



Words of Blessing

EMAIL ADDRESS: wob@wordsofblessing.com
OUR WEB SITE: www.wordsofblessing.com

Junior High School Weekly Words Pentecost Week 10: July 29, 2007

Living the Word

Acts 3:1-10 One day Peter and John went to the Temple at three o'clock in the afternoon, the hour for prayer. There at the Beautiful Gate, as it was called, was a man who had been lame all his life. Every day he was carried to the gate to beg for money from the people who were going into the Temple. When he saw Peter and John going in, he begged them to give him something. They looked straight at him, and Peter said, "Look at us!" So he looked at them, expecting to get something from them. But Peter said to him, "I have no money at all, but I give you what I have: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth I order you to get up and walk!" Then he took him by his right hand and helped him up. At once the man's feet and ankles became strong; he jumped up, stood on his feet, and started walking around. Then he went into the Temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God. The people there saw him walking and praising God, and when they recognized him as the beggar who had sat at the Beautiful Gate, they were all surprised and amazed at what had happened to him.

Evangelism: You are My Hands

You are my hands, joy, witness, disciple, and ambassador. I have placed you where you can be my disciple, evangelist, healer, prayer, witness, teacher, and helper. I have placed you where you can bring the Good News of my love to the world. I want you to share with and witness to the poor, lonely, sick, struggling, and friendless as well as to those in your church, family, workplace, health club, neighborhood, and community. Be my light, hands, and love every day.

My love, words, and reality need to go out every day through evangelism, sharing, and using your hands, words, and love as my disciple. I need you! People are waiting. How do you do this? You must realize every day that you may be the only friend and witness of hope and love another person encounters. You may be the only one who shares my words and story with another. Let people know, by all you do and say, that you are my friend and my ambassador. You are my hands to the needy and the source of hope and new life to many. You are my friend. You are the source of joy and hope to all those I keep putting in your life.

Sometimes it is hard to share my love and be my hands. Not everyone will respond to your witness and efforts. But often it is at those times when you feel most inadequate that you will be the most effective and will touch people's lives. There is strength and courage in a humble heart that is willing to minister to others and share my love. When you are stepping out and doing that, when you are washing the feet of another, you are washing my feet. And when you least expect it, I will take your hands and bless you. You are my hands and words. I need you to go out and share our love with others.

When you talk about me to friends and strangers, you are sharing my words. My plan is for you to be ready to talk about me, share your story, and encourage others at all times. I can work miracles in and through you. I can give you all the boldness you need. Just say yes. Our words—your witness and my story—offer people new hope and a new beginning. Show people who I am. Each day, I look at all the needs in the world and ask my Father, “Whom shall I send?” I look to you. I ask you to go out with love, patience, and humility and be my hands and words to others.

Word for the week: Hands

Prayer question: Lord, I know you have called me to serve you and share your love. In what ways do you want me to reach out to others? What is my calling? What mountains will I climb? I pray and ask you to show me your plan for my hands in the world.

Action for the week: Each day this week, wake up determined to make a difference in the world in some special way, to use your gifts to show people the living Christ. Be a messenger of love, forgiveness, and hope. Forgive others. Be a companion, healer, prayer, teacher, and joy.

Witness my love and reality: This week you are to reach out to one person in each of two different groups. Share my love and tell your story and witness. Choose one person from two of these groups: coworkers, neighbors, family members, strangers, old friends, new friends, someone from church, a friend on a team or project, or someone from your school.

Daily prayer for this week: Lord, I want to be your hands in the world. I know the world around me is small, but there are many people with whom I can share your love. Help me to reach out in your name. And as I do this in the week ahead, show me how to keep being your hands in the world.

The following words are for you. You will know which ones speak to you and answer your questions or prayers. These personal words are guidance for you in your journey today.

- I want you to offer your hands to others in the year ahead. Each day find ways to reach out to hold someone’s hand, comfort someone, give thanks to someone, welcome someone, and offer a hand of blessings and love to someone. When you do this, know it is our hands you offer, and it is my hand you embrace in return. You will learn about acceptance through this deed.

- My child, you are my joy! You are my smile, encouragement, and way to know love is real. I ask you to be my disciple of joy. Everywhere you go, be my smile and hands of joyous love and welcoming friendship to whomever you meet, whether in a store, in church, in an office, or on the street. Do this in the year ahead. You are a source of joy in many lives with your faith and friendship.

- You have a powerful story to tell about your journey and witness of faith and how you came to me. This is how you serve as an evangelist in the world. You live the word each day by making me real to everyone you talk to or meet with. Go out more. Go out further. Share your story and gifts with more and more people. Evangelism is your gift, call, and way to share our story of new life.

