



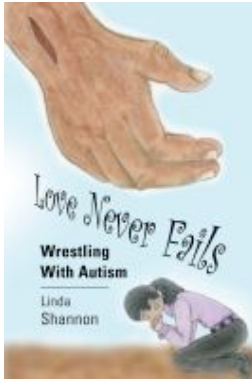
# Love Never Fails

**Wrestling  
With Autism**

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Linda  
Shannon





**LOVE NEVER FAILS: *Wrestling With Autism*** contains real-life stories of bizarre spiritual battles, heartfelt conversations with God, poetry teemed with passion, and sweet victories achieved while raising a child diagnosed with autism (PDD) at the age of eight. This book will open your mind and heart by providing a different perspective. Because of God's love, author Linda Shannon's unconventional journey grappling, struggling, and contending with autism has increased humility, faith, and wisdom within her soul.

# **Love Never Fails**

## **Wrestling With Autism**

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## **Love Never Fails Wrestling With Autism**

*“I created you to design thoughts. I created you to help the helpless. I created you to do what no other has done. Write about My love. My love for all of My children....big, small, black, white, brown, yellow, beige, tan.”*

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## **Revelation of Gifts**

***For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10***

After receiving Brandon's diagnosis of PDD in March 2004 from a Pediatric Neurologist, I begin to pray and petition God to show me Brandon's gifts and how to nurture him for His kingdom purposes. I refused to believe that a child with a neurological delay, created in God's image, would be placed on this earth without a purpose and gifts to carry out God's divine plan for his life. What began to be apparent after months of praying was that Brandon's hand-eye coordination was peerless for his age and lack of athletic training. Whenever we placed a ball, racket, or bat in his hand, awesome things happened. He rolled a score of 200 in August 2008, after bowling in a youth league, of his typical peers, for only one year.

### **My Conversation:**

Father, thank you for giving me perseverance to raise Your son, Brandon. I could not be effective as his mother without Your intervention, wisdom, guidance, and hope that You pour into my soul daily. You are my fountain in which I drink every minute of the day. Please continue to make me strong in my faith, and help me see Brandon through Your eyes, not my limited outlook. He is my sweet gift, the best creation that You have graciously given James and me. Help me continue to nurture him according to the way You have designed and molded him.

*Wrestling With Autism*

## **My Love Is for All**

*My love for you is vivid and colorful.  
The colors resemble the wildflowers of the field.  
Each of My children is different,  
as different as their footprints.  
All have a goal.  
All have a purpose.  
My love is for all.*

## **The Bomb**

### ***A time to weep and a time to laugh. Ecclesiastes 3:4***

One cold winter day, Brandon and I stepped out in the backyard for a play session with his companion dog, Buddy. It was so cold that when we exhaled our breath hung in the air like clouds of thick, white smoke. Buddy ran directly to the right side of our split-rail fence to relieve himself. Each side of the fence represents Buddy's Porta-Potti. He never relieves himself in the middle of the yard. This is a blessing for us. Brandon began to run around in the yard with his football as I picked up tennis balls in the yard to play fetch with Buddy. Suddenly, Brandon yells, "Run, Mommy, run!" Immediately, I dropped the tennis balls and looked around the yard. I did not see anything suspicious or perplexing. Brandon and Buddy ran toward the patio. Buddy was grinning from ear to ear. Brandon was frantic. A few seconds later Brandon yelled again, "Run Mommy, run, it's going to blow!" I ran. After running for about five seconds I stopped. Why are we running? Why was Brandon hysterically yelling? Was there a raccoon in the yard? Brandon continued, "Run Mommy, run, it's going to blow!" Again, I scanned the yard. The only thing that stood out was Buddy's big, brown, hot pile of colon cargo, that he released promptly as we entered the backyard. Hanging above Buddy's big, brown cargo were several lofty, white, oval shaped clouds of steam smoke, floating into the air. In the blink of an eye, the answer to Brandon's desperate pleas to run, hit me like a rock. I dropped on the cold ground with so much laughter that I could not stand up. Brandon thought that the mega smoke clouds ejecting from Buddy's big, brown cargo were sticks of dynamite that were about to blow up the backyard!

### **My Conversation:**

Father, thank you for wonderfully and specifically creating Brandon. He is delightful in a brilliant and literal way. He is Your workmanship created through Christ Jesus to achieve and experience many wonderful adventures. Please guide and teach me how to nurture him to achieve his

*Wrestling With Autism*

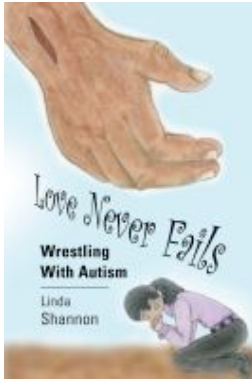
best in order to bring praise and honor to You. Also, help me to teach and correct him daily regarding Your word.



*Love Never Fails*

## **Love No. 5**

*I love you more than  
the air that you breathe.  
I love you more than the  
many waters that cover the earth,  
that flow to and fro, back and forth, as I desire.  
I love you now and forever.  
I love you.  
My love covers a multitude of sins  
in a way that no one else can copy.  
My love covers up all evil acts and deceptions.  
My love reaches higher than the skies.  
My love covers death,  
death at the cross.  
The cross is where I sent My Son  
to die for you and all others in this world.*



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