

101

ANNIVERSARY

Love is not something you find carelessly lying around,
 it is something that must be diligently searched for, so that it is treasured once found.
 Elusive when hunted for, pursued with great skill,
 something that can't be captured, it must surrender of it's own free will.
 It's wonderful to see two people so loved and so blessed,
 who came together in the beauty of God's holiness.
 Cherishing the vows you once took as husband and wife,
 perceiving the mystery of two heartbeats becoming one for the rest of your lives.
 Your love does not have to be displayed, but neither should it be concealed, looking at the both of you,
 we can see the plan of God revealed.
 In a day when so many abandon the ship when they cannot see the shore, your marriage is an example
 that wedding vows are written on the heart, not on paper that you tear up and throw on the floor.
 Standing by each other through the good and through the bad,
 being strong when the other is weak and giving them your strength you never knew you had.
 As we look back on your wedding day, when you pledged your love to one another, my prayer is that
 every year after this anniversary, God will continue to bless your lives to be even better and better.

102

DAUGHTER (From Father)**Daddy's Little Girl**

Too old for pig tails and too young for boys,
 too young for make-up and too old for little girl toys.
 A beautiful young lady with so much life ahead to live,
 you possess an excellent spirit, you are so liberal with the love you give.
 I wish I could have been there to see your first step,
 or open a bedroom door and watched you while you slept.
 To be there, to count the tears when you fell and hurt your knee.
 To be there, when the boy you like doesn't see the beauty that I see.
 I'm grateful God has given me a daughter like you,
 someone that makes me smile, whatever I may be going through.
 I love to hear that sound when you call me "Dad",
 you are the best daughter a Dad like me could ever have.
 As you grow up and make your way in the world,
 don't forget that you are still someone's baby girl.
 No matter how grown you get, it doesn't matter what you do,
 remember that somewhere you have a Daddy praying for you.

OR

103

A beautiful young lady with so much life ahead to live,
 you possess an excellent spirit, you are so liberal with the love you give.
 I wish I could have been there to watch you sleep in your bassinet,
 to see the look on your face as you attempted your first step.
 I will be there to count the tears if you should fall and hurt your knee,
 I will be there, when the boy you like doesn't see the beauty that I see.
 I'm grateful God has given me a daughter like you,
 someone that lifts me up whatever I may be going through.
 Your future is full of possibilities, ready for you to explore,

the world making opportunities for you, because it is you they have been waiting for.
It is hard to speak what I feel, my pride would surely overflow,
when I look at you I see all that I hoped you would be and I love you more than you will ever know.

104

DAUGHTER (BIRTHDAY) (From Her Father)

When my day is over I lay my head down at night,
I try to meditate on the things that I did right.
Sometimes I have to investigate long and deep,
to find some good in my day before I go to sleep,
then I think of you and my mind begins to rest.
Of all the young people I know you are one of the best.
The days crawl by, but the years fly by, or so it seems,
I can't believe how fast you've reached the age of seventeen.
Naturally, the next seventeen will mature you into a grown woman in this world,
always remember no matter how grown you get you will always be Daddy's little girl.
So much within you, for you there is no limit,
as long as you put God first, whatever happens in your life,
you will find the good somewhere in it.

105

DAUGHTER (VALENTINE) (To Daughter From Dad)

My heart was knitted to yours when I first saw your face,
emotions flooding the banks of my soul, filling all empty space.
I didn't know how much I needed you until I looked into your eyes,
wanting to protect you from all harm, to comfort you when you cry.
Watching you grow, I have memories I will always treasure,
I'm grateful to God, but I know I didn't deserve the pleasure.
The days crawl by but the years fly by so fast,
growing up doesn't mean growing away, a part of me wants to hold on to the past.
With all the gifts and talents that reside within you,
you can't help but be a success in all that you do.
A better daughter on this earth I could never find,
every day of the year you will always my Valentine.
A day will come when I will proudly present you to the world,
that day you will become will become someone's wife but you will always be Daddy's little girl.

106

FATHER (From Son)

Some people say the apple does not fall far from the tree,
that when I look at you, I can see what I'm going to be.
The way you carry yourself, the way that you walk,
certain phrases you say, the way you gesture when you talk.
I remember you getting up every morning and going to work every day,
then coming home in the evening and making time with me to play.
Helping me with my homework when my lessons were hard,
teaching me how to throw a fast ball in the backyard.
Arm-wrestling with you and you letting me win, instructing me that only cowards tell lies, not those who
call themselves men.
Always encouraging me to be the best that I can be,
"There's so much in you son," you would say, "I wish you could see what I see."
Showing me how to treat women by the way you treated my mother,

courteous to all yet forsaking all others.
If I could become half the man you are that would be so great,
I intend to get there one day Dad, sorry that you have so long to wait.

107

FATHER

My Father, The Only Hero I Knew
My father was my hero, superstar in my eyes,
and his family was the sun, moon and stars in his skies.
Hardworking, with sweat running down his face,
nobody in my life can ever take his place.
People always knew exactly where he stood
whether they thought his opinions were bad or good.
Oh yes, he had problems and his vices too,
but often I would see him praying, asking God what to do.
Sometimes the disciplinarian, to bring Godly fear,
he hugged us lightly, as we cried broken tears.
Never making it rich, providing our basic needs,
producing good citizens, instilling tiny seeds.
He didn't talk too often, a man of few words,
not having time for foolishness or the absurd.
Thank you daddy for showing that you cared
we were the trees of righteousness that you pared.

