

*P*raying Down the Path of Your Child's Life



Prayers from
Proverbs and Psalms

By Tom Bishop

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PRAYERS FROM PROVERBS AND PSALMS

Two goals of every Christian parent are: 1) to train our children in the way they should go and 2) to leave them a godly Christian heritage. Our prayers for our children allow God to accomplish His purpose in and through their lives. We can pray not only for current issues but also pray down through their lives for all the decisions they will be making in the future. We can pray now and have answers on "lay-a-way" for when they need them. In this way we can leave an inheritance much more valuable and lasting than money and property.

One of the most powerful ways to pray is to pray God's word back to Him. The following prayers are written from Proverbs and Psalms. They will address most of the issues your child will ever face. Those from Proverbs are written especially in a format to be prayed for our children and grandchildren. In most cases the verse is simply turned around into a prayer. At other times the principle or idea from a verse or group of verses is expressed as a prayer. Each prayer gives a reference so it can be compared with the Bible when desired. The prayers are written with strong verbs asking our Father to work powerfully in our children. This follows the example of David in Psalm 51. He was in big trouble because of Bathsheba and wanted God to straighten him out so he used strong words like: make me, create in me, wash me and renew me.

Probably the best way to use these prayers is to pray through them a few at a time using a marker to keep track of your progress. The written verses should serve as a framework on which you build the specifics related to your child. Those that are most meaningful should be dated and revisited often. Also, praying them with a prayer partner is helpful since the prayers of two people agreeing together are much more effective than one person alone.

One caution: Just reading through the prayers may be interesting but it is not prayer and will not bring any changes in your child's life. Faithfully praying through the prayers will allow God to make a tremendous impact in their lives as He performs His word.

Let us know of prayers that really come alive, answers that come or stories of how you used the prayers. We can possibly use your examples in future updates to encourage others. May our Lord use these to change you and your children into the likeness of Jesus our Lord.

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PRAYING DOWN THE PATH OF YOUR CHILD'S LIFE WITH PROVERBS

Chapter 1

Cause our children to see things the way You see them and to understand Your purposes and Your ways. 2

Give them the grace to recognize and receive wise instruction. Build in them a sense of justice, common sense and fairness. 3

Keep our children listening to and learning from You and those You send to them. Bring them in contact with wise counselors. 5

Cause our children to understand Your word, the Bible. Make sure they have a proper fear and respect for You since these come before understanding. Don't let them ever become fools who despise wisdom and instruction. Teach our children the value of listening to their father and mother. 6-8

Build in our kids the ability and desire to resist when others try to lure them into sin. 10

**** We have three sons who are at present (1992) 13, 11, and 9. Last year as the frightening truth dawned on me that they were entering their "terrible teens" (or as one of my friends so adeptly says "the hormone group") I realized my influence on them would be decreasing. My thought was, how can our sons keep morally pure? As I talked this over with the Lord one day, I distinctly heard these words - "get the Word into them." My mind then went to Psalm 119:9 & 11. "How shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed to Thy word...Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee."**

Since then, we have tried to memorize scripture together, are reading as much of the Bible through this year as we can, read the Proverbs to the boys at breakfast, and continue to pray as Proverbs 1:5 says in prayer form - "Keep our children listening to and learning from You and those You send to them. Bring them in contact with wise counselors." His word will keep their way pure. **

Convince our children that greed can cost them their lives. 19

Cause our children to respond quickly to correction. Pour out Your Spirit within our kids and make them know Your word. 23

Show them the terrible things that happen to those who hate knowledge, have disrespect for You, and refuse Your counsel and reproof. 29-30

Keep our children listening to You and obeying You, so they will dwell in safety and be kept from the fear of evil. 33

**** Remember, you are laying up a lifetime of treasure through these prayers so expect it to take some time and effort. ****

Chapter 2

Cause our children to receive Your words and retain them. See that they listen to wise instruction and seek to know what You are saying to them. 2

Cause them to diligently seek to experience You working in their lives and to seek to know Your purposes and Your ways. 3-4

Lord, be their wisdom and their protector. Protect our children in all their ways. 7-8

Cause them to delight in knowing You, Jesus, for You are wisdom. 10

Fill our children with common sense so they always know what to do. 11

So work in the hearts of our kids that they do not yield to sexual temptations. 16

Ensure that they walk in the way of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous. 20

Chapter 3

Don't let our children forget Your word and Your commands. As they obey Your word, give them an abundant and fruitful life in Your kingdom. 1-2

Cause our children to walk in mercy and truth all the days of their lives. Give our children favor with You and with men. 3-4

Cause our children to trust You with all their heart. Keep them from leaning on their own understanding. 5

Teach our children to acknowledge You in everything they do so You can direct their paths. 6

Keep our children from thinking they know it all. Cause them instead to fear You and stay away from evil. As they do this, fill them with Your divine health. 7-8

***** The first few months of each new Air Force assignment were filled with tasks that I had never done before. When I (Tom) would faithfully start the day by acknowledging God and asking Him to direct my paths, things would go well. When I felt I was smart enough to handle it on my own, then there was trouble. Proverbs 3:5-7 tells us not to lean on our own understanding or be wise in our own eyes. Instead, in all our ways we are to acknowledge God and He will direct our paths. *****

Make our kids know that everything they have belongs to You and cause them to be good stewards of it. As our children give to You, cause them to have every thing they need. 9-10

Keep them from resisting and hating Your discipline and correction. 11-12

Don't let our children ever neglect Your word. Cause Your word to lead our children in safe paths and keep them from stumbling. 21,23

Keep our children from being fearful when the wicked are destroyed around us. Make them know that You are protecting them. 25-26

Make sure our children do good to others whenever You give them the opportunity. Keep them from thinking up plans to harm others. 29-30

Don't let our children envy or imitate evil people. 32

Keep our children humble before You so You can give them an abundance of grace. 34

Chapter 4

Cause our children to heed the instructions of their parents. 1

Show us how to transfer the things You have taught us to our children. 4

Fill them with wisdom and understanding. Make sure we lead our children in the way of wisdom and down the right paths. 7,11

Keep our children from entering the path of the wicked or following their evil ways. 14

Give them more and more light and revelation every day of their lives. 18

Release divine health within our children as they obey Your words. 22

Keep our children on the straight and narrow path. Don't let them get deceived into the path of evil. 27

**** Marcia's friend was really struggling with the symptoms of multiple sclerosis back in 1973-1975. She read Proverbs 4:20-22 and set her heart on giving attention to God's word and keeping it in the midst of her heart. She trusted her Father to perform verse 22 in her life. It says, "For they (God's words) are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh." Although she has struggled with the symptoms for almost 20 years, she is now married with five children and her Father is performing His word in her life. ****

Chapter 5

Though sin may look appealing, cause our children to know it leads to pain and death. 3-5

Keep our children from ever forsaking the things You have taught them. 7

Make our kids very aware of the dangers of sexual sins and cause them to avoid them. Cause our children to keep themselves pure and have sexual relations only with the spouse You give them. 11,15

Give our children a Christ centered love relationship with their spouse. Keep them faithful to their spouse. 18-19

Make them aware that You see and hear everything they do, say or think. 21

Chapter 6

Teach our children to work hard. Don't let them waste their lives sleeping, loafing or doing

useless things. Show them biblical examples and give them current examples of godly workers to learn from. 6-11

Don't let our children get filled with pride. Cause them to be truthful and honest. Stop them from shedding innocent blood. Keep them from embracing wicked thoughts. Don't let them run around causing trouble. Keep them from lying about others and spreading trouble. 17-19

Prompt our children to think about Your word night and day. 22

Don't let our kids think they can play with sin and get away with it. 27-28

Make our children know there is absolutely no way they can get away with adultery. Cause them to know You will certainly punish them. 29,32

Chapter 7

Cause our children to keep their relationship with You as the most important thing in their life. 2-3

Keep our children from being led into immoral relationships. Stop them from having sex before they are married. 12-27

Chapter 8

Cause our children to know that Your wisdom and instruction is more valuable than earthly treasures. 10-11

Prompt our kids to start a regular time of Bible study and prayer and to keep it up all their lives. 17

Chapter 9

Ensure our children forsake their foolish ways and live. 6

Cause our children to have the fear of You that leads to wisdom. Give them a knowledge of Your holiness. 10

Make our children know that stealing may lead to temporary riches but always brings big trouble. 17-18

