

A photograph of a woman in a white dress standing next to a bicycle. The bicycle has a wire basket on the front filled with green plants. The woman is wearing white high-heeled sandals. The scene is set outdoors on grass. The image is framed with a white border and diagonal lines.

Marriage Messages



The Way of Love

1

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; love is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; love is not irritable or resentful; love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child; I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is LOVE.

-1 Corinthians 13



I pray that you will love your husband well and that your love will bear, believe, hope and endure all things.





2

What is Home?



Home's not merely four square walls,
Though hung with pictures nicely gilded;
Home is where affection calls,
Filled with shrines the heart hath builded.

Home! Go watch the faithful dove,
Sailing 'neath the heaven above us;
Home is where we've one to love,
Home is where there's one to love us.

Home's not merely roof and room;
Home needs something to endear it;
Home is where the heart can bloom,
Where there's some kind heart to cheer it!

What is home with none to meet,
None to welcome, none to greet us?
Home is sweet, and only sweet,
When there's one we love to meet us.

I pray that your home will be a sweet haven filled with the ones you love.



A Wife's Power

3

A good wife is to a man
wisdom, strength, and courage;
a bad one is confusion, weakness, and despair.

No condition is hopeless to a man where the wife possesses
firmness, decision, and economy.

There is no outward propriety, which can counteract
indolence, extravagance, and folly at home.
No spirit can long endure bad influence.
Man is strong; but his heart is not adamant.

He needs a tranquil home,
and especially if he is an intelligent man, with a whole head,
he needs its moral force in the conflict of life.

To recover his composure
home must be a place of peace and comfort.
There his soul renews its strength and goes forth
with renewed vigor to encounter
the labor and troubles of life.

But if at home he finds no rest, and
there is met with bad temper, jealousy,
and gloom, or assailed with
complaints and censure,
hope vanishes and he
sinks to despair.

-Unknown

I pray...

that you will be a wise,
strong, and courageous wife
and that you will possess
firmness, decision, and economy.

4



Go, eat your bread with joy,
and drink your wine with a merry heart,
for God has already approved what you do.

*Enjoy life with the husband
whom you love,*

all the days of your life that
God has given you under the sun,
because that is your portion in life.

ECCLESIASTES 9:7



I pray that all the days of your life you will enjoy with your husband.



Hatred stirs up strife,
but love
covers all offenses.

PROVERBS 10:12

I pray that your love is a wellspring of forgiveness that covers every offense.



The *Secret* of Conjugal Happiness

6

To secure mutual love between husband and wife it is necessary that there should be mutual kindness and mutual loveliness of character. Whatever is seen to be offensive or painful, should be at once abandoned. All the little peculiarities of temper and modes of speech that are observed to give pain should be forsaken; and while one party should endeavor to tolerate them, and not be offended, the other should make it a matter of conscience to remove them.

The great secret of conjugal happiness is in the cultivation of a proper temper. It is not so much in the great and trying scenes of life that the strength of virtue is tested; it is in the events that are constantly occurring, the manifestation of kindness in the things that are happening every moment; the gentleness that flows along every day, like the stream that winds through the meadow and around the farm-house, noiseless but useful, diffusing fertility by day and by night. Great deeds rarely occur. The happiness of life depends little on them, but mainly on the little acts of kindness in life. We need them everywhere; we need them always. And eminently in the marriage relation there is need of gentleness and love, returning each morning, beaming in the eye, and dwelling in the heart through the livelong day.

-Dr. Albert Barnes



I pray that you both will walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

-Ephesians 4:1





7

Forbearance

We should enter the marriage state remembering that we are about to be united to a fallen creature; and as, in every case, it is not two angels that have met together, but two sinful children of Adam, from whom much weakness and waywardness must be looked for, we must make up our minds to some imperfection; and, remembering we

have no small share of our own that calls for the forbearance of the other party, we should exercise the patience we ask.

Where both have infirmities, and they are so constantly together, innumerable occasions will be furnished if we are eager, or even willing, to avail ourselves of the opportunities for those contention, which if they do not produce a permanent suppression of love, lead to its temporary interruption.

Many things we should connive at; others we should pass by with an unprovoked mind; and, in all things, most carefully avoid even what at first may seem to be an innocent disputation.

-John Angell James

I pray that you will develop an awareness of your faults and a forbearance of your husband's faults.

I Am the True Vine



8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

Abide in me, and I in you.

As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

I am the vine; you are the branches.

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, it will be done for you.

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.

Abide in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

You did not choose me, I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

-John 15

I pray...

that you will abide in the love of Christ and love one another as Christ loves you.



Heavenly Love

9

They who sin tell us Love can die.
With life all other passions fly,

All others are but vanity.

In heaven Ambition cannot dwell,
Nor Avarice in the vaults of hell;

Earthly these passions of the earth,
They perish where they have their birth;

But Love is indestructible.