108

FATHER (From Adult Child)

The love that we share may not be the kind they write poems about,
a kind of love that is given to display, that makes you want to scream and shout.
It is a love that is not syrupy, sweet or stick-to-your-finger type thing,
but a love that is durable and constant, like the rain in early spring.
A love that does not question and ask why,
but an open hearted affection that says I will give it another try.
So much of my strength, I owe to you,
you showed me that love is not always what you say, it is often what you do.
I am grateful to God that you are my dad,
being a refuge through the ups and downs of life, both the good and the bad.
It is a sad thing when forces come to keep families apart,
what a powerful force love is when allowed to flow from a pure heart.
I cannot really express what you mean to me,
words cannot communicate what I want for you to see.
That I love you dad, without condition or demands,
God knew what He was doing when He made you such a special man.

109

FATHER'S DAY/BIRTHDAY (From Children)

Daddy, there is really nothing I can do or say
to express how I feel about you on your special day.
Down through the years, you were always there,
we never doubted for a second how much you loved us and how much
you cared.
For a daughter, you are the example of the man we look for in life,
for a son, you model everyday how to love and cherish a precious wife.

I know sometimes we did things that made you mad,
but we would rather hurt ourselves than to hurt you Dad.
Thank you for teaching us right from wrong,
giving us a home, a place in the world where you know you belong.
To us, the president of the United States is not the highest office in the land,
it is the guy who protects and provides for his family and we are blessed
that you are that kind of a man.

110 **FRIENDSHIP**

MY BEST FRIEND

Many people in this world are looking for a person that I was blessed to find,
a best friend and a sister, a person who is really one of a kind.
So many happy memories I have when I think of you.
I can't help but laugh when I think of some of the things we used to do.
The secrets I shared with you, I spoke to no other ear,
even though you may not be standing in front of me,
in my heart you're always near.
With you I can be myself and I don't have to pretend,
I can be vulnerable and you don't take advantage because you're truly
my friend.
With all those people that love you, I want to add my voice,
in choosing a friend to love, I couldn't have made a better choice.

111 **GRADUATION** (To Daughter From Mother)

A MOTHER'S PRIDE

When you were without form, I wondered what kind of person you would be,
knowing only one thing for sure that something beautiful was growing
inside of me.
*You were presented to me and soon you will be presented to the world, no matter how brilliant and
successful you become, you will always be my little girl.
The girl I would sing to before you could understand a single word, who
would almost break her neck to see me when it was my voice you heard.
So many gifts inside of you and with each one comes a responsibility,
to develop into a kind of person that God can work through to contribute to your community.
Your future is full of adventure, ready for you to explore,
the world making opportunities available to you because it is you they have been waiting for.
It is so very hard to speak what I feel, my pride would surely overflow.
When I look at you I see all that I would hope to be and I love you more
than you will ever know.

(FOR GRADUATE SON)

Change above line to read:

* When God gave you to me, He gave me unspeakable joy, I can't believe that the young man I see
standing before me now was once my baby boy.

112 **GRANDMOTHER**

The Bible says that there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother,
but I can't find the verse that speaks of the special love of a grandmother.
The spirit that you have is a rare and precious jewel,

fashioned on God's potter's wheel, polished by His special spiritual tools.
Always thinking of others first and putting herself last,
reminding us of a people and a way of life that might soon be a thing of the past.
You've always been there for us, willing to meet our every need,
an example of charity, not only in word but also in deed.
Giving of yourself when you have nothing left to give,
living the life that God intended for you to live.
So much more to you than the physical eyes can see,
but it's evident the strength you get from praying on bended knees.
Favour is deceitful and beauty is vain,
but a woman that fears the Lord shall obtain a great name.

113 **OUR GRANDMOTHER'S LOVE**

We wish that we could really express the way we feel,
how wonderful it is to know that the love you have for us is real.
Everyone makes mistakes being parents, it's a fact of life,
but we grandkids benefit because this time around you got it right.
Sometimes when we need to be disciplined, you give us a break,
but when it has to be done, you do it for goodness sake.
We love you Mom-Mom, we think you are the best,
giving us your time when often you should be taking a rest.
Every kid needs someone in this world that they can love and trust,
we are so grateful that God sent an angel like you to us.

114 **GRANDPARENTS**

Deep wells of wisdom, nourishing our souls,
providing comfort and courage, telling us what we so desperately need to be told.
Trees of righteousness, symbols of generations gone before,
strong and enduring, as the currents of life drives us to the resisting shore.
Grandparents are people like us with human frailties,
but these are the ones that give roots to our family tree.
They inspire with a love that need not be returned,
giving us values that they had long ago learned.
Their beauty is the kind that will never fade,
precious, porcelain people who are fearfully and wonderfully made.
Filling our days with laughter and nights full of joy,
hearing the story how they met when grandmom was a pretty young girl and grandpop was a
handsome young boy.
May God never let me forget what they have done for me,
and if I should be blessed to have grandchildren, I hope to them I would be.
that kind, gentle, sweet, refined soul that makes our days brighter,
the foundation on which the family stands, making our family ties even tighter.

115 **LOVE**

(For new bride and groom)

Love is not something you find carelessly lying around,
it is something that must be diligently searched for,
so that it is treasured once found.
Elusive when hunted for, pursued with great skill,

something that can't be captured, it must surrender of its own free will.
It's wonderful to see young people so loved and so blessed,
coming together in the beauty of God's holiness.
Cherish the vows you take as husband and wife,
perceiving the mystery of two heartbeats becoming one for the rest of
your lives.
Your love does not have to be displayed, but neither should it be concealed,
looking at the both of you, we can see the plan of God revealed.
As you look back on this joyous day, as the genesis of your lives together,
our prayer is that every day after your wedding day, God will bless you to be even better and better.

