

“THE WORD AND POWER CHURCH” - READING REPORT

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When I first started reading *“The Word and Power Church”* I was turned off by the terms “evangelical” and “charismatic.” I wasn’t readily familiar with those terms. I’ve heard them used before in certain settings, but I didn’t like the separation and the categorization it brought between God’s church. But as I continued to read I was so thrilled when I came across this on page 27, *“One leader recently told me that he believed ten years from now the terms evangelical and charismatic would no longer be in use.”*¹ And I believe this leader was right! I’m a part of that new generation because I didn’t give my life to the Lord until 2004 and these terms were not used in my church, nor in the arenas I was in for years! Like the book speaks about, I hungered for the Word and the Power of God! I wanted what the Bible speaks about - His Spirit and His Word.

So as I read on, I began to have a greater appreciation for what was being said throughout the text. I started to realize the value of what the author, Dr. Doug Banister, was teaching in his writing. The history of these two traditions and the reason why we need to tear down the wall of separation and learn from each other - what the Bible really says. But it made me see that my worldview was limited to what I’ve experienced in my church arenas. I was not familiar with the depth of this separation. I do thank God for this “shell” that I was in, so to speak, because it protected me from this separatism. I’d hear the term Pentecostal and Methodist and not have a clue what people were referring to. And I’m glad because Jesus did not teach this way. But I’m also appreciative of being introduced to these terms now, with proper understanding because now I can speak to it with more of an understanding.

In recent years I’ve encountered people who would most likely fit under the category of “evangelicals” and I didn’t realize why we had different understandings on the gifts of the Spirit; especially gifts like prophecy and tongues. But I also love how this book challenges Christians

who would fit under the category of “Pentecostals”, to make sure they are grounded in the Word of God and that God’s Word is the highest authority. For instance, on page 64 it reads, “*When a church spends more energy responding to prophetic words than understanding and obeying the clear words of Scripture, the congregation is in danger of spinning out of control.*”²¹ I second that to the fullest! So when this book says “word and power churches”, I view that as churches that teach and live out sound doctrine.

I fully agree with the author when he stresses the importance of bringing both traditions together. The qualities illustrated in both parties are supposed to be one! We need the gifts of the Spirit, we need to seek God heavily in prayer, we need to rightly divide the Word of Truth - all these disciplines are throughout Scripture and were intended for us to do them all. Not pick and choose the ones we deem to believe and not believe.

This book impacts my theology by giving me more understanding of how God uses our situations. For instance, I love how Dr. Banister breaks this down on page 154,

God is glorified when he heals. God is glorified when he ennoble us to suffer with hope and dignity. God’s compassion extends to us when he lifts us out of our pain. God’s compassion extends to us when he holds our hand and walks through our pain with us. God bears witness to a hurting world with the conspicuous power of signs and wonders. God bears witness to a hurting world with the quiet power of a holy life. God draws us toward holiness both when he heals us and when he allows us to share the fellowship of his sufferings. God uses pain *and* power to glorify his name and make us more like him.³

I will certainly use this book as a reference in my ministry when it comes to unifying Christians in my circles who differ on these views. This book serves as a great tool and I’m grateful that I had the opportunity to read it.

¹ Dr. Doug Banister, *The Word and Power Church: What Happens When a Church Experiences All God Has to Offer?* (Zondervan, 1999), 64.

³ Dr. Doug Banister, *The Word and Power Church: What Happens When a Church Experiences All God Has to Offer?* (Zondervan, 1999), 154.

With integrity, I have read this book:

Thoroughly and Entirely_____%

Quickly but Completely_____%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely_____%

Quickly and NOT Completely_____%

Not At all

Signed: Turron Alleyne