

# CRASHING THE LEADER'S CHATTERBOX

AN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADER'S GUIDE TO  
*CRASH THE CHATTERBOX*

BASED ON THE BOOK BY  
STEVEN FURTICK

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# INTRODUCTION

The term *chatterbox* is my way of representing the lies we believe—lies of condemnation, fear, insecurity, and discouragement. This chatterbox is a voice that drones on and on inside our heads, always intimidating, always insinuating. It wants to wear us out until we have no idea what to do or how to answer our growing list of doubts and deficiencies.

The chatterbox attacks us at every area of vulnerability. For leaders—whether we are church pastors, ministry volunteers, corporate managers, nonprofit executives, teachers, parents, or whatever our role might be—that strategy includes attacking us at the point of our leadership. See if any of this chatter that I’ve heard inside my head as a pastor sounds familiar to you:

*You’re a barber’s son from Moncks Corner, South Carolina. What makes you think you’re qualified to lead a big-city church?*

*You’ve got so much to do, there’s no way you can possibly get it all done. Why fight a losing battle?*

*After the harsh thing you said to your wife before you left home, and then the way you unfairly powered up on the staff in that meeting, how could you teach anyone about being godly?*

*That building program you’ve got in mind—it goes beyond ambitious to foolhardy. Where’s all that money going to come from? What if it stands as a half-empty monument to your ego?*

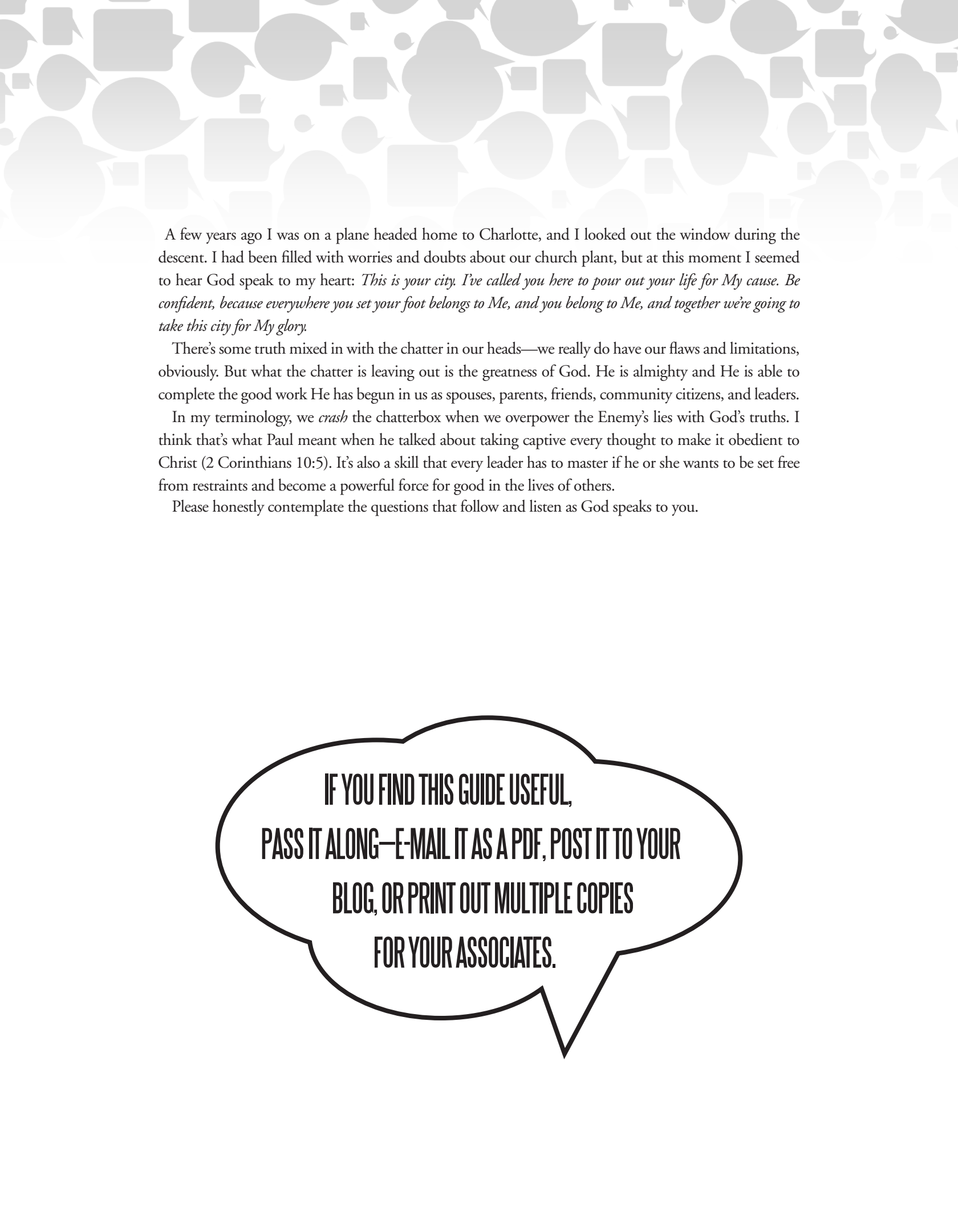
We can trace destructive messaging like this back to the Enemy, to past put-downs, to present criticism, to recycled foolishness in our culture, and to our own incomplete sanctification. Everybody deals with the same types of sources for the falsehood they believe. But for us as leaders, how well we fight our battle against the chatterbox has a ripple effect extending far beyond us to the people we influence.