***** It's never too soon to start praying for future mates for your kids. *****

Chapter 10

Turn our children into wise kids who bring their parents great joy. Cause them to walk with You in righteousness so You can meet their needs. 1-3

Keep our children from working in a careless, sloppy way. Teach them to be diligent workers so they always have an abundance. Prompt our children to take advantage of

opportunities You give. Don't let them be people who procrastinate and never get their work done. 4-5

Cause our children to only say things that edify others. 11

So work in our children that they obey You and walk in the abundant life You have for them. Keep them from resisting correction. 17

Keep our children from running their mouths all the time. Make them know when to keep quiet. 19

Fill our children with just and righteous words that bring life to many. Lead our children in ways that You can bless. Keep the abundance You give from ever bringing them sorrow. 21-22

Cleanse our children of wicked desires. Write Your desires on their hearts and fulfill them. 24

Keep our children in right relationships with You. Then give them fruitful lives, gladness, strength, and security. 27-30

Chapter 11

Keep our kids from becoming involved in any business that cheats others. 1

Protect them from pride and keep them walking with You in humility. Cause our children to be known for their integrity. 2-3

Teach them to never trust in riches but instead to trust in You. 4

Ensure they do the right things and don't try to achieve their goals by dishonest means. 6

Cause our children to obey You so You can deliver them out of all their trouble. Keep our children from being hypocrites. 8-9

Make our children a blessing to the city they live in. Teach our children to live in harmony with their neighbors. 11-12

Provide good, wise counsel for our children when they need it. Teach them the danger of co-signing for others. 14-15

Cause our daughters to be gracious and our sons to be strong. Prompt our children to be merciful like You are. 16-17

Make our children understand that a godly life brings reward and that a wicked life leads to death. Tell our children how delighted You are when they walk in Your ways. 18-20

Cause our daughters and daughters-in-law to have discretion. 22

Teach our children to be those who share and give to others. See that they spend their energy doing good and not mischief. Keep our children from trusting in their riches. 24-28

Chapter 12

Teach our children to joyfully receive instructions and keep them from hating correction. 1

Ensure that our children are full of virtue. Guard their thought life. 4-5

Teach our children to work hard at their jobs and keep them from getting involved with some get-rich-quick scheme. 11

Prompt our kids to say and do the right things at the right time. Keep our kids from always assuming they are right. Cause them to discuss their ideas with wise counselors. 14-15

Cause our children to speak the truth in love. Make them aware of how much You hate lying and how You love the truth. Show them that the devil is the source of lies and that You are truth. 18-19,22

Keep our kids from being lazy. Teach them how to take good care of their possessions. 27

**** In the summer of 1986 we were making vacation plans. We thought we wanted to drive up to Glacier National Park. As we prayed about our ideas, the Lord seemed to be saying that He had a better plan. The impression came that a trip to Glacier would be OK but if we would ask and listen, the Lord would show us His plan and it would be full of His blessings. Proverbs 10:22 seemed to sum up what the Lord wanted to do. We ended up going to a Christian camp in Oregon. During the drive we began to sing, "It is the blessing of the Lord that makes us rich, rich, rich and He adds no sorrow to it." The camp had many home-made slides, swings and rides that the kids loved. The boys had their own classes and nature walks while Marcia and I were in classes of our own. As a result, we grew spiritually while having a very enjoyable vacation. During one of the group sessions, each family had to sing, tell an experience or perform in some way. We told the story of how we ended up at the camp and sang Proverbs 10:22 to them. The Lord performed His word and made us rich spiritually and gave us a vacation with no sorrow. ****

Chapter 13

Show our children the wisdom of listening to their parents. 1

Cause our children to always be very careful what they say. Motivate them to be diligent in all they do. Give our kids Your hatred for lying. 3-5

Teach our children that they can be rich in the world's eyes and have nothing. Also, show them they can be considered poor by the world and yet have the great riches of good health, friends, wisdom and most of all, eternal life. 7

Show our children that wealth or position obtained by fraud or deception will not be blessed and will soon be gone. Teach them that You will bless honest work and truthfulness and

cause them to prosper. 11

Keep our children from despising or ignoring Your word. Cause them to honor and cherish Your word and be blessed. Give them good understanding and favor with everyone they relate to. 13,15

Cause our kids to be trustworthy messengers and faithful representatives of those they work for. Give our children wise, godly friends. 17,20

Cause us to leave an inheritance of prayer and righteousness for our children and grandchildren. Transfer wealth laid up by the wicked into the hands of our children for use in Your kingdom. 22

Ensure that we discipline them appropriately whenever they need it. 24

Chapter 14

Cause our daughters and daughters-in-law to be wise women who hold their homes together. Don't let them be foolish women who tear their homes apart. Likewise cause our sons and sons-in-law to be godly men who build up their wives and children. 1

Show our believing children that their actions reflect directly on you. 2

Cause our children to stay away from foolish people. 7

Make our children understand the tremendous consequences of every sin. Keep our children from doing things that seem right to the world but that you know lead to death. 9,12

Don't let our children believe everything they hear, read or see. Cause them to check things out carefully and pray about every decision. 15

So work in our children that they are very slow to get angry. 17

Cause our children to respect those around them and to show mercy to the poor. Fill their minds with good things they can do for others. 21-22

Teach our children to be more action than talk. Cause our children to be true and faithful witnesses to You, Jesus. 23,25

Ensure our children respect You and put their confidence in You. Be their refuge and their life. 27

Don't let our kids get angry quickly or make hasty snap decisions that bring trouble. 29

Cause our children to trust in You so You can give them a new heart. Don't let them envy others for any reason. Don't let our children ever knowingly or unknowingly oppress the

poor. Cause them to honor and show mercy to the poor. 30,31

Keep our children from being surrounded by foolish people. Cause the righteousness of our nation to increase because of our kids. 33-34

**** One of my (Tom) greatest encouragements to keep faithfully praying is the knowledge that my prayers please my Father. Proverbs 15:8 tells us that, "the prayer of the upright is His delight." He took the initiative to make us upright when Jesus paid for all our sins and gave us His righteousness. We further know from Revelation 5:8 that our prayers will one day become incense that is used during worship times in heaven. Even beyond the day-to-day blessing and provision that comes in response to prayer, we get the privilege of delighting our Father and laying up fragrance for heaven that will last throughout eternity. ****

Chapter 15

Teach our children to give soft answers that stop arguments. 1

Show our children how and when to use information they have. Don't let them pour out all they know to those who will misuse their knowledge or use it against our children. 2

Cause our children to know that You are very much aware of everything they do, say or think. Fill our children with wholesome words. Take unwholesome words out of their vocabulary. 3-4

Convince our children that it is foolish to ignore their parent's instruction. Cause them to respond properly when we correct them. 5

Cause our kids to delight You with prayers from an upright heart. Make them know that You gave them an upright heart when they trusted in Jesus. 8

Keep them from the way of the wicked that You hate. Cause them to follow closely after You. If our children have given their lives to You, convince them that You will correct them as strongly as necessary when they stray into sin. 9-10

Work through our children to convince the world that hell and destruction are real and that everyone will face You as judge. Cause our kids to seek and find wisdom and truth. 11-14

Convince our children that a poor person who is in fellowship with You is far better off than the lost rich person who will never know real love or peace. 16-17

Don't let our children be those who stir up trouble. Cause peace and calmness to be on their lives. Convince our children that lazy people have many problems. Make Your paths clear before our kids. 18-19

**** Our friend, Susie, shares:**

As a brand new Christian, I heard a Bible study on the various parts of prayer. That night I decided to follow the model (I was not in the habit of praying). Remembering how the teacher stressed thanksgiving, I decided to begin there but nothing came to mind. As I thought and searched for something in my messed up life to thank God for, it occurred to me that I had never thanked God for my 3 1/2 year old son. He had Down's syndrome and, although I put on a very convincing act, deep down I struggled with grief and fear of raising a retarded child. The only prayers I remembered offering in relation to Smith were of the "God,

please don't do this to me" and "Help me, I can't do this" variety. This would be my first thank You. It was a weak: "Lord, he's a sweet little thing." The most amazing transformation began, however, as God responded to my faint little half-hearted prayer. I began to marvel at Smith's every achievement and rushed back to God daily with more thanks. The more I thanked God for Smith, the more He opened my eyes to this wonderful little kid. The more I saw, the more I thanked. God changed me! Smith truly was my joy. It wasn't an act!

