

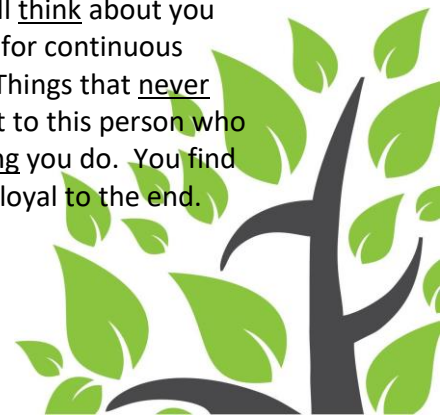
## Readings

### Golf Balls and Beer

A professor once stood before his philosophy class and when the class began, he silently picked up a very large, empty jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They all agreed that it was. The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly so the pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. Next, the professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar and the sand filled up the remaining space. He asked his students once more if the jar was full. Entertained, and perhaps a little irritated, the students responded with a unanimous “Yes!” The professor then produced two cans of beer from under the table and poured both cans into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand and everyone in the room cracked up. “Now,” said their professor as the laughter subsided, “I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things – your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions—and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else—the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are the most important. So pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner, go see the latest movies, or even play another 18 holes. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first—the things that really matter. Set your priorities because the rest is just sand.” One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beer represented. The professor smiled and said, “I’m glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there’s always room to grab a drink with a good friend.” And tonight you get to celebrate with family and lots of good friends.

### True Friend and Soul Mate, Unknown Author

If you’re lucky in life, you find someone who can completely turn your world around. You tell them things that you’ve never shared with another soul and they absorb everything you say and actually want to hear more. You share hopes for the future, dreams that will never come true, goals that were never achieved and the many disappointments life has thrown at you, but when something wonderful happens, you can’t wait to tell them about it, knowing they will share in your excitement. They are not embarrassed to cry with you when you are hurting or laugh with you when you make a fool of yourself, but never do they hurt your feelings or make you feel like you are not good enough, but rather they build you up and show you the things about yourself that make you special and even beautiful. There’s never any pressure, jealousy or competition but only a quiet calmness when they’re around. You can be yourself and not worry about what they will think about you because they love you for who you are. In their presence, there’s no need for continuous conversation, but you find you’re quite content in just having them nearby. Things that never interested you before become fascinating because you know they are important to this person who is so special to you. You think of this person on every occasion and in everything you do. You find strength in knowing you have a true friend and a soul mate who will remain loyal to the end.





**Falling in love is like owning a dog, by Taylor Mali**

Falling in love is like owning a dog. First of all, it's a big responsibility. So think long and hard before deciding on love. On the other hand, love gives you a sense of security: when you're walking down the street late at night and you have a leash on love, ain't no one going to mess with you because crooks and muggers think love is unpredictable. Who knows what love could do in its own defense?

On cold winter nights, love is warm. It lies between you and lives and breathes and makes funny noises. Love wakes you up all hours of the night with its needs. It needs to be fed so it will grow and stay healthy. Love doesn't like to be left alone for long, but come home and love is always happy to see you. It may break a few things accidentally in its passion for life, but you can never be mad at love for long. Is love good all the time? No! No! Love can be bad. Bad, love! Very bad love. Love makes messes. Love leaves you little surprises here and there. Love needs lots of cleaning up after. Sometimes you just want to get love fixed. Sometimes you want to roll up a piece of newspaper and swat love on the nose, not so much to cause pain, just to let love know don't you ever do that again! Sometimes love just wants to go for a nice long walk because love loves exercise. It runs you around the block and leaves you panting. It pulls you in several different directions at once, or winds around and around you until you're all wound up and can't move, but love makes you meet people wherever you go. People who have nothing in common but love, stop and talk to each other on the street. Throw things away and love will bring them back again, and again, and again, and again. But most of all, love needs love. Lots of it, and in return, love loves you and never stops.

