

# A BACCALAUREATE PRAYER

'Tis the season for baccalaureate services and graduation exercises. Around the country, some have already been held and others are yet to be. Each is definitely a high-water mark in the lives of students.

Lola and I had the privilege this past Sunday of attending a baccalaureate service for a young friend. His name is Dawson Durham, a graduating senior at Ringgold (Georgia) High School. He was chosen to offer the invocation for the program, and he wrote and delivered a remarkable prayer that no doubt reflects the desires of many graduates. Here it is:



*Father God, we thank You for the parents, guardians and other family members. We thank You also for the teachers, administrators, and finally, we thank You for giving us the opportunity to graduate.*

*I pray that You will give us direction, purpose and perseverance as we enter the next phase of our lives. Give us clearness of mind to move forward into the plans and purposes that You have for us. May we gain wisdom from You and have discernment for proper behavior.*

*Father, please raise up Christian mentors for us as graduates so we have someone who holds us accountable for our actions. I pray that we will be able to rise above ungodly behaviors and have the boldness to stand up for what is right wherever we work, study or socialize. Give us wisdom to spend our time and money wisely. Grant us success for our efforts at every turn and guide our feet to follow Your ways.*

*May we all be eager to do good and not evil in all the days of our lives. Use us in mighty ways, dear Father.*

*In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen!*

Dawson's prayer is printed here because it is a voice for countless graduates – high school and college – as they consider the road ahead into their future. But it also contains elements of truth important for all of us to recognize, whatever our age or station in life, including:

(more)

1. God has a plan for our lives, and the sooner we recognize it and pursue it, the better we are.
2. Mentors help keep us pointed in the right direction.
3. Good friends make our lives richer and more satisfying.
4. God wants us to live successful lives, and we should yield to His will.
5. God promised us wisdom if we ask for it. Scripture makes that clear.



We can learn from one another; even the young can teach us. Dawson just did.

– Beecher Hunter