*Today at nine, Smith still holds a permanent place on my endless list of reasons to thank God. I continually thank God for choosing me to be Smith's mom! God is so good!" ***

Keep our children from trying to find joy and happiness in sin. 21

Cause our children to check out their plans with wise counselors. Most of all, teach them to always check with You. 22

Teach our children how deadly pride is because You resist the proud. 25

Convince our children that You hate wicked thoughts just as much as wicked actions. Cause our children to know that get-rich-quick schemes always bring trouble. Make them always recognize a scam and avoid it. 26-27

Lord, ensure that our children think carefully before they speak. 28

Convince them that no one is wise who doesn't listen to and obey You. 31-32

Build in our children the reverence and humility that allows You to give them wisdom and honor. 33

Chapter 16

Cause our children to gather all the facts and then allow You to show them the right decision to make. 1

Show our children how easy it is to fool ourselves and to rationalize what we are doing. Teach them to allow You to direct them in every decision and to interrupt their plans whenever You need to. 2-3

Convince our children that pride is not just a little bad but that You absolutely and totally hate it and will always punish it. 5

Extend mercy to our children, reveal truth to them. Build in them such a fear of and a reverence for You that they turn from every form of evil. 6

Make sure our children's ways please You so You can make their enemies be at peace with them. 7

Convince our kids that a saved poor man is far better off than someone who is rich, famous and lost. Cause our kids to plan their way but to always trust You to guide them. 8-9

Teach our children the importance of always being fair and honest. Teach our children how

to live in peace with the authorities You have placed over them. 11-14

Cause them to chose wisdom and understanding over material things. 16

Turn our children from pride that leads to destruction and the haughty spirit that leads to a fall. 18

Cause our children to choose to associate with the humble and lowly rather than the proud and arrogant. 19

Keep our children off the ways that seem right but lead to death. 25

Keep our children from digging up evil and spreading gossip. 27-28

Cause our kids to be slow to get angry and quick to get over anger. Keep their emotions under control. Cause them to know that You have the final word in every decision. 32-33

Chapter 17

Test the hearts and minds of our kids. Cleanse them of everything that is not of You. 3

Keep our children from ridiculing those who are poor. Don't let them rejoice over or take advantage of those who are experiencing calamities such as illness, divorce, bankruptcy or some natural disaster. 5

Teach our children how and when to cover up mistakes their friends have made. Keep them from gossiping about things told them in confidence. 9

Cause our children to welcome and quickly respond to Your corrections. 10

Keep our children from ever returning evil for good. Prompt our children to break off an argument early before it gets out of control. 13-14

Don't let our children ever justify the wicked or condemn the just. 15

Cause our children to be constantly expressing Your love. Keep them ready to support their siblings and friends when trouble comes. 17

Don't let our children get themselves in trouble with their mouths. 20

Don't let our children get involved in things that bring grief to us. 25

Cause our children to be slow to speak and quick to listen. 27-28

Chapter 18

Prevent our children from starting or jumping into arguments. Show them how important it is to guard their words. 6-7

Protect our children from listening to the details of sin or evil. Don't let our children be lazy bums who waste their lives. Cause our kids to know You intimately and to run to You for protection. 8-10

Teach our children that it is foolish to answer before they hear the question. 13

Cause the gifts You have given our children to bring them into responsible positions. 16

Keep our children from believing one side of a story until they have heard both sides. 17

Teach our children how to avoid offending those around them. If an offense does occur, show them how to make it right. 19

Direct our children to godly mates. Give them marriages You can bless and honor. Cause our children to be good friends to those around them. Jesus, be their best friend. 22-24

***** Proverbs 27:10 tells us not to forsake our own friend or our father's friend. My dad was one of the best cabinetmakers in Kentucky. He built and refinished furniture for many people in Bourbon County. I was his reluctant helper for most of my growing up years. I (Tom) decided there was more to life than varnish remover, sandpaper and shellac so I enrolled in the College of Engineering at the University of Kentucky. Since my part time job would barely pay commuting and textbook expenses, I applied to a local college scholarship fund for tuition assistance. Three recommendations were required and the obvious place to turn was my father's friends. I took my three recommendations and presented them to the three distinguished men on the panel that presided over the disbursements from the Garth Fund. They passed the recommendations around and then one said, "Have you read Mrs. Ardery's words?" He passed me her letter and I read it for the first time. She wrote things like, "If our great benefactor, Thomas Garth, who walked to Georgetown and back every day while teaching school in order to save and make possible this fund, was living today, I am confident he would want to help such a boy as Thomas Bishop." I was really impressed and somewhat embarrassed by the gracious words she wrote. The panel was obviously impressed also as they awarded me a higher amount than my peers.***

We can truly leave our children a heritage of godly Christian friends. We need to impress on our kids that they can greatly benefit from the prayers, advice and support of our friends. They can also quickly squander this inheritance through selfish, godless conduct if they so choose. **

Chapter 19

Convince our children that You would rather they be an honest poor person than a wealthy liar. Keep our children from hasty decisions that lead to sin. Set our children free from the foolish ways of the world. 1-3

Show our children that You always punish those who lie. 5,9

Convince our children that seeing things the way You see them and understanding Your ways are extremely important. Teach our children to keep their anger under control. Don't let them go around pointing out everyone else's sin. 8,11

Give our sons godly wives and our daughters godly husbands. Make our children into the godly mates You want them to be. 13-14

Keep our kids from being idle or lazy. Cause our kids to know and keep Your word. 15-16

Teach our children that when they lend to the poor they are lending to You. Cause them to recognize it when You repay them. 17

Cause us to discipline and disciple our children properly before it is too late. Keep us from interfering when You are disciplining them. Cause our children to receive counsel and instruction. Make them very wise. 18-20

Make sure our children line up their lives with Your plans. Release Your kindness through the lives of our children. Give our kids the reverence for You that allows You to keep evil away. 21-23

Don't let our kids listen to those who would lead them away from You. 27

Chapter 20

Keep our children totally away from alcohol and drugs so those addiction can never get footholds in their lives. 1

Teach our children to mind their own business and how to avoid arguments and fights. Motivate our children to endure necessary hardships in order to accomplish the goals You set for them. 3-4

Show our children how to draw wise counsel out of others and how to locate sources of help. 5

Keep our children from bragging about the great things they have done or plan to do. Instead, cause them to let You live Your life through them. Lead our children in a life of integrity that is a blessing to their descendants. 6-7

Keep our children from foolishly thinking they can earn their own righteousness. Don't let our children be comfortable with any form of dishonesty in their lives or businesses. Cause our children to be known in their youth by the purity of their words and deeds. 9-11

Keep our children from being lazy sleepyheads. Ensure that our children know that every advantage gained by deceit will sooner or later bring Your judgement. 13,17

Teach our children how to get good counsel and advice from the body before they make big decisions. 18

Don't let our children be talebearers or flatterers. Convince our children of the tremendous danger of cursing or dishonoring their parents. Protect our children from too much money or privileges before they are able to handle them. 19-21

Keep our children from trying to get even when wronged. Cause them to forgive and leave the other person in Your hands. Remind our children again and again how much You hate dishonesty in business. 22-23

Ensure that our children know that You have the plan for their lives and that their job is to stay in a close intimate relationship with You. Make them know they will never figure out the best plan without You. Cause our children to allow Your Holy Spirit to search and evaluate every part of their lives. 24,27

*Not my will, but Thine be done, from early morn to setting sun.
Give me peace and total contentment, fill me with love and remove resentment.
Fill my mind with praise and thanksgiving, make me humble and always forgiving.
When Your praises I have sung, place a prayer upon my tongue.
To ask that You will forgive, all my sins as I daily live.
You stop the hurt and ease the pain, when my heart is trouble stained.
Cleanse me Lord through and through, make me a living witness for You.*

My younger sister, Shelby, wrote this poem at a time when the Lord was working powerfully in her life. How about you? Is resentment toward your spouse or children hindering your walk with the Lord. Why not deal with it now?

