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Foundational Formations for Ministry

Reading Report: Word and Power Church

Word and Power Church was a book that spoke on the importance of both Evangelical and Charismatic churches. I learned that having a good balance between the two forms of Christianity is important not only within the church walls but also in the day to day life as an individual Christian. Author Doug Banister really emphasizes that a healthy church is a church that is able to be balanced in their worship, prayer life and liturgy. The book can be divided into two parts. The first half focuses on the history of the Evangelical and Charismatic traditions and movements. From the middle to the later half, the book goes over what having a balanced ministry actually looks like as well as personally explaining the myths and dangers of having an imbalance ministry will be. I think the most important takeaway from this book for me was that, God's command to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind is REALLY for us to experience ALL that He has for us. I thought *Word and Power Church* was going to be only a book on church and ministry but in effect it was speaking to me as a follower of Christ. Both explanations were very good, the first half was more intellectual and the second half was more personal and intimate, appropriate to the title and subject matter of the book. It was a book that really clarified the way the Holy Spirit works today.

I think the reading can be applied to my ministry because the Methodist church that I am part of today is in need of a Word and Power ministry. There is a tendency like Martin Luther's quote, to slide off either side of the horse whether it be to doctrinal and scripture based or prayer

and prophetic word based. As important as emotions are, there is also a need for stability and groundedness that I learned can be applied through the utilization of small groups that focus on fellowship and intimacy but also on studying the Word together. One thing that this book revealed about my worldview or my past was how I originate from a church background that had a healthy balance of Word and Spirit but placed too much authority on a single leader. Authority or power can attract the worst and corrupt the best. This reminded me of the validity of passages found in Corinthians, Ephesians and Colossians where it writes that Christ is the head of the church. Even if a church has a healthy balance of word and power, if a single man or a group of men have too much preeminence over each other, that can lead to corruption.

Although I did not have many disagreements with the book, one point that resonated within me was Doug Banister's explanation on the necessity and significance of passion. "Passionate love for God leading to empowered, obedient living is the identifying mark of a word and power church" (133). In the 21st century there is this idea of remaining aloof and "cool" so as to never step on anyone's toes or cause any discomfort amidst the community. Conformity has definitely overpowered individualism in the popular culture and I think is hurting a lot of young pastors, myself for sure. Individual passion is overlooked or looked down upon and oftentimes because it is not backed up by actual submission to Christ, there is more hurt than growth. However, a proper love for Christ can actually only mean being passionate for Him. I am just not sure if this passion is to be firstly poured in my own spiritual formation under proper doctrine and then into the relationships with others or the other way around.

Finally, I think that this book impacts my theology and current ministry because I am a youth pastor and as a pastor I should be able to propose and show what balance (study of scripture & spirit-led prayer) looks like within the church. I feel like there is a lot of homework

to be done and mistakes to be made before I can realize the ideals that I have taken away from
this book.

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

Thoroughly and Entirely___%

Quickly but Completely__X__%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely___%

Quickly and NOT Completely___%

Not at all

Signed: _____Moses Eun Choi_____