

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)