**I'll Be There for You, by Louise Cuddon**

I'll be there my darling, through thick and through thin, when your mind's in a mess and your head's in a spin, when your plane's been delayed and you've missed the last train, when life is just threatening to drive you insane, when your thrilling whodunit has lost its last page, when somebody tells you, you're looking your age, when your coffee's too cool and your wine is too warm, when the forecast said, "fine," but you're out in a storm, when your quick break hotel turns into a slum and your holiday photos show only your thumb, when you park for five minutes in a resident's bay and return to discover you've been towed away, when the jeans that you bought in hope or in haste just stick to your hips and don't wrap around your waist, when the food you most like brings you out in red rashes, when as soon as you boot up the bloody thing crashes. So my darling, my sweetheart, my dear, when you break a rule, when you act the fool, when you've got the flu, when you're in a stew, when you're last in the queue, don't feel blue 'cause I'm telling you, I'll be there.

**What is Marriage? by Collin McCarty**

It is the most beautiful thing that can happen between two people in love. A Marriage is more than just a husband and a wife. It is a bridge which allows the love of two very special people to give meaning and worth and wonder to life. It is a continual process of building; shaping; communicating; and caring. It is the deepest and sweetest understanding. It is sharing today's and tomorrow's together and making each one more treasured and complete than anyone could make of them alone. A marriage is a home interwoven with hopes and memories and dreams.

The thankfulness and love it can bring have no comparison. Being happily married is the most beautiful thing that can happen... to anyone.



### **He Never Leaves the Seat Up, Unknown Author**

He never leaves the seat up or wet towels upon the floor, the toothpaste has the lid on and he always shuts the door. She's very clean and tidy, though she may sometimes delude. Leave your things out at your peril, in a second they'll have moved! He's a very active person, as are all his next of kin. Whereas she likes lazy days, he'll still drag her to the gym! He romances her and dines her, home-cooked dinners and the like. He even knows her favorite food and he spoils her day and night. He's thoughtful when he looks at her, a smile upon his face. Will he look that good in 50 years when his dentures aren't in place? He says he loves her figure and her mental prowess too, but when gravity takes her over, will she charm with her IQ? She says she loves his kindness and his patience is a must, and of course she thinks he's handsome, which in her eyes is a plus! They're both not wholly perfect, but who are we to judge. He can be pig-headed, where as she won't even budge! All that said and done, they love the time they spend together and I hope as I'm sure you do, that this fine day will last forever. He'll be more than just her husband. He'll also be her friend and she'll be more than just his wife. She'll be his soul mate 'till the end.

### **Marriage is Madness, Unknown Author**

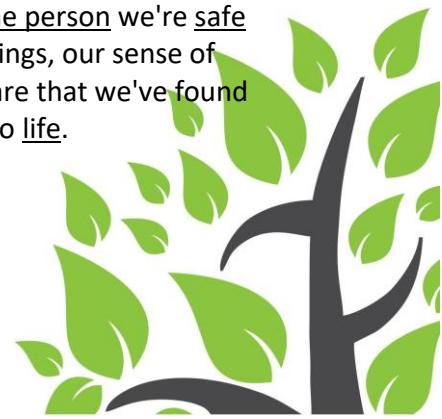
Marriage is about giving and taking and forging and forsaking, kissing and loving and pushing and shoving, caring and sharing and screaming and swearing, about being together whatever the weather and about being driven to the end of your tether, about sweetness and kindness and wisdom and blindness. It's about being strong when you're feeling quite weak. It's about saying nothing when you're dying to speak. It's about being wrong when you know you're right. It's about giving up, before there's a fight. It's about you two living as cheaply as one. Give us a call if you know how that's done! It's about never heeding advice that was always well meant, never counting the cost until it's all spent. And for you two today it's about to begin, and for all that you two had to put in, some days filled with joy and some days with sadness, too late you'll discover that marriage is madness!

### **What is Love, Unknown Author**

Sooner or later we begin to understand that love is more than verses on valentines and romance in the movies. We begin to know that love is here and now, real and true, the most important thing in our lives. For love is the creator of our favorite memories and the foundation of our fondest dreams. Love is a promise that is always kept, a fortune that can never be spent, a seed that can flourish in even the most unlikely of places. And this radiance that never fades, this mysterious and magical joy is the greatest treasure of all - one known only by those who love.

