

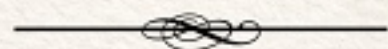
This book is a collection of stories from the author's personal and professional life and how they led him to "hear" the secrets of God's kingdom. It addresses the fundamental questions of why we exist and what our lives are meant for.

**The Whispered Shout:
Hear God's Secrets in Your Story**

By David J. Pontzer

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THE
Whispered
SHOUT



Hear God's Secrets in Your Story

Foreword by Pastor Ethan Bricker

DAVID J. PONTZER

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Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-959623-71-7

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-959623-70-0

eBook ISBN: 979-8-88532-053-5

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Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Trenton, Georgia.

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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
Pontzer, David J.

The Whispered Shout: Hear God’s Secrets in Your Story
by David J. Pontzer

Library of Congress Control Number: 2025912561

Booklocker.com, Inc.
2025

First Edition

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Introduction

I'm sitting in my La-Z-Boy, embroiled in a desperate attempt to conjure up a good title for what I hope will become my first book. A clever, catchy, grab-your-attention title. I type out a few candidates. I look at what I typed. I pause, and listen for some suggestions from Heaven. One of my least favorite words comes to mind: "backsliding."

Hanging around church after the service, you might hear this word. "Oh, she's not here today. I think she's backsliding," someone might say in a hushed, conspiratorial tone. I cringe.

In my mind, I see a man struggling to climb a hill. He is failing to gain purchase. His bare hands and feet dig into the dirt of a steep, crumbling hillside. With sweat dripping, and hands and feet clawing at the loose soil, this man slowly loses the battle. The relentless pull of gravity defeats his best Herculean effort. He begins to slide down the steepness backward. He's Backsliding. At the bottom, he joins the defeated and broken masses. It's all over for him.

On top, from our lofty success, we bask in joy, peace, and prosperity while we look down, and pity the backslidden horde. Up here, in this place of glory, we are tasked to pray for them. Pray that, somehow, they might muster the inner strength to restart their agonizing climb, again, while doubting they will ever get quite as high up the "seeker's mountain" as we are. They are way down there. We are way up here. It's a shame we can't quite reach far enough down to give them a hand.

This picture can't be right. God has not made seeking His kingdom a life-long, sweat-streaked, frustrating, steep climb. A climb where only a few of us have the internal fortitude, strength, and impressive perseverance required to reach the summit. A place where we can bask in the glory of our accomplishment.

A place where we arm ourselves with words from the Bible, and try to convince all those non-believers how so very wrong they are about their non-believing. The trouble is, non-believers do not believe these Bible words in the first place. They feel like rocks to be dodged rather than bricks to build on.

I was exactly this non-believing person for 32 years. I would mentally shut down when subjected to a teaching about how I was wrong based on facts that I didn't believe. No amount of preaching based on these "non-facts" would convince me of anything. In fact, it was the opposite. I didn't want to be around people who build their worldview, and govern their lives, based on the blind belief in the contents of one book: the Bible, the Qur'an, the Book of Mormon, the Adi Granth, or any of the other so-called sacred books.

In my world of engineering, facts must be tested, verified, and even proven. Control systems for airplanes are designed and built using the core truth revealed in differential equations. These truths rest on the foundation of calculus. Calculus is based on the bedrock of algebra. Very solid, unambiguous, and unassailable. I could put my faith in something like that.

On top of this tower of mathematical sureness, we put more bricks of knowledge. We can go even higher, and maybe one day discover the "Theory of Everything." Many people are working on this. It's always just out of reach but we can glimpse it from the "penthouse." It is curious that humans have this insatiable motivation to seek, learn, and understand creation. So much seeking going on.

For the last 38 years, the second half of my life, I have embraced the Bible as the word of God. I believe there actually is a God. And, that God is the very one described in the Bible.

In my engineering world, where differential equations so beautifully capture the reality of creation, they only do exactly that. It's not so much different from how a great painting inspires awe or how music can evoke emotion. Everything we know and experience is a tiny part of a much bigger reality.