- One very big miracle will come into your life this year. I will provide the people and the help you need, but your boldness, faith, and witness will make it happen. This miracle will change many lives, beginning with yours and that of one other person. Be ready for this powerful life-changing moment, for it will be how you make me real to others in years to come.

- It is not easy to forgive people, but you know it has to be done. You do not have to like what someone does that hurts others, but if you are living my word, then you have to forgive others as I would. When you forgive, tell the person why you forgive. You forgive because I died for you

and for this other person. Tell this person that it is through my love, words, and reality that you are able to forgive. Then listen.

- I love evangelists. I love you, my evangelist! I celebrate and cheer you on each day when you go out to share my words and offer them to others. It is so important. The words you hold now are meant to be given, witnessed, shared, and praised. You are my evangelist, and I love to see you go out to streets, stores, churches, and everywhere, telling others that they are saved by my love.

- You may not think you can evangelize like Peter or Lydia, but you can be yourself. Just share your story; offer these words to someone; ask people if they know me, Jesus; and talk about me. Be a humble, joyous, and convicted child of God. Smile and believe what you say. People will listen and miracles will happen. I will always be close at hand, so watch for me and watch for an angel.

- Will you go out? Will you trust your life to me? Will you offer your gifts to the world in my name? Will you pray for and with others? Will you give me your life and love? If you say yes, then I know you are ready for the next step in your journey of faith. Level 2 is around the corner, and it begins with planning a way to use your gifts in a way that brings others to my church.

- Summer will be over before you know it, and then fall comes. That means school, jobs, a busier life, and shorter days. Live in the now. Take each day as my disciples did after my death. There are people who need to know about me, and time is short. Use your gifts of evangelism, faith, and prayer to reach out and bring people to know my love, words, and reality. Do something now

- You are a healer. That is your gift, call, journey, and offering to the world in my name. How do you use it? I ask you to use it in and through my church and for my people. Use this gift each day for people you read or hear about and for people you know and meet. Pray for healing through the power of my name and love. One person in your life can be healed now. Use your gift and heal.

- Summer is a great time to walk, ride a bike, go on picnics, enjoy gardens, swim, be with friends, and celebrate the beautiful world around you. Make time each day for prayer and praise and for thinking of the blessings you have. I ask you to spend the next weeks praying about a way you can share my love, words, and reality with more people. Begin a list and journal today. Trust.

- You have the gift of humility. It is a gift that was given when you were created, and it is lived out each year in many ways. Humility comes with a heart that is also strong and courageous. I know the power of your faith and your commitment to me, my people, and church. You give and give but are always behind the scenes. Your family, friends, church, and others are blessed with your love.

- My hands feed people, hug people, and offer my words, love, and reality. I ask you to use your hands to bless others, hug and feed people, offer my words, and take time to share my words with others so I am made real in their lives. Make time each week to feed someone and watch what happens—miracles of grace. Bring people to your church. Welcome others into my life.

- Summer is nearly over, and it is going fast. Do not fret. There is still time for a summer project. I love projects! Your project is to gather a group together for a special time that will include sharing the weekly words and talking about going to church and being an active part of a community. It's also a time to talk about the gifts each person can and should be offering to others in the church, in their families, and in their daily lives (job, neighborhood, school, activities). Have everyone be challenged and affirmed with their own plans. Make a commitment to do this now. I will be there.

- The gifts of giving and humility go hand in hand. You are an inspiration to many for all you do

behind the scenes. You believe in others and want them to know me in a special way. Thank you. Know that you touched someone profoundly by your compassion, love, and kindness to them in the past few weeks. This person may never tell you what you did, but know that this person was changed.

- Healing comes in many ways. Believe in healing and see how it can be prayed for and how it can happen in people's lives. You have the gifts of prayer and healing; use these gifts more and more. There are so many needs to be met all around you. Support from a healing ministry or team will give you the prayer support you need to grow in this gift in the next two years.

- Everyone faces a time when there is someone or something to forgive. Often it is not easy, but I ask everyone to forgive totally, completely, and with no limits. This is how God forgives you. I will give you all you need in the way of humility and courage to forgive those hard things. When you do this, you will find that your own heart has been changed, healed, and forgiven as well. Believe.

- I love evangelists, and they are so needed in the world today. How can you be more and more the evangelist I know you can be? Love everyone you speak to and want them to know that I am real. Don't worry about what people have done, but focus on the promise of salvation that I promise. Don't judge people, and evangelism will be easier. Step out with my words and begin.

