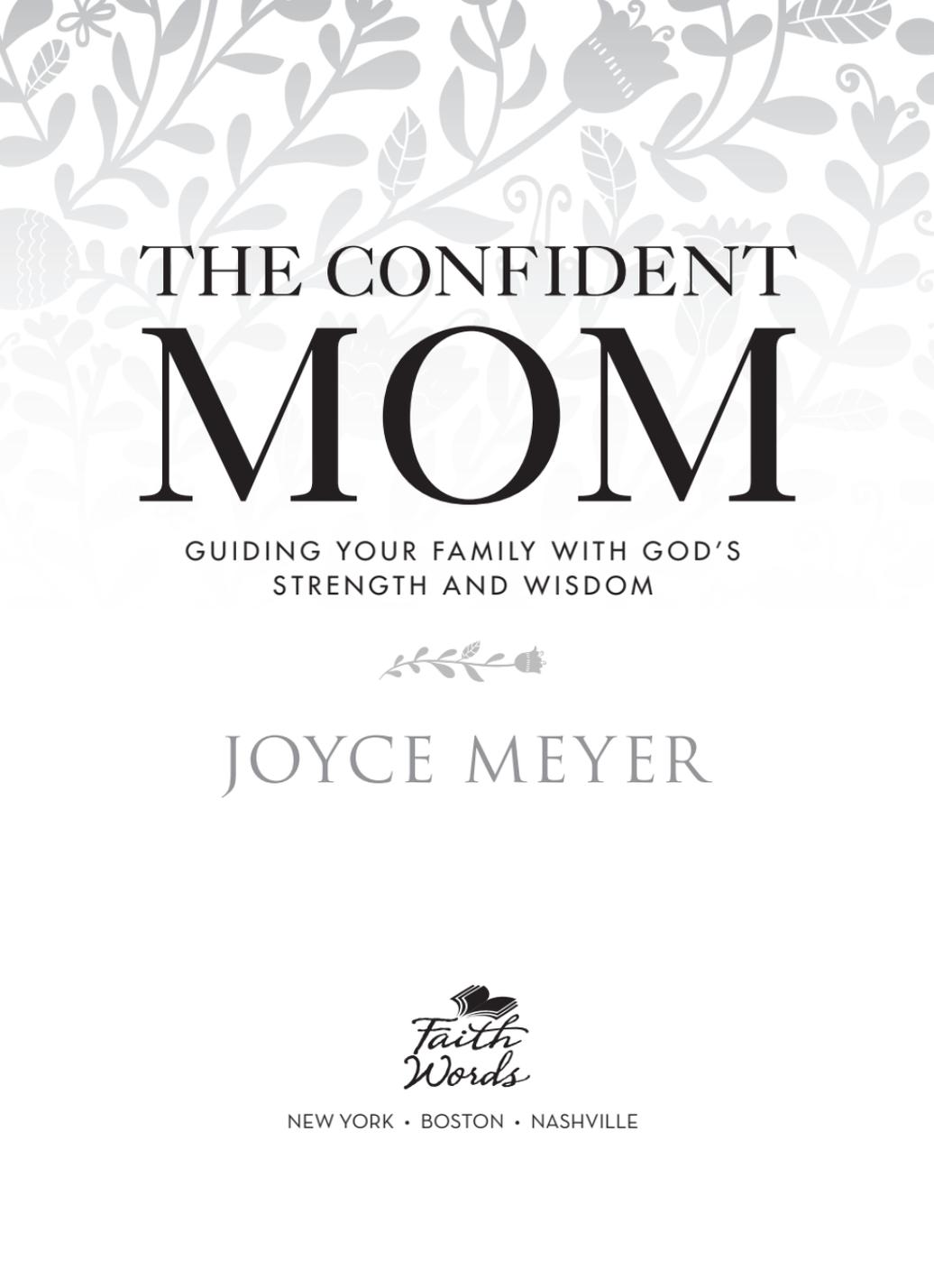


THE CONFIDENT  
MOM



THE CONFIDENT  
MOM

GUIDING YOUR FAMILY WITH GOD'S  
STRENGTH AND WISDOM



JOYCE MEYER



NEW YORK • BOSTON • NASHVILLE

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## INTRODUCTION

Several years ago, my friend, John Maxwell, was speaking at one of our annual women's conferences, and he opened with a remark that drew a huge response. He said, "Confidence is the uplifting feeling you have before you truly understand the situation."

John was joking, of course, but even so, I think every mother in the crowd could identify with his statement. As moms, we've lived it. Most of us can recall all too well the naïve sense of certainty we first felt at the prospect of motherhood. We can easily remember the idyllic dreams we once had about our soon-to-be-born little bundles of joy.

We also remember when the reality of the situation set in.

