

Salome King-Afuape

The Word and Power Church

Main Point- Pastor Doug Banister states that both Pentecostal (powered Person) and Evangelicals (Word Person) could put away their differences and get together as one body then the potential that arises was described as “two mighty rivers” and they will be more effective working together to “reach a desperate world with the gospel.”

The question I would like to ask myself is “How can I as an evangelical team member use the knowledge I acquire from Pastor Doug Banister book to reach the youths that left my congregation and to reach the men that are coming out of prison? “ My idea is to provide both groups with different ministries which include bible study, recreation and entertainment to build body and mind, to accept themselves and application of scripture to life/vocation and career, education to build critical thinking abilities and career exploration to self-determination. In order for such program to be promoted mentoring and hands on training program could be implemented and use as a tool to equip them for job and ministry. This book will really impact my theology and current ministry knowing that ”Ministries that want to reach the next generation, however, will find that saints and seekers are looking for the same thing: A story that makes sense out of life written by a God they can feel (p. 149).

Pastor Doug Banister stated that he is writing for “charismatics who wants more of the Word and evangelicals who want more of the spirit. I am writing this book for “anyone who wants to serve God in spirit and in truth.” I think it is an individualized spiritual matter because the Bible states “Or what man is there of you whom if his son ask bread, will he give a stone?” (Mathew 7:9 KJV). “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?’ (Mathew 7:11). So much so if we ask our heaven father to fill us with the Holy Spirit he will give it to us but the person have to want it or yearn for it or believe in it. I think mostly charismatics and Evangelicals have a long way to go because both of them still do not believe in coming together as one.

Based on Pastor Doug Banister stated “I am writing this book for anyone who is tired of fighting yesterday’s battles, who is eager to move beyond categories and to build churches empowered by both Word and Spirit. I am writing this book for anyone who sees God powerfully at work in both the charismatic and the evangelical movements. I am writing this book for charismatics who want more of the Word and evangelicals who want more of the Spirit. I am writing this book for anyone who wants to serve God in Spirit and in truth” (P. 23-24).

I like this quote because the later part of Pastor Doug thoughts should be the determination of all believers in Christ if we really want to see change and honor God for who he is by being obedient, and ask for faith and power to reach a “desperate world” that is so hungry for the “gospel” of Jesus Christ. I believe that in these times when the world has so much confusion it is time for evangelicals and charismatics to come to gather as one body in Christ Jesus because we are serving the same God and it is the same Jesus that died for all of us if we can be united for the cause of the gospel then it will be more effective. “So if charismatics are evangelicals then why do we use the terms “charismatic” and “evangelical” to distinguish these two groups? Good question! It doesn’t make much sense.” (p. 45). I think that if one just thinks about the gift and not on the giver of the gift God, then it does not really serve the purpose. “Gary’s gifts in leading worship and his unique ability to bring a timely word into the toughest of circumstances are skills he developed in the charismatic church. Yet Gary and his family didn’t feel complete” (p. 38).

I agreed mostly with Pastor Doug Banister stated “An important reminder ... **Do Not Depend on Feelings**. The promise of God’s word, the Bible-not our feelings-is our authority (P. 124). “As Christians we do not depend on feelings or emotions, but we place our faith [trust] in the trustworthiness and the promises of His Word” (p. 125). “Don’t trust the caboose. We can’t run our life by feelings; we have to base our life on the facts of God’s word even when our feelings say otherwise” (p. 126). “How will he choose? He will choose the God he can experience-the God who proves by his power his greatness over all other gods. Churches that reach people like my friend Bill will create environments where the presence of God is so real he cannot be denied. Bill must meet the God who talks” (P. 146).

I agreed with Pastor Doug Banister where he stated “The purpose of every spiritual gift is the edification of the body. If a gift doesn’t edify, God isn’t in it” (p. 121). However; I disagreed with some of his statements “Every Christian needs a place to grow in his or her spiritual gift. The same is true with the gifts mentioned in 1Corinthians 12: We need a place to practice them. The small group is a safe place to practice spiritual gifts. Mistakes will be made, but any damage is easier to control in a small group. It is easier to recover and grow and receive correction in an environment where you know you are Loved and accepted.” My personal view point is God is not an author of confusion if someone is anointed with the gift of speaking in tongues or prophecy and it is really and truly from God there will be an interpreter and the church will really know and sense that it is from God without a doubt. On the day of Pentecost when the disciples were all waiting in the upper room and they were filled with the spirit and spoke with other tongues it was for a cause and a purpose, so then if we are going to speak with other tongues we need to know what is the cause and purpose of the tongue or the prophecy. I believe that when God is in something it will make a whole lot of difference (Acts 2).