Assignment Title: Reading Report

The Word & Power Church by Doug Banister

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Summary

Banister (1999) narrates how he and his church transitioned from believing solely in the Father, Son and Holy Scripture and negating the gifts of the spirit, to embracing what both the evangelists (word) and charismatics (power) have to offer. Throughout the book he outlines the legacy of both of these groups. The evangelists focus on the Holy Scripture, which includes expository preaching and an emphasis on the authority and sufficiency of scripture, etc. On the other hand, the charismatics focus on the Holy Spirit and one's relationship with Him, which include an emphasis on prayer, belief that the spirit must be experienced in community, etc.[1] He concludes that it is not about being either an evangelist or a charismatic, or that one is superior than the other, but rather that it is about embracing what they both have to offer; that one is not able to experience the fullness of God without being in one accord with both word, the Holy Scripture and power, the Holy Spirit.

Interaction and Critique

Since last semester, I have been feeling kind of out of place at my home-church, as if something is missing and have considered visiting other churches. *The Word & Power Church* (Banister, 1999) has not only helped me have a better understanding of what it is I am yearning more of – scriptural teaching – but also has helped me identify and further confirm why I desire to become a Bible teacher. He states, "God gives teachers to his church to help the body of Christ mature (Eph 4:11). Evangelicals have championed expository preaching as highly effective way to proclaim the Word of God. Expository sermons have three characteristics: 1. Expository preaching is God-centered… 2. Expository preaching is text-focused… 3. Expository preaching is application driven"[2] This book revealed how I used to think I had to be either *word* or *power*,

[1] Doug Banister, *The Word & Power Church*, (Michigan: Zondervan, 1999), 22.
[2] Doug Banister, The *Word & Power Church*, (Michigan: Zondervan, 1999), 58-61.

ultimately feeling as if it was impossible to embrace and be in alignment with both the Word and Spirit of God. This excerpt from the book I believe exemplifies my current experience, "I loved the worship, the emphasis on prayer, the expectant hope for God to do something big now, the eagerness to hear God speak. Yet I often left mentally empty. The preaching was sincere and earnest, but often shallow and not carefully rooted in the text."[3] It has showed me that although my experience at my home-church has been charismatic for the most part, I have reached a point where it cannot longer be "church as usual" or continue walking on my spiritual gifts without the substance of the word of God. Because one without the other – I have realized – often leads to a self-centered view of the gospel. This book will impact my theology and current ministry in that I will now seek the Word of God and His power through His Holy Spirit with the same fervor. That I, myself, will become a word and power church, one that invites "God's clean power through worship… his power through prayer-saturated preaching… his power by a prophetic word… his power by praying for the emotionally and spiritually wounded."[4] Whether I will seek another church altogether, I am not yet sure, but I do plan on visiting other churches. And as Banister (1999) to not focused on whose grass is greener, because at the end of the day, grass is just grass, but to be sure to water my own, with word and power.

With integrity, I have read this book (circle one): Thoroughly and Entirely__100____%

Signed: __Stephany Ortiz Aquino_____

Bibliography

Banister, D. (1999). *The Word & Power Church*. Zondervan.

[3] Doug Banister, *The Word & Power Church*, (Michigan: Zondervan, 1999), 19.
[4] Doug Banister, *The Word & Power Church*, (Michigan: Zondervan, 1999), 147