

## A BOOK REVIEW

### “THE POWER OF A WHISPER/MY (DR. ROD CASEY’S) UNEXPECTED JOURNEY AND THE EVERYDAY WISDOM IT HOLDS”

MARCH 1, 2026

**TITLE OF BOOK:** “The Power of a Whisper/My Unexpected Journey And the Everyday Wisdom in Holds”.

**AUTHOR:** Dr. Rod Casey, Director of the Theological Education Initiative (“TEI”), in Columbia, Missouri, a Christian Study Center serving the theologically under-resourced in Central Missouri. Dr. Rod is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, and earned a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Talbot School of Theology. He constantly mentors pastors, church leaders, and next generation church leaders. He teaches preaching and writes for *Preaching* magazine and *Preaching Today*.

**PUBLISHER AND DATE OF PUBLICATION:** Carriage House Publishers, 2025.

#### FIRST IMPRESSIONS

I know the author of this book, Dr. Rod Casey (“Rod”) very well. It has been my privilege to co-teach a class with him, and to provide a number of Book Reviews for Theological Education Initiative (“TEI”), the institute of which he is the director. It has also been my privilege and gift to call Rod “friend and mentor”. Rod did not ask me to do this Book Review of his book, and is probably embarrassed that I have done so. However, I feel compelled, in the interests of the Central Missouri Pastors, Church Leaders and Teachers, and next generation, emerging church leaders who are patrons of TEI to provide this Review. I don’t want there to be any chance that they will not avail themselves of the inspiration and benefits which their lives and ministry efforts will receive from reading about Rod’s story, and about how God, sometimes in very hidden and unexpected ways, directed Rod’s life and work, and to the position which he now occupies to the great benefit of Christian Ministry efforts in Central Missouri, an area which would have precious few theological resources but for Rod’s amazing foresight and God directed efforts.

Each of us has a story. While each of us would hope and pray that our life’s story might inspire others, particularly our children and those close to us, most of our stories are not all that remarkable, and, in some cases, like mine, are downright boring. Well, Rod’s story, the story of Rod’s lifetime which he relates in this wonderful, short, easily read book, is anything but unremarkable, and it is certainly not boring. His story, as related in this book, some of which was already known to me and the sadder event of which I partially lived through and shared with him

stands as a tremendous inspiration for me, and it will do the same for you, Dear Reader. What I have found, and I think what you will find from Rod's story is a guidance, an instruction or inspiration if you will, to really buy into what we are constantly told in church and our Christian classes which is that, if we will yield to God, if we will ask God to allow us to serve Him and ask him to guide and direct our ways, He will do so. In many cases, if not in fact most cases, He will do so in ways which seem to be the simple ups and downs of daily life. Such as, for example, by closing a door or opportunity, an event which seemed devastating at the time, but which leads to another wonderful open door or great opportunity which allows us to be of the service which we asked for in the first place. Sometimes God will speak to us, guide us, by what is described in the Old Testament story of the Prophet Elijah, which is God's "Still, Small Voice". As Rod relates his story, he describes how he was sometimes guided by that "Still, Small Voice".

I believe that if you read this wonderful book you will be inspired by Rod's story, and the wisdom which it provides and the additional wisdom which he relates at the end of each of the book's chapters, and that you will be inspired to believe that, if you will submit to God, God does have a plan for you, and He will work with you to fulfill that plan, and he will guide you along the path of that plan, sometimes in very unexpected ways and sometimes with His "Still Small Voice" a voice of which you might be uncertain as to whether it is, in fact, God's voice.

#### **WHAT IS THE AUTHOR DOING WITH WHAT THE AUTHOR IS SAYING**

Rod, our author, is a teacher of, and mentor for many young pastors and church leaders, and of and for next generation, emerging church leaders. He is passionate about mentoring these young people who are the patrons of TEI of which he is the director. This book is an extension of his desires to serve these people in the best manner possible, and to try to ensure that they will hang in there, through the thick and thin, the good and bad of a life in ministry. He has lived a ministry life. He grew up in a ministry home, and, as a result, had a childhood that was exposed to the heartaches and hardships of a pastor's life and of a pastor's family. As Rod went through life he encountered both the normal ups and downs of life, the good points and not so good points of normal life, and, in addition, he experienced the heart-rending emotions of some failed ministry efforts and even of abandonment by people he thought were friends and that he could trust. In one terrible event, he experienced his loss of a ministry effort for a church to which he had devoted years of hard work. Through all of this, Rod was able to hear God's Still Small Voice, which provided to him, at very unexpected times, God's counsel and direction. Even in the midst of true emotional and economic hardships Rod "hung in there", and moved forward in his efforts to continue to serve God, and to do so in a way which Rod, and I think obviously God, felt that Rod could best serve, which was and is to provide counsel, encouragement and mentoring to young pastors and church leaders and the next generation of church leaders.

A life in ministry is not an easy life. It is a life which requires perseverance. It is a life which can be one of hardships and certainly sacrifice, both for the person in ministry and for his or her family. People in this life need encouragement. They need the counsel of, advice of and mentoring of someone who has gone through this life before them, and can, through his story, encourage them to move forward in the service of God's church. Rod's story, as related in this book, like the daily mentoring efforts of Rod and his wonderful wife, Julie, can provide young pastors and church leaders and next generation church leaders the encouragement which they need. By telling his story in this book, and by describing God's work with Rod as described in this book, Rod continues to provide a tremendous service to God's church, a service which is desperately needed in Central Missouri, the area served by TEI.

#### **HOW TO READ THIS BOOK**

That's easy. Just read it. It is a short book, and a highly readable and engaging book. Just sit down and read it. You will be glad that you did so.

#### **SHOULD THIS BOOK BE RETAINED IN THE TEI LIBRARY? WOULD IT BE USEFUL IN ANY TEI/ECLI CLASS OR OTHER TEI EFFORTS**

I assume, hope that TEI is retaining, and will have on hand a number of copies of this book so that it can be passed out to the young pastors and church leaders who come through its doors, on an almost daily basis, and who seek advice and encouragement from Rod. I know some of these people. I have heard some of their stories. I know how down-in- the- dumps they can feel as they experience the slings and arrows of the outrageous fortune to which those in ministry life are constantly exposed. Handing them a copy of this book, and asking them to read it, and to then return for further discussions might well encourage them to persevere and to continue to provide for God's church and its people the service which the church and its people desperately need in this complex, confusing and increasingly secular world. These people are, truly, the hope for the future, and giving them this book and continuing to provide the counsel of Rod and Julie can help further that hope.

Thank You

Your Reviewer

Dan Simon

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