Footprints

One night a man had a dream. In it he was walking along a beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord. When the final scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back, at the footprints in the sand. He noticed many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints, and realized that they came at the hardest and saddest times of his life.

Bothered about this; he questioned the Lord saying, "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most burdensome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why that when I needed you the most you would leave me."

The Lord replied, "My dear child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Author Unknown

Verse 1

Treasured Seasons

For everything there is an appointed season,
And a time for everything under heaven-
A time for sowing,
a time for reaping;
A time for sharing,
a time for caring.
A time for loving,
a time for giving;
A time for remembering,
a time for parting.
You have made everything beautiful in its time
For everything You do remains forever.

Verse 2

Prayer Of St. Francis Of Assisi

Lord make me an instrument of Thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me show love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console:
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Verse 3

23rd Psalm

The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me besides the still waters.
He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
For thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil;
My cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Verse 4
God Hath Promised

God hath not promised
Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
All our lives through;
God hath not promised
Sun without rain
Joy without sorrow
Peace without pain.

But God hath promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labor,
Light for the way,
Grace for the trials,
Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy
Undying love.

Verse 5

Do Not Stand

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the mornings hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there, I did not die.

Verse 6

Miss Me But Let Me Go

When I come to the end of the day
And the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room.
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little, but not too long
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love we once shared-
Miss me, but let me go.

For this is a journey we all must take
And each must go alone.
It’s all part of the Maker’s plan,
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart
Go to the friends we know,
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds-
Miss me, but let me go.

Verse 7

Serenity Prayer

God grant me the
Serenity to accept the
things I cannot change

Courage to change
the things I can and the
Wisdom to know the difference

Verse 8
Cancer

Cancer is so limited...
It cannot cripple love,
It cannot corrode faith,
It cannot eat away peace,
It cannot destroy confidence,
It cannot kill friendship,
It cannot shut out memories,
It cannot silence courage,
It cannot invade the soul,
It cannot reduce eternal life,
It cannot quench the Spirit,
It cannot lessen the power
Of the Resurrection.

Life Without End – At Last

Can you see, with your mind's eye,
People dwelling together?
Sorrow has passed. Peace at last!
Sing out with joy of heart.
You, too, can have a part.
Live for the day when you'll say:
"Life without end, at last!"
Man and beast, living in peace,
Cause no harm to each other.
Food will be there. All will share
In what our God provides.
In those days old will grow young,
Flesh revived as in childhood.
Troubles are gone, from now on
No need to weep or fear.
Paradise all will enjoy
As they sing of God's glory.
Yes, every day we will say
To God our Maker, "Thanks!"

I’m Free

Don’t grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I’m following the path God has laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard His call,
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joys-
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Oh yes, these things I too, will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief-
Don’t lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart, and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.

God’s Garden

God looked around His garden,
And found an empty place.
He then looked down upon the earth,
And saw your tired face.
He put His arms around you,
And lifted you to rest.
God’s garden must be beautiful,
He always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering,
He knew that you were in pain,
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough,
And the hills were hard to climb,
So He closed your weary eyelids,
And whispered, “Peace be thine”.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you didn’t go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.
**Verses & Poems**

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**God Saw You**

God saw you getting tired, and a cure was not to be. So he put his arms around you and whispered "come to ME". With tearful eyes we watched you, and saw you pass away. Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hardworking hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.

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**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

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**A Favorite Poem**

"I am not looking for the sunset As the swift years come and go; I am looking for the sunrise and the morning golden glow. I am not going down but upward and the path is never dim. For the day proves ever brighter as I journey on with Him. So my eyes are on the hilltops. Waiting for the sun to rise. Waiting for his invitation To my home beyond the skies."

