

Growing Spiritually as an Elder Benediction Prayers

Disciples Pray

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

I 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.