

Rabbi Helaine Etinger.

I use all or part of this at the Mikvah It grows out of one of my classes with Dr. Hoffman at HUC.

Service of Tevilah for conversion

(After the Ger/Giyoret has had a chance to talk with the Bet Din about his or her reasons for choosing to become a Jew, the following ceremony may take place.)

Rabbi

These are the words of Adonai, spoken through the prophet Ezekiel. As once they restored hope to the house of Israel, so today, may they renew your spirit and make you one with our people.

תְּרַקְמִי עַל־יְכֶם מִיַּם טְהוֹרִים וְטָהַרְתֶּם. מְבַל טְמֵאוֹתֵיכֶם וּמְקַלְ-וּלֹלֵיכֶם אֶטְהַר אֲתֶכֶם. וְנָתַתִּי לָכֶם לֵב חָדָשׁ וְרוּחַ חָדָשׁ אֲמֵן בְּקִרְבְּכֶם... וְעָשִׂיתִי אִתְּךָ אֶשְׂרֵי-בְחָקֵי מַלְכוּתִי וּמִשְׁפָּטֵי מִשְׁמְרוּ וְעָשִׂיתֶם... וְהָיִיתֶם לִי לְעָם וְאֲנֹכִי אֶהְיֶה לָכֶם לֵאלֹהִים.

With pure water I will cleanse you, and you shall be clean. I will give you a new heart and I will put a new spirit within you. I will cause you to follow My teachings, and you shall faithfully observe My statutes. You will be My people and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36:25-28

Ger/Giyoret

יְיָ נַפְשִׁי בְיָדוֹ

Adonai, at this moment, my Soul is in Your hand. You are creating and breathing a new Jewish life into me. As I immerse myself in the waters, I embrace You as the Source of all life. One word from You, and I am reborn. One hint of Your Eternal presence, and I am refreshed. Breathe Your spirit into me, that I may start my Jewish life with childhood's unbounded promise.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ שֹׁמֵרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

Blessed are You, Adonai, who makes me a Jew.

(The Ger/Giyoret immerses three times in the waters of the Mikveh.)

Blessing after the first immersion:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו

וְצִוָּנוּ עַל הַטְּבִילָה.

We praise You, Adonai, our God, Ruler of the universe, who sanctifies us through Mitzvot and commands us to immerse in the waters of life.

Blessing after the second immersion:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּים וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהוֹצֵאתָנוּ

לְזֶמַן הַיָּה.

We praise You, Adonai, our God, Ruler of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this joyous time.

(After the Ger/Giyoret has completed the third immersion and has redressed and returned to the Rabbi and/or Bet Din, the following naming ceremony may take place.)

Rabbi

You are known by the name _____, which means that you are always linked in love to those who gave you life. And from this time forth, you shall also be known within the Jewish community as _____ Bar/Bat Avraham v'Sarah. With this name we proudly embrace you within our Jewish family. We rejoice to welcome into our midst one who willingly and devotedly helps replenish the ranks of our people.

Each Shabbat, Jewish parents bless their children with these ancient words. Today, I ask for God's blessing on you, as you take your place among the children of Israel.

For men

יְשֻׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים בְּאַפְרַיִם וּבְמְנַשֶּׁה:

May you be as blessed as Ephraim and Menasheh.

For women

יְשֻׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים בְּשָׂרָה. רַבֵּקָה. רַחֵל וְלֵאָה:

May you be as blessed as Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah

יְבָרְכֶךָּ יי וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ:
יְאֵר יי פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיְחַנֶּנֶךָ:
יֵשָׂא יי פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם:

May God bless you and keep you;
May God's presence shine upon you and be gracious to you;
May God's presence be with you and give you peace.