

The Silent Drift Inside the Charismatic Church

For more than 50 years, I've reported on the move of the Holy Spirit through Charisma. I've had a front-row seat to revivals, miracles, prophetic voices and the remarkable spread of Spirit-filled Christianity around the world. My own family has been part of this movement for four generations, tracing back to the early 1900s—not long after Azusa Street. I owe my life and my calling to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that shaped my heritage and my career.

It is because I love this movement that I must speak candidly about something deeply troubling: compromise is quietly creeping into the charismatic and Pentecostal church. I say this not as a critic throwing stones from the outside, but as an insider who has lived this world and dedicated my life to chronicling what God has done. Over the past two decades, I've watched a subtle but unmistakable drift—a softening of conviction, a reluctance to confront sin and a steady retreat from the kind of bold preaching that once defined our pulpits.

One of the most glaring symptoms is the growing absence of sermons on sin, holiness and repentance. These themes were once the backbone of Pentecostal preaching. Today, they have practically vanished. In many churches, repentance has become optional, holiness is treated as an outdated ideal and sin is reframed in therapeutic terms rather than moral ones.

Pastors routinely avoid addressing cohabitation, pornography, adultery, gender confusion, drunkenness and even basic biblical morality because they fear making people uncomfortable. It's astonishing how many young adults in our churches now live together without marriage—and no one in spiritual leadership confronts it.