



# CONFIDENCE SHAKERS & BOOSTERS

*God Confidence Week 2*





# EIGHT CONFIDENCE SHAKERS

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*God is bigger than all of them.*





# #1 - YOUR CHILDHOOD

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- The Enemy deliberately comes early to shake your confidence and thwart your destiny.
- One way he does this is by stirring disfunction in your family of origin or the family in which you are raised.
- We began with the story of Gideon.
- When God called him, the first thing he talked about was his family of origin...and his birth order.
- Samuel had some interesting family dynamics!





“  
“  
In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. And she made a vow, saying, “Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.”

*-1 Samuel 1:10-11*





“

As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk.

*--1 Samuel 1:12-13*





“ They brought the boy to Eli...I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord.

*--1 Samuel 1:25; 27-28*





# LUCKY SAMUEL

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- A devoted mother
- His mom prayed so fervently she seemed drunk. Now that's a prayer warrior.
- His parents keep their promises to God.
- He is dedicated to God.
- Will spent his whole life at 'church' with the most influential spiritual leader in the country.
- *What could go wrong?*





“

Eli's sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the LORD.

*--2 Samuel 2:12*





“

Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband.

*--2 Samuel 2:19*





“

Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

*--2 Samuel 2:19*





“

Now a man of God came to Eli  
[warning that judgment was  
coming upon his household].

--2 Samuel 2:27





“ I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them.

*--2 Samuel 3:13*





# #1 CHILDHOOD

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- Samuel went from only child to youngest child. Typically the youngest is not only influenced by older siblings/members of the household — but also looked down upon and not taken seriously.
- Our birth order definitely plays a role in developing inclinations toward specific weaknesses - but we can overcome them.
- It also provides specific strengths upon which we can build.





# #1 CHILDHOOD

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- Birth order is based on the way you were raised and your family dynamics.
- It's not part of your DNA, but something that may shape your destiny.
- It plays a significant role throughout scripture.





# BABY

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- Outgoing
- Sociable
- Humorous
- Life of the party
- May get picked on by older siblings





“

When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness?"

*--1 Samuel 17:28*





# BABY

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## Negative:

“No one takes me seriously.” (Notice Gideon.)

## Positive:

“I’m cute and adorable. Everyone loves me. Sure, I’ll give anything a try.” (David)

## Ask God:

“How can the strategies I developed as the baby of the family be used to make me more effective in my calling?”





# MIDDLE CHILD

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- Loyal
- Wants everyone to get along
- Friendships are a priority
- Not pushed as hard as the oldest so may “slide by” with the bare minimum
- Not driven to achieve, so willing to be the much-needed background people
- Great negotiators
- Peacemakers
- Diplomats





## MIDDLE CHILD

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### Positive:

“Every church needs a peacemaker! The #1 problem is that Christians can’t get along. Jesus said the world will know we are Christians by the way we treat each other. Maybe I can’t preach or be the center of attention, but I can be used by God behind the scenes. ‘Peacemakers who sow in peace yield a harvest of righteousness’”





## MIDDLE CHILD

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### Negative:

“No one pays attention to me; they don’t even notice if I miss church for a month.”

### Ask God:

“How can the strategies I developed as the middle child of the family be used to make me more effective in my calling?”





“

Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain by killing our brother? We’d have to cover up the crime.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>27</sup>Instead of hurting him, let’s sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother—our own flesh and blood!” And his brothers agreed.

*--Genesis 37:26-27*





## MIDDLE CHILD

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- Judah goes on to become a great leader.
- Jesus is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.





# FIRST BORN

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- Reliable
- Conscientious
- Loves lists
- Strong sense of right & wrong/black & white
- Natural leaders
- Achievement-oriented





# FIRST BORN

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## Positive:

“God’s standard is holiness. That’s a major issue in the church today. Christians are leading sloppy, haphazard lives and wondering why they aren’t experiencing God’s power or walking in His promises. Maybe God can use my passion for excellence in a unique way in this hour”





# FIRST BORN

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## Negative:

“No one measures up to my high standards; I’m never good enough, either”

## Ask God:

“How can the strategies I developed as the first born of the family be used to make me more effective in my calling?”





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Jesus is...“the firstborn among many brothers”

—*Romans 8:29*





# FIRST BORN

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- Jesus is the most famous first born in the Bible!
- The role and privilege of the first born is emphasized throughout the Old Testament.