116 LOVE

Just as the moon affects the movements of the tides, your love causes
my heart to rise and fall with desire, searching for your coasts.
Just as the sun warms the earth and causes new life to grow, so too your
love penetrates beneath the surface of my soul and generates new
levels of affection for you.
Just as the rains come down to replenish the fields, your voice enters
my mind and floods my spirit, renewing and refreshing me.
Just as the wind blows without direction or design. So too your moods
come in different forms. Soft like a breeze one moment, stormy the next,
always complex, something I call mystery.
Just as the snow lingers on the mountain top past its season, your touch
stays with me long after you have gone, leaving your imprint.
Just as the hidden mountain streams search for the sea, I too race toward
you, enduring every heat and every cold, providing shelter and shade,
through old age and beyond.

117 LOVE (To fiancée)

When I was a much younger man, my heart and mind were one,
doing everything together or not even attempting to get it done.
Then one day my heart grew restless,
looking for something it wasn't sure it could ever find,
seeking for a love that could bring peace to my mind.
My heart became discouraged, not realizing how lonely the task would be,
so he went to see an old friend, someone more wiser than he.
He traveled far and deep until he came to the residence of his soul,
they celebrated their reunion, for they had met many, many years ago.
My heart asked only one question, "How will I know when I have found the right one?"
My soul answered "the answer is different for each one of us."
"But it will definitely be someone that with your whole future and your very life you can trust."
One day my heart returned to once again visit my soul,
rejoicing and shouting because he had obtained his elusive goal.
"I've found her" he shouted, "the one that I have given my pulse to."
Someone that seems so good for me. I can't believe she actually agreed to say "I do."
The day will come when we (heart, soul and mind) will all be reunited,
I think I will make it a big occasion and have all my family and friends invited.
We will all talk, laugh, sing or maybe enjoy the beauty of a Bahamian sky,
but nothing will surpass the wonder of how beautiful my wife becomes with every day that passes by.

118 LOVE

A Man's Strength

Man, created in God's image and true strength comes from him.
Man at his very essence is strong, designed to protect and to provide.
All his life, he develops his abilities and takes pride in his accomplishments.
He competes with others, but he is really testing himself,
overcoming resistance through force, meeting each challenge with his own resolve.
As he matures, he discovers another form of strength.
How to endure when he doesn't win the game or match.
To mentally stand fast and do your best when circumstances come against him.
He realizes that sometimes answering the bell is just as important as winning the round.
Man continues to grow and uncovers yet something more.
He understands how much strength it takes to yield, to be gentle, especially with himself.
Not confusing it with weakness, he becomes selective in the battles he fights.
He seeks to support those around him, his family, friends and associates,
becoming more in spirit like water, that opposes nothing yet conquers all things,
he becomes like a tree planted by the rivers of water.
He provides shade and shelter.
His fruit shall nourish all those around him, standing tall, he marks the way for others. He endures.
Although the wind and snows of life may tear away emotional branches,
he endures because the roots go deep and receive strength from something below the surface, something unseen, yet always there.

119 WEDDING/RENEWAL OF VOWS

As I look into your eyes, this day I pledge a love to you,
that will endure long after we cease to exist on this planet.
I vow today to renew this vow everyday.
I will renew my vow every time you look at me
the way you are looking at me right now.
I will renew my vow, when I remember the first time
I saw you and my life was changed.
I will renew my vow, every time you hold my hand
and kiss me, spoiling me with your love.
I will renew my vow every time
I hear your voice singing with laughter.
I will renew my vows when our children have children
and you and I have more sunsets than sunrises ahead of us.
If it be so that you should pass on before me,
I will pledge another vow on that day also
that I shall never love another soul the way that I love you.

120 LOVE

Eyes so clear, alluring and deep, so risky to look into,
smile so warm and bright, something that could only belong to you.
Laughter so lyrical, a melody that is hard to forget,
voice so distinctive, when not heard, fills me with regret.
Lips so inviting, I yearn to inspect.
Breath like perfume, causing the same effect.
Skin like a new born deer, so soft, made to be touched,

manners so kind, a little love shown is often too much.
Physical charms in abundance, a woman, whole and complete,
beauty so obvious, choosing to be modest and discreet.
My admiration and attraction for you, I try hard not to let it overflow,
in conversations, you learned things about me that only you know.
If ever you look in the mirror and for some reason don't like what you see, I will give you a reason to
have true pride, to be proud of your person and personality.

121 **LOVE** (To Wife)

My love for you goes beyond the boundaries of this life,
long before the day I became your husband and you became my wife.
Angels looked and wondered how could this thing be,
that one of their next of kin could care for a guy like me.
Your love is something rare and precious, so fragile to handle,
like protecting an open flame from the careless wind,
seeking to separate it from its candle.
When you look at me, it is like the sun rising in the east,
smiling gently, unlocking my soul, the dove inside me is released.
As long as day turns to night and man looks to the stars,
my love will always be near you, abiding wherever you are.
When life leaves my body, my last breath shall whisper your name,
wishing I had been a better husband, my heart heavy with shame.
I'll cherish each day with you, like remembering a favorite love song,
grateful to God for allowing me to receive such a love for so very long.
You are the best friend I ever had and the wife I never dreamed I'd get,
living with you is my one dream come true and please don't wake me
up yet.

122 **LOVE** (To Wife)

When I look into your deep brown eyes, I see my heaven there.
When I look at your white, milky smile, there's nothing I won't share.
The love I feel for you, I can't express the way I feel,
the things I see may fade away, but my love is forever real.
How can two separate people, become one heartbeat,
my love a deposit, my vow your receipt.
It's forever protected under God's lock and key,
my investment in you is a sure thing for me.
The children that you gave to me, their wealth cannot be told,
the currency of joy they bring, is more valuable than gold.
A house is just a shelter with many rooms and several walls,
but I view my home a palace because a queen walks through its halls.

