



Key Notes

Benediction is a prayer of blessing. More specifically, it is asking God to pour out His best gifts on someone else. Many liturgical traditions make much of that moment in the service when the pastor (or priest) *blesses* the congregation.

I recently discovered a benediction used in the Franciscan tradition*. I liked it so much, I thought I would put this blessing on you!

*May God bless you with discomfort
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships
So that you may live deep within your heart.*

*May God bless you with anger
At injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.*

*May God bless you with tears
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and
To turn their pain into joy.*

*And may God bless you with enough foolishness
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done
To bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.*

Amen.

Be blessed!

Pastor Stan

*A *Franciscan Benediction*. From Philip Yancey's new book, *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?* Zondervan. 2006. Page 105.