

personal  
english

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Word #35

*Godspeed*



The phrase **godspeed** is used to give to someone a **personal blessing**. The intent is to convey hope or desire for another person to **successfully accomplish** or complete a difficult **task, mission, or journey** either currently underway or about to be undertaken. Oftentimes the endeavor at hand is so arduous it has little chance of success.

*“Goodbye, good luck, and godspeed:  
I wish you the best of luck on your upcoming journey to Mars!”*

It comes from the Middle English phrase “God spede”, which translates to “may God cause you to succeed”. “Spede” is the singular subjunctive of speden (“to prosper”), from Old English spēdan, from spēd (“success”). It is a somewhat **old-fashioned saying**, which is also used **sarcastically** or in a **humorous** fashion.