# ONLY CHILD

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- Mega movers and shakers of the world
- Task oriented
- Extremely well-organized conscientious and dependable neat
- Scholars
- First-born on steroids





## ONLY CHILD

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- If spoiled and over-indulged, becomes like the baby of the family...but even more irresponsible and self-centered.





## ONLY CHILD

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### Positive:

“God blessed me with exceptional opportunities. I know that ‘to whom much is given, much will be demanded.’ There’s probably a very high calling upon my life.”





## ONLY CHILD

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### Negative:

“I didn’t have two decades of daily practice in the people skills required to get along with siblings. Ministry is all about people; I’ll never be used by God.”

### Ask God:

“How can the strategies I developed as an only child be used to make me more effective in my calling?”





# ONLY CHILD

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## Example:

- Sampson is a famous example of an “only child” in the bible and he serves as a warning of what can happen if the child is spoiled.
- He was extremely impulsive and used to have his way, no matter what.
- But he also accomplishes the total defeat of God’s enemies!





“ Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. When he returned, he said to his father and mother, “I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife.” His father and mother replied, “Isn’t there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?”

But Samson said to his father, “Get her for me.”

—*Judges 14:1-3*





“ One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her...

Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.

—*Judges 16:1&4*





# BIRTH ORDER VARIABLES

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- The birth order of the parent who most influenced you
- Spacing between kids
- Gender of the siblings above and below you
- Illness in the family
- Parent's remarriage
- Step-siblings and half-siblings





# #1 - CHILDHOOD

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- All of that was part of Confidence Shaker #1
- Because few things can shake our confidence like the events of our childhood.
- But it's not a "life sentence" - far from it.
- 100 people can live through the exact same experience and every one of them will respond differently.





# #1 - YOUR CHILDHOOD

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- Children raised in the same home will respond differently.
- Your childhood (birth to 18 years old) was comprised of 6,570 days, 157,680 hours, 9 million 460 thousand 800 minutes.
- What you CHOOSE to remember -- what you CHOOSE to focus on— probably says a lot more about the woman you are today than it does about your childhood.





# #1 – YOUR CHILDHOOD

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- What you choose to say to yourself about what happened — and the meaning you attach to the event(s) — has far more power to shape your destiny than the event(s) itself(themselves).





# #1 – YOUR CHILDHOOD

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- And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people. 1 Sam 1:26
- The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” 1 Sam. 2:10
- The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord. 1 Sam. 2:19-20





## #2 - SEXUAL SIN

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- Adultery didn't disqualify David.
- Judah slept with his own daughter-in-law (he thought she was a prostitute) - but it didn't disqualify him, either.
- If you have a history of sexual sin, the solution isn't hiding in the shadows.
- The solution is confessing it and being cleansed.





## #2 - SEXUAL SIN

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- Five husbands and living with a man out of wedlock didn't disqualify the Samaritan woman at the well.
- She's the first recorded evangelist in the Bible!
- Orthodox churches believe she is the same woman who became known as St. Photini who planted churches in Tunisia and is considered *equal to the Apostles*.





## #3 – CRIMINAL BACKGROUND

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- Moses and Paul were both murderers.
- The thief on the cross has been used by God to lead millions to Christ over 2000 years.
- If you committed a crime and done your time, you owe no further debt to society.
- If God prompts you to make restitution, do so. But move forward in faith.
- God used Chuck Colson to found Prison Fellowship!





## #4 - YOUR MARRIAGE IS A MESS

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- What are the chances that your marriage is *worse* than Leah's loveless marriage, in which she shared her husband with her sister?
- Her husband not only didn't love her, at all, he was madly in love with her sister. #ouch
- Her husband rejected her, but God chose her to be a grandmother of Jesus!
- Yes, Jesus is HER grandchild, not the grandchild of Rachel, her husband's "favorite" wife!





## #5 – YOUR SPOUSE CHEATED ON YOU

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- Your spouse cheated on you — and you feel worthless. Why would anyone listen to you — your own husband betrayed you?
- God’s spouse cheated on Him, too.
- “Have you seen what faithless Israel has done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has committed adultery there.” - Jeremiah 3:6





## #6 – YOU ARE DIVORCED

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- [God speaking]: “I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries.” Jeremiah 3:8
- The Church is now the Bride of Christ.
- So it sure looks like God not only divorced Israel....
- He even remarried.
- One of the most prominent pastors in America says if you are remarried, you can never serve in church again. Someone better show God the door!





