

A programme to assist Christians leaving a controlling Charismatic church

By Paul Fahy

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. **Col 2:8** (NASB)

Introduction

When Christians begin to realise that there are serious problems with their Charismatic church they set out on a very difficult journey. This is not only a voyage of discovery about Biblical truth, genuine doctrine, historic facts and understanding God's purposes, but it is also a difficult personal process. Often it entails losing friends, being abandoned by long-term colleagues, attracting untrue criticism, or even completely losing all one's social networks. This is a hard choice. It is for this reason that most people fail to obey Biblical principles and remain in a work that is unbiblical, ungodly and probably very damaging.

This dossier is being produced in order to help such people. It seeks to provide Biblical, theological and historical information to help provide a foundation to establish seekers in the truth about Charismaticism and its remedies. While being thorough, it aims to be as concise as possible, giving resources for further information. It is necessary for folk to have essential information about the basis of what they have been involved with, as well as showing God's commands for personal life and vital principles about church and teaching.

If there are four pieces of initial advice that I would offer to seeking folk, which override everything else, they are these:

- 1. Utterly focus upon the Lord Jesus Christ above all else. Let nothing supersede his place in your life. Let him dominate all your decisions, thoughts, and aspirations.
- 2. Concentrate upon God's word above all other factors. Dwell in the Bible; get excited about it daily; determine to fathom it carefully in regular study.
- 3. **Test all things** (1 Thess 5:21). Refuse to be dominated by leaders; check everything you hear or read (Acts 17:11; Isa 8:20). Confirm doctrine by scripture. Question everything and make it your own. Read outside your normal boundaries. You are accountable for what you choose to believe and must learn to discern the truth.
- 4. **Understand that God is sovereign and in full control of your life if you are called by him.** The way may become difficult, but becoming a seeker of his truth is evidence that he is directing you. He will bring you through if you diligently seek him. Your suffering will be a means of making you strong, spiritual, fruitful and wise. Though the path may be hard, God will restore (perfect), establish and strengthen you (1 Pt 5:10).

Further Resources on the Charismatic Movement generally

Charismatic Catastrophe; Paul Fahy. A thorough analysis of all aspects of the Charismatic Movement broken down into: spiritual issues, church issues, syncretism issues, the degradation of true hope, personal issues, plus five appendices. 153 pages.

References will be kept to a bare minimum; sources can be found in the resources mentioned.

Abbreviations used BIS: Baptism in the Spirit CM: Charismatic Movement LR: Latter Rain Movement

MsoG: Manifest Sons of God Movement **S&W:** Signs and Wonders Movement **HM**: Holiness Movement

Scripture quotations are usually from *The New King James Version* © Thomas Nelson 1982



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