



# Words of Blessing

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## **Junior High School Weekly Words Pentecost Week 1: May 27, 2007**

### **Living the Word**

**Acts 1:3-5, 8** For forty days after his death he appeared to them many times in ways that proved beyond doubt that he was alive. They saw him, and he talked with them about the Kingdom of God. And when they came together, he gave them this order: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift I told you about, the gift my Father promised. John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit...But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**Acts 2:1-4** When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

### **Pentecost: You Are Commissioned To Be My Witness**

You are commissioned to bring the light of the gospel into the world. You will encounter me, the risen Lord, in your life. Then you will be sent out as witnesses, like my disciples were. You will go out, like Lydia, Paul, Barnabas, and Phoebe, to testify to my resurrection and the transforming power of God’s love.

I will fill you with the power of the Holy Spirit to go out to the world—to the public, the streets, towns, and churches—and let my light shine out. Go out among the people to live Pentecost, use your gifts, and share my reality. I will give you the courage and determination to be my witness. I want you to make me real to people. I am not tucked away in heaven. I am in homes, streets, hearts, deserts, schools, towns, and churches. I am next to you right now.

At my death, my disciples went out and made plans to continue to share my word, heal people, witness, and perform miracles in my name and power. They offered love—my love and their love. They showed people how to give their lives to me, no matter where they went. People were touched and changed. You can do this today. You can do this where you live and with your gifts. You are commissioned now, today, in my name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. You are blessed and empowered. Nothing can hold you back except yourself. Trust in me.

Paul was changed forever by his Pentecost moment, that infilling of the Holy Spirit. He was even blinded for a while by this power. Paul’s moment was powerful, but I had been preparing him all

of his life, just like I have been preparing you. You will face challenges, just like my disciples did, but you are not to be meek or afraid. I commission you to be compassionate, merciful, forgiving, loving, strong, humble, and committed to living out your call and this commission. I bless and renew you this day. Be my witness. I have baptized you with the Holy Spirit and have empowered you to go out and change the world. Bring me the lost, those who are searching, and those who need new life and hope. Go out and be my witness and disciple.

Today I call and commission you and people like you! I call farmers, working people, and dancers. I call the old and the young, teenagers and seniors. I call the brave and the timid. And when you and others say yes and turn your life and path over to me, filled with the power of Pentecost and the power of the Holy Spirit, you will never be the same. When you meet me and know me, just like the disciples and others did, you will begin a journey to go out, to be my light and gospel, and to love others in the world. You are my witness, and I send you out to tell others. Today is a new Pentecost for you. Go out and live it.

**Word for the week:** Witness

**Prayer question:** Would you know me (Jesus) if you saw me? Do you look for me?

**Action for the week:** Worship in church each week is always a part of seeing me and being able to recognize me. In worship and in community you see me, and you are empowered and changed.

**Witness my love and reality:** Share our story with at least one person each day. Tell people, “You will see Jesus today.” Countless people around the world will also see me (Jesus) today. And when people find me and see me, they will be changed and blessed forever. Believe in me as I believe in you.

**Daily prayer for this week:** Lord, I know you have blessed and commissioned me to use my gifts in the world to bring others your love, words, and reality. I am ready to step out and live out Pentecost every day. I will begin a new time of courage and faith to share the Good News with the world around me. Whatever challenges I face, I know you will help me. I am ready.

**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.**

- When you go out filled with a love and passion to bring my love to the world, you will shine! Your words will touch hearts and change lives. You will see miracles as people begin to see that they are loved and I am real. It is time for that big, going-out step. It is time. Begin today.

- You have the gift of evangelism, and you need to begin to use it in more ways. I ask you to go to church this week and talk to two people you don’t know very well. See if you can discover what their ministries or gifts are and how they offer them to the church or community. Listen. Learn.

- You have the gift of encouragement and offer a welcoming smile to many. You encourage people from a humble, caring heart. You have blessed many with this gift. Next Sunday reach out to one or two people who really need encouragement in their ministries and gifts. Bring a card, a flower, an egg, or another symbol and add a note to show this person that you believe in and are thankful for him or her.

- Community and family are important and work in similar ways. Everyone (you too!) needs a family who cares, listens, loves, encourages, and believes in them. Your church and home families need your support also. To do that I ask you to be in church each week and talk to people, listen, praise, and most of all believe in people. Thank people for who they are. I will be there, too.

- I have blessed and commissioned you to go out. Use your gifts, in my name, to bless and help many people. I know you are there for your family, but what about people in your town, church, and school? It is easier to stay close to what is safe and familiar in sharing my love, words, and reality and offering my joy and grace, but it is time to think bigger and wider. Go. Trust. Ready?

