

# The Benediction

A benediction is the pronouncing of a divine blessing. I first heard the term as a very young child in church. It is usually associated with the final words of a worship service or a formal program, given by a spiritual leader. We have employed the benediction to end groundbreaking ceremonies, grand openings of facilities and other events at Life Care.

It would be recommended, of course, that before a person pronounces the benediction – since it is communication with God – that a person should be certain about the purity of his or her own heart by asking the Lord to cleanse and renew a right spirit within.

You may also consider giving yourself and your family a benediction. Before you turn off the lights for the night, speak a benediction with faith and boldness, in full confidence that the Lord desires this blessing to take root in you and bear good fruit. By doing so, you can end each day with a keen awareness of God's blessing and His claim on your life.

This benediction inscribed at Gloucester Cathedral in England is a good one to model:

*Go on your way in peace.  
Be of good courage.  
Hold fast that which is good.  
Render to no man evil for evil.  
Strengthen the fainthearted.  
Support the weak.  
Help and cheer the sick.  
Honor all men.  
Love and serve the Lord.  
May the blessing of God be upon you  
And remain with you forever.  
So be it. And have a blessed good night!*

Whenever you pray them, those are words fitly spoken.

--Beecher Hunter