



P O W E R F U L

P R A Y E R S

for Your

SON

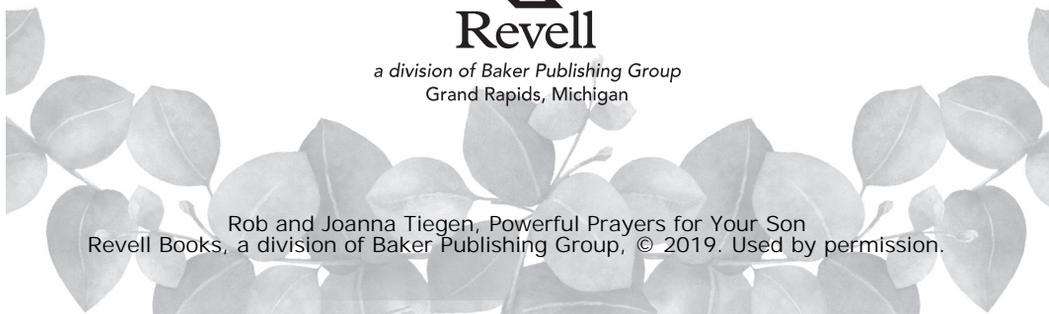
Praying for Every Part of His Life

ROB AND JOANNA TEIGEN



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To our sons,
Joshua and Mason.
You are loved.

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A WORD *from* JOANNA

THE WRITING OF THIS BOOK finds me in a strange season of life. On the one hand, my oldest son is in college and has in large part “left the nest.” I see his character, his hopes for the future, and his love for the Lord, and it brings me great joy.

At the same time there is a little boy in my home whom I desperately want to call my own. He came to us as a foster baby and we’re struggling through a long, stressful adoption process. As of this writing, I’m still unsure what the final outcome will be.

As I look at both of my boys, I see with absolute certainty that every good thing in their lives and their hearts has come from God. No matter how much I care for and love them, I can’t make them who I want them to be. I can’t keep them safe. I can’t control their future or their choices. I can’t be the perfect mother I tell myself they need. I look at them and at myself and realize that without God, we are lost.

As that truth has taken deeper root in my heart and mind, it has pushed me to pray like never before. For many of my parenting years, I took a “my work PLUS prayer will get it done” approach. And while I am devoted to all five of my children, I now see that in the end my efforts will fade away compared to what the Lord brings about in their lives.

There is freedom found in placing my children in God's hands. When I release them to him, I am set free from worry. When I trust him to work out his salvation in their lives, I don't have to be their conscience and their judge. When I meditate on his constant love and mercy toward them, I can let go of resentment and anger over their weaknesses. When I believe in a Holy Spirit who is a counselor and guide, I don't have to be an all-knowing fountain of wisdom for every situation. When I pray and let God be God to them, I am free to just be me.

And so I pray. I pray with tears, pleading like everything depends on it. I pray over and over for the same things, and then pray for them again. And God gathers up my prayers and says, *Little one, you can rest. I hear you. I love you. I love your child. I am here, and I will always be. Be still and wait because I am going to do more than you can imagine.* And I dry my tears and take a deep breath, and I have peace.

Joanna

A WORD *from* ROB

MY WIFE IS AMAZING! I know I don't tell her that enough, but I am amazed at all of the tasks she juggles in a day. I read our family calendar on the wall with all its doctor and dentist appointments, kids' choir rehearsals, foster parent meetings, drop-offs and pick-ups, and it makes me want to go take a nap. Of course, while I'm napping Joanna is usually cooking dinner. Out of all the things my wife does for our family, the greatest are her prayers for us every day. It's a tremendous way that she demonstrates love for her family.

As a dad, I think of myself as a provider and protector of my kids. But I, too, have come to realize that prayer is the most significant way I take care of them. Our oldest son will celebrate his twentieth birthday soon. I asked him recently what it meant to him to know that his parents have prayed for him over the years. He said it has helped him to see the importance of his relationship with God, especially now that he's grown. It showed him how much we cared for his needs, both physical and spiritual. He believes our prayers protected him from a lot of things that he wasn't spiritually mature enough to handle along the way. And our prayers taught him how important prayer was in his own life with God.

It is through our prayers that we release our sons to God and trust him to care for them. We know that God can take our boys' struggles

and failures and bring good from them. He can take their accomplishments and strengths and make them even greater when he's in control. He is willing and able to respond to any concerns or issues with our sons. We have taken to heart the truth that we can "approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Heb. 4:16).

Another element of our prayers is that they're faithful and persistent. We know that we trust in a God who hears us when we cry out to him. Jesus taught his disciples that "they should always pray and not give up," and "will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly" (Luke 18:1, 7-8). Don't lose heart! Keep on lifting up your son's concerns and needs to our loving Father every day. He will hear and answer your prayers. It may not be in your timing or in exactly the way you have in mind, but it will be in a way that brings glory to God and the very best for your child.

It's my hope that this book will encourage you to pray and believe in the God who is in control of everything. I pray it will bring you hope when your son has lost his way and your heart is breaking. I pray it will lead you to praise God for his power and limitless love for you and your son. Whether you pray straight through the book or pick it up when a certain issue is on your heart, expect the Lord to meet you right where you are. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6-7). God bless you.

Rob

When He Needs God's Salvation

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25–26

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16–17

What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

Matthew 18:12–14

LORD,
Thank you for the gift of my son. He has been created by you, and his life has been planned before the beginning of time. Your love for him is greater than I can comprehend. I know it is your desire that

he come to a full knowledge of you. I praise you for all the ways you have revealed yourself to him in his young life.

I pray you would complete your work of salvation in my son. Open his eyes fully to the truth of Christ—his perfect life, his complete atonement for our sins on the cross, and his resurrection that gives us the hope of life forever with you. Give him reassurance when he's doubting your Word. Rescue him from any temptation that might lead him away from following you. Provide wise teachers to instruct him in your ways. Fill him with your Spirit so he may know your voice and power in his life.

Thank you for all of your promises for my son. Let him experience your faithfulness—that no matter how far he may wander, you will seek him and bring him home. Show that you can be everything to him as his savior, helper, counselor, father, and friend.

Encourage me as his parent when my trust in you is shaken. Let me see my son through your eyes, no matter what sins or spiritual confusion he may wrestle with in his life. Never let me give up hope that he is in your hands.

Let me delight in the knowledge of you so my son can see joy and peace in me. Use me as an example of obedience and faith. Make my words full of praise and prayers, declaring your goodness in every situation we find ourselves in. Use me to lead him closer to you each day.

Thank you for holding my son so closely. Claim him as your own. May he live in you forever. Amen.

2

When He Feels Inferior

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.