

Scriptural Blessings to Pray for Your Children

by Brian Smith

Blessing our children is part of a rich biblical heritage. In the Old Testament, fathers regularly pronounced blessings on their children (see Gen. 27:26-29, 39-40, 49:1-28). As New Testament believers and priests of God (1 Pet. 2:9), one of our privileges is to bless others. When we invoke God's name over His people, God blesses them (see Num. 6:22-27).

As you pray these blessings for your children, consider pronouncing them aloud, as Old Testament parents did. Hearing you claim God's blessing on their lives will build your children's faith, remind them of their true God-given identity, and reinforce your—and their heavenly Father's—great love for them.

Assurance of salvation. Lord, lead my children to trust only in Jesus' sacrifice for their eternal salvation; assure them that their souls are secure in Your hands. (Jn. 3:16, 10:28-29; 1 Jn. 5:13)

Intimacy with God. Draw my children face-to-face with You, that they might taste Your goodness and long for more of You. (Ex. 33:11; Ps. 27:8, 34:8, 42:1-2)

Spiritual blessings. Father, remind my children that You have adopted them in love. Enable them to experience all the spiritual blessings they have in Christ Jesus, especially Your measureless love. May they act, speak, and think in ways fitting for a child of God. (Eph. 1:3-14, 3:17-19, 5:8-10)

Confidence in prayer. Assure my children that You hear their prayers and that You always answer as a caring Father, even when they do not receive what they want. (1 Jn. 5:14-15; Mt. 7:7-11)

Repentance. When my children sin, quickly lead them to confess and repent so that they might enjoy a clear conscience and unbroken fellowship with You. (Ps. 32:1-2; 1 Jn. 1:5-9)

Sanctification. Transform my children into Christ's likeness. Use whatever circumstances You, in Your perfect wisdom, deem necessary to produce a harvest of righteousness and peace in their lives. (2 Cor. 3:18; Jas. 1:2-4; Heb. 12:5-11)

Hope and rest. Bathe my children in restful, confident hope as they trust You with their self-worth, relationships, life's work, and _____ (other concerns). May they overflow with Your peace. (Jer. 29:11; Mt. 11:28-30; Ro. 15:13; Phil. 4:6-7)

Comfort. Through every hardship, may Your Spirit bring tangible consolation to my children so that they will know that they are not alone. Right now, they need Your comfort to get through _____ (pray for specific trials or losses). (Mt. 5:4; Jn. 14:16-18)

Freedom. Guide my children into truth so that they will enjoy genuine freedom. (Jn. 8:31-32, 36)

Friendships. Provide my children with friends who are supportive and truthful. Keep them from relationships that would draw them away from You. (Eccl. 4:9-12; Prov. 27:5-6; 1 Cor. 15:33)

Effective parents. Help me (and my spouse) to be the influence my children need at every stage of their growth. Keep me willing to listen to anything they want to discuss. (Prov. 20:7; Eph. 6:4)

Marriage and children. If it is Your will that my children marry and have children, guide them to godly spouses with whom they will enjoy flourishing relationships. May they pass along a rich heritage to future generations. May those who remain single experience the joy of living in undivided devotion to You. (Ps. 127:3-5, 128:1-4; 1 Cor. 7:32-35)

A healthy church. Provide my children with a unified, prayerful, Bible-teaching church family that will draw them into community, give them a hunger for Your Word, and involve them in Your work; bless them with spiritual leaders who are trustworthy and humble. (Acts 2:42, 4:32-35; Eph. 4:15-16; 1 Tim. 3:1-13)

Holy Spirit. Fill my children with Your Holy Spirit. Show them how to exercise their spiritual gifts, and enable them to bear all the fruit of Your Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Eph. 5:18; 1 Cor. 12:4-28; Gal. 5:22-23)

Influence. Lord, may my children attract many to You as they influence the world with truth and righteousness. (Mt. 5:13-16; Mk. 1:17; 2 Cor. 2:15-16)

Success. As they study and apply Your Word, may my children bear much eternal fruit. Grant them success in _____ (specific God-honoring endeavors). (Josh. 1:7-8; Jn. 15:8; Jas. 1:25)

Wisdom. Bless my children with wisdom, and give them a constant hunger for more. Fill them with the knowledge of Your Word and Your will. Grant them a life-giving fear of You, for that is where all wisdom begins. (Prov. 3:13; Jas. 1:5; Col. 1:9; Prov. 9:10)

Guidance. By the Holy Spirit's power, lead my children along paths of righteousness. Specifically, guide them in _____ (circumstances your children currently face). (Prov. 3:5-6; Jn. 16:13)

Protection. Keep my children physically safe and healthy, and guard them from the evil one. Help them resist _____ (specific current or future temptations). (Jas. 5:14-16; Jn. 17:15; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Cor. 10:13)

Provision. Supply my children's earthly needs. At the moment they need _____ . (Mt. 6:11, 25-33; Phil. 4:19)

Eternity. Remind my children of the eternal rewards You promise. Let this perspective motivate them to lay up treasure in heaven. May they seek first Your kingdom and righteousness by living with integrity and investing generously in the lives of people. (1 Cor. 3:12-14; 2 Cor. 5:1, 10; Jn. 14:2-3; Mt. 6:19-21, 33)

The unimaginable. Gracious Father, shower my children with blessings that exceed my dreams. May Your love flow abundantly into their lives. (Eph. 3:17-20)

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