

1. I understand you conducted a survey of women to gain some additional insights into both the power and pitfalls of being a strong willed person. How did women, generally speaking, feel about describing themselves as strong willed?

Overwhelmingly positive—when strong will is used in the right context, it is a great asset. Remember, there is a big difference between a strong willed woman with God and a strong willed woman without God. These are SWWs who seek with their whole heart to honor and serve God

These are strong, capable women who are willing to let down their guard when they feel valued and understood.

2. As a self-described Strong Willed Woman, what do you see as the best traits of women who are, as you say, quite simply bolder than average?

Not easily daunted, unafraid of difficult challenges—willing to attempt the impossible. A strong sense of justice—and a willingness to defend those who are weak and vulnerable, and can't defend themselves. We are truly the Special Ops division of God's army!

3. What happens when those good traits go sideways? In other words, what are some ways a woman's strong can present a hurdle for her or those around her?

Most of it admit it's not pretty—we heard terms like “bulldozer,” a runaway train, an immovable wall. We admit it's hard to apologize or retreat, and we when get backed into a corner, we come out fighting. We know we have the capability to destroy, but our survey respondents specifically talked about wanting to find ways to diffuse those situations and prevent our so-called “dark side” from emerging.

4. If you had to select just one key idea from your book that would help women turn those hurdles into stepping stones, what would it be?

Awareness is half the battle—knowing there are so many other women who share our traits, who understand how we're wired, and how we think--and also knowing that the strong will that can get us in so much trouble can also be an unstoppable force against evil and a strong and mighty influence for God. That strength is something that hasn't really been tapped into much in Christian circles. God wants to use SWWs—and He has some incredible plans for us.

5. In your book you share the stories of a number of strong-willed women who have learned to focus their passion in ways that serve God. Can you briefly tell us about one woman who exemplifies for you the principles in the book?

Rita Hernandez is an amazing example—she's fought the odds her entire life, working to operate a bilingual school in Mexico as she champions the worth and value of Hispanic women throughout the world. She's now working as a liaison between churches and the government of Mexico to provide safe houses for women who are being rescued from sex trafficking. She's tireless in her efforts to protect and preserve lives and to lift up Christ in some of the most dangerous and evil places—places where no one else even wants to see, let alone go into.