

A Parent's Blessing

1. Context of Blessings
 - a. Just as a pastor has the opportunity to bless their congregation, parents have a similar privilege.
 - b. Old Testament blessings were often physical such as God blessing the Israelites with manna or blessing Elizabeth with a baby
 - c. New Testament blessings were often spiritual and eternal such as in the Beatitudes: “they will be comforted” or “theirs is the kingdom of heaven”.
2. What is a Blessing?
 - a. A tangible form of God's favor and goodness. “To bless” is to declare the truth of God's good desires for others over someone. For example, “May God bless you with...”
 - b. People were convinced that once a blessing was given, the speaker could not take it back.
 - i. Isaac's blessing mistakenly given to his younger son, Jacob, rather than to his firstborn, Esau (Ge. 27:1-40)
 - ii. Once Isaac spoke the words there was nothing he could do to take back the blessing, even though Jacob had used deceit to get it.
3. The benefits of blessing our children
 - a. It is an opportunity for us to express our prayers and desire for God's goodness to be experienced in our children's lives.
 - b. It can show our children the heart of God, e.g. His desire to prosper them, not to harm them, to be with them always, to comfort and lead them, etc.
 - c. This blessing can serve as a reminder for the family of the relationship that has been built, especially in difficult times
 - d. Blessings provide a sense of security, love, and commitment.
 - e. We fulfill God's call for us to bless others and to be a blessing, especially towards our family

How to Write a Blessing for Your Child

- Pray and ask the Lord to show you how your child needs to be blessed. Areas of need can include friendships, direction, wisdom, growth, compassion and much more. Make it unique to them!
- Consider your child's specific traits and talents
- Give words of love and acceptance
 - *John, God loves you and chooses you. We love you and are proud of you. We are so glad and thankful to be your parents and to have you as our son.*
- Show your child how much you value him or her
 - *Jennifer, you show incredible maturity in your love of God. You give us reasons to trust you in your decision-making. When you see the need for forgiveness, you practice seeking it or offering it. You are a Godly, intelligent, and kind young woman.*
- Acknowledge God's presence in their future
 - *Margaret, you have already shown how God is at work in you. You have an incredible future. We bless you to live a life bringing people who have struggled with peace so that they may receive it from God.*
- Genuine Commitment
 - *Peter, as you grow into a Godly man we will pray for your daily, encourage you to excellence, celebrate you in success and comfort you in struggles. You are our son and we will always be your proud and loving parents. May God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you.*

Sample Blessings

Heavenly Father, in the name of your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, **bless Shawn with your peace**, which passes, that is, excels above and is superior to, all understanding, all human intellect. Thank you for your promise to protect his heart—his thoughts and feelings—and his mind—his perception and purpose—through Christ Jesus, the author and finisher of his faith. Give Shawn Godly wisdom with which to perceive and evaluate each circumstance. Bless Shawn with grace and mercy to put his trust in you each day.

Father, would you **give grace to Shawn to think about, to focus on, whatsoever things are true**; your Word is true. May he think about whatsoever things are honest, that is, honorable. May Shawn think about whatsoever things are just, things that are right and holy. Give Shawn grace to think on things that are pure and lovely and of good report. Give him wisdom to choose to walk with virtue and excellence, making commendable decisions. As Shawn learns how to walk in faith and wisdom, receiving those virtues as a gift from your hands, fill him with your peace. Guide Shawn in paths of righteousness, and **send mature believers to encourage him** and exhort him and guide him through their words and actions. Thank you, Father, for your promise to be with Shawn and to give him peace. Teach him how to walk in your peace daily. Amen.

Susan, our blessing for you is this:

Be interested in everything. Be curious, explore, adventurous, drink in everything, have fun but also be serious. Make a difference. Don't sit back and watch, go for it, take risks, be involved, help other people, help this planet. Have a purpose in life. Let me say that again: have a purpose in life. Your purpose gives meaning to your life. May you pursue justice and be a blessing to others. May you feel passionate about the social injustice in this world and may you do your part in helping to repair the world. May you continue to study the Bible to help shape you into a better human being. May you love reading and read many books. May you be not just smart, but become wise. May you be blessed with patience and understanding, with wisdom and compassion. May you look beyond the surface of things. Life is about making choices. May you have the courage and good judgment to make good choices in your life. And may you always, always know just how much you are loved.

Sabrina, from the moment you were born and we looked at you with awe and amazement, you have captured our hearts. Each day with you is a blessing in itself and we thank God for the gift of you.

From the time you were a young girl you have always had such a kind heart. Your gentleness and concern for others has warmed our souls. You are one of the kindest people in the world. We pray that you continue to be kind to others, expressing sympathy and concern for those who are less fortunate.

You have also always been so incredibly smart. Your quick wit and fast thinking have been such joy to watch unfold. May you always use your intelligence for good and not evil. May you use the intelligence God has given you to help others, to make the world a better place, and to be a blessing to others.

You have a wise head on your shoulders. When you are tempted, may the Lord fill your heart and mind with Him. When you feel like you just don't fit in, may the Lord find you a friend and bring you comfort. When you are hurting, whether it's mental or physical, may the Lord bring you comfort and peace. When there is hostility around you may the Lord show you how to cooperate instead of compete or fight.

Sabrina, as you grow older, our prayers for you will only multiply. We pray that you continue to study the Bible, and that you continue to grow in God's word. Seek Him when you are troubled, or sad. Seek Him when you are frustrated or upset. But also seek Him when you are happy and full of joy! Share the word of God with others so that they may also know his peace and mercy.

And finally, Lord, we pray that you will always feel God's presence and love in every moment of your life. We ask all these things through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

May your quiet strength lead you to a life where you continue to make good decisions, even when they may not be popular with others, where you do what you think is the right thing.

May your kindness to all lead you to a life filled with loving friends and family.

May your tendency be to help those less fortunate; that your life be filled with acts of good deeds.

May your common sense and wisdom lead you to a life filled with well thought out decisions.

May your intelligence and diligence lead you to a career that you are passionate about.

We wish that you take the talents and beauty you possess today and strive to make the world a better place than you found it.

May you one day fully appreciate the extraordinary gifts that you have been given of empathy, kindness, intelligence and beauty.

May your sense of humor always be close to you and comfort you through difficult times.

May you take the gifts and talents that you have been given and make the world a better place for all.

May your love of learning inspire you to seek knowledge and hope from the Bible.

May your passion and enthusiasm propel you to spread joy and hope and possibility to those whose lives you touch.

May your spirit of adventure lead you to fully experience all that life has to offer.

May your self-confidence and determination fortify you in times of uncertainty.