

Josiah's Fire: Autism Stole His Words, God Gave Him a Voice

By Tahni Cullen, Cheryl Ricker



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Where is hope when there is no hope?

First-time parents Joe and Tahni Cullen were thrust into the confusing world of autism when their toddler, Josiah, suddenly lost his ability to speak, play, and socialize. The diagnosis: Autism Spectrum Disorder. In their attempts to see Josiah recover and regain speech, the Cullens underwent overwhelming physical, emotional, and financial struggles. While other kids around him improved, Josiah only got worse.

Five years later, Josiah, who had not been formally taught to read or write, suddenly began to type on his iPad profound paragraphs about God, science, history, business, music, strangers, and heaven. Josiah's eye-opening visions, heavenly encounters, and supernatural experiences forced his family out of their comfort zone and predictable theology, catapulting them into a mindblowing love-encounter with Jesus.

- Find hope in hardship.
- Catch a fresh glimpse of heaven.
- Learn to hear and trust God's voice.
- Identify the roles of Father, Son, and Spirit.
- Be aware of the workings of angels, and much more!

Follow a trail of truth into Josiah's mysterious world, and see why his family and friends can no longer stay silent.

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Editorial Review

Review

Families are struggling. This out-of-this-world book offers fresh hope.Dr. Kevin Leman, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Birth Order Book*

Josiah's Fire is a must-read. You will be encouraged, compelled, and deeply moved to see God's love and power in and through little Josiah. As you ponder this young autistic boy's amazing visitations and revelations, heavenly dimensions and mysteries of the kingdom of God will be revealed to you." – **Patricia King**, author, television host, and founder of Patricia King Ministries, www.patriciaking.com

In the mystery and majesty of God, He divinely places His glory in clay pots. Indeed, His grace is sufficient and even magnified in our weaknesses. Occasionally, it seems the Lord takes extra efforts to display His wonders. Such is the case in the life of young Josiah. This precious pure vessel is a steward of a mighty gift from the Holy Spirit. Get ready because the authentic testimonies in this mind-blowing book will leave you shocked, stunned, and hungry for more of God.

– **Dr. James W. Goll**, founder of God Encounters, Life Language trainer, and international best-selling author

Have you ever wondered if God, heaven, and angels are actually real? If so, you will enjoy *Josiah's Fire*, a fascinating true story of a little boy caught in the grip of autism. Everything comes crashing down on the Cullen family—until Josiah learns to communicate. Although Josiah is limited in his physical body by autism, his writings impact the world. Get ready to encounter a sign and a wonder as you learn God's ways through the eyes and ears of this young messenger!

- Brian and Candice Simmons, The Passion Translation project

Don't miss this profound book! *Josiah's Fire* is a captivating true account of a family that encountered faith, hope, and a vision of the heavenlies through an extraordinary journey with their autistic son. This book is not only for families of children with disabilities—it's a dramatic, spellbinding story that will increase your desire to draw closer to God and hear his voice, and it will deepen your longing for heaven." – **Carol Kent**, internationally acclaimed speaker and award-winning author of *When I Lay My Isaac Down*

Josiah's Fire is one of those books you can't put down. A family faces a profound challenge, but a small child leads the way in a beautiful, hope-filled journey to a new way of living and looking at faith, love, and the way the universe just might really work (if we could only see the world as Josiah does). Josiah is an unlikely poet and prophet, and I'm certain you'll fall in love with him as I did.

- **Susy Flory**, *New York Times* author or coauthor of eleven books, including the runaway bestseller, *Thunder Dog*

Josiah's Fire opened a whole new world of thinking to me, making me ponder how God moves and communicates to those who have ears to hear. I found myself rapt with attention as I moved from page to

page, often on the verge of tears, often on the verge of laughing out loud. Why 'on the verge'? Because what I read awed me to the degree that it was near impossible to cry or laugh. This excellently written book will give hope to many. Truly a story that had to be told.

– **Mike Shreve**, pastor, evangelist, and bestselling author of 65 Promises from God for Your Child and In Search of the True Light

Josiah's Fire is the breath of heaven released through one boy on earth. Josiah's amazing supernatural journey is filled with life-altering God-encounters and angelic visitations. The Father chose Josiah as an emissary to share revelation directly from the throne. He shares many truths about heaven and the nature of the triune God. Through Josiah's parents' struggle with their son's autistic personality, God reveals his love and concern for all people, no matter what handicaps or difficulties they face. Full of hope and love, these pages will empower you to live from victory to victory.

- Joan Hunter, author and evangelist, www.joanhunter.org

Josiah's Fire is informative, compelling, and poignant, immediately drawing readers into a wild, fascinating ride with the Cullen family. Biblical truth meets heartfelt joy when little Josiah sees and hears in a realm that's unavailable to most of us. This is one of the most inspiring true stories I have come across in a very long time.