123 **LOVE** (To Spouse Across The Miles)

When I think about the lonely days and even lonelier nights,
your voice from halfway across the world, would make me feel all right.
I think about all the love we've made and all the love we've shared,
our love is something rare and true that shouldn't be compared.
When I recall our wedding day, so much pleasure the memories bring,
but I exchanged my heart of love for yours long before we exchanged

wedding rings.
Be assured that life will bring its challenges, to test our faith and love.
I'll greet each day with a prayer for you and each night it'll be you I'm
thinking of.

124 **MEMORIAL** (Mother)

We human beings are peculiar, in that we communicate much about who we are, not by what we say.
Ultimately, we write our eulogy by the way we live our lives each and every day.
Inviting people to attend our funerals by the kindness we show in this life,
children that are grown, still in need of a mother, a husband, rewinding the memories of his wife.
The Bible says that we bring nothing into this world and we take nothing out,
but when you left Momma, you took a love that is reserved only for you without a doubt.
My only consolation is that now you are in perfect peace,
no longer held captive to the demands of the body, your soul has been released.
To be absent in the body is to be present with the Lord,
your journey has ended and now, sweet lady, you have received your reward.

125 **MEMORIAL** (Child)

God's Tiny Angel

The Lord called my name and I could not stay, so know that I am with my father in heaven today.
And one day, I'll finally see you and kiss your loving face,
but I went to heaven and it's a wonderful place!
God is not cruel, He's filled with total love,
but your wisdom is not like the wisdom that comes from above.
Like an Angel on assignment that had to go away,
so know that I am with my Father in heaven today.
Mommy, thank you for all your love and all of your care,
and Daddy, God loves you for always being there.
But the Lord called my name and I could not stay,
so know that I loved you, but heaven is where I'll play.
The Lord knew that you loved Him and that you would share,
even thought this seems like more than anyone could bear.
I heard Him whisper "Ferin Michelle (child's name), I love you so" and then I turned around, and to
Heaven I did go.
I see you're crying and Jesus feels your pain,
but on the highway of life, there is no middle lane.
The Lord called my name and I could not stay,
so know that I am with my Father in Heaven today.
My memory will be bittersweet, always in your mind,
and a certain noise or smell, you'll feel my presence at times.
The Lord called my name and "Yes" to Him I did say,
so know that I am with "Our Father" in heaven today.

126 **MEMORIAL** (To Someone who passed with heart problems but who had a "Heart of Gold")

There are two sides to every heart, I think most of us would agree,
requiring two types of physicians to perform such diverse and delicate surgery.
One operates in the natural, with technology, relying on the intellect,
the other uses the procedures known only in the spirit,
utilizing intuition to diagnose and detect.

The external heart is perishable, subject to disease and decay,
but the inward heart, fueled by the Word of God, is renewed day by day.
When the fruit is ripe it will naturally fall from the tree.
God allowed the garden of your heart to grow for all the world to see.
So inspiring, your love toward God and your service toward man,
while others sat, you walked and while others walked you ran.
Even though you are removed from us, memories of you will always keep you near, you may not have
had as many years among us but you have added so much life to our years.

127

MEMORIAL (Grandmother)

Grandmother's Presence is Still Felt

Grandma's "Old folks sayings" are still ringing in my ears,
I can see her laughing, despite all my tears.
Her strong hands guided us along the "Highway of Life,"
thank God for her instructions, to save us from strife.
Once or twice, Grandma had to spank our behinds,
but because of her discipline, we turned out just fine.
The smell of her perfume was so sweet and so clear
if I turn around, I can almost see her sitting here.
She fed us, clothed us, and Grandmas house was home,
when she departed from this world, I felt so alone.
I love you grandma, a part of you is deep in me,
when I look in the mirror, your face is all I see.
You were our grandma, mother, wife and friend;
the source of all our strength from the beginning till the end.
I love you grandma, your wisdom is my guide,
my grandma, God's Guardian Angel, always by my side.

128

MEMORIAL (Sister Lost To Cancer)

Pamela (name) was born with a life to be lived,
possessing gifts that were hers alone to give.
Not asking to come into this world, but invited, she came,
because of her 39 years (age) among us, I will never be the same.
More than a big sister, she was my best friend,
someone I could be open and honest with, I didn't have to pretend.
I'm not going to say she lived a perfect life but the life she lived was her own.
The kind of person when she walked into the room, she made her presence known.
Three children today will never again feel the love of their mother's touch, so we'll pray to the one who
knows them best and loves them so very much.
Death is an appointment we never schedule, but we all must keep.
The scriptures say that those in Christ never die, they just fall asleep.
The cancer may have taken you physically,
but so much of you remains a part of me through wonderful memories.
All of us in life are influenced by our environment and people we met,
I thank God that in giving me a big sister, He gave me the best that I could get.

129

MEMORIAL Spouse lost to illness (Deceased speaking from Heaven)

I know right now, that it is hard to see through the pain,
but unfortunately, your loss, my love, has become my gain.

No longer in a limited body, but now abiding in the presence of the Lord,
exploring the wonders of Heaven, receiving my reward.
We took vows that until death do we part,
but the love you gave traveled with me and is still in my heart.
I went from life to life and death is but a door,
being with God is everything you ever imagined and more than I ever hoped for.
I'm grateful and honored for the love you gave to me,
supporting and caring through every test and therapy.
Because of the love you gave and love you have shown,
being here with God is like being with you at home.
I feel the same joy, the same peace within,
it is only now that I truly realize what an Angel you have been.
Love never ceases, it is only transferred,
even now, your love still reaches me and be assured that it will always endure.
So live your life, my love, be strong and let God have His way,
grow old and even more beautiful and let your hair turn gray.
I can't explain what I'm feeling, but one day you will understand,
years from now, when we meet again, I will be there to hold your hand.