### **The Bridge Across Forever, by Richard Bach**

A soul mate is someone who has locks that fit our keys, and keys to fit our locks. When we feel safe enough to open the locks, our truest selves step out and we can be completely and honestly who we are; we can be loved for who we are and not for who we're pretending to be. Each unveils the best part of the other. No matter what else goes wrong around us, with that one person we're safe in our own paradise. Our soul mate is someone who shares our deepest longings, our sense of direction. When we're two balloons, and together our direction is up, chances are that we've found the right person. Our soul mate is the one who makes life come to life.



### **Definition of a Soul mate**

A soul mate is a person with whom you have an immediate connection the moment you meet -- a connection so strong that you're drawn to them in a way you have never experienced before. As this connection develops over time, you experience a love so deep, strong, and complex, that you begin to doubt that you have ever truly loved anyone prior. Your soul mate understands and connects with you in every way and on every level, which brings a sense of peace, calmness and happiness when you are around them. And when you are not around them, you are all that much more aware of the harshness of life; and how bonding with another person in this way is the most significant and satisfying thing you will experience in your lifetime. You are also all that much more aware of the beauty in life, because you have been given a great gift and for that will always be thankful.

### **From Life's Little Instruction Book, by H. Jackson Brown Jr.**

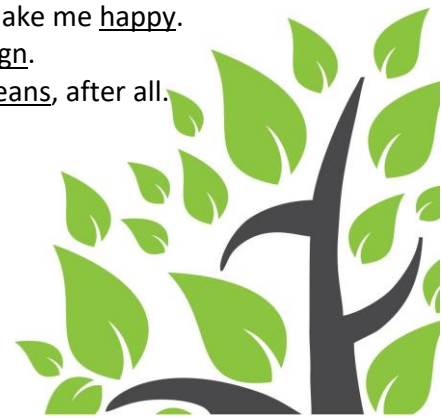
Be the first to say, "Hello." Treat everyone you meet like you want to be treated. Think big thoughts, but relish small pleasures. Sing in the shower. Watch a sunrise at least once a year. Never refuse homemade brownies, but floss your teeth. Plant a tree on your birthday or feed a stranger's expired parking meter. Leave everything a little better than you found it. Keep your promises and return things you borrow. Remember other people's birthdays and make new friends, but cherish old ones. Strive for excellence, not perfection. Use the good silver and acquire things the old-fashioned way, save up and pay with cash. Over-tip breakfast wait staff and buy from local businesses, even if it costs a bit more. Buy whatever little kids are selling from tables in their front yards and waive at kids on school buses. Adopt an unwanted pet. Every day look for some small way to improve your romantic relationship. Don't waste time grieving over past mistakes. Learn from them and move on. Forgive yourself and others. Compliment even small improvements and praise in public. Criticize in private, or simply bite your tongue. Don't burn bridges. You'll be surprised how many times you have to cross that river. Set your priorities, no one ever said on their deathbed, "Gee, I wish I would've spent more time at the office." Never underestimate the power of love. Never waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them. Live your life as an exclamation, not an explanation. Don't be afraid to say, "I made a mistake." Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know." Marry only for love and count your blessings.

### **Love, by Roy Croft**

I love you, not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you. I love you, not only for what you have made of yourself, but for what you are making of me. I love you for the part of me that you bring out. I love you for putting your hand into my heaped-up heart and passing over all the foolish, weak things that you can't help dimly seeing there, and for drawing out into the light all the beautiful belongings that no one else looked quite far enough to find. I love you because you are helping me to make of the lumber of my life, not a tavern, but a temple out of the works of my every day, not a reproach, but a song. I love you because you have done more than any creed could have done to make me good and more than any fate could have done to make me happy.

You have done it without a touch, without a word, without a sign.

You have done it by being yourself. Perhaps that's what being a friend means, after all.



