

## **Prayers and Blessings**

Marriage is a gift from God, a miracle.

After speaking to you both, it is obvious that you already know some of the great blessings marriage has to offer.

It is an opportunity to feel the joy of taking care of someone who takes care of you, to be challenged towards growth yet gently nurtured, to love deeply and receive it in return.

It is about trust, friendship and having a partner to share all life has to offer.

It is a commitment to participate in a process of mutual evolution, understanding and forgiveness.

It is indeed a sacred union to be treated with reverence.

Marriage is not a place to hide from the world.

It is a safe place to grow and become wiser.

It is a place to evolve into better people; so that you can go out in the world and make a difference by spreading the joy and wisdom that you have found with each other.

Together in this marriage, you shall contribute more fully, for you both shall be more full.

Bride, Groom is a gift to you from God, but he is not a gift for you alone.

It is God's will that in your love, this man might find within himself a greater sense of who he is meant to be.

You are asked to see the good in this man, to accept him for who he is and who he shall be.

In this way, God's purpose shall be accomplished in this relationship.

May this man find the kingdom of heaven through the love you share.

And so it is with you also Groom, that although Bride is God's gift to you, she is not a gift intended for you alone.

You are asked by God to so love this woman, that in your love she might find herself as God has created her, so beautiful and strong and brave and true, that the entire world might be blessed by the presence of a woman who shines so.

May she relax in your arms as she has never relaxed before. May she know, from now on, that there is one on whose love she can depend on forever.