

John Ross

SF505

Dr. Ron Walborn

Reading Report #1

Power and Word

As a charismatic Christian, I'm encouraged by this work. In my activism years as a Christian, I had no knowledge of the role of charismatic gifts in the life of a Christian. I also wasn't aware of the importance of evangelical orthodoxy in the protestant church. This read was able to confirm that as I pursue and engage in ministry as a seminarian and leader in my church, it is imperative that I equip disciples with the importance of the word of God and the power of the second blessing or charismatic gifts. This work will speak to those findings and how I will utilize them in my ministry.

Power and Word spoke to mistakes that many evangelicals and charismatics make in regard to what is right or wrong. In class, we learned about the Bounded Set vs the Centered Set and I noticed that frequently in the reading of *Power & Word*. There is a bounded set ideology in the church. I don't necessarily think I see it in my church. But, I do acknowledge that the elections, pandemic, and overall charismatic history have taught my pastors the essential necessity of keeping Jesus at the center (Centered Set).

From the reading, I perceived that Banister eventually gleaned from both spheres of influence. He was an evangelical who appreciated the word and biblical exegesis. As time continued he learned to appreciate the charismatic gifts. He could no longer deny their power and their reality. I appreciated Banister speaking about being touched by the Holy Spirit. I related to him in that I first experienced being filled with the Holy Spirit through tears. From the earliest, I

can remember my walk with the Lord was marked by tears. I have shaken, been slain in the Spirit. I've spoken and tongues and continue to. But, I know that it was the Lord that gave me Holy tears. "Frederick Buechner has written, Whenever you find tears in your eyes, especially unexpected tears, it is well to pay the closest attention. They are not only telling you something about the secret of who you are, but more often than not God is speaking to you through them of the mystery of where you have come from and summoning you to where, if your soul is to be saved, you should go next."¹

I learned about the diverse ways God touches us through Randy Clark. Randy is a charismatic/theologian at Global Awakening in Pennsylvania. He would share with me and my congregation that God touches us in many ways. He's so multifaceted that we often don't even realize we are being touched. Randy would qualify his preaching with the word of God. He more than any other healing/evangelistic teacher/preacher emphasized the power of the word. I'm sure he would agree with Banister when Banister addressed safety in the experience of the power of God. "Our guests are drawn to the power, but afraid of it, too. When the power is matched with the Word, they feel safe."²

Charismatics and evangelicals are a part of one family of believers. "Evangelicalism was born during the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century when Martin Luther declared that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone and that the Scriptures are the Christian's only authority."³ As I continued to read *Power & Word* I learned that and I believe persuaded that evangelicals need charismatics and vice versa. We as evangelicals love the word, but there comes a time when power is needed (1st Corinthians 4:20).

1 Banister, Douglas. *The Word and Power Church* (p. 37). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

2 Banister, Douglas. *The Word and Power Church* (p. 39). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

3 Banister, Douglas. *The Word and Power Church* (p. 45). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

