

# A Blessing For Our Time

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# It's My Closing Salutation

- Virtually All Emails
  - Most Texts
- Hand-written Notes
- Cards Of Appreciation
- Hard Copy Letters

**“Blessings, Brad”**

“What do I mean?” “How do I want you blessed?”

# Some Obvious Answers

- I want good things to come into your life.
  - Spiritual Growth Into Genuine Christlikeness
  - A Deep Abiding Relationship With The Father, The Son And The Holy Spirit
  - A Sense of Your Eternal Security Because God Loves You
  - Reasonable Portion of Health
  - Intimate Friendships That Build You Up

# Paul Often Gave Blessings

To the Ephesian Elders,

"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. Acts 20:32 (NIV)

## 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints send their greetings.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

## Matthew 5:3-12

- Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
  - Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
  - Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
  - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

- Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

# A Non-Traditional But Timely Blessing

Credit is given to a graduation speech given  
by Ruth Fox for the inspiration for what follows.

# May God Bless You With

- **Discontent!...**
  - With easy answers, half truths, plain falsehoods and superficial relationships.
- **So That...**
  - You will seek the pure truths of God
  - You will live and love from deep convictions within your heart.

# May God Bless You With

- **Anger!...**
  - At injustice, oppression, abuse, and exploitation of people.
- **So That...**
  - You will speak out against evil in our society.
  - You will work for justice, equality, freedom, and peace.

# May God Bless You With

- **Tears!...**
  - To shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, loneliness, grief, and deprivation.
- **So That...**
  - You will reach out your hand to comfort them
  - You will speak out to tell them that, in Christ, there is a way to change their pain to joy.

# May God Bless You With

- **The Foolishness!...**
  - To believe that you can make a difference in this world.
- **So That...**
  - You will be a “fool” for Christ and...
  - You will do the things that others tell you cannot be done.

# If We Accept These Blessings, God Will Also Bless Us With...

- **Happiness!**
  - Because we will know we've partnered with the Creator in making life better for others.
- **Inner Peace!**
  - Because we will have worked to secure lives of justice and peace for others.
- **Laughter!**
  - Because our heart will be lightened from guilt.
- **Faithful Friends!**
  - Because they will see us as a source of blessing.

# These Blessings Are Ours As A Gift From the One Who...

- Wants to “Partner” with us in changing the world.
- Was “Discontent” to leave this world in the hopelessness it was in!
- Was “Angry” about injustice of unrighteousness.
- Shed “Tears” for the lost.
- Was “Foolish” enough to dwell among us and even die for us.
- Lives and Reigns and Deserves our Praise forever.

So, When I Send Some Communication And  
Close It With:

“Blessings, Brad”

What do I want for you?

# I Want All The Above!

- I love you just like you are.
- But, just like Jesus, I don't want you to stay that way.
- Whatever “form” the Blessings of God take in your life, I want you to be filled to all the fullness of God.
- I want the exact same thing for me as I want for you!

## Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.