Chapter 21

Make sure that our children know that You can change the mind of authorities over them whenever You need. 1

Convict our children when they are doing right things but with wrong motives. Convince our children that being in fellowship with You and obeying You is much more important than doing a few things to try to appease You. 2-3

Show our children that day-by-day obedience is much more effective than a crash effort at the last moment. Teach our children that getting ahead by lying quickly leads to loss. 5-6

Remind our children of the painful consequences of marrying the wrong person. Cause them to wait, pray for and recognize the right one. 9,19

Cause our children to respond to needs that You show them so You can answer their prayers when they need help. 13

Teach our children that love of material things will lead to poverty. Convince our children that following You leads to real life. 17,21

Show them that controlling the tongue is a key to keeping out of trouble. Teach our children to be givers. Keep them from only living to get and from always wanting what someone else has. 23,26

Prompt our children when they are to share things You are telling them. 28

Make our children aware they will never outsmart You or hide anything from Your sight. 30

Chapter 22

Develop for our children a good reputation and give them Your favor and the favor of others

since these are much more important than riches. 1

Cause our children to treat the rich and poor alike. Ensure that our children recognize danger and avoid it. Build in our children the desire to walk humbly and reverently with You. 2-4

Show us what You want for our children and cause us to cooperate with You in training them in the way they should go. 6

Teach our children to be generous in sharing with the needy. 9

Build in our children graceful speech. Create in them a pure heart. Ensure their speech and purity bring them many doors of opportunity. 11

Correct our children appropriately through us so foolishness is driven from their lives. Keep our children from ever oppressing the poor. Don't let them try to bribe the rich. 15-16

Cause our children to take every opportunity to learn from those You have made wise. Lord, ensure that our children deeply trust in You. 17-19

Don't let our children ever rip off the poor or afflicted. Make them realize they will be in trouble with You if they do. 22-23

Keep them from developing friendships with angry, furious people. Prevent our children from becoming responsible for the debts of others. 24-26

Cause our children to be diligent in everything they do. See to it that key people see and reward their diligence. 29

**** Your diligent praying allows the Lord to release diligence in your kids. ****

Chapter 23

Keep our children from being greatly impressed by the affluence of the rich. Don't let bribes of any kind influence their decisions. Cause our children to work heartily for You. Keep them from the vain pursuit of happiness through accumulation of material possessions. 1-5

Don't let our children spend much time trying to talk to those who won't listen. Instead, teach them to concentrate on those who will learn. 9

Keep our children from ever cheating anyone, especially orphans and widows, so they won't get in trouble with You. 10-11

Lord, ensure we discipline our children appropriately. 13-14

Don't let our children envy sinners. Instead, cause them to have a deep love and respect for

You. Keep the minds of our kids set on the things You have waiting on them. 17-18

Convince our children to avoid drunks, drug users and gluttons. Don't let our kids ever think they are too smart to listen to their parents. 20-22

Cause our children to bring great joy to You and to us. Lord, ensure our children see and know Your ways. 24-26

Don't let our children be deceived by the attractive advertisements for alcohol or the addictive highs of drugs. 29-35

Chapter 24

Don't let our children make heroes of wicked people or desire to be like them. 1-2

Build in our children wisdom and knowledge and make them strong in You and powerful in Your kingdom. 5

Convince them You are keeping track of everything they do or say. 8-12

Keep our kids from rejoicing when enemies fall or get into trouble. 17

Don't let them be discouraged because the wicked seem to prosper. Cause them to watch and see that the wicked get in trouble soon enough. 19-20

Give our children a deep respect for You and the authorities You have placed over them. Don't let them join those who are rebels. 21-22

Keep our children from ever praising the wicked. Instead, cause them to speak out against evil so You can send a good blessing to them. 24-25

Ensure that our children learn to do first things first. Don't let our children fabricate stories to get others in trouble. 27-28

Show our children how quickly idle people lose everything they own. 29-35

***** There seems to be a general trend in my (Tom) life that whenever I invite someone to a class that I am teaching and try to tell them how good it is, they never come. Yet others can give the same invitation and people often respond. I think this is Proverbs 27:2 in action. We are instructed to "Let another praise you, and not your own mouth." We are very skeptical when someone praises themselves no matter how humbly they try to do it. When someone we trust praises someone else, we usually respond positively to the person or activity praised. "Lord, give us friends who are generous with their praise." *****

Chapter 25

Teach our children not to grab for the best place but to wait for those in charge to elevate them when appropriate. 6-7

Prompt our children to be sure of the facts before they accuse someone. 8

Keep our children from griping about a problem to everyone. Instead, send them directly to the source of the problem so it can be resolved. Give our children words from You to fit situations You place them in. 9-11

Convince our children not to brag on themselves. Teach our children to be patient and calm in presenting their case. 14-15

Keep our children from grabbing for too much of a good thing. Don't let our children overstay their welcome at someone else's house. 16-17

Teach our children not to put confidence in untrustworthy people. Teach them how to do good to their enemies. 19,21

Lord, cause our children to hear and spread Your good news. Develop self control in our children. 25,28

Chapter 26

Lord, You have taken on Yourself every curse our children deserve, so keep any curse from ever coming on them. 2

Don't let our children be goaded into saying foolish things. Teach our children to never depend on a foolish person. 4,6

Don't let our children ever think they know it all since there is little hope for such a person. 12

Cause our children to understand how foolish it is to get involved in a quarrel that is none of their business. 17

Keep our children from insulting or hurting others and then saying, "I was only joking." Teach our children not to stir up arguments. 19-20

Show our children that harm planned against others always comes back against the planner. Show our children examples of people who were ruined by their lying lips and flattering tongues. 27-28

Chapter 27

Keep our children from bragging about the great things they are going to do or be since they don't even know what tomorrow will bring. 1

Teach our children never to praise themselves. Cause them to wait for You to praise them through others. 2

Cause our children to choose friends who will tell them the truth about themselves. See that they recognize and avoid flatterers. 5-6

Teach our kids to be faithful to their friends and their parent's friends. Show them that a friend nearby is better than a brother who is far away. 10

Cause our children to heed Your warnings of danger. 12

Lord, ensure our children have friends that You can use to shape them like iron sharpens iron. 17

Teach our children to pray for and bless those in authority over them. 18

Cause our children to know that when people praise them, they are being tested to see if they get proud. Make them realize that any praise they get actually belongs to You. 21

Prompt our children to watch carefully the things they are responsible for. Teach them to take good care of their possessions. 23-24

***** Proverbs 27:21 tells us we are tested every time someone praises us. Our Father looks at our heart to see if we take credit for what He has done through us. How have your test scores been lately? *****

Chapter 28

Cause our children to be righteous and stand their ground. 1

Teach our children to know You so You can give them understanding. Show our children that true wisdom is to know You, the only true God. 5,7

Convince them that things gained unfairly are soon given to someone else. Cause our children to know that they can't ignore You and still expect to get a yes answer to their prayers. 8-9

Don't let our children ever lead anyone astray. Make them know that You delight to bless the upright. 10

Make our children know that covering up their sins always costs but that confession brings mercy. Keep our children from ever hardening their hearts to You. 13-14

Don't let our children ever covet anything. Prompt our children to walk uprightly and save them. 16-18

Give our children an abundance as they diligently do the jobs You give. 19

Keep our children faithful to the tasks You give them. Don't let them run ahead of Your plans trying to get rich. 20

Show them that hurrying after wealth or possessions leads to poverty. 22

Teach our children how to gently tell people the truth about themselves.
Don't let them lie to others just to make them feel good. 23

Keep our children from being deceived into being proud. Cause them to always trust in You.
Cause our children to be generous to the poor. 22-27

Chapter 29

Teach our children that continual resistance to Your correction leads to sudden destruction. 1

Show our children the falseness of speaking or believing flattery. 5

Convince our children that evil people get caught in their own traps. 6

Don't let our children overlook the needs of the poor. 7

Teach our children to not tell everything they know. Make them know the right time to speak and ensure they say the right things. 11

Remind us that, if we fail to discipline our kids, we will regret it. Teach us that good discipline will bring us and them joy and rest. 15-17

Tell our kids what You are planning so they can cooperate with You. 18

Cause our children to know there is more hope for a fool than there is for someone who speaks without thinking. 20

Keep our children from being angry, furious people. 22

Show our kids how dangerous pride is and how advantageous humility is. 23

Teach our children that teaming up with a thief guarantees trouble. 24

Don't let our children fear or put their trust in man. Cause them to fear and trust You only.
25

Chapter 30

Cause our children to treasure all of Your word. Make them pure and shield them as they trust in You. Don't let them ever add to Your word. 5-6

Keep our children away from vain and untruthful people. Don't let them fall into the bondage of material things or the slavery of poverty. 8-9

Use us to help raise up a generation that loves and honors parents. 11

Don't let our kids think they are pure when they have unconfessed sin. 12

Keep our kids from living only for themselves. Cause them to live for You and others. 14

Correct our children quickly when they mock or disrespect their parents. 17

Keep our children from praising themselves. Cause them to repent quickly of evil thoughts.
32