130

MILITARY (New Recruit) In the Armed Forces

I left home a boy, I thought the world revolved around me,
but as I traveled I found out, there was so much more of life to see.
I couldn't make up my mind, about the direction I should take,
thank God I made the right choice, at least for my "own sake."
The days have not been easy, the road, not exactly smooth,
sometimes it's better to jump right in, than to stay at home and brood.
I regret every argument, every conflict we ever had,
I now realize that it was for my own good, you were just being Mom & Dad.
The things you tried to tell me, I'm finding out they're true,
life is full of good times, and disappointments too.
I've seen so much and I've learned so much, and I've grown from the inside out,
finding out what I want in life and what life is all about.
I found out I had abilities, I didn't think I owned,
I'm starting to deposit my talents into this world, because we're only here on loan.
The world is not a separated place, It's a global community,
I'm glad to be in the Armed Forces, to promote true liberty.

131

MOTHER (FROM SON) (Also can be altered to use from daughter)

My Mother's Love

Created in heaven and sent from above,
there is nothing on earth like my mother's love.
More precious than silver, more valuable than gold,
her worth can't be measured, her wealth untold.
The first voice I heard and the last face I see.
this vessel gave me life and is more than life to me.
As a boy, you protected me under your wings,
as a man, you gave me insight to so many things.
Everything good in me, I owe to you,
you are the rich, fertile soil from which I grew.
Your children and children's children shall call you blest,

of all women, born of a woman, you are the best.

132

MOTHER / TO A SECOND MOM

You are someone I can always turn to when others turn away,
showing me that real love is something deeper than the words that we say.
When the chill of disappointment touches me, your comfort keeps me warm,
giving me an anchor, when circumstances move in like an angry coastal storm.
Listening to me, acknowledging my privilege of choice,
respecting my opinions, giving value to my voice.
When you give me a hug, all my fears turn and flee,
you may never realize how much I love you and how much your love means to me.
Speaking to me in a way that only you can,
teaching me how to walk this life by first helping me to stand.
You are so much a part of me that when I search for myself, I can't
find a trace, I have learned to handle your friendship with prayer
because it's something too precious to be replaced.

133

MOTHER BIRTHDAY (From Children)

God has created all things to supply a specific need,
He alone can see the mighty oak tree when we can only see the seed.
He gave us the sun by day and the moon to rule by night,
He even sent His only begotten Son to show us how to live right.
One day He fashioned a person, so fearfully and wonderfully made,
deposited in her an abundance of love and a rare beauty that will never fade.
Added steel to her spirit, so she could stand up under weight,
filling her heart with forgiveness, leaving no room for hate.
The angels looked and wondered "How can this be?"
that God would create a woman that they had to look up to see.
This woman-gift was graciously given to earth,
now her children pause to remember and cherish the day of her birth.
Always giving, so unselfish the life that you live,
showing us how blessed you are when you are blessed enough to give.
When we call on you for help you always respond,
meeting our needs and many times going beyond.
So marvelous how you raised us, treating each differently, yet loving us
all the same, displaying a greatness that has nothing to do with fame.
Your wisdom did not come from a book but from the heart,
you are so much a part of us, we do not know where you end and where we start.
As long as this family endures and continues to grow,
it will never produce a finer example of a woman that we will ever know.
May your heart receive the love that we express,
our prayer is that every day of your life, God will continue to bless.

134

MOTHER (To A Mother Who's Also Been The Father In Your Life)

When I need a picture of love, I see you with arms open wide.
Comforting me with compassion, when my hopes have been denied.
You taught me right from wrong, what was good and what was bad.
You even taught me things I should've learned from a Dad.
To hear the sound of love, I hear your voice, sometimes soft, often strong,

like when you're giving advice and direction to Isaiah and Keon.
I'm grateful for every little touch of love as I get older,
a little pat on the back or when you put your arm around my shoulder.
I'm thankful for the prayers you prayed down through the years,
how much you interceded for me on bended knees and eyes full of tears.
The pain of love must be something you keep deep inside,
things that happen in life that only in God you can confide.
The delight of love will always be the look that I see in your face,
standing in front of me and not wanting to be in any other place.
It's funny how the older I get, it's the little things that give me the most pleasure,
having someone like you in my life is like having pure gold,
in you I've found a real treasure.

135

MOTHER (From A Daughter Who Came Home From The Streets)

No one could ever know what a wonderful mother you've been to me.
You covered my mistakes and let everyone see the person you knew I would grow to be.
And I know that raising me wasn't always fun, but you took the good with the bad and covered it all
with prayer.
Mommy, you always helped me, and my burdens you did bare.
When I looked hopeless and could not find my way, you never belittled me or called me names but you
fell on your knees and this is what you had to say:
"Lord, this is my child, the seed of my womb, this precious life father that came from me.
You said you would never leave me or forsake me and I know that means her too.
I'll hold on to your promises because I know your word is true.
You said as long as I keep my mind stayed on you, that you would give me perfect peace.
Now Jesus, save my baby and deliver her soul and bring her home from the streets.
You told me that you called her to yourself, and I know your word you'll keep.
You've shown yourself mighty before and I know you'll do the same for me.
I already have the faith of a mustard seed and you've given your children victory.
And now while I'm on the pulpit looking down in the first row, I see my
baby worshipping and praising your name.
I have to give all thanks to you for your promises will always stay the same.

