

## **Benedictions and Prayers**

1.

### **Benediction**

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may his face shine upon you and give you peace.

2.

### **Benediction**

May you be blessed every step of your path by the great God of light. May the sun shine upon you; may the moon move the tide of your emotions with every grace and magic; may your hearts sing; may your hearth be warm; and may your every blessed day be filled with joy.

3.

### **Benediction**

May God Almighty send you his light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. May the hand of God protect you and bless your home.

4.

### **Benediction**

We celebrate your union and pray God's blessing upon you.

5.

### **Benediction**

May all blessings attend you. May joy fill your lives together. May your home be forever a place of peace and true fulfillment.

6.

### **Irish Blessing**

Also see 15, 17, 24, 29, 30, and 42.

### **Benediction**

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm on your face.

The rains fall soft on your fields.  
Until we meet again, may the Lord  
Hold you in the hollow of his hand.

Irish Blessing

7.

### **Benediction**

The wedding is not over – it has just begun. Not once and forever, but again and again shall the mystery of two people, together in love, move one another and touch the world. For marriage is not something said and done, but a promise, whose fulfillment is acted out over time. For in the end, truth remains elusive – death a secret – love a challenge. Life goes on neither more nor less incidentally than before. But one's hand is strengthened, one's way brightened, and one's load – if not lightened – is made easier to bear.

So for Grm and Bde, we simply pray that the promises of marriage have a long and complete fulfillment; that their love is nurtured and shared by their families and friends; and that the seasons be joyous along the way. In God's name we pray. Amen.

8.

**Also see 9 and 25.**

### **An Apache Wedding Prayer**

Now you will feel no rain,  
For each of you will be shelter for the other.  
Now you will feel no cold,  
For each of you will be warmth to the other.  
Now there is no loneliness for you,  
For each of you will be companion to the other.  
Now you are two persons,  
But there is only one life before you.  
Go now to your dwelling,  
To enter into the days of your life together.  
And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

9.

Also see 8 and 25.

**Benediction**

**An Apache Blessing**

May the sun bring you new energy by day,  
May the moon softly restore you by night,  
May the rains wash away your worries  
And the breeze blow new strength into your being,  
And all of the days of your life may you walk  
Gently through the world and know its beauty.

10.

**Benediction**

May the God of light bless your union. May you find peace in your place in the universe and in our midst. May you feel the love of each other always.

11.

**Benediction**

Let us pray:

We rejoice this day in the marriage of Grm and Bde. We celebrate the love that brought them to this day. May your house be a place of happiness for all who enter it, a place where the old and the young are renewed in each other's company, a place for growing, a place for music, a place for laughter. May no person be alien to your compassion. May your larger family be the family of all mankind. And may those nearest to you and dearest to you constantly be enriched by the beauty and the bounty of your love for each other. Amen.

12.

**Benediction**

May Almighty God, with his word of blessing, unite your hearts in the never-ending bond of pure love. May your children bring you happiness, and may your generous love for them be returned to you many times over. May the peace of Christ live always in your hearts and in your house. May you have true friends that stand by you, both in joy and in sorrow. May you be ready and

willing to comfort and help all who come to you in need. And may the blessings promised to the compassionate be yours in abundance. May you find happiness and satisfaction in your work. May daily problems never cause you undue anxiety, nor the desire for earthly possessions dominate your lives. But may your hearts' first desire be always the good things waiting for you in heaven. May the Lord bless you with many happy years together, so that you may enjoy the rewards of a good life.

13.

#### **Benediction**

These two lives are now joined in one unbroken circle. Wherever they go, may they always return to one another in their togetherness. May Bde and Grm find for each other the love for which all men and women long. May they grow in understanding and in compassion. May the home they establish be such a place of sanctuary that mankind will find there a friend. And may these two rings symbolize the spirit of undying love in the hearts of both of them.

14.

#### **Benediction**

Dear God, when you look down upon Bde and Grm, give them peace and happiness. Bless their children, family, friends, and visitors through a happy life. May their trails lie straight and level before them. May their days be good and long upon the earth. We are all your children and ask these things with good hearts.