Chapter 31

Don't let our children waste their lives on things that aren't eternal. 3

Cause our kids to speak up for the poor and needy and those in trouble. 8-9

Cause our daughters and daughters-in-law to be like the godly, virtuous and successful woman of Proverbs 31: 9-31

Cause our kids and their future spouses to be faithful to each other. 11

Cause our children and their mates to do good to each other. 12

Don't let the abilities and talents You have placed in our daughters and daughters-in-law go unused. 13-22

So work in our children that they are the perfect helpmate for the spouse You give them. Work powerfully in the lives of those who have or will marry our children so they are excellent helpmates to our kids. 29-31

***** Keep going back to those prayers that were most meaningful and keep praying them until you feel prompted by the Holy Spirit to move on. *****

PRAYING DOWN THE PATH OF YOUR LIFE AND OTHERS WITH PSALMS

PSALM 1

Keep us from listening to the advice of ungodly people. Don't let us follow after sinners or stay around those who ridicule You. 1

Cause us to delight in Your word and think about it all the time. 2

As we meditate on Your word, make us like well watered trees. Cause us to bring forth fruit that remains. Ensure success in everything we do. 3

Expose and pull down those who refuse Your ways. 4-5

*** One day during my (Tom) physical therapy session, I was walking on a treadmill. The 20 minute walk was pretty boring. My sons and I had been memorizing Psalm 1 from a simplified version of the Bible. Somehow, the words to Psalm 1 came to mind along with a tune so I began to sing and walk. I sang through the whole Psalm, line by line, as words and tune continued to come to mind. The walking time quickly passed and the words to the Psalm were deeply imbedded into my mind. I taught the song to my sons and for days it was my companion during the long hours of physical therapy. Even today, over a year later, the song springs quickly to mind. Only heaven will reveal the full accounting of all my Father did through my meditating upon and praying this Psalm back to Him. ***

PSALM 2

Frustrate the plans of those who plot against You, Lord. 3

Cause us to declare what You have said to us. 7

Use us to reach and disciple people from every part of the earth. 8

Teach us to serve You with fear and reverence. 11

Thank You for delivering us from ever having to face Your wrath. Use us effectively to help others put their trust in You. 12

PSALM 3

You are a God who sees, deal with all who oppose us because we serve You. 1

Father, who gives endurance and encouragement, show them that we are Yours and that You take care of us. 2

Lord, be our shield, our glory and the one who lifts up our heads. 3

You are a loving Father who hears our prayers, please answer us quickly. 4

Give us rest, Lord, and sustain us. 5

Keep us from being afraid no matter how many are against us. 6

Father, take action in behalf of Your church. 7

Make Your blessings obvious upon us so many more people are drawn to You for salvation. 8

PSALM 4

O Lord our righteousness, answer our prayers. Release obvious answers to our prayers and make us see how You are delivering us. 1

Cause us to believe with all our hearts, Father, that You hear and answer the prayers of Your children. 3

Fill us with awe of who You are and what You are doing. Keep us from sin. Make sure we hear what You are saying to our spirits. 4

Prompt us to give You the sacrifices of obedience, right actions and trust.
Because there is a whole world wondering if You are real and if You do care about them,
make us good demonstrations of Your wonderful, loving care. 6
Fill us with greater joy and gladness than those who use drugs and liquor to make
themselves feel good. 7
God our refuge and strength, cause us to sleep peacefully as You keep us safe. 8

PSALM 5

Hear our prayers, Father, and respond to concerns that fill our hearts. 1
You are our King and our God, hear our prayers for help. 2
In these troubled days, cause us to spend time in prayer every morning. Direct us in our
praying, Father, so we are asking for what You want to do and give. After we pray, cause us
to watch and not miss Your answers. 3
Father, You see how wicked and evil the whole world is becoming, show us how to help
them. 4-6
As evil increases, make us even more consistent in gathering with other believers and more
fervent in our worship of You. 7
Make it very clear to us how we are to live in these days. Keep us in a very close relationship
with You. 8
As the sins of the wicked cause their lives to fall apart, show us when and how to lead them
to You. Destroy satanic strongholds in our cities. 9-10
The worse the world gets, the more strongly we ask You to take action to defend Your
people. 11
Cause Your favor to be greatly upon us and our children. 12

**** One of our major challenges was keeping our 8, 10 and 12 year old sons living in some sort of harmony with each other. We prayed for them and with them regularly. Additionally, a group of men met with me each Tuesday morning at 6:00 AM for an hour of prayer for our families. In the process of writing scripture verses into prayers, I (Tom) came across one I could really hang onto in Psalm 144 verse 12. We began to pray, "Cause our sons in their youth to be as grown up plants." Grown up plants are strong, need less protection and bear fruit. For those with daughters we prayed the second half of the verse. The verse could also be prayed for the future mates of our children.**

From the time we started praying this in September 90 we have seen a significant maturing in the kids and especially the one who was the biggest cause of the battles. The Lord also provided some counseling and some helpful techniques. We are confident this verse will continue to be answered in the boys lives in the years to come. **

Psalm 6

When You are disciplining us because of our sins, have mercy and compassion on us. See
our weakness and sickness and strengthen and heal us. 1-2
Quickly bring us back into fellowship with You whenever we stray. 3
Deliver our country from its problems and failures, Lord, because of Your great mercy. 4
Cause us to repent quickly when we sin so You don't have to discipline us severely. 6-7
Make us good examples of how You forgive, cleanse and restore those who turn to You. 9-10

Psalm 7

O God our confidence, cause us to trust You alone. Strong deliverer, save us and deliver us

from Satan's attacks. 1-2

Keep us from ever returning evil for good. 4-5

Father, our Mighty One, see how fiercely the devil hates Your people and deliver us. Constantly frustrate his plans. 6

Use Your church powerfully to set people free from evil. 9

Use us to effectively communicate to the lost how much You hate their evil deeds and how much You love them and want to save them. 11-12

Cause us to sing to You and praise Your name, O Lord Most High. 17

**** All through the Bible, God uses different names for Himself to reveal more fully who He is and to teach His purposes and His ways. I have tried to use many of His names where they fit in the prayers. This will help reveal the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to us and increase our faith as we see names that relate directly to our needs. Search for names as you read His word and use them in your prayers. ****

Psalm 8

Glorious and excellent Lord, so release Your power through us that Your enemies are forced to be quiet. 1-2

Cause us to fully exercise the dominion and authority that You intend for Your church to have. 3-8

Use us to make Your excellent name known to the whole earth. 9

Psalm 9

So work in us that we praise You with our whole heart. Make our lives clearly demonstrate Your marvelous works. 1

Cause us to be glad and rejoice and sing praise to You, the one true God. 2

God who sustains us, turn back the powerful satanic forces that come against us. 3-4

Use us to be a refuge to the oppressed. 9

Cause us to know the different names You have used to reveal Yourself more fully to us.

Greatly deepen our trust and faith as we see Your names that exactly fit our need. 10

Ensure that we effectively and consistently see and tell the great things You are doing. 11

Cause us to walk humbly with You so You can always respond to our cry for help. 12

Deliver us and overwhelm our enemies so that many will praise Your name. 13-14

Work so powerfully through us that the whole world knows You are real and that they have to answer to You. 20

Psalm 10

God of retribution, intervene to protect the poor. Cause those who are cheating and oppressing the poor to be pulled down by their evil plans. 1-3

Shake up those who boast that nothing can stop their plans. Use the shakeup to draw them to You. 4-11

Almighty God, see those nations that have been oppressed by the devil for thousands of years and deliver them. Pull down the strongholds and bring these people into a relationship with You. Especially work in the country of ___today. 15

Psalm 12

Raise us up to be godly men and women. 1

Keep us from flattery and pride. 3

Protect us from those who speak out against us. 5
Cause our words to be pure. 6
Protect us completely from this wicked generation. 7-8

Psalm 13

If You have had to set us aside for a time because of our sin, quickly cleanse and restore us.
Rebuild our character so You can use us again. 1-2
Cause us to hear from You because without You life is totally empty. 3
Forgiving God, raise us up and protect us for if we fall Your enemies will laugh at You. 4
Provide bountifully for us and cause us to constantly praise You. 6

Psalm 14

Have mercy on those foolish people who pretend that You don't exist. 1
God our Savior, cause the lost world to know that they are separated from You and can do nothing that is righteous or acceptable to You until they repent and trust in Jesus. 2-3
Release a fear of hell and judgement across the whole world. 4