If you believe lies and act on them, then so will the people you’re in charge of.

If you hold back from doing what God is calling you to because of the doubts the chatterbox has infected you with, then your assigned corner of the kingdom of God won’t get built. At least not immediately and not by you.

The beautiful thing is that coexisting with the “lie-stream” in our heads is a “truth-stream” that comes from God. He is faithful to speak. From the pages of His Word. From nature. From art. From the counsel of godly believers. Directly to our minds.

His truth may sometimes seem like a still, small voice compared to the whirlwind of lying chatter, but it’s always there. Not condemning but approving. Not fear mongering but reassuring. Not undercutting but upbuilding. Not discouraging but encouraging.

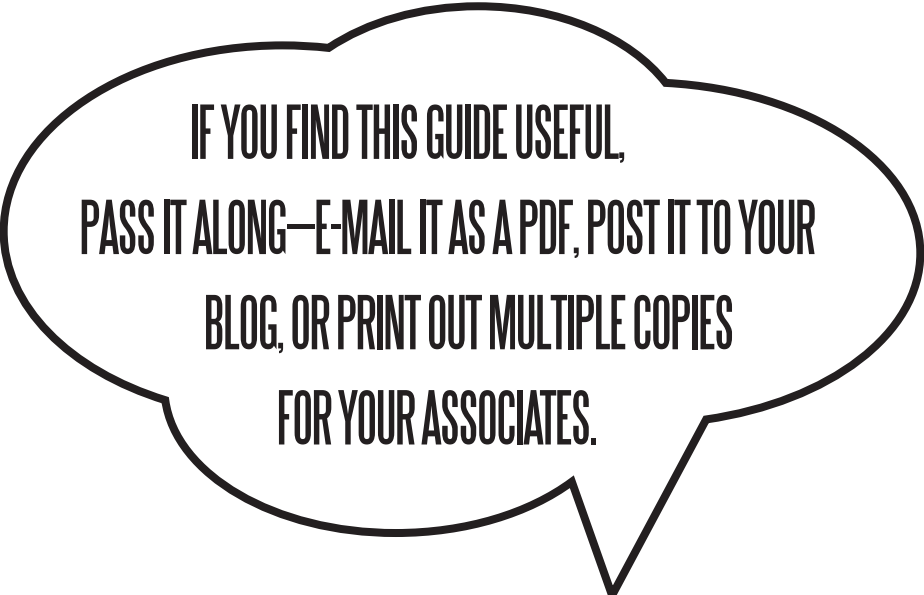


A few years ago I was on a plane headed home to Charlotte, and I looked out the window during the descent. I had been filled with worries and doubts about our church plant, but at this moment I seemed to hear God speak to my heart: *This is your city. I've called you here to pour out your life for My cause. Be confident, because everywhere you set your foot belongs to Me, and you belong to Me, and together we're going to take this city for My glory.*

There's some truth mixed in with the chatter in our heads—we really do have our flaws and limitations, obviously. But what the chatter is leaving out is the greatness of God. He is almighty and He is able to complete the good work He has begun in us as spouses, parents, friends, community citizens, and leaders.

In my terminology, we *crash* the chatterbox when we overpower the Enemy's lies with God's truths. I think that's what Paul meant when he talked about taking captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). It's also a skill that every leader has to master if he or she wants to be set free from restraints and become a powerful force for good in the lives of others.

Please honestly contemplate the questions that follow and listen as God speaks to you.



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PASS IT ALONG—E-MAIL IT AS A PDF, POST IT TO YOUR  
BLOG, OR PRINT OUT MULTIPLE COPIES  
FOR YOUR ASSOCIATES.**



# INSECURITY

See Section 1 of *Crash the Chatterbox*.

