established a real intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. The mission of the holy Spirit is to guide and empower us for the ministry. “All of these elements, combined with orders, may be important to the development of a mature saint, but they do not define maturity. Spiritual maturity is determined by our christlikeness.”(Terry Wardle 2004). To live like Christ we should allow the Holy Spirit to change our life and our spirit.

When I was reading the book I realized that it guided an intensive Survey of Jesus' life and shapes eleven characteristics of what a christian life should be; Solitude, Fasting, Secrecy, Study, Worship, Service, Prayer, Fellowship. These are the core principles that the believer should embrace by the Holy Spirit to nourish for spiritual growth. The author explores the concept of the identity of a real christians as a Child of God (wardle 2004). Wardle also provides the argument that believers should walk in spiritual power by doing exercise of the spiritual gift

needed in the ministry. Ministries are formed with people that God called for specific tasks and at the same empower them with spiritual gift for the glory of God. Some of them believe they are leading according to the calling but sometimes we don't stop to allow Jesus Christ to truly use us the way He wants to. The book teaches us to understand the concept that we should be Jesus-centered and that we must let the Holy Spirit guide us in the right direction. I agree with Wardle in the sense that as a Children of God we don't behave nor live a sanctified life. The concepts of the identity as a Child of God is essential to act as a mature christian. As I was reading the book I was more engaged and it encouraged my faith to grow significantly, and stronger in my relationship with God. Relevant on the message that reflecting on this book was really impacting my life and what I gained insight.

This a transformational book that can help you improve your relationship with God. It allows for personal analysis and also a deep reflection insight out of a spiritual growth if we want to be effective in the ministry. After reading the book I realize in christian ministry we should allow the Holy spirit to fill up our mind and Spirit to preach and teach the right way. To use the word of God and create ministries that transforms people in a greater level of perception and understanding of Christ. Personally, it requires a personal understanding to be christ-like and how to escape from spiritual infancy. It is vital to be receptive to Christ calling and open to Him and taking the lead ministry in my spiritual life. I also learn how important it is the person that God wants me to be and not to wear a mask, to support my neighbor and love them God's way. According to Wardle "competition is also a by-product of searching for love in the wrong places, inherent in the despair quest for identity through power, position, and popularity that we have to be careful of."