Its holy flame forever burneth,
From heaven it came, to heaven returneth;

Too oft on earth a troubled guest,
At times deceived, at times oppressed,

It here is tried and purified,

Then hath in heaven its perfect rest:

It soweth here with toil and care,
But the harvest time of Love is there.

-Southey

I pray that you will remember that loving others well has eternal significance.

Marriage was instituted by God himself, between our first parents, in the happy state of innocence, and in the blissful dwelling of Paradise: it is, therefore, of high and sacred origin: Jesus has sanctified it, by performing his first miracle at the marriage at Cana; he thereby manifested his approbation of it. The wisdom and goodness of God has provided for the peace and comfort of his creatures, by this institution, as a bar against the anarchy and confusion which would otherwise prevail, even in the most refined society. The sacred bond of marriage is too often ridiculed and deprecated, by the libertinism of youthful passions; but it is the most perfect taste of happiness which this life affords, provided it is entered upon wisely, and supported with mutual indulgence and affection.

St. Paul has left us some admirable instructions on this state, and has clearly proved the holiness of a virtuous union, and the favor which it finds in the sight of God.—“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it: so ought men to love their wives as their own bodies: He that loveth his wife, loveth himself; for no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth it, and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the Church. Let every one of you, in particular, love his wife even as himself; and let the wife see that she reverence her husband.”

By the sacred tie of marriage, two persons are made one in their interests, affections, and every worldly consideration; and they are also one in the

sight of God. To make this sacred tie productive of mutual comfort, it must not be lightly contracted, nor the state entered upon without due reflection on the characters which are to be united; and even between those whose characters appear the most likely to ensure happiness in marriage, there must be a constant regard to each other's wishes and inclinations as well as a constant indulgence towards each other's faults and weaknesses. Let the husband cherish and protect his wife; let him show her at all times, that he prefers her to all other women; let him ensure the submission of her will to him, by gentleness, persuasion, and tenderness, and not by arbitrary authority; let him communicate his affairs to her with confidence, since, by marriage, all his concerns become equally hers; and let him teach her to find pleasure in the domestic cares of his family, and the management of his children, by sharing them with her.

Nor are the duties of a wife less important to their mutual happiness, or less absolute on her part. Let her love her husband next to her God; let her submit to him with mildness, and obey him with cheerfulness; let her deserve his confidence by her discretion, her modesty, and reserve; and let them both be inviolably faithful to each other; not content with turning with horror from actual alienation, but even avoiding, with the utmost precaution, everything which may create the least jealousy or uneasiness to each other, or break that confidence, which is the bond of their union and which, once broken, or weakened, cannot be restored.

-Fenelon

I pray that your faithfulness and discretion will bring your husband confidence.

Let Every Day Be Christmas



Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
for loving, sharing, giving,
are not to put away
like bells and lights and tinsel,
in some box upon a shelf.
The good you do for others is good you do yourself.

Peace on Earth, good will to men,
kind thoughts and words of cheer,
are things we should use often
and not just once a year.

Remember too the Christ-child,
grew up to be a man;
to hide him in a cradle,
is not our dear Lord's plan.
So keep the Christmas spirit,
share it with others far and near,
from week to week and month to month,
throughout the entire year!

-Norman Wesley Brooks

I pray your marriage is filled with "the good you do for each other"—on Christmas day and forever.

12



Legislators, knowing that marriage
is the origin of all relations, and consequently
the first element of all duties, have
endeavored by every act

to make it sacred.

The Christian religion by confining it to pairs,
and by rendering that relation indissoluble,
has by these two things done more towards
the peace, happiness, settlement, and
civilization of the world than by any other
part in this whole scheme of divine wisdom.

EDMOND BURKE, 1796



*I pray that you will treat your marriage with great care, making it a priority over your
work, your children and everything in your life, except God.*



psalm 5

13

But let all who take refuge in you REJOICE;
let them ever sing for JOY,
and spread your PROTECTION over them,
that those who LOVE your name may exult in you.

For you BLESS the righteous, O LORD;
you cover him with FAVOR as with a shield.

*I pray that your family will richly experience
the joy, protection, blessing and favor of the Lord.*



14

Home



Things do not make a home,
many things, rich things
cannot change a house into

A home.

Love, joy, peace, longsuffering
and the rest of the unseen
but real things that
Jesus, the Guest brings—

these make a home.

The Pilgrim Teachers Quarterly
Oct-Dec, 1919

*I pray that people (not things), love (not hate), and joy (not sorrow)
make your house a home.*



phillipians 4

15

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, rejoice.
Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.

The Lord is at hand;
do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving,
let your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers,
whatever is true,
whatever is honorable,
whatever is just,
whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely,
whatever is commendable,
if there is any excellence,
if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.