May Heaven and Earth bless this union. Amen

15.

Also see 6, 17, 24, 29, 30, and 42.

#### **Benediction**

#### **An Irish Blessing**

May the hands of friends be always near you,  
And may God fill your hearts with gladness and cheer you.

Irish Blessing

16.

**Benediction**

May the grace of God's protection and ever-present love abide within your home and within the hearts of all who dwell there.

17.

Also see 6, 15, 24, 29, 30, and 42.

**An Irish Blessing**

May God be with you and bless you.  
May you see your children's children.  
May you be poor in misfortune and rich in blessings.  
May you know nothing but happiness  
From this day forward.

Irish Blessing

18.

**Prayer**

Let us pray together the Lord's Prayer.

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven  
Hallowed be Thy name  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
For thine is the kingdom  
The power and the glory forever and ever  
Amen.

19.

### **A Wedding Prayer**

O Father, our hearts are filled with great happiness. This is our wedding day. We come before you at the altar of love, pledging our lives and our hearts to one another.

Grant that we may be ever true and loving, living together in such a way as to never bring shame or heartbreak into our marriage. Temper our hearts with kindness and understanding and rid them of all pretense or jealousy.

Help us to be sweetheart, helpmate, friend and guide, and together, may we meet the cares and problems of life more bravely. And as time takes away our youthful charm, may we find contentment in the greater joy of rich companionship.

May our home truly be a place of love and harmony where your Spirit is ever present. Bless our wedding day, we pray, and walk beside us, Father, through all our life together. Amen

Mary Dawson Hughes

For reading by another person.

### **Prayer**

The Bride and Groom have asked (            ) to read A Wedding Prayer by Mary Dawson Hughes.

### **A Wedding Prayer**

O Father, their hearts are filled with great happiness. This is their wedding day. They come before you at the altar of love, pledging their lives and their hearts to one another.

Grant that they may be ever true and loving, living together in such a way as to never bring shame or heartbreak into their marriage. Temper their hearts with kindness and understanding and rid them of all pretense or jealousy.

Help them to be sweetheart, helpmate, friend and guide, and together, may they meet the cares and problems of life more bravely. And as time takes

away their youthful charm, may they find contentment in the greater joy of rich companionship.

May their home truly be a place of love and harmony where your Spirit is ever present. Bless their wedding day, we pray, and walk beside them, Father, through all their life together. Amen

Mary Dawson Hughes

20.

**An Hawaiian Wedding Prayer**

Here all seeking is over,  
The lost has been found,  
A mate has been found to share the chills of winter  
Now Love asks that you be united.  
Here is a place to rest,  
a place to sleep,  
a place in heaven.  
Now the black night is scattered  
And the eastern sky grows bright.  
At last the great day has come!

Unknown

21.

**A Cherokee Prayer**

Creator above, please protect the ones we love.

We honor all you have created as Grm and Bde pledge their hearts and lives together.

We honor Mother Earth – and ask that Grm and Bde's marriage be abundant and grow stronger through the seasons.

We honor Fire – and ask that Grm and Bde's union be warm and glowing with love in their hearts.

We honor Wind – and ask that Grm and Bde sail through life safe and calm – as in their parent's arms.

We honor Water – to clean and soothe your relationship – that you may never thirst for love.

With all the forces of the universe you have created, we pray for harmony and true happiness as Grm and Bde forever grow young together

22.

### **A Marriage Prayer**

Bless this marriage, as Grm and Bde begin their journey down the road of life together. We don't know what lies ahead for the road turns and bends. But help them to make the best of whatever comes their way.

Help them to hug each other often ... laugh a lot, talk more, and argue less.

Help them to continue to enjoy each other as they did when they first met.

Help them to realize that nothing or no one is perfect and to look for the good in all things and all people including themselves.

Help them to respect each other's likes and dislikes, opinions and beliefs, hopes and dreams and fears even though they may not always understand them.

Help them to learn from each other and help each other grow mentally and emotionally.

Give them peace of heart and strength of spirit so they may honor the vows they made here today. And may the promises they made inspire each of us who celebrates with them. Amen.

