

30 benedictions



- 1.** Humbly in your sight we come together, Lord:
grant us now the blessing of your presence here.

These, our hearts, are yours; we give them to you, Lord:
purify our love to make it like your own.

These, our eyes, are yours; we give them to you, Lord:
may we always see your world as with your sight.

These, our hands, are yours; we give them to you, Lord:
give them strength and skill to do our work for you.

These, our feet, are yours; we give them to you, Lord:
may we walk along the path of life with you.

These, our tongues, are yours; we give them to you, Lord:
may we speak your healing words of life and truth.

These, our ears, are yours; we give them to you, Lord:
open them to hear your words of guidance, Lord.

Our whole selves are yours; we give them to you, Lord:
take us now and keep us yours for evermore.

- 2.** May God be in my whole being, before he is in my ministry.
May God be in my heart as well as my head.
May God be in my loving, and my knowing and my willing and my
speaking and my acting.

May I readily see Christ in others,
And may my life be itself a benediction
For your glory, Lord. Amen.

God the Father enrich you with his grace,
God the Son make you holy in his love,
God the Holy Spirit strengthen you with his joy.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life. Amen.

3. Go now, in the peace and strength of God, ready to impart to others what you have first received from him: and may the presence and power of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, go with you. Amen.

4. May his Holy Spirit pour out his love into your heart, may the knowledge of him be deeply impressed upon your mind, and may his strength enable you to keep on keeping on. Amen.

5. Go, and know the Lord goes with you. Let him lead you each day into the quiet place of your heart, where he will speak to you. Know that he blesses and watches over you - that he listens to you in gentle understanding - that he is with you always, wherever you are and however you may feel. Amen.

6. Go into the demands of the day released from inner strife and outer stress. After the quiet joy of encounter in the stillness, may the Holy Spirit remain an inner resource in the dullest routine and the greatest challenge. The Lord bless you and keep you. Receive his peace. Amen.

7. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:16-19).

- 8.** Go under God's mercy, knowing that when you are faithless he is faithful, and that when you fail he can redeem your failure. All things are possible for him, and "he will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 1:8).

- 9.** O loving Lord, grant that I may more closely follow your footsteps and refuse to walk a different way. May your powerful Spirit keep my feet walking in the path you have chosen for me, and may I never wander in strange places but always, through your grace and by your Spirit, walk in step with you. Amen.

- 10.** May the immortal, invisible, only wise God go with you, going before you, behind you, around you and within you; may the God who made all things, who sustains all things, rules all things, sees all things, give you insight and understanding from this time forward and for evermore. Amen.

- 11.** O God, who was pleased to dwell in a human body, raise us with your Son to new abundant life in my body. May his body, broken for all, preserve us through the change and decay of this present life. May your indwelling spirit bring us the fullness of joy in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

- 12.** Stand tall now, knowing that by God's mercy you have been healed and made whole deep within your being. May the compassion of the Father, the sensitive tenderness of the Holy Spirit, and the warm guiding hand of Jesus be with you throughout this day. Amen.

- 13.** O God, you know the dangers we encounter, both small and great; you know our human frailty. Grant us the strength and protection to support us in all our dangers, and carry us through all our temptations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- 14.** And now unto him who is able to keep us from falling and lift us from the dark valley of despair to the bright mountain of hope, from the midnight of desperation to the daybreak of joy; to him be power and authority forever and ever. Amen.
- 15.** The Lord be within you to strengthen you; over and around you to ward off your spiritual enemies on every side; under you to hold you up in your goings; behind you to guard you from the assaults of the past; before you to lead you on. Amen.
- 16.** May our God, in whose presence alone is fullness of joy, be so real to us in all the varying circumstances of life that we can be confident, however dark the night, that joy will come in the morning.
- May our Lord Jesus Christ, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, teach us to pray in his name, that, asking, we will receive, and our joy will be full.
- And may the Holy Spirit, through whose power the fruit of joy grows in our lives, give us such motivation and strength to be obedient and faithful servants that we will be constantly surprised by joy.
- 17.** Gracious Father, help us to take with us a sense of your powerful presence, knowing that wherever we go you will be there ahead of us; that, whenever we need your strength, it will be available to us through the tremendous power of your Holy Spirit; and that we can live boldly in your name every moment of the day ahead. Amen.

- 18.** Now to God Almighty, whose plans for us do not end in death; to our Lord Jesus Christ, who entered our world so that we might enter his; and to the Holy Spirit, who works constantly in our hearts preparing us for that great day, be all our praise and love until we meet him face to face. Amen.
- 19.** And now may the dying Saviour's love, the risen Saviour's power, the ascended Saviour's blessing, and the returning Saviour's glory be the joy and comfort of our hearts now and forever. Amen.
- 20.** May the grace of Christ uphold you,
And the love of God enfold you;
May the Holy Spirit guide you,
And all joy and peace betide you,
Now and always. Amen.
- 21.** Now may Spirit and Word be forever married in our experience; may the heat of joy and the light of truth burn in our hearts; and may we, who with unveiled faces behold the glory of Christ, become increasingly transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. Amen.
- 22.** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ make us gracious, the love of God our Father make us loving, and the fellowship and power of the Holy Spirit fill and empower us until we show, in our lives, more of the spirit and the character of Jesus Christ. Amen.

- 23.** Eternal God and Father, by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed: guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live this week in love to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.
- 24.** Lord, go with us into this week and grant us, moment by moment, the enjoyment of your presence, a sensitivity to the promptings of your Holy Spirit, and an awareness of the rich provision you have made for us to live victoriously and hopefully today and every day. Amen.
- 25.** Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- 26.** May your Word, O Lord, which brought creation into being, which brought redemption to the human race in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus, empower us who preach, or who listen, to be your “lived word” in our world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- 27.** Depart now in the fellowship of God the Father and, as you go, remember: in the goodness of God you were born into this world; by the grace of God you have been kept all the day long, even to this hour; and by the love of God, fully revealed in the life of Jesus, you are being redeemed. Amen.

- 28.** Let the powerlessness of God on the cross embrace you in every aspect of your life. No longer strive to emulate those who act out of desire and power, but rest in that terrible grace that emerges out of nothingness. Go now, in this grace, this life. It is eternal. It is God. It is *you*, in so far as you dare to live in it. Amen.
- 29.** May God our Father, through whose providence we have been given the gift of time, and his Son, Jesus Christ, whose earthly life demonstrated the supreme importance of timeliness, and the Holy Spirit, through whom alone we are empowered to fulfil the purposes for which we have been given time as our inheritance, so teach us to number our days aright that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Amen.
- 30.** Jesus Christ,
guide us with your boundless compassion
and compel us with your perfect love
to love according to your will in the truth . . .
that the truth may live in us
and we in the truth.

Nos 1-29 from Rowland Croucher (ed.), *Still Waters, Deep Waters* (Sutherland: Albatross Books, 1987); no. 30 from Hannah Ward & Jennifer Wild (eds), *Lion Christian Quotation Collection* (Oxford: Lion Publishing, 1997).