What you have learned and received and
heard and seen in me—practice these things,
and the God of peace will be with you.

I pray...

that you will rejoice
in every situation, that you
will cast your anxieties on
Him, and that you will
dwell on everything in life
that is lovely.

the Marriage at Cana

*"Both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage."
-John 2:2*

How welcome was the call,
And sweet the festal lay,
When Jesus deigned in Cana's hall
To bless the marriage day!

And happy was the bride,
And glad the bridegroom's heart,
For he who tarried at their side
Bade grief and ill depart.

His gracious power divine
The water-vessels knew;
And plenteous was the mystic wine
The wondering servants drew.

O Lord of life and love,
Come thou again today;
And bring a blessing from above
That ne'er shall pass away.

O bless, as erst of old,
The bridegroom and the bride;
Bless with the holier stream that flowed
Forth from thy pierced side.

Before Thine altar throne
This mercy we implore;
As thou dost knit them, Lord, in one,
So bless them evermore.

-HENRY BAKER

I pray that your wedding day will be a blessing to you both and to everyone in attendance.

Ecclesiastes

4:9-12

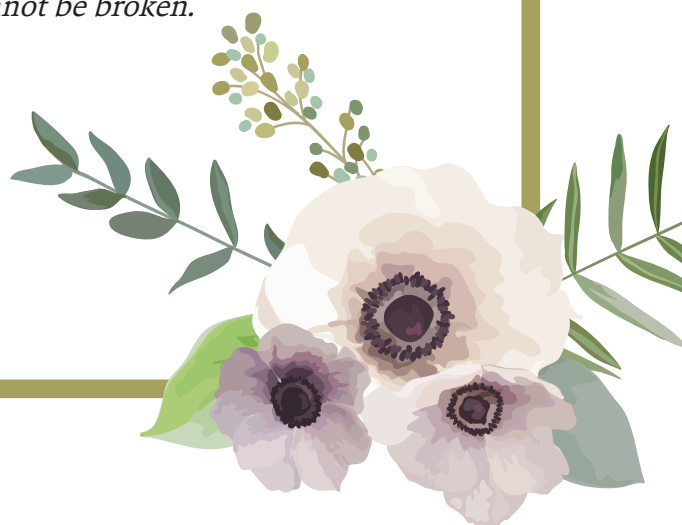
Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

MATTHEW HENRY'S COMMENTARY

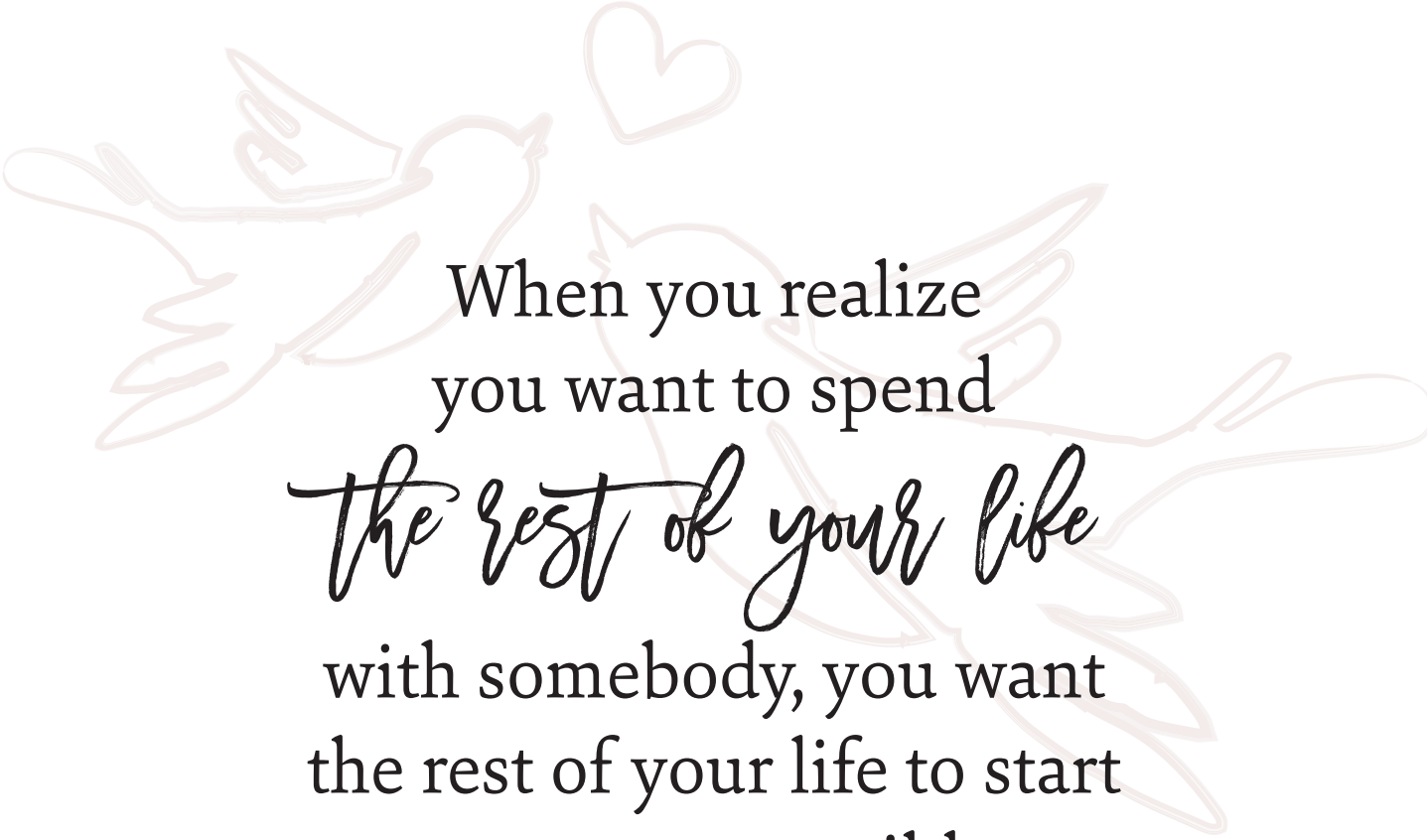
Surely he has more satisfaction in life, who labours hard to maintain those he loves, than the miser has in his toil. In all things union tends to success and safety, but above all, the union of Christians. They assist each other by encouragement, or friendly reproof. They warm each other's hearts while they converse together of the love of Christ, or join in singing his praises. Then let us improve our opportunities of Christian fellowship. In these things all is not vanity, though there will be some alloy as long as we are under the sun. Where two are closely joined in holy love and fellowship, Christ will by his Spirit come to them; then there is a threefold cord.