Psalm 15

Lord our righteousness, cause us to know we are Your temple. Keep us abiding in Your holiness. 1
Live Your upright, righteous and truthful life through us. 2
Keep us from gossiping about others or wronging them in any way. Prompt us to resist the wicked and to honor those who fear You. Work in us so that we keep our word and fulfill our promises. 4
Don't let us loan money when You are prompting us to give it. Keep us obedient and don't ever let us be overwhelmed by circumstances. 5

Psalm 16

Ensure that we put our trust in You and protect us completely. 1
Don't let us ever follow after anything that becomes a god to us. Keep us from ever being so caught up in anything that we are always talking about it. Instead, cause us to speak long and well about You and Your kingdom. 4
Lord, bring us into exactly the locations, positions and relationships that You have for us. 5
Give us the pleasant places and good blessings You have for us. 6
Holy Spirit of counsel and power, talk to us day and night. 7
Be the foremost in our thoughts all the time. Exert Your power and authority through our lives. 8
Lord, You are the way, show us Your path moment by moment. Keep us in close, abiding and joy filled relationships with You. 11

Psalm 17

Cause us to be straight forward and honest in our prayers. 1
Speak forth Your thoughts about us and Your plans for us. 2
God who sees us, check out our hearts and motives. Keep talking to us night after night until You get all the junk cleaned out. 3
Living Word of God, keep us from doing what the devil wants and don't let him cause us to

slip. 4-5

Keep us very close to You and under Your constant protection. 8

Author and Perfecter of our faith, so work in our lives that the devil is constantly frustrated and we are delivered from his evil plans. 13

Every day, make us more like Yourself, Jesus. 15

**** We were notified in the spring of 1986 that the Air Force planned to move us to Albuquerque NM. We were concerned about taking our family from a small safe town to a big city with all the traffic, crime and normal urban problems. We also were concerned about selling and buying houses and changing schools. As we were praying about the move, Psalm 16:5-6 in the NIV translation seemed to apply. The Lord seemed to be saying that He had assigned us to the right job and that He had a secure lot for us to live in. Verse 6 promised pleasant boundaries. When the move was complete, we ended up with a nice home on a large cul-de-sac lot that has been secure. The boundaries included 21 fruit and nut trees, a large yard and garden area. Our yard touches the yards of seven neighbors and they have been great. The school district for elementary school has been excellent. Overall looking back, the Lord has abundantly fulfilled His word from Psalm 16 that He gave us five years ago. ****

Psalm 18

Cause us to have a real deep love for You, O Lord our strength. 1

Be a solid, impregnable rock fortress around us. Deliver us even before we get into trouble.

2

Keep us calling upon You, Lord. Save us from our enemies. 3

Keep us from being made afraid by wicked godless men. 4

Lord, You live in us so You immediately see when we are in trouble. You even know it is coming. Quickly take action in our behalf as soon as the trouble has accomplished its intended purpose. 6

Cause the earth to see You acting in power in behalf of Your kids. 7-8

Open up heaven and make Your awesome presence and power real to the people on earth. 9

Intervene powerfully to defend and deliver Your people. 13-14

Come and draw us out of the things that distract us from Your service. 16

Deliver us from the strong satanic opposition and deception that the enemy sends against us. 17

Bring us into that large place You have prepared for us. 19

So work in us, Lord, that You can give us large rewards. 20

Give us the grace and power to obey You day after day. 24

Cause us to be merciful, upright and pure. 25-26

Light up our countenances with Your glory, Lord. 28

Cause us to do extraordinary things by Your power. 29

Gird us with strength and guide us in Your perfect ways. 32

Don't let us miss a step in our walk with You, make it evident to a watching world that we are seated in heavenly places with You. 33

Teach us spiritual warfare and make us very effective at it. 34

Keep the shield of faith lifted up before us and keep us standing firm by Your powerful strength. Express Your gentleness through us. 35

Keep us from slipping back in our walk with You. 36

Cause the tricks the devil has effectively used against us and his strongholds in us to be

totally broken and destroyed. 37

Make our lives a disaster for the devil. Subdue, through us, those demonic spirits that have been running rampant throughout the land. 38-39

Protect our leaders from the complaining and murmuring that go on within the church. Make Your church feared and respected again by the world. 43-44

O Lord our rock and our salvation, so change us that You are blessed and exalted through our lives. 46

Cause everyone to know that it is You who have made us victorious. 47

As You deliver us and lift us above our enemies, cause us to be so thankful that the lost world notices and is drawn to You. 48-49

Cause Your church to be delivered from all bondage and set free to worship and serve You, our most worthy Lord. 50

Psalm 19

Open our eyes to see Your awesome glory around us. Make us aware of Your handiwork. 1
Ensure that we allow Your word to wash us and make us wise. Living Word, fill us with joy and open our eyes to all You are. 7-8

Give us a clean and enduring reverence for You, Holy and Righteous One. 9

Word of Life, cause us to desire You more than riches, food or anything. 10

Cause us to receive the reward You have for those who keep Your word. 11

Make us recognize our failures and change. Show us our hidden character weaknesses and correct them. 12

Keep us from presuming on Your grace and sinning because we know You forgive. Don't let any sins have dominion over us. 13

Cause the words we speak and the thoughts we think to be from You, for You are our life. 14

Psalm 20

Lord, hear the cries of Your people in this day of trouble. Teach us to pray and present Your names as reasons why You should come to our defense. 1

Send us angels to help protect and deliver us. 2

Grant all the desires and prayers You have placed within us. Fulfill all the word You have spoken to us. 4

Work in us so we openly tell how wonderful You are and of all the prayers You have answered. 5

Don't let us trust in man, methods or things. Give us a deep, abiding and holy trust in You. 7

King Jesus, hear us when we call. 9

Psalm 21

Give us all You want us to have. Cause us to ask for the things You want to give. 2

Thank You for life with You forever. 4

Keep us trusting in You forever and don't let our faith ever be shaken. 7

Keep destroying through us the works of the devil. Use us to clean up evil things he has started. Be greatly exalted in Your church, Lord. 10-11,13

Psalm 22

Father, keep us from ever getting to the place, either individually or as the church, that You have to set us aside. 1

Don't let us get into a condition where all of our prayers are faithless and wrong and You have to refuse each request. 2

Cause us to maintain a life filled with praise for You to inhabit. 3

Cause this generation to trust You even more completely than our forefathers did. You have delivered our nation from sin many times through mighty revivals in the past. Send a mighty revival again in our day and deliver us again. 4-5

Father, see how much the world is laughing at those of us who will be the bride of Your Son, Jesus. They look at our disunity, unbelief and worldliness and don't think You can ever deliver us. Are You going to continue to let them laugh or are You going to intervene for Your Son's sake? 7-8

Lord, You formed us and designed us for Your purposes. Keep working carefully on us so we become all You intended. 9-11

You know how much the devil would like to destroy us. Save us from his wicked plans. 12-21

Cause us to declare all You are to those around us. 22

As people see what You have done for and through us, cause them to glorify and revere You. 23

Make us know that having trouble doesn't mean You have deserted us. Teach us that hard times are when You are the closest. 24

Ensure that we take the opportunity to openly praise You for all You have done for us. 25

Cause us to walk in meekness with You and be content with what You give. 26

Cause people all over the earth to remember truth they have heard about You and turn to You. Raise up people to know and worship You out of every tribe on earth. 27

Raise up a generation that will clearly tell everyone about You. 31

PSALM 23

Lord, You are our shepherd. Control our wants. Don't let us want the wrong things. Meet all of our legitimate wants and needs. Cause us to want what You want. 1

Make us lie down and rest in green pastures. Lead us beside still waters. 2

Restore our souls (mind, will and emotions). Cleanse our minds of wrong teachings. Fill us with truth, especially things we need to know that have been hidden from us. Undo wrong choices we have made with our wills. Cause us to make right choices. Heal our emotions and keep them from controlling us. Don't let prior hurts cause us to be emotionless or hard. Cause us to do the right things so Your reputation will be protected. Expand and advance Your reputation through us. 3

Keep us from fearing evil, even if we face illness or death. Consume us with a godly fear and respect for You. 4

Feed us and provide for us and keep the enemy from being able to do anything about it. Anoint us and appoint us to the specific tasks You have for us. Cause us to overflow with Your life. 5

Cause Your goodness and lovingkindness to follow us all the rest of our lives. Make us understand that we are Your house now and forever. 6

Psalm 24

Ensure that we know that all we are or have is Yours. Cause us to realize that You bought with Your blood all the people of the earth even though at present the devil is illegally holding most of them. 1

Search our hearts and activities and cleanse us of everything You dislike. Keep us on praying ground. 3-5

Make us a generation that seeks You and Your will in detail. 6

When You return, give us the privilege of commanding the sealed up east gate of Jerusalem to open up so You can walk through in triumph. 7-10

**** The fifth grade was very traumatic for our oldest and for the rest of the family as well. One of the more significant verses we were praying for the boys was Isaiah 54:13. We were asking our Father to "Cause all of our sons to be taught of the Lord and cause the peace of our sons to be great." In answer to these prayers and the prayers of our friends, attitudes changed from hating school to liking it. By the sixth grade, scores had improved significantly and all three boys ended the year with almost straight A's. For the oldest to get straight A's during the last grading period was a tremendous boost to his self esteem and an obvious demonstration to him of God answering prayer. ****

Psalm 25

Cause us to yield our mind, will and emotions to You. 1

Keep us trusting in You and never let us be shamed or defeated by those who hate You. 2

Father, sustain and protect us as we wait on You and never let us be put to shame.

