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Faith Bound

**PRAVERS BY AND 4
COLLEGE STUDENTS**

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Published by Liguori Publications
Liguori, Missouri 63057-9999

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Faith bound : prayers by & 4 college students / compiled by Ellen Rosebrough.

p. cm.

ISBN 978-0-7648-1884-4

1. College students—Prayers and devotions. I. Rosebrough, Ellen.

BV4531.3.F35 2010

242'.64—dc22

2010002756

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To order, call 800-325-9521
www.liguori.org

Printed in the United States of America
18 17 16 15 14 6 5 4 3 2
First Edition

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Starting Over

They were gone. The door had closed, the car had pulled away, and there I was. Alone. I looked around the room, my room, willing myself to feel comfortable there. One side held all my possessions: some still packed up, others scattered about, and still others arranged awkwardly on a foreign desk and bookshelf. I looked over the partially assembled bulletin board, a mishmash of mementos that together reflected a life: key chains, ticket stubs, music, dried flowers, my graduation tassel. My eyes fell on a photo from my high school graduation. Tears leaked out as I remembered, again, that my closest friend was six hours away. My excitement and anticipation for college couldn't blot out the loneliness that overwhelmed me. One clear thought, plea, dominated my mind, "God, let this be OK, let this be OK."

I looked across the room at the desk, dresser, and bed that matched mine. A carefully assembled collection of photos lined the wall, and a brown comforter lay smooth and straight across the bed. My roommate's side was a stark contrast to the chaos that lay around me.

It was then that she walked in. All curls and smiles, she bounced in, set down her purse and sat, legs crisscrossed, on the floor, exuding a comfort I couldn't remember ever having.

"Come here," she said, pulling out a tub of Chex mix™ from her desk drawer. "I want to see something."

"Who is this girl?" I thought, but I sat down anyway.

She began sifting through her Chex mix, pulling out one of each item. "Arrange these in your order of preference," she said.

Again I followed her orders, lining up the pretzel, cereals, breadsticks, and brown bread in order. When I was done, I looked at her silently. With a smirk, she picked up the snacks one by one, until she had arranged her own preference. When she had finished, she looked up at me with a smile of triumph.

"I'm the complete opposite," she said.

She bounced up again, placing the Chex mix™ back in its drawer.

"Have you eaten yet?" I shook my head. "Well, let's go. I hear the dorm food is terrible." She grabbed my hand, pulling me gently, but firmly, out the door.

As we walked, she chattered on about her old school, her major, the cute RA upstairs. Then, just before we entered the dining hall, she stopped. "What about you? Where are

you from? What are you majoring in? Why did you pick this school?" I looked back at her, expecting to see an expression of polite indifference. But instead I was met by a look of genuine curiosity, from someone truly interested in knowing me.

My words spilled forth in a flood, telling her all about the life I'd left behind. As I recounted stories of my younger brothers, a different phrase took over my thoughts, "God, it's going to be OK; it's going to be OK."

ellen rosebrough



*In the beginning when God created
the heavens and the earth,
the earth was a formless void and
darkness covered the face of the deep,
while a wind from God swept over
the face of the waters.
Then God said, "Let there be light";
and there was light.*

genesis 1:1-3

Beginning again? It's tough.

Starting over? It's hard.

A dear friend once told me and reminds me
that "everything's gonna be alright now."

Why?

He entrusts his feelings to you.

I pray that I may entrust my feelings to you,
and be confident in knowing that you are here,
in every beginning,
and in every end.

t. chauvin

To new beginnings
in love
in faith
with friends
and to new adventures
in the Lord.

Let me grow
in him
like a flower grows
in the early spring
from “nothing”
to possessing delicate petals
through change
always beautiful
in God’s eyes.

J. Nygren



God,

Your love never fades, it never changes. When I follow where you lead, your grace is always with me.

Give me the strength, heavenly Father, to forfeit the life that I have planned for myself, and to live a life devoted to you.

Lead me to worship you in my new home.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

K. Edmiston

Dear Lord,

I ask that this world test my faith, not break it.

I ask that this community teach me humility, not despair.

I ask that this school teach me to live in this world, and not simply be a part of it.

In Christ's name I pray,
Amen.

E. Brichford



Dear Lord,

As I walk into a new world, a new chapter in my life, I ask myself, "Who will I serve?"

The academics, which might help me in years to come?

The sports, which might help me have fun?

The parties, which might help me fit in?

The organizations, which might help find a friend?

Will the devil take me over and lead me into sin?

No, I know the answer, God. You are with me 'til the end.

J. Lennartz





Lord,

I'm trusting in you that you will provide for me this year. Show up in ways I can't believe are possible. I will try and keep my heart open to your will this year. Only through your Spirit can great and satisfying things be done through me. God, make your truth more real than any areas of deception and bondage in my life. Give me the clarity I yearn for, the clarity to realize and understand that you are truth. We, as humans, can't do this life thing on our own; we are lost, broken, humbled, confused, and in desperate need of a savior. No matter how crazy things get this year on my own, let me be reminded continuously of my need of you.

B. Bollinger



Lord,

if I had the opportunity to make three wishes today, I would wish for these.

Your love to embrace all people, so that they may realize your greatness and choose to follow your ways.

A wave of peace to spread across all nations, and engulf every person with a sense of serenity.

The ability to spend everlasting life with you.

Today, I wish for your love, patience, and understanding.

Amen.

s. kwoleck