136

SINGLE MOM

A Single Mother's Prayer

Lord, sometimes I think there aren't enough hours in a day to do what needs to be done.
Trying to be a father and a mother all rolled up in one.
I know Lord it was not your plan that I try and be a man,
I'm asking you to be the head of this house, while I do the best I can.
You see every desire of my heart, even those that I won't admit to myself.
Some say "All I need is Jesus," Lord, you know I love you, but you also know that I want something else.
I want to be loved and cared for the way you love and care for the church.
I want someone to hold me when my emotions are worn and hurt.
At Thanksgiving, I'll have family over and we'll give thanks and share.
I would like to have someone special sitting in the family room,
watching the football game in the big easy chair.
I want to have a problem at Christmas time of finding a special gift,
something that tells someone that they have chosen the right person to be with.
I don't want you to think I'm desperate Lord, you have provided for me all this time,
my children don't want for nothing and in school they are doing just fine.

Lord, if it had not been for you, I don't know where I would be.
Yes Lord, I may be alone sometimes but with you I'm never lonely.

137 MOTHER BIRTHDAY / MOTHER'S DAY (To African-American mother from adult children)
In this world we live in, it is good to know that some things will never change. So many things that you taught your children years ago, today sound strange.
That children speak when spoken to and it doesn't cost you nothing to be kind. Now it seems like sometimes today that young people are trying to lose their mind.
What we're trying to say is that they don't make them anymore like you, a woman who is not afraid of hard work and tell you what's true.
Born into a society that could not appreciate you because of the color of your skin, but not passing on hate to your children and being influenced by other people's sin.
We may not have had everything we wanted, but we had everything that we need, learning to be grateful for little things and not being enticed by greed.
We learned not to talk back if we wanted to keep our lips with the rest of our face, we are glad we were raised in a day when parent and child each knew their place.
Teaching us that the most important thing you have is your good name. We have tried to live our lives in such a way that you would never be ashamed.
We would like to wish you a very Happy Birthday/Mother's Day because you are truly one of a kind.
There is no greater woman that I will ever know and no greater love that I will ever find.

138 VALENTINE MOM (To 2nd Mom)
How can I express what you have meant to me.
You are more than a friend, you are part of my family.
You've always been there whenever I had a need,
an example of charity, not only in word but also in deed.
When I make a mistake, you correct me in love,
sometimes not walking with God as I should, you give me a little shove.
If I had to choose a second mother you would be my first choice,
many times I call you, not wanting anything but to hear your voice.
Always encouraging me to be what God wants me to be,
seeing value in me when I've been too discouraged to see.
God sent you into my life at just the right time,
to me, you are my walking, talking, real-life Valentine.

139 PARENTS (From Adult Child)
As the years go by and I've reached a level of maturity,
I reflect on the two people in this world who mean more than the world to me.
Teaching me lessons I did not always want to learn,
that what you get in this life is exactly what you earn.
Such a strong example, standing up for what you believe is right,
facing life together, no matter how long the day or how dark the night.
Dad, I have to thank you for being patient with me,
holding to your convictions, determined to give me priorities.
Mom, what can I say about the love you give,
so essential to my existence, without it I can't live.
Most of the problems we see in our community today,
is because there are not enough parents like the both of you to show young people the way.
May God continue to bless you both in all that you do,
hopefully He will show me how to express what I will forever feel for you.

140 PARENTS
I want to thank you for the life I live.
You both are the fertile field and renewing rains from which my seed began to grow.
The warmth of your love protected me when you saw me growing in ways that could hinder my full development.
When the heat of the sun became unbearable,
you provided shade and comfort for me.
When trouble came to flood my soul,
you were my anchor, holding me fast.
You are like two twin mountain peaks that I see in the distance,
something always constant, always enduring.
I want to thank you Dad for always being there,
may you always grow stronger as you gracefully grow old.
Mom, I want to thank you also for being an inspiration,
the finest lady I ever knew, constantly giving and a heart full of gold.

141 MY PARENTS LOVE (From Adult Son)
Sometimes I sit and wonder how things would be,
if I did not have parents like you to raise a guy like me.
Someone there to tell me the truth no matter how I feel,
teaching me what is important in life, always keeping it real.
Dad, so tall/short/dark and handsome, well able to keep me in line,
I appreciate your position now, but maybe not at that particular time.
Mom, coming home and seeing your face so sweet with a smile so bright,
no matter what was wrong in my life, being in your presence made everything all right.
In a day when so many abandon the ship when they cannot see the shore,
your marriage is an example that wedding vows are written on the heart,
not on paper that you tear up and throw on the floor.
Standing by each other through the good and through the bad,
being strong when the other is weak and giving them your strength you never knew you had.
If there is any virtue in me, it is because of the two of you,
realizing that being born male does not make you a man, it's the decisions you make and the choices you choose.
Thankful that my own family is built on a foundation that was laid years ago,
taking time to impact principles in me that I so desperately needed to know.
Like the morning sun and the evening rain, that gives of itself and causes things to grow,
the love that you gave kept me above the surface of forces that threatened to take me below.
Some of the most precious memories I have, the ones that give me the most joy,
was not when I was a devoted spouse or a blessed father, but when I was Vernon (father's name) and Barbara's (mother's name) little boy.

142 PETS
Unconditional Love
Unconditional love, that's what you both give to me,
adding value to my life, essential to my family.
Always there to greet me, no matter how long the day,
communicating unspoken feelings that words can never say.
Teaching me daily lessons on how to give and receive,

rejoicing when you see me come, pouting when I have to leave.
Yes, you have your flaws, like the rest of us all,
headstrong on occasion, refusing to heed my call.
Of all the four-legged people, you have so much personality,
I'm so grateful to have you in my life, my Rusty and Baby (pet's name).

Note: We can put your pet's photo on the plaque.