Author Unknown

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**I Am Home In Heaven**

I am home in heaven, dear ones; Oh, so happy and so bright! There is perfect joy and beauty In this everlasting light. All the pain and grief is over, Every restless tossing passed; I am now at peace forever, Safely home in heaven at last. There is work still waiting for you. So you must not idly stand; Do it now, while life remaineth - You shall rest in God’s own land. When that work is all completed, He will gently call you Home; Oh, the rapture of that meeting. Oh, the joy to see you come!
**Verses & Poems**

**Blessed Sacrament**

O Gentlest Heart of Jesus ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls in purgatory have mercy on the soul of Thy departed servant.  
Be not severe in Thy Judgment but let some drops of Thy Precious Blood fall upon the devouring flames and do Thou O merciful Saviors send Thy angels to conduct Thy departed servant to a place of refreshment, light, and peace. Amen

Verse 17

**Crossing The Bar**

Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar  
When I put out to sea,  
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be so sadness of farewell,  
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crossed the bar.

-Alfred Tennyson

Verse 19

**Memories Of Love**

High on a hill so far away  
where all the beauty lies,  
I see your smiling face so near  
It almost makes me cry.

I look at the trees so tall and pure  
and I can see you standing there,  
with arms outstretched, waiting for me,  
knowing I won't be there.

The flowers, the trees and the blue sky above  
and the memories that we shared  
are all I have left now of the wonderful love that we shared.

I pray to God that someday soon,  
We will meet on our hill in the sky,  
and walk hand in hand in our wonderland,  
and in the lovely green grass we will lie.

Till then my true love,  
I must be content to wait in our garden of love,  
to hold you in my arms again,  
when God takes us both above.

Twill be a glorious reunion  
a day to be reborn again,  
a day when we start our lives over  
ever to be separated again.

Verse 18

**Afterglow**

I’d like the memory of me  
To be a happy one. I’d like  
To leave an Afterglow of Smiles when day is done.  
I’d like to leave an echo…

Whispering softly down the Ways of happy times and Laughing times and bright  
And sunny days. I’d like  
The tears of those who Grieve to dry before the  
Sun of happy memories  
That I leave behind when Day is done.

Verse 20
I Said A Prayer For You Today

I said a prayer for you today
And know God must have heard-
I felt the answer in my heart
Although He spoke no word.
I did not ask for wealth or fame,
I knew you would not mind.
I ask Him to send treasures
Of a far more lasting kind.
I ask that He’d be near you
At the start of each new day,
To grant you health and blessings
And friends to share your way.
I ask for happiness for you
In all things great and small,
But it was for his loving care
I prayed the most of all.

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
May the rains fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of His hand

The Ties That Bind

How blessed is the tie that binds
Our hearts in lasting love,
The comradeship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

So when at last we have to part
In sorrow and in pain,
We know we still are joined in heart
Until we meet again.

The Sheaf Of Wheat

The Sheaf of Wheat...
Symbols of Christian Faith

The seeds of faith are sown in the
human personality and grow into the mature
faith of the Christian man or woman.
The sown seed must lose its life in order
that it may develop and grow and multiply. . .
So, symbolically, a sheaf of wheat is used by
Christians to mark the passing of a fellow Christian.

Death is not the end but the beginning of life
eternal. The mature grain in the sheaf is the direct
symbol of the Resurrection . .

The life beyond the grave, the fulfillment of the
Promises of Jesus Christ.
**Verses & Poems**

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**Jesus Said**

“I am the resurrection and the life;
He who believes in me, though he die,
Yet shall he live,
And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

*John 11:25,26*

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**Trees**

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the sweet earth’s flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

*Joyce Kilmer*

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**When I’m Gone**

When I’m gone, remember I’m with Jesus.
Do not grieve because I’ve passed away.
Life holds so many grief’s and disappointments,
And will you weep because I did not stay?

Tis only for a spell we must be parted.
Not many years on earth to us are given,
And when my Savior tells me you are coming I’ll go with Him and welcome you to heaven.

Weep not because I walk no longer with you.
Remember I am walking streets of gold.
Weep for yourselves that you awhile must tarry
Before the blessed Lord you may behold.

*Author Unknown*

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**When I Must Leave You**

When I must leave you for a little while,
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you through the years,
But start out bravely with a gallant smile;
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same.
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
But fill each waking hour in useful ways,
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you and hold you near;
And never, never be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky!