**Marriage Joins Two People in the Circle of Its Love, by Edmund O'Neill**

Marriage is a commitment to life, to the best that two people can find and bring out in each other.

It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other human relationship can equal, a physical and emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime. Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidante, lover, teacher, listener, and critic. There may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing, and the love of the other may resemble the tender caring of a parent for a child. Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life. Happiness is fuller; memories are fresher; commitment is stronger; even anger is felt more strongly, and passes away more quickly. Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, and new ways of expressing a love through the seasons of life. When two people pledge to love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique unto themselves, which binds them closer than any spoken or written words. Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people who love, which takes a lifetime to fulfil.

**Union, by Robert Fulghum**

You have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some point you decided to marry. From that moment of “yes”, to this moment of “yes”, indeed you have been making commitments in an informal way. All of those conversations that were held in a car or over a meal, or during long walks – all those conversations that began with, “When we're married”, and continued with “I will” and “you will” and “we will” – all those late night talks that included “someday” and “somehow” and “maybe” – and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart. All these common things and more are the real process of a wedding. The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, “You know all those things that we've promised, and hoped, and dreamed – well, I meant it all, every word.” Look at one another and remember this moment in time. Before this moment you have been many things to one another – acquaintance, friend, companion, lover, dancing partner, even teacher, for you have learned much from one another these past few years. Shortly you shall say a few words that will take you across a threshold of life and things between you will never quite be the same.

For after today you shall say to the world – This is my husband. This is my wife.

**Why Marriage, by Dena Acolatse**

Because of the depths of me, I long to love one person with all my heart, my soul, my mind, my body. Because I need a forever friend to trust with the intimacies of me, who won't hold them against me, who loves me when I'm unlikable, who sees the small child in me, and who looks for the divine potential of me. Because I need to cuddle in the warmth of the night with someone I feel blessed to hold because marriage means opportunity to grow in love and friendship. Because marriage is a discipline to be added to a list of achievements. Because marriages do not fail, people fail when they enter into marriage expecting another to make them whole. Knowing this, I promise myself to take full responsibility for my spiritual, mental and physical wholeness. I create me. I take half of the responsibility for my marriage. Together, we create our marriage. Because with this understanding the possibilities are limitless.



**Your Wedding Day, Unknown Author (this goes great just before vows)**

Bride and Groom, your wedding day is one that seems to fly by. It's a day filled with emotion, family, friends, rings and dancing. Many people remember how fleeting their own wedding day was. My own is a blur, so I want you to take a few seconds to look into each other's eyes. Think about the happiness you're feeling in this place and in this moment. Really let that feeling register in your hearts and in your minds. Now, I want you to think about your life together in twenty years. Where are you and what are you doing? We all know that your visions of the future are not identical, but always complementary. John Lennon once said, "A dream you dream alone is only a dream, but a dream you dream together, that is a reality." Your reality starts right now!

**Loving Somewhere, Unknown Author**

Somewhere between friends came conversations touching new ways of seeing each other. Somewhere beyond admiration eyes met, looks lingered and the moment shimmered with magic. Somewhere between laughing and liking barriers fell away and two souls met revealing secrets and dreams. Somewhere beneath the sharing and the smiles, the warmth and the words there emerged love between the two of you.

**I Do, Unknown Author**

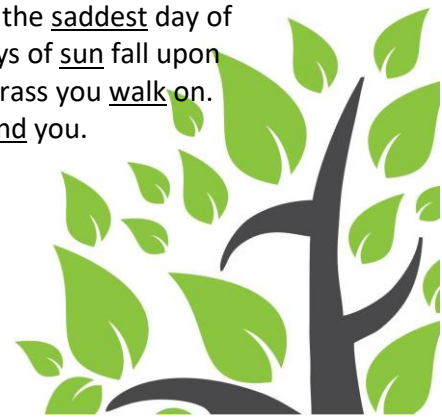
I do want to give you warm smiles when you're lonely and comfort when something goes wrong, support in whatever you try to achieve, any help that might see you along. I do want to share all my hopes and ideas, my moods both high and low, to share the adventures each new day can bring, all the beauty the world has to show. I do want to laugh with you, learn with you, grow with you, be with you my whole life through for I love you with all of my heart and today I'm so happy to tell you  
I do.

