Growing Spiritually as an Elder
Benediction Prayers

Benedictions are blessings. The scriptures contain many instances when a person is blessed. A blessing is not a nice saying, it is an action. The person speaking the blessing is inviting a change to happen. Something is different when a benediction is spoken. When Jesus ascended into heaven in the end of Luke’s gospel, he does so in the act of blessing. In a sermon by Dr. Joey Jeter, professor at Brite Divinity School in Texas, entitled, “In the midst of a blessing” he made the point that it is in the middle of blessing them that he leaves and that he will come again as he left — blessing the believers — giving them benediction — changing them.

A sampling of New Testament benedictions includes:

- Romans 16:25-27
- 1 Corinthians 16:23-24
- 2 Corinthians 13:13
- Ephesians 6:23-24
- Philippians 4:8-9
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
- 2 Thessalonians 3:16
- Hebrews 13:20-21
- Jude verses 24-35

Try writing your own benedictions. The elements include:

- a statement about the goodness of God
- sometimes a statement of hope for the future
- often a reminder to the hearer to be mindful of God
- most end with the mention of Jesus and praying in his name or in the name of the Holy Spirit.

You can read some of those listed above and paraphrase them to fit your own group as a way of learning to write them.