A better word picture of a person seeking God might be a man living in the village of the “sand people.” Like all the other houses in this village, his foundation is slowly but steadily sinking into the sandy soil. The walls are cracking, the roof is leaking, and the doors no longer function in their warped frames. It was once beautiful but every storm takes a toll.

He finally makes the difficult decision to leave town, to write off his poor investment in the world of the sand. He sets out on a journey to the construction site of his new house, a house he will build in the village of the ‘rock people,’ a place where houses are made to withstand any sort of weather.

Along the way, he collects stones of truth to use in its building. It’s an exhilarating journey but not without the danger of a stumble now and then. There may be some dirt or a stylish trouser rip on one of his knees. He is smiling. His new house will be rock-solid. He knows He made the right call.

The Christian part of my life feels like this guy collecting stones of truth and using them to construct his stormproof house. Every experience is God displaying His love. Sometimes, I have ears to hear God and get the learning right away. Sometimes, God’s secrets take a bit of seeking to find, understand, and embrace them as truth.

This book is a collection of stories from my life, and how they have led to the “knowing” of these life-changing secrets of God.

If God is real, and truly loves you, like those preachers preach all the time, then I encourage you to give God a chance. Give Him an opportunity to reveal Himself to you. Be open to the possibility that God is actively interacting with His creation. You may be surprised.

If you are reading this, and don’t believe in the God of the Bible, then you believe something else. Allow a little uncertainty into your thinking, and read it anyway.

When I taught mathematics, I would tell my disciples, “Just before you learn something completely new, you must be quite confused, for only from a state of confusion can 'aha' moments of

new understanding emerge. Expect confusion, embrace it, hope for it.”

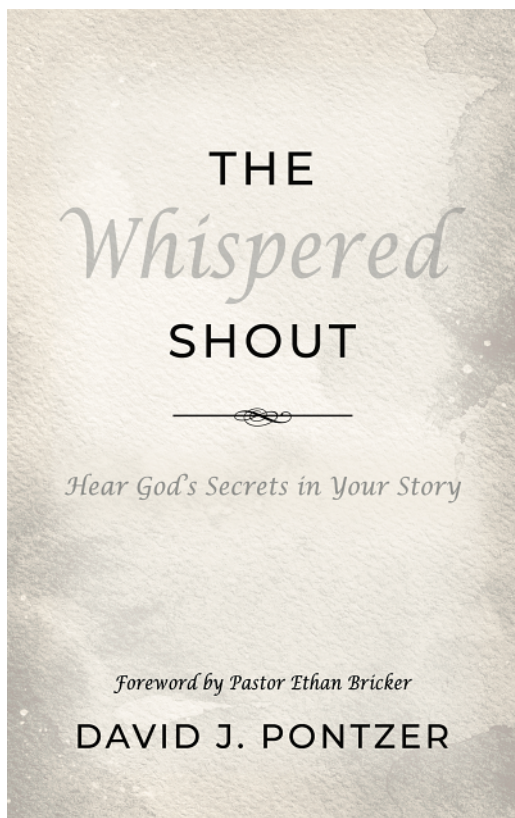
A great way to read this book is one chapter a day. Read it with the expectation that God has been, and is, reaching out to you. Realize that He loves you and desires for His relationship with you to grow deeper every day. And that He wants you to know why.

The daily chapter may bring to mind a similar experience you have had, and switch on a light to see God’s intention in allowing it to unfold as it did, to realize what God has been, and is up to, in your life. Or, it may serve as a catalyst for one of those “aha” moments where a new and unexpected facet of God’s kingdom crystallizes out of the uncertainties in your mind.

A day between these “breadcrumbs” allows time for prayer, reflection, and your own experience of seeking God’s hand at work in your life. Time for the Holy Spirit to connect with you and be your “helper” in this endeavor.

However you decide to read this book, I pray that my experiences resonate strongly with your own life and that you, too, will *Hear God’s Secrets in Your Story*.

God looks down from heaven on the children of man
to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.
(Ps. 53:2 ESV)



This book is a collection of stories from the author's personal and professional life and how they led him to "hear" the secrets of God's kingdom. It addresses the fundamental questions of why we exist and what our lives are meant for.

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