**Together You Share the Joy, Unknown Author**

Together you share the joy of a deep commitment and sacred trust; you have given each other the most precious gift of love. Treasure it, nurture it and encourage it with all the honesty you used in creating it. You are sharing something rare and beautiful. Always speak the truth and listen attentively so that you might understand each other's thoughts and intentions. Inspire each other by sharing your accomplishments. Say "I love you" often to retain the warmth between you. Remember to laugh a lot, even when you're angry. After all, you are each other's best friend. Stand together and for each other. Be content in mind and spirit. Make each day a blessing and a fulfillment of your dreams.

**An Old Irish Blessing**

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall soft upon your fields. May God hold you in the palm of his hand. May God be with you and bless you. May you see your children's children. May you be rich in blessing and may you know nothing but happiness from this day forward, with the saddest day of your future being no worse than the happiest day of your past. May warm rays of sun fall upon your home and may the hand of a friend always be near. May green be the grass you walk on.  
May blue be the skies above you. May pure be the joys that surround you.  
May true be the hearts that love you.



**To Love, Unknown Author**

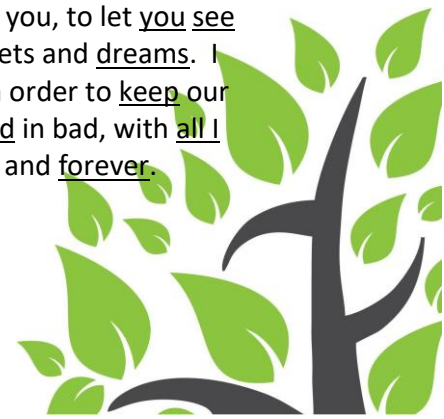
To love is to enter a whole new world, a wonderful togetherness, a world of sharing that's dearest and deepest within your hearts. To love is to remember to keep alive forever, all those unique qualities that drew you to one another in the beginning, those first halting phrases, that wonderful feeling on oneness when your eyes first met. To love is to constantly search for new ways to bring each other happiness, to make the most of every moment shared together, and marveling at how your feelings for one another keep rising to new dimensions. To love is to create an oasis of tranquility for one another and a quiet place, apart from others, where you need not pretend, where you can be yourselves and know within your hearts, you will be accepted by one another. To love is to greet each day with anticipation, always eager for another opportunity to share new adventures and gather up new memories together. To love is to follow the rainbow through the rain, to be able to laugh at yourselves and be willing to say, "I was wrong and I'm sorry." To love is to forgive and more importantly, to forget because you believe and trust one another. To love is to watch with wonder, all the miracles of creation, to find beauty in all the simple things in life and to find within yourselves, a deeper appreciation and a new awareness of how wonderful it is to be alive. To love is coming together from the pathways of your past and then moving forward together, hand in hand, along the uncharted roads of your future, ready to risk, to dream and to dare. All things are possible with love.

**from the book "Baby Wise" by Gary Ezzo and Robert Bucknam**

The greatest overall influence you will have on your children will not come in your role as individual parents, but in your joint role as husband and wife. A healthy husband-wife relationship is essential to the emotional health of children in the home. A strong marriage provides a haven of security for children as they grow in the nurturing process. Healthy, loving marriages create a sense of certainty for children. When a child observes the special friendship and emotional togetherness of his/her parents, he is more secure simply because it isn't necessary to question the legitimacy of his parent's commitment to one another. Give him the assurance that you really love each other. His most basic emotional need is solidified by knowing that mom and dad really love each other. Confirmation of your loving relationship is witnessed daily in the way you walk together, spend time together and touch. When your marriage relationship is beautiful your child will share in the joy. When two are beautifully one, your child will seek the comfort of the togetherness. The best years of parenting flow out of the best years of marriage. Protect it!

