

Reading Report for The Word and Power Church

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SF505: Personal/Professional/Theological Foundations for Ministry

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Dr. Doug Banister is making a case for churches from 2 denominations – Evangelical and Charismatic to operate, teach, lead, preach, create environment for their congregants to become true disciples of Jesus, and so that they will grow to love God with all their heart and all their mind. He argues that the division among them is robbing their congregants from experiencing God fully. He also shared studies of movements and prominent leaders of Christian church history, showing that both wings shared many foundational principles and biblical truth, it was just somehow lost in translation at time when Dr. Banister was trained.¹ Throughout the book Dr. Banister shared many testimonies of how the congregants were somewhat “incomplete” prior to experiencing both the word and power of God through the Holy Spirit.

I resettled to the US in 2004, when I was about to turn 18 years old, thus I was clueless of history of the American/Western church history. The LORD saved me by revealing Himself to me through His Holy Spirit when I was 12 years old. Because I told Jesus I surrender my life to Him, my spiritual eyes were open, and I encountered and experienced God and His presence. And it was through experiencing true love and kindness of missionaries – American, American with Mexican background, Asian American, Norwegian, Pilipino, and Thai – that I experienced God’s love firsthand. In my ministry, so far, I never had to share or address this battle between these 2 denominations, I was simply unaware. The epiphany Dr. Banister had that lead him to change his theology and the writing of this book, it is not a new revelation concept for me. It is a confirmation that God’s intention is that we would know Him more through His words and that we would also live under the influence Lordship of His Holy Spirit on a daily basis.

I had a mixed reactions while reading through the raise of different movements denominations.² After I lived in the US for 6 years, attended different churches (NYC, and Carlisle, Pennsylvania) within the 6 years, I told God, my heart break over denominations, I just

¹ Doug Banister, *The Word and Power Church: What Happens When a Church Seeks All God Has to Offer?* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999), 17.

² Banister, *The Word and Power Church*, 20-27.

don't understand how American/Western Churches get to this stage. I hold my tongue and I dare not to express it out loud to others, because I am an outsider and I didn't want to come across as a critic. And as a former refugee teenager/young adult new to this country, I think the majority of Church people would question my position/status, and definitely not welcome my opinion.

I agree with Dr. Banister that the Bible is the word of God, thus, hold authority in our lives, and that the gift of Spirit specifically speaking of tongue, healing, and prophesy continue today. I think it is American/Western nature to label or categorize. In doing so, I think they ended up putting God in a box of their theology, hence the tension/war as Dr. Banister shared is definite.³ I have this unpopular opinion, I don't think the majority of "shepherd" in the NYC tended the "sheep" as Jesus instructed. I think the majority of "sheep" are "shepherd" followers not true disciples of Jesus Christ. I felt the majority of "sheep" only know their "shepherd" voice, not the voice of Jesus Christ or the Holy Spirit or God. It reminded me of back in the day of Mt. Saini, Moses wanted Israel to go up to the mountain so that they would experience God, but they didn't want to, they didn't desire God that intimately, they were fully satisfied with Moses being the middle man between God and them. There is no such thing as a perfect church, until Jesus's return church would continue to be served by imperfect sinners/people, hence, conflict and falls are unavoidable. Jesus loves the Bride/Church so much and promised for His return. Until then, I am called to live with humility, to eat on the word of God, and live surrendered under the Lordship of Jesus, and powerfully by the Holy Spirit. Most importantly, to continue to give testimonies how the gospel transformed and transforming me. My calling is to encourage Christians to do the same. I want people to experience God firsthand, I want them to register in their head and heart the realness and multitude of God's love toward them.

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

Thoroughly and Entirely _____%

³ Banister, 26-27.

Quickly but Completely _____ %
Thoroughly but NOT Entirely _____ %
Quickly and NOT Completely _____ %
Not at all

Signed: Monom Teekham

Bibliography

Banister, Doug. *The Word and Power Church: What Happens When a Church Seeks All God Has to Offer*.
Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.