

Prayers  
for the  
Newly Married

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PUBLICATIONS

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## Introduction

# *All Our Tomorrows*

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When we promise our futures to each other on our wedding day, little do we know what that will include—and it's probably just as well. If someone had tried to tell us then what lay ahead, we likely wouldn't have believed it.

As that future unfolds, our choice to continue marrying each other year after year requires many gifts, especially maturity, but more importantly, grace. We can see this grace in a couple who has been dancing together for so many years that they lead and follow each other in a way that looks seamless and oh-so-easy. Gracefulness of that sort comes from the hard work of listening to each other, day after day, year after year, from sharing fears and joys, frustrations and delights.

Couples in grace-filled marriages soon realize there is far more to their love than just the two of them. God's love and grace was at work in the energy that drew them together in the first place and in the power that continues to sustain them when the sensible thing to do, at many points along the way, would be to throw in the proverbial towel. That deeper love can forgive, understand, be patient and listen when there rationally shouldn't be any love left to give. The adventure of a lifetime together is nothing less than plunging into the heart of mystery.

May these prayers give voice to the grace at work in your marriage and help you to continue dancing together for many years to come.

# For the Gift of Our Love

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## Reflect

When we can see the possibilities and goodness in each other that we can't see in ourselves, love energizes us in ways we wouldn't have thought possible.

This gift of love for each other is a reminder of how tender, faithful, forgiving, trusting, open, patient, healing—even seductive—God's love is for us.



God is love,  
and those who abide in love abide in God,  
and God abides in them.

—1 John 4:16

God of all love,

how can we thank you for the gift of the love  
that you have poured into our hearts for each other?

Help us remember that you are always there in the midst of our love,  
encouraging us to grow and to give,  
well past the capacity that we can imagine.

Keep us growing in love for each other and for you—  
even when doing so may not be all that easy or feel all that good—  
and keep us aware that it is because of your love  
we even exist and are able to share the love we have for each other.

Amen.