The Word & Power Church

Reading Report

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SF505.NA/NLS Personal, Professional, & Theological Foundations for Ministry
Prof.: Dr. Ron Walborn
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With integrity, I have read this book (circle one):

Thoroughly and Entirely____%

Quickly but Completely 100 **%**

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely____%

Quickly and NOT Completely____%

Not at all ____

Signed: Patricia Huggins

The ongoing differences between Evangelicals, the Word Church, and Charismatics, the Power Church are spotlighted in this reading. More importantly, how the two can come together and create a more powerful ministry for the kingdom of God is highlighted and critiqued for clarity.

Evangelicals, the Word Church focus on "the Word of God – its authority and sufficiency," while Charismatics "champion the person & power of the Holy Spirit in the Church's life and witness."

Doug Banister firmly believes that Evangelicals and Charismatics are both correct in some aspects. Should the two join forces, they will be more of a positive influence for the people of God.

Unfortunately, Evangelicals and Charismatics' main controversy is whether the manifestation of the spirit which gives wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous power, prophecy, the ability to distinguish between spirits, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues exist today.[1] Charismatics believe and function from the affirmative, while Evangelicals disagree.

Through Banister's experience in the Evangelical Church, he recognized that he was missing out on having a personal relationship with God while studying God's.[2] This recognization is an emotional and mental space where I have continually found myself. Learning and often teaching the word of God, facilitating retreats for women, and counseling others through finding a personal relationship with God, I realize that I have often lost sight of my own.

My biblical knowledge does not prevent the thirst that my soul has for God, and many times, like Banister, I want more. I need more. I need to cry out in God's presence. I, too, desire and need a closer relationship with him.[3]

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[1] Banister, D. *The Word & Power Church Survey of the Old Testament.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Pub. House, 2009

[2] Ibid, 15.

[3] Ibid, 18.

Throughout the reading, the author identifies areas in which Evangelicals and Charismatics differ to the point of calling one another wrong in the sight of God; however, when reviewing their beliefs, we find they have more in common than different. This conclusion is quite disheartening when we consider both groups are under the evangelicalism umbrella. We see some of their shared beliefs include Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and their belief that the scriptures are the true word of God.[4]

My worldview is that God is sovereign, and we are all his children. The 66 books of the Bible are our guideline showing us how we are to love God, ourselves, and one another, amongst other things. Unfortunately, with all of the relevant information the book shared, I found the read to be a bit depressing when having to digest the divide among God's children continually. I expect better. I hope that we, God's children, will be able to come together and fulfill God's plan for our lives instead of finding differences that cut so deeply that we divide farther and farther apart.

Banister asks the rhetorical question, "Can we have the best of both worlds?"[5] I believe we can. The best of both worlds seems to be why Christ came and died on Calvary so that we could have abundant life. That includes loving one another and respecting each other's views without needing to divide, disrespect, and cut off relationships.

As my travel experiences are nowhere near as broad as Banister's, I can only hope that his view of a crumbling divide between Evangelicals and Charismatics is factual.[6] I do not see it in my circle. On the contrary, I am experiencing more division now than I have in the past.

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[4] Ibid, 45.

[5] Ibid, 19.

[6] Ibid, 20.

Bibliography

Banister, D. *The Word & Power Church Survey of the Old Testament.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Pub. House, 2009

Ibid