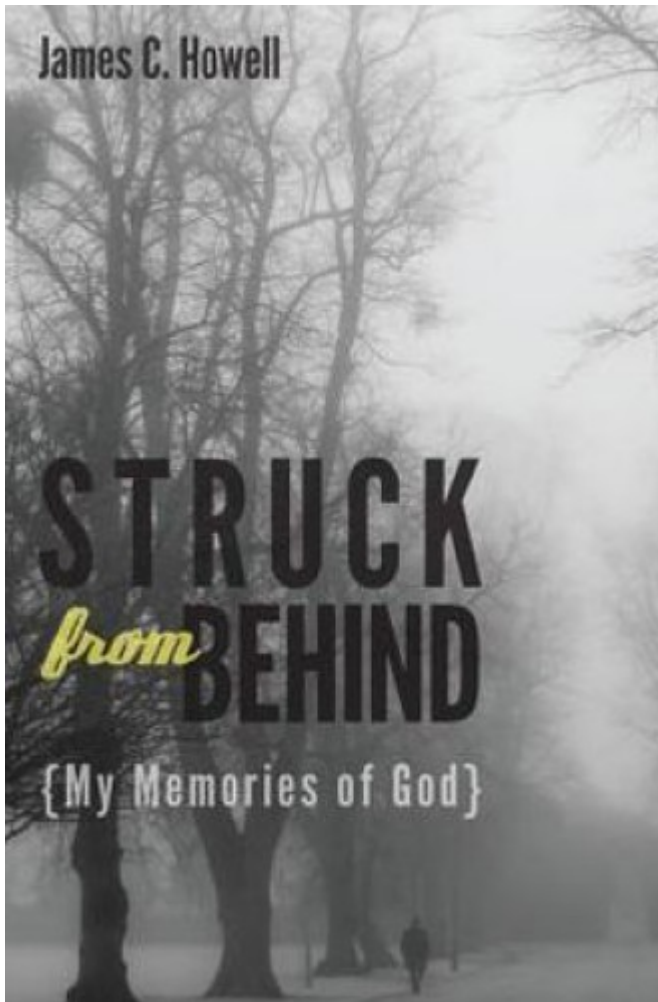


Struck from Behind, by James C. Howell

Books in the [April 17, 2013](#) issue

In Review



Struck from Behind

By James C. Howell

Cascade

Howell grew up in a nominally Christian family that occasionally attended a Southern Baptist church. He claims the Baptists tried to kill him! A rather insecure young person with apparent intellectual gifts, he was advised to become a medical doctor.

Instead, he pursued a life in pastoral ministry in the United Methodist Church and also earned a doctorate in Old Testament. Howell is at his best when he talks about pastoral ministry, even though he claims that this memoir isn't about pastoring, and he is quite open about his personal struggles as a pastor. He veers toward sentimentality when writing about his own family, especially his children.