

THE WORD AND POWER CHURCH

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SF505.NA/NOS: Formation for Ministry (FFM)

February 2, 2023

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Doug Banister's book, *The Word and Power Church*, was interesting and thought-provoking. I never knew about charismatic and evangelical churches' history and doctrinal differences. Bannister focuses on the extreme importance of the charismatic church, which is based on the power of God, and the evangelical church, which is based on the Word of God, and does a great job of enlightening the reader about "God drawing evangelicals and charismatics together to the mission field,"¹ showing that both entities are of one body and must be grounded in the Word of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Bannister has written a book on the biblical perspective. He provided examples from his personal life to better understand God's vision for the church in incorporating the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit. He challenges us to take the limits off of God by responding to the pull of the Holy Spirit and encompassing the whole experience where the head and the heart are in one accord in a genuine relationship, not only knowing about God but experiencing His presence.

Banister states:

"It is not hard to see how the church is enslaved by the tyranny of an "either-or" approach. One way to view the history of Christianity is to see the body of Christ swinging from one extreme to another, rarely finding the middle way."²

Bannister's ultimate goal is to show us that it is not one or the other; instead, bringing the two (evangelicals and charismatics) together and building one church organization created to last, empowered by both the Word and Spirit.

I believe there is one God, and there should be no divide in the body; we must stand on the Word of God. As it is written, "God is Spirit, and those that worship Him must worship Him

¹ Banister, D., *The Word and Power Church*, Zondervan, MI, February 2002, p. 30

² Ibid, p. 23

in Spirit and truth,” (John 4:24) and Jesus is the Word, the Word that became flesh and dwelt amongst us. (John 1:4) Jesus told His Disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they were clothed with power from on high. (Luke 24:49) The promise is that when the Holy Spirit comes on us, we will be witnesses to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8) Therefore, we cannot be effective in ministry without applying both the Word and the power of the Spirit.

Don't immediately pray for healing for everyone who asks for healing. The key to answered prayer for healing is discovering God's will and praying it. Why pray for healing if that isn't what the Father intends for a person's life?³

Nowhere in the Bible is anyone asking God what to pray. When Hannah asked God for a child, she didn't ask God if He would grant her request. When Jesus raised the widow's son, the mother didn't even pray, she was on her way to bury him, and Jesus stopped the procession and gave her back her son. The centurion's servant was healed because of his faith. However, not everyone will be healed miraculously; they may not be healed on this side, but we pray and let God's will be done.

Banister says, “When secrets are shared in a place of love and truth, healing grace is released and so is passion.”⁴

Secret hurts are destructive; they divide people from reality, lock them away in lonely prisons without bars, and kill their passion for spirituality. As Jesus, the great physician, said in Luke 5:31-32, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." I firmly believe the church should create safe places where those wounded emotionally, mentally, physically, or spiritually find healing. It is liberating when an individual is given a place to relieve themselves of their burdens.

³ Ibid, 158

⁴ Ibid, 134

Bibliography

Banister, D., *The Word and Power Church*, Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI (February 1, 2002)

Holy Bible, *New International Version*, Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI, 2011

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: Jennifer Skeete