Humiliate those who attack Your people without cause. 3

Holy Spirit of Truth, show us in detail the ways and purposes of the Father. Ensure that we walk in His paths. 4

Cause us to walk in Your truth. Make sure we listen to You every day. 5

Forgive us and cleanse us from the foolish sins of the past. Straighten us out and thus protect Your own reputation. 7

Work through us to bring the lost to know You and Your ways. 8

Ensure we walk meekly with You so You can guide us in everything we do. 9

You are the truth, keep us walking in Your paths of mercy and truth. 10

For Your reputation, forgive and cleanse us from sin. 11

Cause us to fear and revere You so You can teach us to always make the right choices. 12

Make sure we respect You enough that You can share Your secrets with us. If sin is in the way, cause us to see it and repent. 16-18

Prompt us to walk in integrity and uprightness and to wait on You. 21

Psalm 26

Lord, we want our lives to be clean and pure before You. Examine us and show us any sin we have overlooked. 1-2

Keep us away from people who are vain or fake. 4

Sinless One, give us Your hatred for sin. 5

Keep us from sinning so we are bold in giving thanks and telling others about all the wonderful things You are doing. 6-7

Cause us to love gathering together with Your people in Your presence. 8

Keep us away from wicked, evil people. 9-10

Righteous Judge, tester of hearts and minds, make us walk in integrity. 11

God who saves us, cause us to stand securely and bless You. 12

Psalm 27

Faithful and true Lord, be so real and near to us that we are not afraid of anything. Strengthen us so we never fear anyone. 1

No matter what the devil tries to do, cause us to meet it with boldness and confidence in Your power. 3

Cause us to know that You live in us. Reveal Your beauty and majesty. 4

Rock in whom we take refuge, hide us from trouble. 5

Lift us up in victory over Your enemies. 6

Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, cause us to pray correctly. God of grace, hear and answer our prayers. 7

Teach us to respond quickly to Your prompting. 8

Author of our salvation, don't let us get out of contact with You. 9

You are our way, keep us on the right path. Don't let us be confused by the devil. Protect us from those who would lie about us. 11-12

Keep us faithfully waiting upon You. Strengthen our hearts. 14

Psalm 28

Great Communicator, when we pray, cause us to hear what You are saying to us. If we don't hear You, the devil drags us into discouragement. 1

Hear us when we call and reach out to You for help. 2

Protect us in times when You are punishing the wicked. 3

Cause the lost to see Your works in the things You are doing. Draw them to Yourself before their sins destroy them. 4-5

Praise You, Lord, for hearing our prayers. You are our strength and shield. You give help every time we trust in You. Cause us to rejoice before You and praise You. 6-7

Be our strength and save us. Pour out blessing and provision on us. Lift us up and be glorified in us. 8-9

Psalm 29

Use our lives to bring glory to Your name. 1

Cause us to give You the glory You deserve. Teacher, teach us to give You holy worship. 2

Speak powerfully to everyone on earth. Cause us to clearly hear You. Make things happen when You speak. 5-9

Use Your great strength through us. Fill our lives with Your peace. 11

Psalm 30

Lord our banner, lead us to victory over everything the devil tries to do to us. 1

Lord our healer, heal us when we pray to You. 2

God our Father, after You have had to discipline us, bring us back into a joyful relationship with You. 5

Don't let the blessings You give ever turn our hearts away from You. 6

Cause Your favor to be upon us all the rest of our lives. 7

Sure Foundation, for Your kingdom's sake, don't let us be pulled down or destroyed. 9

Our Helper, give us mercy and help when we need it. 10
God of all comfort, bring us out of mourning into joy before You. Cause us to be glad and praise You out loud. Teach us to be thankful every day of our lives. 11-12

Psalm 31

Light of men, ensure we are trusting You alone. Keep us from being put to shame. Deliver us from the devil's attacks and snares. 1
Strong Deliverer, listen to our cries for help and deliver us quickly. Defend us powerfully when we are in trouble. 2
For Your own reputation, guide us. 3
Powerfully deliver us if we get caught by one of the devil's traps. 4
Cause us to commit our spiritual growth to You. 5
Give us a hatred for lying and deception. Cause us to trust You fully. 6
Prompt us to be glad and rejoice in You even when we are in trouble. 7
Deliver us from the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual limitations the enemy has imposed upon us. Set us in a large, effective place of ministry. 8
Have mercy on us when we are being consumed with the consequences of sin and deliver us. 9-10
Keep us trusting in You. Remind us that You have the plan for our lives and will deliver us in Your time. 14-15
Don't let us be put to shame, Lord. Silence those who lie about us. 17-18
Ensure we have a deep respect for and trust in You. 19
As we see who You are and what You are doing for us, cause us to fall deeply in love with You. 23
Keep us full of courage and strengthen our hearts. 24

Psalm 32

Make us know that our sins have been forgiven and covered. 1
Ensure that we keep our sins confessed up to date. Cleanse us from deceit and deception. 1
When we confess our sins, cause us to believe that they are forgiven. Don't let us wallow around wondering if they are forgiven or not. 5
Spirit of grace and supplication, keep us on praying ground so when trouble comes we will be sure our prayers are heard. Cause us to lay up prayers for ourselves and our families before trouble comes. 6
Our Hiding Place, hide us when trouble comes. Speak to us about what You are doing to deliver us when we are in trouble. 7
Instruct us and teach us in the way to go. Watch closely and guide us. 8
Don't let us be stubborn mules who won't respond to Your instructions. 9
Merciful and faithful High Priest, surround our lives with Your mercy. 10
Fill us with gladness. Cause us to rejoice and shout for joy as we realize You have made us righteous and given us upright hearts. 11

**** Yesterday a friend in my Sunday School class shared how much the prayers from Psalms meant to him. He said, "When I pray through them regularly and stay immersed in God's word, my life is filled with peace. When I get distracted and miss days, I am uptight and worried." As the days get filled with lawlessness, our love will grow cold unless we are abiding in the Lord and are full of His words. ****

Psalm 33

Cause us to be filled with praise for all You have done for us. See that we use musical instruments and songs to intensely praise You. 1-3

Open our eyes to see how wonderful and right You are. Make us see Your goodness. 5

Give all the earth a fresh respect for You. Fill them with awe as they see what You are doing in Your church. 8

Only wise God, continue to frustrate the plans of the wicked. 10

Turn our nation back to You. 12

Keep our country from trusting in our armed forces, our wisdom or anything except You. 16-17

Psalm 34

Cause us to be continually praising and blessing Your name. 1

Almighty God, don't let us boast about anyone or anything but You. 2

Teach us to magnify You and exalt Your names when we worship together. 3

Cause us to faithfully pray and deliver us from everything of which we are afraid. 4

Make our faces radiant because we fellowship with You. 5

Our Refuge in time of trouble, hear our cries and powerfully deliver us. 6

Show us how much Your angels are protecting us and delivering us from trouble. 7

Cause us to bring others to taste and see that You are good. Bless everything we do as we trust in You. 8

Keep us constantly fearing and respecting You, great and awesome God. Keep us from want. 9-10

Spirit of holiness, stop us from saying evil or deceitful words. 13

Cause us to leave evil, do good and seek to be at peace with all men. 14

You have made us righteous through Jesus, hear our prayers for help. 15

Resist those who are doing evil all over the earth. 16

Thank You for Your extra closeness when we are broken hearted and for saving us when we humble ourselves before You. 18