**My Promise to Love You, by Dorothy Colgan (this goes great just before the vows)**

I promise to give you the best of myself and to ask no more than you can give. I promise to accept you the way you are. I fell in love with you for the qualities, abilities and outlook on life that you have and I won't try to reshape you in a different image. I promise to respect you as a person with your own interests, desires and needs and to realize that those are sometimes different, but no less important than my own. I promise to share with you my time, my close attention and to bring joy, strength and imagination to our relationship. I promise to keep myself open to you, to let you see through the window of my personal world, my innermost fears, feelings, secrets and dreams. I promise to grow along with you, to be willing to face change as we both will in order to keep our relationship alive and exciting. Finally, I promise to love you in good times and in bad, with all I have to give and all I feel inside, in the only way I know how; completely and forever.



**The Art of Marriage, by Wilferd Arlan Peterson**

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens. A good marriage must be created. In the art of marriage the little things are the big things. It is never being too old to hold hands. It is remembering to say, "I love you" at least once a day. It is never going to sleep angry. It is at no time taking the other for granted; the courtship should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through all the years. It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives. It is standing together facing the world. It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family. It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy. It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways. It is not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have wings of an angel. It is not looking for perfection in each other; it is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor. It is having the capacity to forgive and forget. It is giving each other an atmosphere in which you each can grow. It is finding room for the things of the spirit. It is a common search for the good and the beautiful. It is establishing a relationship in which independence is equal, dependence is mutual and obligation is reciprocal. It is not only marrying the right partner; it is being the right partner.

**Blessings for a Marriage, by James Dillet Freeman**

May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring, and may life grant you also patience, tolerance, and understanding. May you always need one another – not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you to know your fullness. A mountain needs a valley to be complete; the valley does not make the mountain less, but more; and the valley is more a valley because it has a mountain towering over it. So let it be with you and you. May you need one another, but not out of weakness. May you want one another, but not out of lack. May you entice one another, but not compel one another. May you embrace one another, but not out encircle one another. May you succeed in all important ways with one another, and not fail in the little graces. May you look for things to praise, often say, "I love you!" and take no notice of small faults. If you have quarrels that push you apart, may both of you hope to have good sense enough to take the first step back. May you enter into the mystery, which is the awareness of one another's presence – no more physical than spiritual, warm and near when you are side-by-side, and warm and near when you are in separate rooms or even distant cities. May you have happiness, and may you find it making one another happy. May you have love, and may you find it in loving one another.

**On Your Wedding Day, Unknown Author**

Today's a day that you'll always remember, the greatest in anyone's life. You'll start off the day just two people in love and end it as husband and wife. It's a brand new beginning, the start of a journey, with moments to cherish and treasure, and although there'll be time when you both disagree, these will surely be outweighed by pleasure. You'll have heard many words of advice in the past when the secrets of marriage were spoken, but you both know that the answers lie hidden inside where the bond of true love lies unbroken. So live happy forever as lovers and friends. It's the dawn of a new life for you, as you stand here together with love in your eyes from the moment you whisper, "I do." And with luck, all your hopes and dreams can be real.

May success find its way to your hearts. Tomorrow can bring you the greatest of joys, but today is the day it all starts.





### **The Key to Love, Unknown Author**

The key to love is understanding. It's the ability to comprehend not only the spoken word, but those unspoken gestures, the little things that say so much by themselves. The key to love is forgiveness, accept each other's faults and pardon mistakes, without forgetting, but with remembering what you learn from them. The key to love is sharing, facing your good fortunes as well as the bad, together; both conquering problems, forever searching for ways to intensify your happiness. The key to love is giving without thought of return, but with the hope of just a simple smile and by giving in but never giving up. The key to love is respect. It's realizing that you are two separate people, with different ideas - that you don't belong to each other, you belong with each other and share a mutual bond. The key to love is inside us all. It takes time and patience to unlock all the ingredients that will take you to its threshold. It is the continual learning process that demands a lot of work, but the rewards are more than worth the effort.

