



HOSPICE MESSAGES OF HOPE

Prayers and Reflections for Your Journey

Dear Friend,

Life is a journey that takes numerous twists and turns. Though our experiences differ along the way, we all have one thing in common; we must make the journey from beginning to end. If you find yourself today, in the midst of your journey, standing at a spiritual/emotional crossroad, take comfort, for you are not alone. The Master Trail Guide is with you. He Himself has promised to make the journey with you all the way. Remember His words, "I am with you always, even to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20 NIV) And so, in your time of need, look to the One who can show you the way. Heed His words carefully. Speak to Him honestly. Walk with Him closely. And always remember, though the journey can be difficult, you are not alone.

Signed,
A Fellow Traveler

PRAYER IN THE PRESENCE OF DEATH

Lord God, we come to You today burdened and hurt by what has happened. From the very presence of death we call upon You, for You are the giver of life; Your Son Jesus Christ is the source of eternal life. You know our hearts, Father, You see our grief. Only You can give us peace and comfort; only You can dry our tears; only You can soothe our pain.

In our sorrow we look back and see a cross, but we also see an empty tomb. How thankful we are that Jesus rose on the third day, never to die again. We cling to His promise for those who trust in Him, "Because I live, you shall live also."

Thank You dear God, for His victory over death and for the assurance that we can share in that victory when we put our lives in Your hands. Comfort us in our loss; deepen our trust in you and strengthen our resolve to live every day, every moment for You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

~Christian Minister's Manual, p. 40

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body.

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Where I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.

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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light and where there is sadness, joy. O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. ~A Treasury of Prayers, p. 10

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A MORNING PRAYER

Father in heaven, my heart is heavy with the burden I carry in caring for _____. Help me to set my heart on You today rather than my own needs and desires. As I seek to serve You selflessly, fill me to overflowing with your Spirit so that everything I do will bear witness to You. Help me to remember today that I am Your hands that bring Your mercy; I am Your feet that bring Your peace; I am Your mouth that brings Your grace; I am Your heart that brings Your unstoppable love. I am Your instrument. Use me today to make a difference. Amen.

THE SERENITY PRAYER

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.
~Reinhold Niebuhr

A PRAYER OF PURPOSE

Lord, my God and King. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your word says that I was created with purpose. From the very start You had a mission in mind for me. I give myself to You today to serve others Lord. May my life be a living sacrifice to You. Use me to comfort the sick. Use me to bring peace to the dying. Use me to love as You love. For Your name's sake, I pray these things. Amen.

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path there was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all of the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your time of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you." ~Carolyn Carty

PRAYER IN TIME OF SUFFERING

Behold me, my beloved Jesus, weighed down under the burden of my suffering. I cast myself at Your feet, that You may renew my strength and my courage, while I rest in Your presence. Permit me to lay at Your feet all of my suffering, for only Your infinite goodness can sustain me; only Your powerful hand can lighten its weight. O Divine King, Jesus, whose heart is so compassionate to the afflicted, I wish to live in You; suffer and die in You. During my life be to me my model and my support. At the hour of my death, be my hope and my refuge. Amen. ~A Treasury of Prayers p. 13

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the sick, we turn to You in this time of illness. O dearest Comforter of the Troubled, alleviate our worry and sorrow with your gentle love, and grant us the grace and strength to accept this burden. Dear God, we place our worries in Your hands. We place _____ under your care. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge Your holy will and know that whatsoever You do, You do for the love of us. Amen.
~A Treasury of Prayers, p. 12

PRAYER WHEN DEATH SEEMS NEAR

Our Father, we come before You having done all that we can do. We are weak; You are strong. We are troubled; in You there is peace. Though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we are not afraid, for You are with us. Forgive our selfish hold on this world and this life. Give us vision to see the world to come; where our Savior Shepherd waits for His flock, where there will be no sorrow nor tears nor pain, but where all is joy and peace in your presence. We pray in the name of Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen. ~Christian Minister's Manual, p. 35

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Matthew 25-31:40 NIV | Mark 10:42-45 NIV | Romans 8:28-30 | 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV | Romans 8:35-39 | Matthew 11:27-30 NIV | Psalm 23 NRSV | Psalm 139 | Revelation 21:1-4 NIV | John 14:1-7 NIV

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