Little bundles of joy grew into teething toddlers who cried and threw up on us every time we got dressed up to go out. They threw temper tantrums and tried to drink out of the dog bowl. Soon, instead of feeling sure

of ourselves, we started wondering if we really have what it takes to do this right. We started seeing our shortcomings, focusing on our failures, and feeling inadequate.

I'm sure you know what I'm talking about. Every mom (no matter how awesomely competent she may appear to be) has lost her confidence at one time or another. But, thank God, there is a way to get your confidence back. It's actually possible for us as mothers, at any stage in our lives, to regain, not the false and fleeting kind of confidence my friend John was talking about, but the real thing: the kind that keeps us looking forward with assurance even when things are going wrong—the kind that keeps us looking up instead of down, in spite of our mistakes. The kind that enables us to laugh at our imperfections and be positive about ourselves and what we *can* do instead of worrying about what we *can't* do.

I'm convinced that right now Christian mothers everywhere are crying out for such confidence. God didn't create us to raise our children under a cloud of insecurity. Insecurity saps our faith. It robs us of our joy. It cheats us out of the boldness we need to really excel at what God has called us to do.

Even professional athletes know this is true. Recently a former basketball great was explaining why some competitors remain average while others excel. He said, "The difference between a good player and a great player

is supreme confidence. You cannot lose your confidence!” Although he was talking sports at the time, the same could be said about being a mother—with one important adjustment: The difference between a good mom and a great mom is her supreme confidence *in her supreme God*.

The apostle Paul put it this way: *For we . . . who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh . . .* (Philippians 3:3 NKJV).

I love that verse, don't you? I like the idea of getting my attention off my own natural flaws and inabilities and putting all my confidence in Jesus! I enjoy my life a lot more when I live that way. I also get greater things accomplished. I've found it's amazing what we can do when we stop struggling to meet life's seemingly impossible demands in our own strength and just lean back on the power and promises of God—because with God, nothing is impossible.

That's why ministry isn't hard for me. It used to be, because I made it hard. I complicated it by pushing myself to be perfect and condemning myself over every mistake. I worried about pleasing other people and wore myself out trying to impress them. But I've come a long way toward giving all that up. These days, I just depend on God and get up every day determined to have a good time in Jesus. As a result, ministering has become easy

for me. It's just what I do, and I do it with Jesus helping me all the way.

Though ministry and motherhood are different, they have this in common: They are both divine callings. And when God calls you to do something, He gives you the grace, faith, and anointing (power of the Holy Spirit) to do it. What's more, He sticks with you every step of the way. And helping you get a greater revelation of that reality is what this book is all about.

On the following pages, you won't find a bunch of instructions about how to do everything just right. That's not what I'm here to give you. I'm here to encourage and inspire you with truths from God's Word that will help you be the confident mom you were created to be. By the grace of God, I want to help you shake off the guilt, condemnation, and fear that's holding you back so that you can fully enjoy the unique joys of your calling.

I will warn you in advance, though, the devil will fight you over this revelation. He hates the idea of a confident mom. He's hated it ever since God informed him in the Garden that a woman's seed was going to bruise his head (see Genesis 3:15). That's why he's worked for thousands of years to keep women oppressed. He not only resents what we represent, he understands the powerful influence we mothers have on future generations. He knows there's truth in the old saying, "The hand that rocks the

cradle is the hand that rules the world.” So he’s determined to do everything he can to keep our hands at least a little bit shaky.

But we don’t have to let him get away with it. The Word of God proves that—from beginning to end. It gives us one example after another of mothers who trusted God, lived boldly, and overcame the devil’s strategies. (We’ll talk about some of those moms in this book.) Best of all, God’s Word tells the story of the young woman named Mary who gave birth to the Savior. By simple faith in God’s promise, she brought forth the Son who dethroned the devil once and for all and provided salvation for all mankind. Christian mothers have been defeating the devil ever since. They’ve been finding out who they are in Christ, standing in faith on the Word of God, and teaching their children to do the same.

In different aspects of life, mothers are as different as can be. Some are multi-talented homemakers who love to cook, bake, and sew to create beautiful home decor. Others are on-the-go businesswomen who can close a financial deal and help with a science project at the same time. Some have supportive, helpful husbands; others are doing it alone. Some have lots of money to spend on their children; others are barely scraping by.