- You are my hands, words, love, and heart in the world today. I have shown you where people need to know me. Share your story and use your gift of faith to bring people to me. There is a church that needs you. It may not be where you would want to be, but it is where you are most needed and where you will grow and find a real purpose for your journey. Step out now.

- Life is filled with hills and valleys. Just keep going forward. My hand is in yours. I promise you a miracle of grace in the weeks ahead. There will be an invitation to get involved in sharing my love, words, and reality in more ways. Maybe you can help plan a workshop in your church, start a word sharing group, or invite people to start an evangelism outreach. Believe! The miracle is there.

- You have many gifts, and they all work together to bring people to me in wonderful ways. I love watching you! In the next three months, plan on ways to make a big difference in your church, in the lives of others, and in your own life. Evangelism is needed and so are your gifts of prayer, joy, humility, and faith. The program is clear and simple. It will bless many—and so will you!

- I was there. Did you see me? You paused and looked my way. I smiled! My child, I want you to know that I am real in your daily life. I blessed you with the promise of a summer filled with grace, friends, answers, and your call made very clear. You are my hands. Reach out.

- There is a plan for you. I even drew a map! I think you will love it. It begins in your home, and then the path wanders over to a church that is in great need of your presence, love, evangelism, and faith. Pause there for refreshment and to sign up for the job that most needs your help and patience. Then go back out. The path now leads to a building. The sign says "Help those in need." Go there.

- In some ways it has not been an easy summer, but in other ways it has been a time of great joy and peace regarding decisions made and a new path begun. I have given you a special person in your life who has the gifts of love, faith, and evangelism. This person prays for you and is showing you how to be all you can be and how to use your gifts in powerful and humble ways to help others. Begin now.

- You have many friends—people who see the wonderful person you are, who love to be with you, and who smile when they know they will have time with you. One of your friends prays for you each day and calls you simply, "my friend." That is a wonderful way to describe you and your witness of love, kindness, and joy that you share with others. You are what a friend should

be. Bless you!

- I have a plan to send you and two others to go out and change lives. You are evangelists! You are companions on the way, just like my own disciples. Go out! Together, make your own plan for how you will go out in the next month to tell others about me. Ask them to join you. Put the first plan into action now. Make it creative, fun, exciting, and powerful! You can do this.

- Your kindness and gentleness have touched many hearts, but under those gifts is a person of great faith and courage, a person with a deep commitment and unshakable faith. I bless you for all you do for my people. This summer you will meet a person who will give you the words of assurance you need to help you follow through with my plan for you to do more for my church.

- I was sitting on a bench along with George, my angel of joy. He is such a funny angel, and he smiles at people all the time. It is usually children who see his wings and recognize his unusual sandals. Did you notice me? I was wearing a T-shirt so I blended in more. We smiled at you and wanted you to know that you are loved so much. Believe in me. Believe I am real.

- You have the gift of joy. And just like my friends, you share it wherever you go. Keep smiling and reaching out. Give people hugs and listen to them. Invite people to spend time with you and tell them about your church, family, friends, ideas, and hopes for the future. Then, listen. Let people know I am real and show them the happy blessings they have. Give people true joy.

- I need you. My church and its people need you. Friends and strangers need to know you and receive your gifts of kindness, faith, and joy. You have the courage of Paul and the humility of Mary. Your smile is an encouragement to many. Please help by building up my church and the people in your life. One call a day, one note a week are a beginning. Miracles! One big one!

Read and pray my words to you

Please note that the Bible verses are drawn from the Good News Translation (or Today's English version), so references to a particular stopping place may not match your translation exactly.

Isaiah 50:4-5

Proverbs 2:9-10

Exodus 4:10-12

Isaiah 49:6

Deuteronomy 8:7-10

Numbers 6:24-26

2 Chronicles 20:20

Psalms 62:1-2

Psalms 1:2-3

Psalms 51:15-17

Psalms 82:1 and 8

Psalms 52:8-9

John 13:12-17

Acts 9:36

Matthew 15:32-39

Mark 10:13-15

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 10:1-3

Acts 6:1-7

John 21:17

Acts 8:4-6

Luke 6:12-16

Romans 15:1-7
1 Corinthians 16:1, 13-20
Galatians 6:2, 9-10
Colossians 3:12-17
2 Corinthians 4:13-15, 18
Ephesians 4:1-7
James 5:13-18
1 Peter 5:1-4

Note: For suggestions on how to conduct a weekly words sharing group, go to the Words of Blessing website at:

http://www.wordsofblessing.com/pdf_docs_other/word_sharing_instruct_v5.pdf

© Copyright 2007 - Words of Blessing Ministry - all rights reserved