23.

### **The Serenity Prayer**

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

24.

Also see 6, 15, 17, 29, 30, and 42.

### **Benediction**

#### **An Irish Blessing**

May you always have work for your hands to do.

May your pockets hold always a coin or two.

May the sun shine bright on your windowpane.

May the rainbow be certain to follow each rain.

May the hand of a friend always be near you.

May you have warm words on a cold evening,

A full moon on a dark night,

And the road downhill all the way to your door.

Walls for the wind,

And a roof for the rain,

Laughter to cheer you

And those you love near you,

And all that your heart may desire.

Always remember to forget

The troubles that passed away.

But never forget to remember

The blessings that come each day.

May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face.

And rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

25.

Also see 8 and 9.

**Benediction**

**Old Apache Blessing**

Now you will feel no rain,  
for each of you will be shelter to the other.

Now you will feel no cold,  
for each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there is no loneliness.

You are two bodies,  
but there is one life before you, and one home.

You will take each other's hand and you'll turn together to look at the road you  
traveled to reach this – the hour of your happiness.

It stretches behind you and the future lies ahead.

A long and winding road, whose every turn means discovery,  
old hopes, new laughter and shared tears.

May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years.

May happiness be your companion and your days together be good and long  
upon the earth.

26.

**Benediction**

May joy and peace surround you both. Contentment latch your door.  
May happiness be with you now, and bless you evermore.

27.

**Blessing/Prayer**

Dear God,

We thank you for this beautiful wedding day and thank you for Grm and  
Bde. We thank you for having brought them safely thus far on their journey.  
We pray that as you joined their hands and hearts together to become husband  
and wife, that you will bless them. We pray that you will give them strength and  
courage as they face all the tasks and decisions that lie before them. We also  
pray that you bless these rings that he and she wear and may they ever bide in  
your peace living together in unity, love and happiness. Amen.

## 28. A Secular Wedding Blessing

### A Wedding Wish

We do not hope that you will experience no pain and sorrow, but that these will deepen your compassion for others.

We do not hope that you will never be treated unjustly, but that injustice will find in you a lifelong defender.

We do not hope that you will commit no mistakes, but that your mistakes will teach you to say "I'm sorry."

We do not hope that you won't be misunderstood, but that misunderstanding will lead you to desire to do only what god wills.

We do not hope that your life will be easy, but that your labors will be borne with deep conviction.

We do not hope that you will never be exposed to hypocrisy and shame, but that you will not become bitter or disillusioned with life.

We do not hope that you will never fail, but that you will have the courage to carry on.

We do not hope that you will never doubt, but that your doubts will lead you to depend on God.

We do not hope that you will be spared aggression, but that you will be able to mold it into peace.

We do not hope that your life will be long; we hope only that you will live life to the fullest.

29.

Also see 6, 15, 17, 24, 30, and 42.

### Another Irish Blessing

#### Benediction

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.  
May you see your children's children.  
May you be poor in misfortune,  
Rich in blessings,  
May you know nothing but happiness  
From this day forward.  
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home  
And may the hand of a friend always be near.  
May green be the grass you walk on,  
May blue be the skies above you,  
May pure be the joys that surround you,  
May true be the hearts that love you.

30.

Also see 6, 15, 17, 24, 29, and 42.

### One More Irish Blessing

#### Benediction

A sunbeam to warm you,  
Good luck to charm you.  
A sheltering angel,  
So nothing can harm you.

Laughter to cheer you,  
Faithful friends near you,

[Tom@tgarmstrong.com](mailto:Tom@tgarmstrong.com)

And whenever you pray,  
Heaven to hear you.

May your mornings bring you joy,  
And your evenings bring you peace.  
May your troubles grow few,  
As your blessings increase.

May you be poor in misfortune  
And rich in blessings.  
May you have laughter to cheer you,  
And those you love near you.

May you be blessed with walls for the wind  
And a roof for the rain,  
Drinks beside the fire  
And comfort in pain.

May you always have work,  
for your hands to do.  
May your pockets hold always,  
a coin or two.