Make us realize that Christians still have problems but that You will deliver us when the problem has accomplished Your desired goal. 19

Make us understand that we will never be left desolate. 22

Psalm 35

Teach us how to let You fight our battles. 1

Turn back those who are planning to hurt us. 4

Reveal to us how powerfully You are working to deliver us from strong and powerful enemies. 10

Release in us Your love, compassion and prayers for our enemies. 13-14

Great and powerful God, You see all the attacks against Your people. Speak out for us and defend us. 22-24

Give joy and gladness to those who bless us. 27

Psalm 36

Give us such a reverence for You, Holy Father, that we are kept from sin. 1

As we see Your mercy, faithfulness, righteousness, judgements and lovingkindness, cause

us to trust You deeply. As we trust You, give us those blessings that truly satisfy. 8
Cause us to experience life as You intended, Author of Life. Reveal Yourself, Your purposes
and Your ways to us. 9

Psalm 37

Keep us from fretting because of evil doers. Don't let us envy sinners. 1
Cause us to trust in You, Trustworthy One. Keep us doing Your good will. 3
Teach us to delight in You. Write Your desires on our hearts and fulfill them. 4
Cause us to commit our ways and plans to You and to trust You to bring them to pass. 5
Teach us to rest in You and wait patiently for You. Don't let us worry about the temporary
success of wicked people. 7
Keep us from anger and wrath. Stop us from doing anything wrong. 8
Cause us to be content with what we have. 16
Plan our days, Author of Life. Cause us to be doing those things that count for eternity. 18
Teach us to show mercy and give when You prompt us. Don't let us be those who borrow
and don't repay. 21
Order our steps, Master, and cause us to delight in obeying You. 23
Thank You, Faithful God, that You never forsake the righteous or cause us to ever have to
beg for food. 25
Wonderful Counselor, so work in us that we know and speak wisdom. Warn people,
through us, of coming judgement for those who don't repent and trust in You, Savior of the
world. 30
Cause us to wait on You and faithfully obey You. Exalt us at the proper time to all You have
for us. 34
Head of the body the church, strengthen and save us in this time of trouble. Deepen our
trust in You and deliver us from the wicked. 39-40

Psalm 38

Lord, make us completely aware of the pain, loss and consequences of sin. Lead us to
forsake and avoid sin. 1-10
Cause us to confess sins and turn from them. As we do this, move strongly to restore,
deliver and heal us. 18-22

Psalm 39

Holy Spirit of Truth, guard our mouths so we don't sin. 1
Cause us to realize how short our time is upon the earth and yet how each day is shaping
our position, status and rewards in eternity. 4-5
Don't let us waste time gathering up temporary riches. 6
Head of the church, deliver us from all our sinful habits and ways. 8
Make sure we know that the only good or attractive part of us is You. 11
Strengthen and deliver us, Lord, and give us grace to live for You. 12-13

Psalm 40

Our Intercessor, cause us to wait patiently for You to obtain answers to our prayers. 1
Thank You for delivering us from sin and death and giving us real, eternal life with You. So

fill us with songs and praise that many will see it and trust in You. Don't let the excitement and joy of our salvation ever die out. Release blessings upon us as we trust in You rather than ourselves or others. 2-4

You have done and are doing so many wonderful things for us. Cause us to recognize them and tell others about them whenever we get an opportunity. 5

Cause us to be more excited about obeying You than anything else. 8

Cause us to preach Your word in power everywhere You send us. Don't let us hide what You have done for us. 9-10

God of deliverance, set us free from everything that messes up our relationship with You. 11

Refiner and Purifier, break the hold of everything that tries to drag us back into sin. 12-14

Our lives are so short, Good Shepherd, move quickly to set us free from sin and make us effective in Your kingdom. 17

Psalm 41

Cause us to look after the poor. Take care of us when we are in trouble. Keep us safe and alive until Your work through us is completed. Pour out Your blessings on us and never let our enemies have their way with us. 1-2

Strengthen and restore us when we are sick. 3

Lead us to repent and heal the wounds left by our sin. 4

Raise us up and show favor to us so our enemies are drawn to You. 10-11

**** In the spring of 91, two of the tomato plants I (Tom) had planted were killed by frost. Somehow I got the idea of replacing them with some yellow pear tomatoes like those that grew around the barns when I was a kid in Kentucky. I thought maybe the kids would enjoy them since they weren't too fond of red tomatoes. After checking three stores, I gave up on finding yellow pear tomato plants.**

During this time, I had been praying that the Lord would reveal Himself to me in ways that were real, intimate and personal. About a week later, while I was out watering the grass, a neighbor called out across the fence and said he had some extra tomato plants I could have. Since I had given up on finding yellow pear tomatoes, it seemed like a good idea to take the plants and put them in the empty spots left in the garden. When asked what kind of tomato plants they were, he replied they were some kind of yellow pear tomato. I said thanks to him for the three plants. Even more I said thanks to my Father for providing exactly the right kind in a way that showed that He was willing to reveal Himself to me in ways that were real, intimate and personal. **

Psalm 42

Lord, our love relationship with You is the most important thing in our life. Thank You for being constantly and permanently within us. 1-2

While our enemies are saying, "Where is your God?" cause us to be pouring out our souls to You in prayer. 3-4

Keep us from falling into despair and depression. Cause us to constantly hope in You and praise You. 5

When trouble seems to be flooding over us, thank You for being very close to us. Cause us to pray to You and praise You day and night. 8

When they mock us and say, "Where is your God?" they are really mocking You. Take action quickly in Your and our behalf. 10-11

Psalm 43

Search us, correct us and cleanse us, Father. 1

Holy Spirit of counsel and power, light the way and show us the truth. Bring us into a deep relationship with our Father. 3

Open up rivers of joy and praise within us and make it show up on our countenance. 4-5

Psalm 44

We have heard and read how You have defeated Your enemies in the past. We are eagerly looking to see You defeat the enemies who are trying to destroy the church today. 1-3

Keep us from trusting in techniques, programs, methods or personalities. Cause us to trust in You and follow Your plans. Stop us from participating in any plan or program that You have not initiated. 6

Open our eyes, Lord, to things that do not have Your blessing and power. Make us aware when Your manifest presence is not in our services. 9

Gather the church together, Lord, under Your leadership and end the days of wickedness and deadness in our services. 11-15

Don't let our hearts turn back or our steps leave Your path. 18

Father, forgive us for forgetting You and worshiping our own works and our own leaders. 20-21

End the days where You hide Your face from us. Bring again Your manifest presence to our services. Do it for Your own reputation and in behalf of the bride of Your Son. 23-26

Psalm 45

King Jesus, cause us to see Your beauty, glory and majesty. 1-3

Teach us to love righteousness and hate wickedness the way You do. 7

Use us to make Your name known all over the earth. 17

Psalm 46

Cause us to take refuge in You and walk in Your strength. Keep us close to You especially when trouble comes. 1

No matter what happens, keep us from being afraid. 2

Cause Your life in us to bring joy and gladness to those around us. 4

Make it obvious to the world that You are within us. 7

In our prayer times, cause us to be quiet and listen to You. Speak to us and do things through us that cause You to be exalted in the eyes of the lost. 10

Psalm 47

Teach us to clap and shout and worship You with exuberant praise. 1

Send Your church in power into all the nations of the earth. 3

Break the deceptions that keep us from praising You like You deserve. 6-7

Reign over the earth through Your people the way You desire. 8-9

Psalm 48

Open our eyes to Your greatness and fill us with overflowing praise. 1

Make us realize what an awesome privilege it is to be Your temple. 9

Use us to bring praise to Your name all over the earth. 10

Keep us faithfully following You every day of our lives. 14

Psalm 49

Use us to tell the world that their wealth and power will be useless in the day of judgement. Make them see how soon their lives will end. Cause us to clearly tell them they can have redemption and eternal life through Jesus alone.

Psalm 50

Come Father, start a fire of revival and spiritual awakening that will continue until Jesus returns. 3

Cleanse Your people and use us to call a lost world to Yourself. 4-5

Cause us to offer You our lives in service and our tongues in thanksgiving and praise. 14

Glorify Yourself through us as You deliver us from the evil one. 15

Don't let us join those who won't listen to You or obey You. Keep us from approving of evil or speaking judgements and slander against others. 19-20

Fill us with words that build up others and praise and glorify You. 23

***** Father, use these prayers to release Your mighty power in the families of those using them. *****

***** Let us know how our Father uses these prayers in yourself or your family. *****