143 RELIGIOUS (To Your Pastor)

When I think about the way you carry yourself, the respect you inspire,
how regal you are, you remind me of one of God's finest creatures.
The great stallion.
First, God chose you from the finest of stock and put in you from birth,
certain abilities and talents to enable you to run the race that was set before you.
As you grew, it became evident that you were head and shoulders above the others.
You had more spirit, a more determined will to win.
When God finally called you and saddled you with the responsibility of
carrying His word, you didn't buck the Holy Spirit.
You came out of the gate every Sunday charging for the finish line.
Like every great seed horse, you imported your wisdom and example onto
others so that they may have the strength to run their own race.
I hope on this day as you stand on top of the hill of all your accomplishments, that as you look over the
valleys that God has brought you through,
I hope that you can see that there are green pastures, still waters and fertile fields that God has for you
yet to run through.

144 RELIGIOUS (To Your Pastor)

You showed me how God can take the darkness out of my lonely nights.
With Him, I'm able to do those things that are pleasing in his sight.
With Him, I can look forward to what the future brings,
in the midst of my winter, I can hear the song of spring.
With God every delay does not mean denied.
He's there waiting to count every tear I might cry.
You taught me that when I'm weak, He is strong,
when I feel lost and confused, He tells me I belong.
Through your teaching of the word, I've become someone new,
doing things that I thought I could never do.
I will never forget how wonderful you've been to me,
I'm blessed abundantly through the anointing of your ministry.
My hope is that God will continue to bless you and yours,
for everything you've given, I pray that God bless you more.

145 RELIGIOUS (To Your Pastor)

When God makes man, he uses earth as one part,
but pastors are gifts he gives according to His own heart.
Like Abraham, you left the house of your father to a place you did not know, obeying the voice of God
when you heard the Lord say "Go!"
Standing between God and His people with a rod in your hand,
while others slip and slide in the mud, you go through on dry land.

Defending the church against Goliaths that try to intimidate,
boldly advancing because the God you serve is great.
Like Daniel, you chose to obey God rather than men,
when they tried to persecute you, you rested on sheets made of lionskins.
A voice crying in the wilderness, calling men to repent,
how can they hear without a preacher?
How can he preach unless he be sent?
You are a vessel separated unto God, ordained to do great things,
making everybody feel as if they are somebody whether they are beggars or kings.
The Lord has some things prepared for you that can not be seen with the
natural eye,
but He will reveal them to you, pastor,
as He hides you in the cleft of the rock and let His glory pass you by.

146 RELIGIOUS (To a virtuous woman)

The Bible poses a question that still rings throughout the annals of time,
a virtuous woman, who can find?
A woman who is more precious than jewels and value far greater than gold, whose very presence
among us is marvelous to behold.
Strength and honor are her clothing, her position before God is secure,
in her mouth is the law of kindness, her hand stretches out to the poor.
Made a little lower than the angels, is the natural state of a woman and a man,
but a rare woman, fashioned just so, that raise objection to the original plan.
A man that finds a wife, finds a good thing,
never fully realizing how much favor from the Lord she actually brings.
A weaker vessel, the Word of God declares, fragile like fine china or
expensive crystal, someone to be handled with prayer.
God said "it was not good for man to be alone,"
so He gave the first man a gift and he replied "this is flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone."
We give honor to the woman of God because it is due,
giving thanks to God, for giving us you."

147 RELIGIOUS (A Man of Honor)

When God call Samuel, the young boy was awakened by a voice in the night,
God got the attention of the apostle Paul by blinding him with a great light.
When the Lord has a ministry for you, he equips you before you start.
Man always looks on the outward appearance but God looks on the heart.
God has given each of us a life and a free will to chose how we are going to live,
it's not how much we get that pleases God but how much we chose to give.
You have served for a long time and have not gotten tired yet,
touching so many people by the example you set.
Not seeking the limelight, you can't help but shine,
providing that a good man is still a rare, precious find.
We are suppose to give honor to whom honor is due,
giving thanks to God for giving us a man like you.

148 RELIGIOUS A Praying Family

Men ought to always pray and not faint.
Sound advice for sinners and wisdom for the saints.

We are most near to God when we bend our knees, bowing our hearts also, for it is the heart that He sees.
In His presence there is fullness of joy, bringing all thoughts to Him, for His purpose to employ.
We have not, because we ask not, so careful not to blaspheme, but one day I asked God for a wife and He gave me a beautiful queen.
I rejoiced, asking what shall I render because of your goodness to me, he turned around and blessed me with children, adding strong branches to our family tree.
We worship God for who He is, not for what He has done,
no matter how He blesses me, I never forget that He is the one.
The one who died that I might live, the one who shows mercy and readily forgives.
The one whose blood washed all of my sins away, for your everlasting love, we can never repay . . .
this is why we pray.

149

RELIGIOUS

The work that God does, often leaves no trace to be seen,
leaving you to feel the effects to understand what He means.
Where God walks there are no footprints to guide,
trusting with every step you take that He will be by your side.
When God loves, it is often your arms He will use,
to hug away the hurt or shelter from abuse.
God smiles frequently, and it's through your smile He sends,
the love and affection so dear, and the promise that it will never end.
God's voice sounds like yours, when you comfort those that mourn,
trying to mend a wound in the heart that is broken and torn.
God has eyes but uses yours to see,
to pick up something that is fallen and to make it what it ought to be.
God has hands but uses yours to feel,
through your touch, His virtue can flow to heal.
God has a heart that beats faster when we praise His name,
when we come to Him with open arms, vulnerable and not ashamed.
God is a wonder and it's wonderful how His Word is always true,
we are so grateful also that our God can make someone so wonderful as you.