May your neighbors respect you,  
Troubles neglect you,  
The angels protect you,  
And Heaven accept you.

May you know the joy of children  
whose love all faults redeems  
May they learn from you of joy and hope  
and teach you with their dreams.

Always remember to forget  
The troubles that passed away.  
But never forget to remember

[Tom@tgarmstrong.com](mailto:Tom@tgarmstrong.com)

The blessings that come each day.

May God be with you and bless you,  
And true love be in your home,  
From this day forward, Amen.

An Irish Blessing

31.

### **Prayer of Love**

My marriage prayer for you is this:

That you will always remember the qualities that attracted you to each other when you first met and how you felt as your feelings of attraction turned into respect, admiration and finally love.

That you will work hard to turn your feelings of love into acts of love so that nothing and no one can divide you.

That you will always have kind and loving hearts that are quick to ask for forgiveness when you are wrong as well as to forgive when your partner is wrong.

That your love might grow to hear all things, believe all things, and hope for all things, and endure all things.

I pray you place your marriage in God's hands, and that your love increases and overflows, beyond anything you can yet imagine.

32.

### **Wedding Prayer by Robert Lewis Stevenson**

Lord, behold our family here assembled.

We thank you for this place in which we dwell,

[Tom@tgarmstrong.com](mailto:Tom@tgarmstrong.com)

for the love that unites us,  
for the peace accorded us this day,  
for the hope with which we expect the morrow,  
for the health, the work, the food,  
and the bright skies that make our lives delightful;  
for our friends in all parts of the earth.  
Amen.

Robert Lewis Stevenson

**33.**

### **Readings from the Koran**

Praise be to Almighty Allah, the Sustainer of the Worlds Whom we ask help and pardon. We seek refuge in Allah from the evils within ourselves and from our evil actions. He whom Allah guides no one can lead astray and he who leaves in error has no one to guide him. I testify that there is no deity but Allah and that Mohammed is His servant and His messenger.

Koran 9:71-72

A husband and wife should be as garments for each other. Just as garments are for protection, comfort, show, and concealment, Allah expects husbands and wives to be for one another. Believers, men and women, are protecting friends of one another; they enjoy the right and forbid the wrong, establish worship, pay the poor due. Obey Allah and His messenger and for those Allah will have mercy on them.

Koran

### **Fatiha or the Opening Chapter**

In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful.  
Praise be to God, the cherisher and sustainer of the Worlds;  
Most gracious, most merciful;  
Master of the day of judgment;  
Thee do we worship, and thine aid we seek.  
Show us the straight way,  
The way of those on whom thou hast bestowed thy grace,

Those whose portion is not wrath, and who go not astray.

Koran

O believers, be in awe of God, and believe in His Messenger, and He will give you a twofold portion of His mercy, and He will appoint for you a light whereby you shall walk, and forgive you; God is All-Forgiving, All-Compassionate; that the People of the Book may know that they have no power over anything of God's bounty, and that bounty is in the hand of God; He gives it unto whomsoever He will; and God is of bounty abounding.

The Koran Interpreted – A. J. Arberry

34.

### **A Wedding Prayer**

Love is, and should be, the outward manifestation of God's goodness, shining through the union of two people.

Love cannot grow in quiet darkness, nor survive in too much brilliant light. It cannot survive in silence or in screams.

Love must be tempered and nurtured; it can even be watered with some tears, as well as bloom with laughter.

Grow in love, Bde and Grm, and in this love, you will shine for each other and become a beacon of light for others.

Love is forever giving, forever comforting, never self-centered in motive. It is truly a complete triangle, with God at its apex.

Grm and Bde, we here are aware of your love and know that no matter what desert or valley you encounter, you will see it through together.

Let the love that shines for you both today blend with ours to keep it bright. For as long as love exists, then the essence of God exists within us.

God bless you both.

Sylvia Browne

35.