## #7 – YOUR KIDS (OR GRANDKIDS) ARE MESSED UP

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- You feel like you blew it as a parent...so how can God use you now?
- God's kids were messed up, too, even though He was the perfect parent. Go read about Adam and Eve.
- We are all his grandkids. Go look in the mirror!





## #8 – NO ONE LISTENS TO YOU

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- They didn't listen to Ezekiel (or the other prophets) either.
- “Go now to your people in exile and speak to them. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says,’ whether they listen or fail to listen.” Ezekiel 3:11





## BOTTOMLINE?

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- Everyone has experienced Confidence Shakers!
- Don't let them hold you back.
- Step into your calling with God Confidence.





# EIGHT CONFIDENCE BOOSTERS

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*All available to you. 24/7.*





# 1. READ ABOUT THE UNLIKELY PEOPLE GOD USED IN THE BIBLE.

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- We just went through a list of them.
- Many more examples are included in the book.
- Whenever you read about people in the Bible, ask yourself, “Is this who the world would choose?”
- 99 times out of 100, the answer is **NO WAY!**





# 1. READ ABOUT THE UNLIKELY PEOPLE GOD USED IN THE BIBLE.

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If you read the Bible honestly, you'll have to admit that when God wants to accomplish something on planet earth he does two things:  
Chooses the “wrong” person then comes up with a seemingly “dumb” idea!





## 2. STUDY CHURCH HISTORY

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- Every man and woman used by God has had flaws.
- Some of his most powerful servants had plenty of them!
- God is not looking for perfect people because there aren't any.

