

Assignment Title: Reading Report 1

“The Word & Power Church” by Doug Banister

Name: Veronica Torgerson  
Campus Location: ATS Online

Course Title: Personal, Professional, and Theological Foundations For Ministry  
Course Number: SF505  
Semester & Year: Spring 2023  
Professor: Dr. Ronald Walborn  
Date Submitted: 1/31/23

For a long time, the church has been divided into two categories—the evangelical church and the charismatic church—but the church doesn't need to be one or the other, it can be an “AND” church by experiencing God both through His word and His Spirit. Throughout his book, Banister shares stories and points us to the need for the Church to reconcile its division in these areas. As a person who grew up in an evangelical church, I resonate with this message so much. Seven years ago, Jesus began revealing to me just how dry my relationship with Him really was—I had noticed the symptoms of it but didn't know the solution. Everything changed when a woman invited me into her soul care ministry and I finally began to hear God speak to me! When describing how he felt after his first visit to his counselor, Banister wrote, “Everywhere I go, I am finding Christians who want both intimacy and orthodoxy, both passion and precept. This quest for completeness... We want to be whole.”<sup>1</sup> I am one of those Christians and I believe the people I lead in my church are as well! In my Midwestern Christian church, we have remained committed to the Word but God is revealing the power we have closed ourselves off of for many years and calling us back.

There was little to nothing I disagreed with in this book. In fact, I think it was an incredibly timely read for me as I had already been praying and processing through much of what was discussed in the book. For the last few years, my pastors and elders have been calling out the spiritual gifts of teaching and wisdom in me. It has been very encouraging and has led me to pursue and steward those gifts more but I have also felt that “teaching and wisdom” wasn't a fully accurate way to describe what God was doing in me. A few months ago, God spoke to me and put the word “prophecy” on my heart. I was a bit confused because I didn't know what modern day prophecy looked like and, although my church is

---

<sup>1</sup> Doug Banister. “The Quest for Something More,” *The Word & Power Church*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002), 37

learning to lean into spiritual gifts and works of the Spirit, things like prophecy and tongues would still be looked at with much skepticism. As I have read this book and talked with safe and respected spiritual leads, I believe God is showing me that He has given me the gift of prophecy. I can look back and see how this gift has manifested and encouraged myself and others even without knowing exactly what it was! This book, particularly chapters 6 and 7 about the legacy of the charismatics and experiencing a talking God, gave me a lot of language about what I am experiencing with God that I did not previously have. Banister's explanation of the service gifts and revelatory gifts has been particularly interesting to me.<sup>2</sup> Do I have both a service and revelatory gift? How should my ministry shift as I more clearly understand my gifts? These are things I am still processing and praying about.

I am also processing the idea of a second blessing which Banister addresses in chapter 12.<sup>3</sup> I had never heard of something like this but it aligns with my own testimony in many ways. When I received the gifts of the Spirit a few years ago, I questioned if I was truly saved before then and ended up being rebaptized and confessing that I had not been saved as I had previously thought. Previously, I had only believed the truth of the gospel but hadn't experienced its power (this also led me to question the salvation of those I knew who hadn't had this second blessing experience). How Banister described the baptism of the Spirit as something that comes after salvation and isn't always something that everyone experiences has given me a lot of peace.<sup>4</sup> This has been a wonderful and encouraging book to read!

---

<sup>2</sup> Banister, *Word & Power Church*, 85.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, 166.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, 165.

## Bibliography

Doug Banister. *The Word & Power Church*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002).

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: \_\_Veronica Torgerson\_\_

Bibliography