150

SEPTEMBER 11

911

Heroes are not born, they answer when the situation calls,
they are the ones who stand up when others courageously fall.
The leader, who would rather be powerful than politically correct,
who calls a nation to remember liberty is a lady we must protect.
The hero is a wife who continues to live,
trying to be both a mother and father to her kids.
It's the husband, who doesn't know how to measure his loss,
desperately trying to hang on, he reaches for the old rugged cross.
For the mother who lost her daughter and the father who lost his son,
the hero realizes that the battle inside has just begun.
The battle to not hate or become what you hate,
to hold on to a belief, that is stronger than fate.
Thoughts and emotions that rage through the mind,
I see twin towers burning, but Your Word says
"that I will bless the Lord at all times."

Your thoughts are not my thoughts and your mercy is renewed each day,
Lord, I need You to help me and hear me when I pray.
Restore to us a peace that we had before that September morn,
so that out of the chaos and misunderstanding,
an even greater America will be born.

151

SON (Father To Grown Son)

A FATHER'S PRIDE

You have grown to the place that when I look at you,
I see a man, taking care of your business, doing the best that you can.
Some things I should have told you long ago, even though it was not said,
I hope that you know, my heart is full of pride that often overflows.
Feeling a love for you that is hard for men to show,
somehow we must find a way to express it, so that the other one will know.
Watching you grow through stages, I sent up secret prayers in the night,
believing the day would come when everything would be all right.
You will never know what my heart knows until your son stands and looks you in the face,
seeing a man with a destiny, striving to find his rightful place.
There is something within you son that will see you through every storm,
something whispered in your ear back when I could cradle you in my arms.
It's a voice you can hear when you find yourself alone,
saying that your father loves you more than can be shown.
My prayer is that you will put God first in all that you do,
He has been a better father to me than I could ever be to you.

152

SON (Father To Teen Son)

A FATHER'S PRIDE

I remember a day when I would lead you by the hand,
now I look at you and almost see a man.
I miss those days when you would hide in my shadow,
begging me to buy you some candy or take you somewhere you wanted to go,
Bending down on one knee,
telling grasshoppers to teach my boy how to play,
laughing as you chased lightning bugs,
watching you grow stronger ever day.
Secretly wishing you well as I went to your games, to nervous to sit,
then jumping up screaming, when you got a key rebound or a big base hit.
The day I'll never forget and will always remember the most,
was the day you decided to serve the God of your father and received the
precious gift of the Holy Ghost.
Your days as a little boy started to go by quicker.
I observed time picking up it's pace, the day I noticed you turn your head when you saw a pretty face.
I put demands on you, like every father does his son,
observing, if you were brave when you lost and meek if you won.
The day will come when we will lay out our plans and we both will be men, never imagining that the
baby I couldn't wait to walk would one day be one of my best friends.

153 TO WIFE & NEW BABY

The two greatest gifts I have ever received,
 was the day you became my wife and Cassie (Baby's name) entered our family.
 You expanded my love, making me more of a man,
 striving to protect and provide for you both the best that I can.
 My pride and my joy, I will never again be the same,
 changed forever by the two smiling faces that wear my name.
 It's good to look at my wife and see the girl in her wanting to play,
 then looking at my baby girl and wondering if she will grow up and be the same way.
 I have only one prayer that I hope my eyes will see,
 that Cassie (Baby's name) will grow to be as beautiful as you are with your same qualities.
 She could not have a better mother, nor I a better wife,
 adding life to my days and days to my life.
 Without you two, my house would not be a home,
 I'm grateful to be blessed, realizing it's through no goodness of my own.
 Sometimes cloudy days will come, but love will always shine through,
 if the rain must fall, you know my arms will always be there to warm you.

154 UNCLE (From niece who's uncle has been like a father in her life)

They say it is good to give honor to whom honor is due,
 that is why it is easy to say good things about you.
 Such a good example by the life that you live,
 always thinking of others, so liberal with the love you give.
 Encouraging me by being there and lending me your ear,
 speaking from your heart, even if it is something I don't want to hear.
 The meals you prepared I have not tasted any better,
 but your cookouts are more than chicken and ribs, they are a tradition,
 a way of keeping families together.
 The gifts you gave were greatly appreciated,
 but the spirit in which you gave them made us more than blood, but heart-related.
 As I went from a little girl to a woman, you went from an uncle to a dad,
 I'm so very grateful to be the daughter that you never knew you had.
 I'll never forget how you made me feel on my wedding day,
 your eyes communicating what is impossible for words to say.
 God wants to bless you more than you can see,
 so that you can be in His permanent family.
 I hope you consider to take this walk with me,
 so we can be together forever throughout eternity.

155 WOMEN**Why Women Cry**

"Mom, why are you crying?" the child asked. "Because I 'm a woman," she said to the child. "I don't understand," the child said. She just nudged the child and said, "And you never will."
 Later the child asked the father "why does mother cry for no reason?" All women cry for no reason," that was all dad could say.
 The child grew up and became an adult, still wondering why women cry . . .
 Finally, the child put in a call to God; when God got on the phone, the child said " God, why do women cry so easily?" God said . . . When I made women, she had to be special. I made her shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world; yet, gentle enough to give comfort. . . ^I gave her an inner

strength to endure child birth and the rejection that many times comes from her children.
 I gave her a hardness that allows her to keep going when everyone else gives up and take care of her family through sickness and fatigue without complaining . . . I gave her the sensitivity to love her children under any and all circumstances, even when her child has hurt her badly . . . the same sensitivity helps her to make a child's boo-boo feel better and shares in her teenagers anxieties and fears . . . I gave her strength to carry her husband or companion through his faults and fashion her from his rib to protect his heart. I gave her wisdom to know that a good husband or companion never hurts his wife, but sometimes tests her strengths to stand beside him unfalteringly. I gave her a tear to shed. It's hers exclusively to use whenever it is needed. It's her only weakness . . . It's a tear for mankind . . . so there you have it; there really is a reason! Cry proud!! Cry loud!!