- Kathi Macias, speaker and award-winning author of more than fifty books, www.kathimacias.com

What this young autistic boy teaches us about heaven and earth is mind-boggling and fascinating as it lifts the veil between two worlds. Tahni Cullen will never get over the diagnosis that changed her family forever, but through the devastation, a miracle is born. Josiah gives his mom, and all the rest of us, a glimpse into that place where pain-filled people can laugh again. Cheryl Ricker, a masterful storyteller of true stories, coauthors this intriguing tale of supernatural touches and crazy love. Brace yourself: *Josiah's Fire* will grip you with holy flames from the first few words.

– Anita Agers Brooks, CPT, CCS, CLTF, common trauma expert, international speaker, and award-winning author of *Getting through What You Can't Get Over*

Wow. *Josiah's Fire*. Total wonderment. It is otherworldly, utterly remarkable, nearly unbelievable. And yet, I humbly and reverently believe in a God who can do anything, with anyone, at any time, and in any way he sees fit. Few are graced with gifts as special as have been given to this precious boy. I can't help but stand in awe of the Good Gift-Giver himself. To God be the glory. Great things he is doing through this amazing family's must-read story.

– **Cheri Keaggy**, Dove Award-winning recording artist, songwriter, speaker, blogger, www.cherikeaggy.com

I've learned that the ones who society considers *least*, God often uses *most*. And adversity often puts us on God's varsity. Josiah is no exception. This remarkable lad has autism, but autism doesn't have him! There's no limit to what God can do with a totally surrendered life. This powerful book will stretch and propel you on your journey with Jesus. Buy one for yourself and ten to give away! Your friends will thank you for it. – **Frank Shelton**, author, Fox News contributor, Washington, DC field representative for *My Hope with Billy Graham* and the *Franklin Graham Decision America Tour*

Scripture states we must become like little children to enter the kingdom of heaven. *Josiah's Fire* is a story of redemption, hope, and God's big love speaking through a speechless little boy with autism. Young Josiah has a spiritual depth unmatched by many adults, and a knowledge of heaven not found in books. It's also a story of a mother's love, persistence, and sacrifice to help the world hear words her son cannot vocalize. Brilliant writing turns this true story into a page-turning, awe-inspiring glimpse into a gifted mind and a miracle-performing God. You'll want to read this book even if you don't know about autism but want to know more about heaven.

– **Janet Thompson**, founder of Woman to Woman Mentoring, speaker, freelance editor, and author of eighteen books, including *Forsaken God? Remembering the Goodness of God Our Culture Has Forgotten*

Josiah's Fire is an *amazing* experience! Through a surprising and unusual communication method, a young boy struggling with severe autism opens a world of stunning intelligence, mysterious insights—and heaven. The descriptions of angelic activity are extremely convincing. But more than that, you'll view God through new eyes. Josiah will hold you spellbound with his beyond-captivating experiences in heaven that are both revelatory and revolutionary. Very few books have held me captive, making me sacrifice sleep and time—but this book did! Read it and you'll find yourself more empowered to joyfully participate with heaven on earth.

- Mark Hendrickson, Dwelling Place Ministries, author of Supernatural Provision

I am a journalist and a skeptic and can spot a fake a mile away. Believe me, Josiah Cullen is no fake. Without knowing a thing about me, Josiah wrote twenty-three details of my life that *no one* could have possibly known except through the Spirit of God. This ten-year-old, non-verbal autistic boy gave me messages that changed my life, always bringing me back to Jesus and the Word of God. *Josiah's Fire* is life changing from start to finish and had me in tears before I finished."

- Max Davis, author of more than thirty books, including *DeadDog Like Me* and *When Jesus Was a Green-*Eyed Brunette

As Josiah's former ABA therapist, I had the pleasure of witnessing his hard work and courage. After Josiah's communication breakthrough, Tahni and I discussed the validity of his statements, and Josiah and I typed letters back and forth about his challenges, desires, and fears. Josiah is a great example of how a soul lies beyond the physical, and why it is so vital to treat all children with equity and worth. These children have abilities that can revolutionize people who are open to receive their gifted messages. Josiah's voice opens doors to spiritual understanding, and I am excited for him to share it with the world.

- Kimberly Zeszutek, MA, NCC, LPC, intern, Filtering Light Counseling in Portland, Oregon

About the Author

TAHNI CULLEN is a people-lover, blogger, and conference speaker who brings a powerful message of hope and restoration. Tahni worked for thirteen years at a multi-campus church in the Twin Cities of Minnesota, serving in communication arts and as a ministry director. She is a freelance marketer and also performs in an original live variety show for women's events. Tahni and her producer husband, Joe, have created an award-winning documentary called *Surprised by Autism*. They live with their son, Josiah, in Saint Paul, where they enjoy exploring Minnesota's museums and destinations.

CHERYL RICKER is an author, blogger, speaker, and poet who enjoys all things artsy. She writes supernatural true-life stories that ignite people's passion to pursue God. Her first book of this genre, *Rush of Heaven: One Woman's Miraculous Encounter with Jesus*, reveals that with God, all things are possible. Cheryl studied creative writing at York University in Toronto, Ontario, and theology at Christ for the Nations Institute in Dallas, Texas. When Cheryl is not writing books, painting with watercolors, or sharing

her faith, she loves having heart-to-heart conversations with her husband and two sons at their home in southeast Minnesota.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ashley Paul:

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Marc Starr:

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