



Dear Parents,

I know it's hard to believe that you are entering into your student's final weeks of their high school life. For some of you this is the first march down this path, and for others you have been there before, but each journey is different. One of our ministry goals is to help you have a continued influence in your senior's life. We want to be a resource to help equip parents to launch their students into life after High School and not just passively let them go.

One of the things that we have realized over the past years is that we need to foster communication that normally does not happen in the course of the average dinner time chats. The last several years we have started to ask parents to write a formal blessing to their graduate. Let us throw out a question that will make the point: Did you EVER receive your parents' blessing? Did you ever know exactly what your parents felt about you and how much you meant to them?

God has hardwired all of us to seek the approval of our parents, and we want to use this special time to make sure the students know exactly what they mean to you. We see this concept in Genesis 27 with Isaac blessing his sons and Genesis 49 with Jacob following the tradition. There is something mysterious and powerful about a parent blessing.

We want you to spend some time writing this blessing. It may take you into new territory, but it will benefit your student greatly. During the Senior Banquet on Sunday night, we will have a time where I ask you to pull out this blessing and read it to your graduate and pray over them. Let me give you a warning, it will be emotional. Please keep this letter to yourselves and have it ready. I promise it will be a night you will cherish for a long time. For this reason, we have limited the banquet to just Seniors and their parents.

If you have any questions let me know. I have attached a few examples of blessings that you may be able to use as a resource as you spend time writing your own.

God Bless,

Chip Paul
Radiate Student Pastor
Burnt Hickory Baptist Church



Blessing for a Daughter

Nicole, you've found great favor in God's eyes. God has blessed you with true beauty inside and out, good health, and great academic achievements. We're so thankful to God for you and your life in Christ. You are a great daughter, sister and friend. Your daily presence will be missed greatly, but we know we have to let go of life as we know it and let God's marvelous plans for you unfold. We'll never be apart in spirit and will be united in love always.

We pray that God will incline your heart toward him day and night. May your prayers be near to God. May you feel God's presence and learn to hear God's voice clearly and walk in all God's ways. May God lead you to a new church and bless you with teachers, friends and activities that will bring God honor and glory.

We don't know what the future holds for you, but we know who holds your future, and as you leave "the nest" we'll be cheering you on as you mount on eagle's wings and soar.

~ THE MORTIMER FAMILY

Blessing for a Son

Daniel, live as a free man but don't use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as a servant of God. Fear God, which is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. Realize that Christ is where you'll always find peace. Honor those in authority over you, and know enough about the character of God to recognize the wrong path--then run from it. This is my prayer for you as you enter the next chapter of your life:

"Father, please do not let love and faithfulness ever leave my son; I pray that you, Lord, will bind love and faithfulness around his neck and write them on the tablet of his heart. My God, please help him win favor and a good name in your sight and in the sight of his fellow man. Lord, I pray that his relationship with you will teach him to learn to trust you with all his heart and mind and that he will not lean simply on his own understanding. In recognition of your sovereignty, I pray that you will lead his heart to acknowledge you in all his ways. I pray that you will make his path straight. God, I pray that you'll lead him to be humble and not to be wise in his own eyes, to fear you, and to shun evil. In faith, I pray that you will allow him to prosper according to your riches and mercy."

My firstborn son, remember to be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. I love you deeply and will pray for you often. I am here whenever you need a friend; my arms will always welcome you with love and a warm hug. I love you. I am proud of you, son.

~ THE PULLIAM FAMILY