

Assignment Title: Reading Report 1 On the Word and Power Church

Name of Book: "The Word & Power Church" by Doug Bannister

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Course Title: Personal, Professional, and Theological Foundations for Ministry
Course Number: SF505
Semester & Year: Fall 2023
Professor: Dr. Ronald Walborn
Date Submitted: 01/31/2023.

Summary

The Word and Power Church depicts the journey of the author from a comfortable Evangelical Biblical Scholar to a well-rounded Charismatic/Evangelical Christian. The author expounded on the struggles that existed between Evangelicals and Holy Ghost filled bible believers. He shared his experience from both sides of the spectrum, teaching how important it is to embrace both the 'Word and the Spirit'. He emphasized that while it is necessary to have a good theological foundation in the knowledge of the word, it is incomplete without the Spirit. One of the main points raised was the belief of Evangelicals that stated miracles and speaking in tongues had ended with the early Church. He reflected on the huge divide that once existed between Evangelical Christians and Charismatic Christians because of this belief. He also highlighted the period of violence against spirit filled Christians during that time. Even more notable is the coming together of Evangelicals and Charismatics to pool their resources for the Spiritual growth and development of the Church.

Interaction and Critique

I can identify with the passion for that intimate Relationship with the Lord and the in-filling of the Holy Spirit. Unlike Doug, my passion is to know the word of God and learn how to effectively convey Biblical truths to the Believers. I was exposed to the Holy Spirit at a very young age, where speaking in tongues, casting out demons, and praying for the sick is common. However, I felt that as a Church we need a deeper revelation of the word and understanding of the Biblical context. I have had believers asking me why now, in this Western World and culture, women are forbidden to wear pants in some congregations? Recently a dear Pastor and friend of mine walked out on his congregation because the board refused to allow him to enforce Deut. 22:

5¹ in the Church. My friend argued that the scriptures explicitly stated that women should not wear men's apparel and likewise. He also insists that a person who eats and drink unworthily of the Lord's supper are those who committed some act of sin. Sins such as lying, stealing, fornication, adultery and so forth. I realized that having the ability to speak in tongues and cast out demons and flowing in miracles was not enough.

The book has given me a renewed hunger to experience God's Holy Spirit in a deeper way. I see the need to appreciate networking with other believers regardless of differences, for the common good of the body Christ. I totally agree with Doug when he stated that the walls which separated Evangelicals and Charismatics are being dismantled. (Banister 1999, pg. 20). There is less animosity and aggression among believers on both sides of the spectrum, we are learning to embrace each other's gift. According to (Banister 1999, pg. 27) « God has called a truce between Evangelicals and Charismatics ». Doug Banister's journey and success in Bridging the gap between the 'Word and the Power' will serve as a testimony and guideline in my own spiritual journey and ministry.

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

Signed: Maylene Christiani

Bibliography

Banister, Doug. *The Word & Power Church, What Happens When A Church Experiences All God Has To Offer?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1999.

¹ "A woman shall not wear a man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing; for whoever does these things is utterly repulsive to the Lord your God." (Deuteronomy 22:5). AMP