*Helen Steiner Rice*
Verses & Poems

**Taps**

Day is done, gone the sun  
from the lake, from the hill,  
from the sky.  
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.  

Thanks and praise for our days  
‘neath the sun, ‘neath the stars,  
‘neath the sky.  

As we go, this we know.  
God is nigh.

**Stars And Stripes**

The Stars and Stripes, they flew forever  
always in his heart.  
He was loyal to his nation  
and bravely did his part.  
Always thinking of his brother  
ever in his mind,  
He stood for love of country  
and most of all, mankind.  
Now gazing down with his Master  
through a light and heavenly cloud,  
He’s still looking out for all of us  
of whom he is so proud.

**It’s Difficult**

It’s difficult when someone  
Who is loved cannot be there,  
But memories that  
Are made and shared  
Will keep a loved one near.  
And God, with loving wisdom,  
Will be there to guide us through;  
He’ll help us meet tomorrow  
And He’ll give us strength anew.

**Native American Prayer**

I give you this one thought to keep-  
I am with you still – I do not sleep,  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow,  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle Autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning’s hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight,  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not think of me as gone –  
I am with you still in each new dawn.
Verses & Poems

**Fisherman’s Prayer**

God grant that I may live to fish  
For another shining day,  
But when my final cast is made  
I then most humbly pray,  
When nestled in your landing net  
As I lay peacefully asleep,  
You’ll smile at me and judge  
That I’m “good enough to keep.”

**A Deer Hunter’s Prayer**

Lord, help me to honor you this day  
as I walk through your creation.  
My spirit leaps like a deer because  
of what you have done!  
Lord, where could I flee from your presence?  
You watch when the doe bears her fawn.  
Help me to desire you above all else.  
As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, O God.  
O Sovereign Lord, you are my strength.  
You make my feet like the feet of a deer.  
You enable me to go to higher places.  
O Lord, how great you are!

**A Fireman’s Prayer**

When I am called to duty, God,  
Whenever flames may rage,  
Give me the strength to save some life,  
Whatever be its age.  
Help me embrace a little child  
Before it is too late  
Or save an older person from  
The horror of that fate.  
Enable me to be alert  
And hear the weakest shout,  
And quickly and efficiently  
To put the fire out.  
I want to fill my calling  
And to give the best in me  
To guard my every neighbor  
And protect his property.  
And if, according to my fate,  
I am to lose my life,  
Please bless with your protecting hand  
My children and my wife.

**A Soldier’s Prayer**

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,  
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.  
I asked for health, that I might do greater things,  
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things….  
I asked for riches, that I might be happy,  
I was given poverty, that I might be wise….  
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,  
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God….  
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,  
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things….  
I got nothing that I asked for – but everything that I had hoped for,  
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.  
I am, among all men, most richly blessed.
**Little Angels**

When God calls little children
to dwell with Him above.
We mortals sometime question
the wisdom of His love.
For no heartache companies with
the death of one small child
Who does so much to make our world
seem wonderful and mild.
Perhaps God time of calling
the aged to His fold,
So He picks a rosebud
before it can grow old.
God knows how much we need them,
and so He takes but few
To make the land of Heaven
more beautiful to view.
Believing this is difficult
still somehow we must try.
The saddest word mankind knows
will always be "Goodbye,"
So when a little child departs,
we who are left behind
Must realize God loves children.
Angels are hard to find.

**Guardian Angel**

From heaven so bright,
Watching beside me
To lead me aright,
Fold thy wings
round me,
and guard me
with love,
Softly sing songs
to me of
heaven above.
Amen.

**An Angel In The Book Of Life**

An Angel in the book of Life
Wrote down my baby's birth
Then whispered as she closed the book
"Too Beautiful for this Earth"

**A Child's Prayer**

Lord in heaven
please listen to all those
who are praying to you now.

Those who are sad and crying,
those who have lost friends and family.

Those who are alone
and frightened.

Help them to remember,
that you are there
and you are listening.

In Jesus’ name, we pray.
Amen.