

Assignment Title: Reading Report #1

The Word and Power Church / Doug Banister

Name: Joshua Kwon
Campus Location: ATS OA

Course Title: Personal, Professional, and Theological Foundations For Ministry
Course Number: SF505
Semester & Year: Summer 2021
Professor: Dr. Ronald Walborn and Guest: Dr. Wanda Walborn
Date Submitted: 5/23/2021

The issues surrounding the gifts of the Holy Spirit has been contentious and its view varies from one denomination to another. Doug Banister without deemphasizing the importance of teaching of the Word of God, recognizes the importance of the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of Christians and observes that the Bible is not explicit regarding the cessation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He agrees with others like D.A. Carson that “nowhere does the Bible teach that God cannot give these gifts to the church today.” (Banister, 22) In short, he seems to argue that a church is most powerful when both camps, the one that stresses on the Word and the one that emphasizes on the Spirit’s power are weaved in harmonious manner together, the flow of God’s living Word becomes that much more powerful. Banister recognizes the strengths both the evangelicals and the charismatic traditions bring the life of believers and observes that more churches are blending these two traditions together across America in recent decades to form what he describes it as “*word and power churches*”

Currently, I am actually part of church that belongs to community (network) of churches that tries to practice many of bullets that are described and prescribed in Banister’s book. Rather than “either-or” approach, my world view and spiritual expectation embraces the middle approach that embraces both traditions. That said, I think it’s really difficult to hit the sweet spots without swinging too far into both directions per se. That said, I agree with the author that this word and power church can be done, however difficult that may be, is again I agree with Banister is what current Christians will like to see more. In a way, the rate of how fast main line denomination attendance is dropping, is an evidence that more of us like to part of churches that are hungry for prayer and encounter the power of God’s Spirit moving at the same time hear the proclamation of God’s Word carefully and firmly rooted in the Scriptures. I cannot agree more with the author that two camps are working together more than ever before, however, I am not so

certain if the war between two traditions are completely over. Just to make the case in point, strange fire conference hosted by John MacArthur has stirred this debate once again in most recent years and has caused some significant division amongst Christians in my view.

The book revealed how much I value expository preaching and how important the inerrancy, authority, and sufficiency of Scripture is in the life of Church. Without it, it is impossible for me to minister and foster the spiritual community, because it will lack the authority as well as the framework to study and know who God is. However, knowing God is more than an academic exercise, because God continues to speak to us today by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer and circumstance. Thus, the Word and the presence of the Holy Spirit that indwells in us must both be in the life of a church.

I do agree with the author that balancing the solid orthodoxy with a healthy experiential, intimate walk with Christ is biblical and gives completeness. Furthermore, I agree with the Banister that power ministry should and need to be coupled with a concrete and methodical studying of biblical principles. (Banister, 39) All that said, if Charismatic is drawing more people to Christ, that's a win for believers. If the evangelical traditions are drawing people to Christ, that's also a win for us. Hence, if the blend of these two is what draws the future generation of people into Christ, so be it, because that's a win for all in my view.

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: _____ Joshua Kwon _____