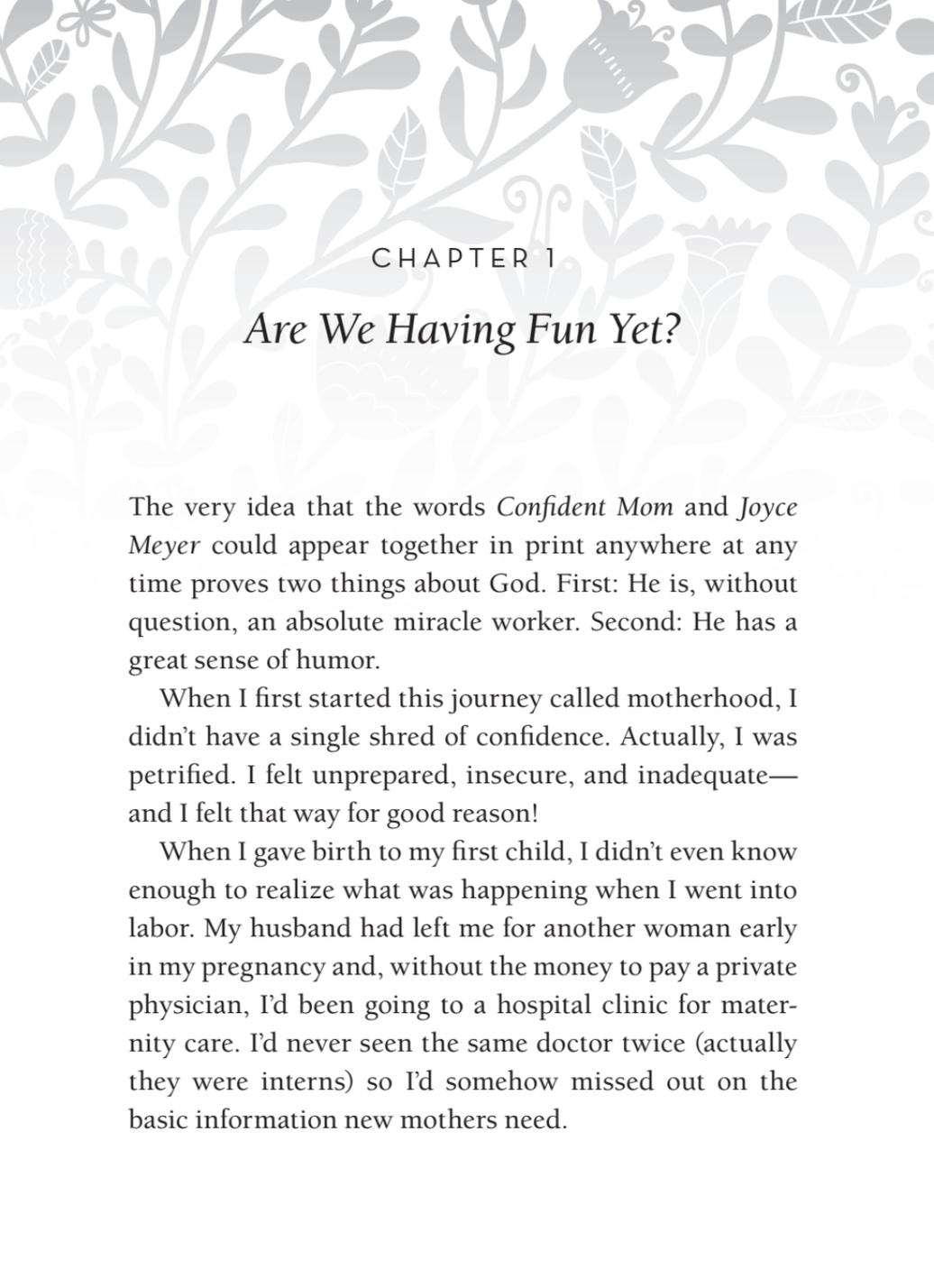
Today, just as during biblical times, there’s no such thing as a stereotypical Christian mom. Victorious, confident

mothers come in all varieties and personalities. All it takes is one look at how people who've achieved notable success describe their mothers, and we see how strikingly diverse moms can be:

- Abraham Lincoln said his was as an “angel.”
- Andrew Jackson described his as “brave as a lioness.”
- Poet Maya Angelou compared hers to “a hurricane in its perfect power.”
- Stevie Wonder called his a “sweet flower of love.”

Those statements make it clear: You don't have to have a certain kind of personality to be a great mom. You don't have to fit any particular mold to raise kids that wind up literally changing the world. That's good news for all of us because we're each unique. But here's some news that's even better: You don't have to be perfect either. All you have to do is keep growing in your relationship with God and developing supreme confidence in Him.

By His grace, that's something every one of us can do!



## CHAPTER 1

# *Are We Having Fun Yet?*

The very idea that the words *Confident Mom* and *Joyce Meyer* could appear together in print anywhere at any time proves two things about God. First: He is, without question, an absolute miracle worker. Second: He has a great sense of humor.

When I first started this journey called motherhood, I didn't have a single shred of confidence. Actually, I was petrified. I felt unprepared, insecure, and inadequate—and I felt that way for good reason!

When I gave birth to my first child, I didn't even know enough to realize what was happening when I went into labor. My husband had left me for another woman early in my pregnancy and, without the money to pay a private physician, I'd been going to a hospital clinic for maternity care. I'd never seen the same doctor twice (actually they were interns) so I'd somehow missed out on the basic information new mothers need.