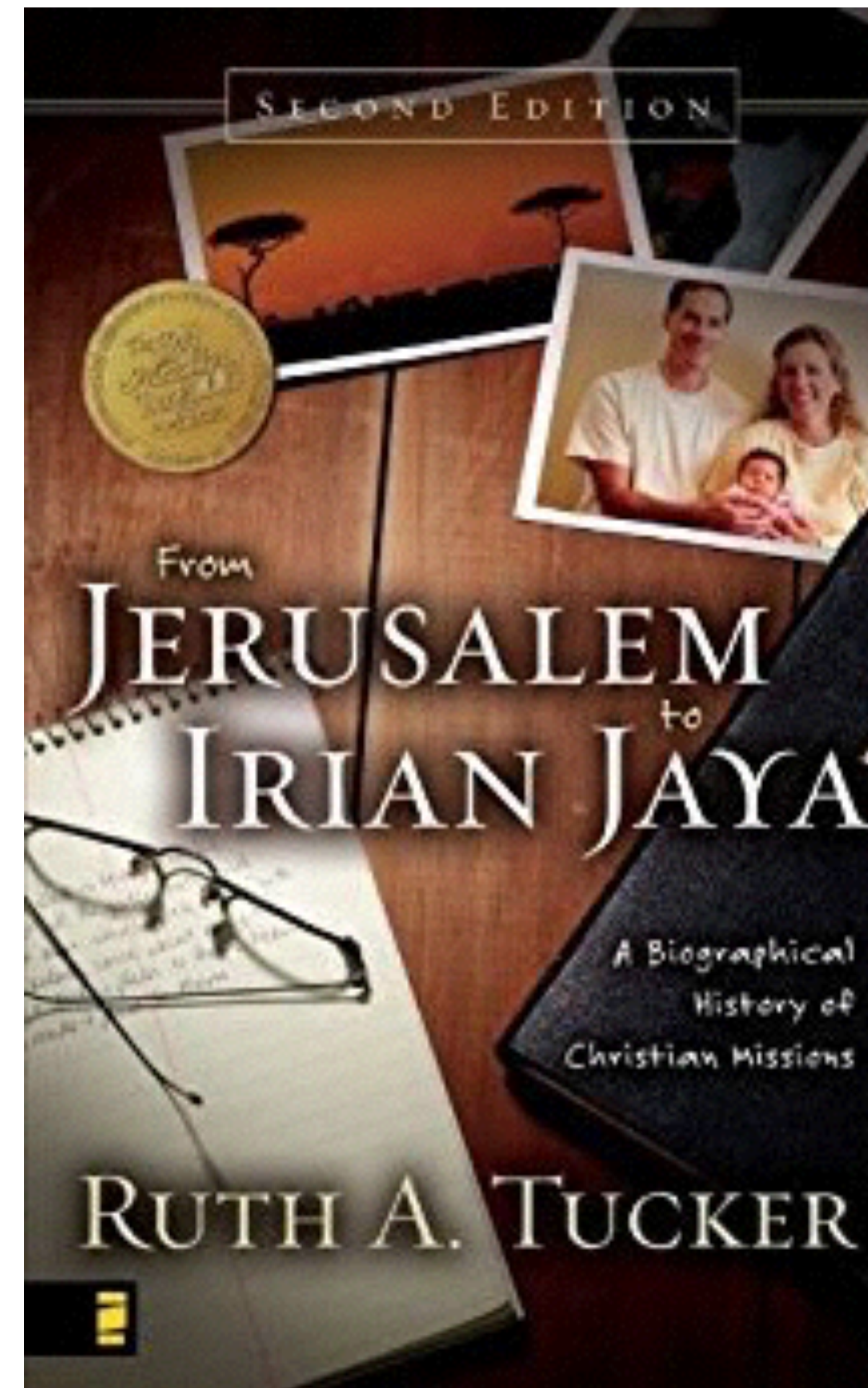




## 2. STUDY CHURCH HISTORY

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- Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions by Ruth Tucker
- Helen Roseveare
- C.D. Studd





### 3. GIVE YOURSELF PERMISSION TO SAY NO

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- Well-meaning people can set us up to fail or waste time pursuing less than God's best.
- Often when we say Yes to people, we're saying No to God.
- Often when we say No to people, we are actually saying Yes to God.
- "People will always ask you to do more than God requires." - *advice Carol Kent gave me early in my ministry*





## 4. DELIBERATELY SLOW DOWN

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- God's will is not a crisis.
- God is not in a hurry.
- The Holy Spirit withdraws from anything rushed.
- Choose, by a decision of your will, to put your soul at rest.
- God doesn't keep pace with us when we run at a hurried or frantic rate.





## 4. DELIBERATELY SLOW DOWN

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- Slowing down enables the Holy Spirit to develop within you the character required to carry your gift.
- Be a North Star not a Shooting Star.
- Wait for Divine Alignment.
- Divine Alignment leads to Divine Acceleration.
- 1 hour of God's favor can accomplish more than a lifetime of labor.





## 5. INTENTIONALLY QUIET DOWN

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- Turn down the volume of your life.
- In particular, pull away from secular media.
- We can't have confidence in someone we don't have a relationship with—and you can't have a relationship without hearing.
- Hearing requires quiet.





## 5. INTENTIONALLY QUIET DOWN

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- Spend less time listening to people and more time listening to God.
- Hearing from God gives you the confidence you need to say no in order to say yes
- Hearing from God gives you the confidence to say, “No, that’s not my call...at least not in this season.”





“

“In confidence and quietness is  
your strength”

*-Isaiah 35:10*





## 6. KEEP A SHORT ACCOUNT WITH GOD

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- Confess your sins daily and repent (repent just means to agree with God).
- A clean slate with God is the most amazing confidence booster!!!





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The fruit of that righteousness  
will be peace; its effect will be  
quietness and confidence  
forever.

*-Isaiah 32:17*





## 7.REMEMBER THE ONE WHO IS SENDING YOU

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- Back to Gideon. Back to the beginning!
- Constantly remind yourself: This isn't about me. It's about the One who is sending me.
- YOU are the smallest factor in the equation.
- Best of all, when God designed the plan for your life, he factored you into the equation anyway!
- You can't mess up the real thing! You can't!





## 7.REMEMBER THE ONE WHO IS SENDING YOU

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When God sends us, he commits the very resources of heaven to the assignment, so we can go with complete confidence.





## 7.REMEMBER THE ONE WHO IS SENDING YOU

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- Red Sea Parted
- Moon Halted
- Favor Granted
- Storms Quieted
- Food Multiplied
- Whatever you need will be provided when you need it.





## 8. FIND A MENTOR

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- An HONEST one.
- Learn from their wisdom.
- Learn from their mistakes.
- Follow their advice.
- Follow in their footsteps.
- If God has given you a message, I highly recommend Take Your Message to the World
- [www.donnapartow.com/message](http://www.donnapartow.com/message)







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