I pray that you both will be closely joined, in holy love and fellowship with Christ, as a threefold cord that cannot be broken.



18



When you realize
you want to spend
the rest of your life
with somebody, you want
the rest of your life to start
as soon as possible.

TREASURE THIS MOMENT.
THE REST OF YOUR LIFE
STARTS IN JUST ____ DAYS!

*I pray that, as the hours to your wedding fly by, you will ponder
in amazement the path that God has placed before you.*



A Wedding Prayer

Would you take these two,
of dust and bone,
Born of flesh, then you,
Would you make them one?

Would you speak again
The words you spoke
When Adam slept
And Eve awoke?

Would you let your wine
Replace our water.
And look with grace
On this son, this daughter?

Oh Lord of Eden
In your majesty
Create again
Your tapestry

One heart
Where there were two.
This is the prayer
We lift to you.

-Max Lucado

As the day approaches, I pray that God will knit your hearts so tightly together that your desire to be one eclipses any concerns you have about what your new life will look like.



Beautiful

20

Make your home beautiful, --bring to it flowers;
Plant them around you to bud and to bloom;
Let them give light to your loneliest hours,
Let them bring light to enliven your gloom.

If you can do so, O, make it an Eden
Of beauty and gladness almost divine;
Twill teach you to long for that home you are needing,
The earth robed in beauty beyond this dark time.

Make home a hive, where all beautiful feelings
Cluster like bees, and their honey-dew bring;
Make is a temple of holy revealings,
And love its bright angel with shadowing wings.

Then shall it be when afar on life's billows,
Wherever your tempest-tossed children are flung,
They will long for the shades of the home weeping-willow,
And sing the sweet song which their mother had sung.

I pray that your family always finds the comfort they crave in your home.

A Bridal Benediction

21

So fair the scene when hearts agree,
When vows are breathed and pledges given:
So sweet are weddings, -- can it be
That there are none in heaven?

Not wedded love, -- a purer gleam,
To bless the world of light, is given;
Earth's love is but a troubled stream
To the clear depth of heaven.

Yet wedlock is a boon divine,
To Eden's rosy bowers first given;
And love's dear Lord, at Cana's shrine,
Renewed the seal of heaven.

Come then, O heavenly Guest, the day;
Thy blessing at these nuptials given,
The angels bending down shall say,
This might have been in heaven.

These two young lives together wrought,
New years begun, a new home given,
Transfused in mind, in heart, and thought,
--'Tis a sweet type of heaven.

Both lambs of the good Shepherd's care,
Both to the ark of safety driven;
Such wedded love the blest might share,
Such chains be worn in heaven.

Dear Lord, O keep them near to thee;
To them a deep, sweet peace be given;
So living here that each shall be
The spouse of Christ in heaven.

-F. M. Caulkins

I am prayerful...

and hopeful
that with God,
you will have a loving,
glorifying marriage
forever! I am so thankful
that God has brought you
both together. Cherish this
day--I love you so much.