1. How do you tend to feel insecure as a leader? (Are you unsure of whether fulfilling this role is what God wants you to do? Uncertain of whether you're up to the job? Feeling undermined by critics? Or what else is it that makes you doubt yourself?)
2. How is your sense of insecurity affecting your leadership?
3. If you could ask God what He thinks about you and your work as a leader, what do you think He would say to you?
4. What obstacles do you need to remove so that you can receive God's affirmation? (For example, maybe you need to investigate and deal with some disapproval issues from your childhood.)
5. What are some practical steps you can take to hit the mute button on some of the chatter of insecurity so that you can concentrate better on what God is saying? (For example, perhaps you should stop spending time with someone who has the habit of calling your ability into question.)
6. What Scripture passages help to confirm God's approval of you?
7. How would getting past your sense of insecurity boost your effectiveness as a leader?



# FEAR

See Section 2 of *Crash the Chatterbox*.

1. What are your biggest fears, worries, and anxieties about your leadership?
2. What is the worst that would happen if those fears were realized? What would God still be able to do for you, and through you, even after the worst has happened?
3. What is the organization you serve missing out on because of your fear? What are you missing out on?
4. How might your fear be spreading to those you lead?
5. What is the voice of God saying to you about your fear? What is God saying to you about what you are capable of?
6. What can you do to build up your faith as a counterweight to your fear?
7. Who could you share your fears with so that you can get help in dealing with them?
8. What is a risk you need to take immediately in spite of your fear?



# CONDEMNATION

See Section 3 of *Crash the Chatterbox*.

1. What are the messages of accusation, shame, or inadequacy you have been entertaining within your mind?
2. How has the Enemy magnified your failures and lapses beyond what they deserve?
3. How do the condemning messages from your chatterbox make you shrink as a leader?
4. When you think about your forgiveness and your life in Christ, how does that change your perspective on the condemnation you've been imagining?
5. Instead of feeling really guilty and getting stuck, how does God want you to deal with your errors?
6. What is it about your past that you need to forget? What is it about Christ's righteousness extended to you by grace that you need to remember?
7. What could you be studying, praying about, or praising God for in your personal spiritual practice that would help you walk freely in God's acceptance? (For example, maybe you would want to create a playlist of worship songs that emphasize God's acceptance and delight in you.)



# DISCOURAGEMENT

See Section 4 of *Crash the Chatterbox*.

1. What have you been discouraged about lately in your organization or in your own abilities as a leader? What is the gap between your expectation and the reality?
2. How might your discouragement be showing up in your words, your body language, or your decision making?
3. How is the discouragement affecting your view of yourself?
4. How is God revealing His power and presence to you even in the midst of your discouraging circumstances?
5. What do you think God is calling you to faithfully persist in, even though it seems like the results you want are too long in coming? What might He be telling you to do differently?
6. What are some encouraging signs about your leadership or organization that you should keep in mind?
7. What do you have to be grateful to God for right now, while you are waiting for better results in other areas?
8. What is the most important way in which you need to crash the chatterbox for the sake of your leadership?



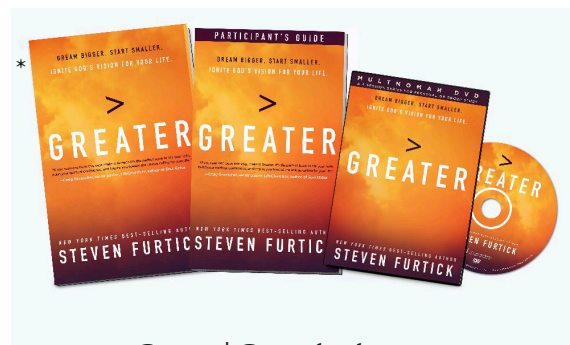
# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Steven Furtick is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *Crash the Chatterbox*, *Greater*, and *Sun Stand Still*. He is also the founder and lead pastor of Elevation Church, a multi-site church based in Charlotte, North Carolina. He holds a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Holly, live in the Charlotte area with their three children, Elijah, Graham, and Abbey.

## Additional resources



*Crash the Chatterbox* | [CrashtheChatterbox.com](http://CrashtheChatterbox.com)

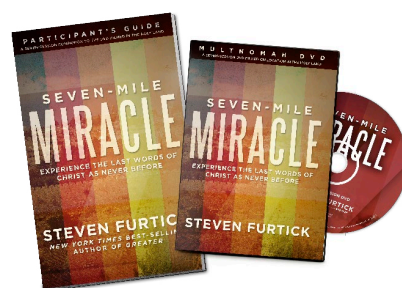


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