### **Blessing of the Hands**

Bride and Groom, as you hold hands here today, please enjoy and appreciate the gift that these hands are to you. These are the hands of your best friend, strong and vibrant with love, holding yours on your wedding day, as you both promise to love each other all the days of your lives. These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness. These are the hands that will wipe tears from your eyes: tears of sorrow and as in today, tears of joy. These are the hands that will comfort you in illness, and hold you when fear or grief fills your mind. These are the hands that will work long hours for you and your new family, so that you may enjoy life's successes. These are the hands that will lovingly work to make your house a home. These are the hands that will give you support as you encourage each other to chase down your dreams. These are the hands that will tenderly lift your chin and brush your cheek as they raise your face to look into your eyes: eyes that are filled completely with overwhelming love and desire for you. Bride and Groom, together as a team, everything you wish for can be realized.

### **Apache wedding blessing**

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter to the other. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other. Now there is no more loneliness, for each of you will be companion to the other. Although there are two bodies, there is one life before you. Go now, to enter into the days of your togetherness and may your days be good and long upon the earth. Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves. When frustration, difficulty and fear assail your relationship, as they threaten all relationships at one time or another, remember to focus on what is right between you, not only that part which seems wrong. In this way, you can ride out the storms when the clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives, remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there. And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.





### **On Love, by Thomas a Kempis**

Love is a mighty power, a great and complete good. Love alone lightens every burden and makes rough places smooth. It bears every hardship as though it was nothing and renders all bitterness sweet and acceptable. Nothing is sweeter than love, nothing stronger, nothing higher, nothing wider, nothing more pleasant, nothing fuller or better in heaven or Earth; for love is born of God. Love flies, runs and leaps for joy. It is free and unrestrained. Love knows no limits, but ardently transcends all bounds. Love feels no burden, takes no account of toil and attempts things beyond its strength. Love sees nothing as impossible, for it feels able to achieve all things. It is strange and effective, while those who lack love faint and fail. Love is not fickle and sentimental nor is it intent on vanities. Like a living flame and a burning torch, it surges upward and surely surmounts every obstacle.

### **A lovely Prayer**

Smile on these two people Lord as they stand side by side promising to love and live together, hand in hand. Fill their hearts with laughter and their souls with understanding. Touch them with your gentle strength in times when life's demanding. Warm them with the light of truth and wisdom's precious gold and bless their friendship Lord with all the love two hearts can hold.

### **Traditional Prayer**

Heavenly Father, our hearts are filled with great happiness on (name) and (name's) wedding day. Grant that they may be ever true and loving. Temper their hearts with kindness and their souls with understanding. Rid them of all pretense or jealousy. Help them remember to be each other's sweetheart, helpmate and best friend. Guide them so that together they meet the cares and problems of life more bravely and with the passage of time, may they find great contentment in the rich joy of senior companionship. May the home they are creating today truly be a place of love and harmony where your spirit is always present. Bless this marriage. We pray and walk beside (name) and (name) throughout all their lives together. Amen.

### **Corinthian's Chapter 13: Christian Bible**

As you live your married life in love, remember these words: Love is patient. Love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful, it does not rejoice at the wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things. Love never ends.

### **A Version of Corinthian's Love Passage**

Love is always patient and kind. It does not envy. It does not boast, is not proud. It is not rude. It is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered. It keeps no record or wrongs. It does not take offense and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's faults, but rather delights in the truth. It is always ready to excuse, to trust and to hope. It is always ready to endure whatever comes. True love does not end.



**Angel's Prayer**

God, out of this whole world Bride and Groom have found each other. Nourish their minds with your wisdom. Enrich their hearts with your love and feed their souls with your peace. Give them the courage and inspiration to joyfully honor the vows they have made here today. Bride and Groom, may the divine uphold you all through life. May you live forever in love and happiness with one another. May your hearts be full, and may your lips stay sweet. May your love grow stronger with each passing day. May your home be a place of happiness for all who enter, and may you live long and happily in each other's arms. Amen.

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