### **Wedding Prayer**

Heavenly Father,

We gather to celebrate your gift of love, and its presence among us. We rejoice that these two people have chosen to commit themselves to a life of loving faithfulness to one another. We praise you, Lord, for the ways you have touched our lives with a variety of loving relationships, and we give thanks for Gm and Bde and for the special love and friendship you have put in their hearts. Renew within us an affectionate and loving spirit. Enrich our lives with the gracious gift of your love so that we may embrace others with that same love. May our participation in this celebration of love and commitment, give to us a new joy and responsiveness to the relationships that we cherish. In your loving arms we pray. Amen.

36.

### **Benediction**

And now we go into the days ahead. May we find strength. May we have wisdom. May we keep humble. And may we live and work together and, so striving, build a new and better world of tomorrow.

37.

### **Benediction**

May your joys be as bright as the morning. Your years of happiness as numerous as the stars in the heavens, and your troubles but shadows that fade in the sunlight of love.

38.

### **Benediction**

May joy and peace surround you both. Contentment latch your door. May happiness be with you now, and bless you evermore.

39.

### **Wedding Prayer**

Oh Lord, we thank you  
For the union of hearts of Grm and Bde  
On this special day, their wedding day.  
Heaven sings in triumph  
For a new love shall unveil  
The glory of your name.  
Dear Father, we sincerely pray  
That you bless this couple  
With a love to last forever.  
In sickness and in health  
May they find your strength  
In doubts and troubles  
May they see your light  
In hurts and failures  
May they find your pardon  
In loneliness and desperation  
May they find your joy.  
Also we pray, that you bless them with a family  
So blissful, prosperous and ever healthy  
And above all, filled with love, faith and hope  
That is founded on you.  
Amen.

40.

### **Benediction**

We ask that the Holy Spirit of love may deepen the lives of Bde and Grm. May the relationship, which today has been expressed, continue to grow in the years to come. And whatever changes time may bring, let this wedding ceremony remain as a treasured memory and a guide to life. May they always experience that breathless wonder that exclaims: "Out of all this world, you have chosen me." When life is done and the sun is setting, may they be found then as now, still hand in hand, still thanking you for each other. Amen

41.

### **St. Francis' Prayer**

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God, make Bde and Grm a channel of your peace:

That where there is hatred they may bring love;

Where there is hurt they may bring the spirit of forgiveness;

Where there is doubt they may bring faith;

Where there is despair they may bring hope;

Where there is darkness they may bring light;

Where there is sadness they may bring joy

For it is by giving that they shall receive, by losing that they shall find, by forgiving that they shall be forgiven.

God grant that they seek rather to comfort than to be comforted,

To understand than to be understood,

To love than to be loved.

**42. Yet Another Irish Blessing**

**Also see 6, 15, 17, 24, 29, and 30.**

### **An Irish Wedding Blessing**

Happy is the Bride that rain falls on

May your mornings bring joy and your evenings bring peace.

May your troubles grow few as your blessings increase.

May the saddest day of your future

Be no worse than the happiest day of your past.

May your hands be forever clasped in friendship

And your hearts joined forever in love.

Your lives are very special,

God has touched you in many ways.

[Tom@tgarmstrong.com](mailto:Tom@tgarmstrong.com)

May all his blessings rest upon you  
And fill all your coming days.  
We swear by peace and love to stand,  
Heart to heart and hand to hand.  
Hark, O Spirit, and hear us now,  
Confirming this our Sacred Vow.

43.

**Benediction**

May you always remain sweethearts, helpmates and friends.  
May your life together be full of kindness and understanding, thoughtfulness  
and rejoicing.  
May the years bring you happiness and contentment.  
May you enter into each other's sorrow by sympathy,  
Into each other's joy with gladness,  
Into each other's hope with faith and trust,  
Into each other's need with the sure presence of love,  
Into each other's lives with enthusiasm and embracing.

44.

**Benediction**

May God encircle you, keeping hope within and despair without. May  
God encircle you, keeping peace within and anxiety without. May God encircle  
you, keeping light within and darkness without.

45.

**Benediction**

May your joys be as bright as the morning. Your years of happiness as  
numerous as the stars in the heavens, and your troubles but shadows that fade  
in the sunlight of love.