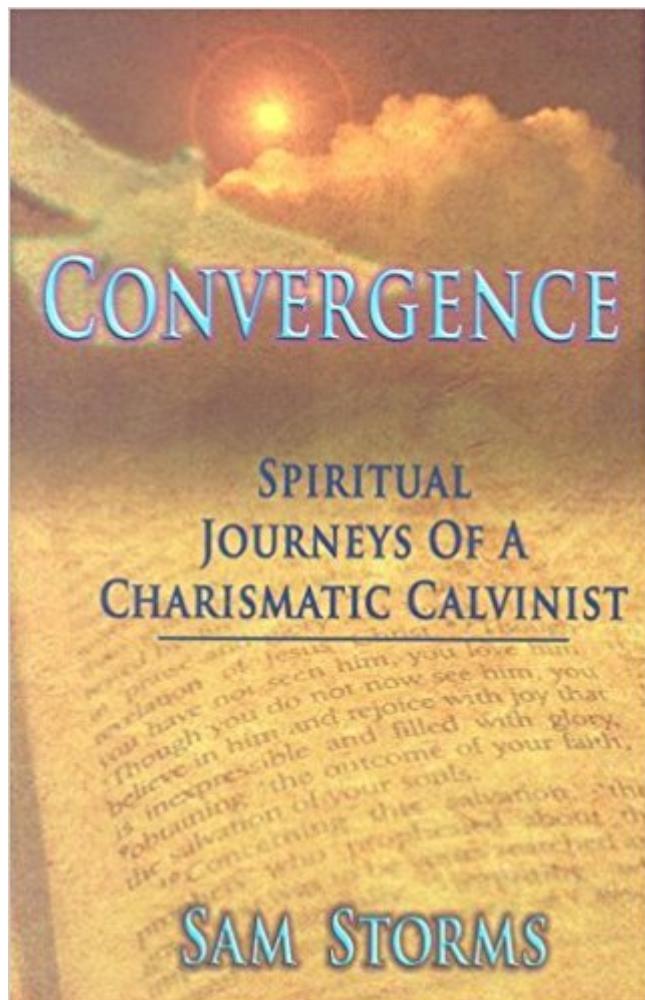


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# Convergence: Spiritual Journeys Of A Charismatic Calvinist



## **Synopsis**

Sam Storms contends that nothing is more important than the CONVERGENCE of Word and Spirit, mind and affection, principle and passion in the life of the Christian and the Church. In this book he demonstrates from his own life and preeminently from Scripture itself how one can embrace both the centrality of the written Word and the charismatic power of the Holy Spirit.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Let it be known that I am a HUGE fan of Sam Storms - he is placed on the top of my bookshelf along with my other favorite authors, along-side others like John Piper, Wayne Grudem, C.J. Mahaney, Mark Driscoll, and Jonathan Edwards. Having read his 4 latest books (many of his others are currently out of print, though I hear "Chosen by God" is being updated and re-released later this year), I must say that this is not his best. Yes, the content is good, and much needed, and ANYONE - and I do mean ANYONE - who is struggling to find their place in this spiritual world in the midsts of asking simultaneous questions about both the sovereignty of God and the proper practice of the spiritual gifts will have a lot to benefit from in reading this. However, if you're a skeptic of either, this book will not convince you. Personally, I would like to see Convergence put in the hands of an excellent editor, moving entire sections of the book around (ideally, following chapter 1, the last half of the book which addresses more doctrinal issues, would do well being moved towards the front, or interspersed between segments of Sam's personal story), and helping to clarify some sentances, and simply fixing a few grammatical errors, then reprinted in a second - updated edition. Apart from that, however, Storms is worth listening to, and this is still a worthy addition to your library,

especially if you're asking the same questions that Sam is addressing here.p.s. - and afterward, if you haven't read "A Beginner's Guide to Spiritual Gifts" or "Pleasures Evermore", you absolutely must. There are clearly Sam's best in-print work to date!

This is a great book. Sam Storms has shown that a passion for Truth and a desire for experiential manifestations of the Truth are not at odds with one another, at least they should not be. Storms shares some absolutely amazing in-breaking(s) of the Kingdom of God that he has witnessed that should encourage all believers alike. If you are reformed in your soteriology and think that this means you must be a cessationist, think again. Storms is a gift to the body of Christ. Storms is one of those individuals whom God in His providence is using to help unite the body of Christ. If you have been blessed by Grudem, Piper, and Mahaney than I think that you will be blessed by the writings of this man who has a passion for the supremacy of God in all things.

As a Charismatic who could never embrace cessationism and yet at times has found himself quite frustrated with some of the teachings and the fluffy foolishness within the Charismatic world, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was VERY refreshing to read!Dr. Storms has a high regard for the scriptures and for Christian orthodoxy yet he has also seen the reality that God has not ceased doing miracles.I especially appreciated how Dr. Storms compared the two camps and brought out the common tendencies and beliefs / views each group often embraces and how those views can stifle their own spiritual maturity. His insights brought much more clarity to the topic and helped me understand my cessationist brothers and sisters more deeply. Now when I hear them ranting or even ridiculing and mocking my fellow Charismatics it doesn't sting quite as much as it used to. And I see where they're coming from. I also respect that they place a high value on the scriptures and the gospel. And Dr. Storms helped me see why they tend to embrace a post-Biblical and dare I say it, an unbiblical doctrine of cessationism.Like a skilled theologian, and even pastoral counselor, Dr. Storms challenged both groups to try to see the good in the other as well as to examine where some of their own beliefs may not line up with the scriptures like they assume. He encouraged all believers to value both the Word and the Spirit, the mind and the heart, the traditions and the gifts.And I especially enjoyed the section on affections and how passionately expressing our admiration for God in worship is a good thing and not the carnal "emotionalism" so many accuse Charismatics and Pentecostals of engaging in.This is a book I wish every Christian would read. Even the ones who never leave cessationism or accept that tongues and prophecy are legitimate gifts in the church today. If nothing else, it will bring understanding to this divide in the church.

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