

# **The Word and Power Church Reading Report**

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## The Word and Power Church Reading Report

### **I. Summary of the Author's Main Points**

Doug Banister's main argument in the book, "The Word and Power Church" is that Evangelical and Charismatic traditions are able to be married to offer the best of both worlds, a solid grounding in the Word and the Power of the Holy Spirit. Key points and evidence supporting this main argument that the author presents are: (1) Charismatics and Evangelicals are working together resulting in the two traditions to be married together to create Word and Power Churches, churches anchored in the Word and the Holy Spirit, (2) To effectively grow a Word and Power Church, church leadership must embrace elements from both traditions, Evangelical and Charismatic roots, (3) An enabler of the marrying of the two traditions together is that Charismatics and Evangelicals share a common spiritual heritage, (4) Word and Power Churches come to fruition by not letting go of their own legacy, but by embracing the strengths brought by the other tradition, (5) The Word and Power Church leaders must teach people on how God speaks through embracing the Evangelical way and the Charismatic way, the authority of the scriptures and the prophetic ministry, respectively, (6) The Word and Power Church must in a loving way, embrace those who have gift of spiritual language, as well as those who do not have the gift of spiritual language but have other gifts, (7) Word and Power Churches must encourage obedience by nurturing spiritual passion through allowing the "train of faith" to be fueled by spiritual feelings, (8) Word and Power Churches must both edify the believer and evangelize the seeker at the same time, (9) Word and Power Churches must pray fervently for healing, and comfort those who are suffering, (10) Word and Power Churches should seek both

kinds of experiences with the Holy Spirit including the Holy Spirit encountering us in a powerful way after salvation, and being filled with the Holy Spirit on a daily basis.

## **II. Interaction and Critique**

The reading is in alignment with my present ministry context and theology, since the church that I am currently attending, Stonecrest Community Church, and the church that I was part of in the past, Living Word Fellowship, are “Word and Power Churches”. In addition to both of these churches providing model examples of Word and Power Churches, they provide evidence and examples that further supports the author’s main argument that the 2 traditions, Evangelical and Charismatic, are able to be married to offer the best of both worlds, a solid grounding in the Word and the Power of the Holy Spirit.

My worldview, revealed in Banister’s book, is that the God is sovereign over heaven and earth, he is the God of yesterday, today and forever, he can do what we cannot do, and he already accomplished it on the cross. This challenges the doctrine of cessation which states, “There are no miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit today. Gifts like prophecy, tongues, and healing were limited to the first century and were used primarily by the Apostles to authenticate their church planting ministry in a time when the New Testament was not yet complete.”<sup>1</sup> The author also presents evidence showing that the spiritual gifts can be given to the church today. “One trusted scholar after another affirmed what I now fear to be true: the Bible simply does not teach that the charismatic gifts have ceased.”<sup>1</sup> My spiritual expectation, revealed in the book, is that we should focus on the things that are unseen and preach the truth. This is in agreement and supported by the author’s main argument discussed above.

## **Bibliography**

1. Doug Banister, *The Word and Power Church: What Happens When A Church Experiences All God Has To Offer* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999), 16-17.

## Appendix

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

Thoroughly and Entirely—\_100\_\_\_%

Quickly but Completely— \_\_\_\_%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely— \_\_\_\_\_%

Quickly and NOT Completely— \_\_\_\_\_%

Not at all

Signed: \_\_\_\_Kevin Stallone\_\_\_\_\_