- I love the spring and summer flowers that are just beginning to be seen and appreciated. You do, too. That is how I see the many young people who give their joy, love, and talents and shine in the lives of others. You are one of those flowers who shine in the sunlight and draw people to you. People want to be around the joy and caring of your spirit. I commission you to plant a garden this year, a garden of friends, family, and other people who need to be watered and fed with my words and your love.

- I see my church struggling to continue to bear the truth and joy of my love, words, and reality. You are the church, and I bring you words to tell you to keep going on. My church needs you more than ever. It takes a humble and faith-filled heart to believe. I have put people in your life who have given you a vision of joy, words of the truth of my reality, and an invitation to help. You are not too young. You are the future of the church and world. I need you now.

- I have given you the gifts of faith and encouragement. These gifts are so needed in the world, in the church, and in people's lives each day. Make a plan for how you can offer those gifts to at least one person each day. Make a plan for how you can offer this gift to those in your family, to your friends, and to your church. Make a list of 10 people you see using their gifts in the world and church. Offer these people words and hugs of love and joy. Be supportive and interested in helping in what they do. You are such an inspiration to many, and you draw people to your words.

- It takes a humble heart to walk this journey of faith each day. It means listening to others and being a support. It often means taking the last seat and seeing what you can do to encourage another person, especially someone your own age. I need you to evangelize by being my joyful, caring, loving heart to everyone around you. Be my humble heart. Believe in others and in me. Trust in me to guide you and show you who needs your patience, trust, and love. It is time to step out. No, you are not too busy. Go out this summer—to baseball teams, jobs, school, neighborhoods, and church.

- You are a wonderful person, and I need you to share of your kindness and love more and more in the world. It will be difficult at times, but much is asked of some. My church needs you, and you need the church I have put in your life. The people there, especially the young people and the little kids, need your faith in me and in them. They need to see a humble, faith-filled, trusting, and joy-filled friend. Ready? Wear something unique each week so you stand out!

- There are lots of busy things to do everywhere you turn, and at times it is hard for you to let go of the chores at home and your schedule. But this year I bless and commission you to take a leap of faith and turn your schedule over to me. Instead, accept my schedule, which includes penciling in helping one person each week, getting involved in a ministry/outreach in your town, and being an active support and encourager in the church I have placed you in. Ready? Go now!

- I know you do a lot for your family and friends, but my people and church need you, too. The way to reach out is to believe in me and in each person in your home, church, neighborhood, school, and job. It may sound hard, but you can do it. It is not only possible, but it is needed. When you believe in people you pray for them, encourage them, and accept them. Watch for a miracle.

- It is hard to proclaim the Good News if you don't have any to share! Good News comes from a heart filled with humility and forgiveness and filled with love and trust in me and those in your

life. I commission and bless you to proclaim the Good News in that way. Share it everywhere you go.

- You have the gift of healing. Healing is an important gift, for it touches and changes many lives. I ask you to use this gift more in the year ahead. I ask you to pray for more people who need healing. You can pray for healed friendships, fears, struggles, or health. Believe in miracles. See if there is a healing list at your church, and offer to help by praying for those people at home. You are going to see miracles! Use your other gifts of faith, caring, joy, compassion, and listening.

- Decisions? Do what is right. Be caring and kind. Show my love in everything you do and say. Be forgiving of all things. Love all people. Be a listener and a good friend. See the best in each person, and tell people what you see. Pray to always have a humble and joyous heart. Your decision will change your life. Listen to me and you will hear me loud and clear. I am close by.

- Friendships are so important in life. You have been blessed with new friends and old friends. You have church friends, school friends, and nonbeliever friends. You have friends who are waiting to hear your story, what your faith is all about, what you believe, and what your church and its people are like. They want to believe, too. You are a great friend. Reach out more!

- Love and humility involve trusting that others are good. You have people in your life who need your love, support, and faith. All you have to do is share your story, what you believe, and how you have seen me acting in your life. Talk about the miracles you have seen, and watch a miracle happen.

- I commission you to go out and evangelize! You can't do it if you stay at home on Sundays or keep moving from church to church. I have led you to a place that needs you and your gifts. These people need you, and they need your faith, joy, words, and prayers. Go out! Tell people who I am in your life and journey and watch what happens. More miracles! People are waiting for *your* story.

- You have some questions and are struggling with some things and decisions in your life. I hear you loud and clear. Trust in me. Let go. Pray. Pray! Listen to what I am guiding you to do and showing you to do. Don't ask and then decide on a different way. I want to show you that it will be okay, but you have to believe in miracles, forgive, love my people, and see me in the hearts of others. Struggling times bring a special grace, a deeper faith, and the courage to believe.

- I sent an angel to help you out recently. His name is James, but most angels call him Jim, and his special friends call him Smiley Jim! Yes, he smiled at you. He knows how much you need to have a smile and know that you are loved so much. Jim was there to assure you that what you hope for will happen. Within a year you will be coming into a wonderful new time. Smile!

- Faith is an important part of the gift needed to answer your call, do your work and ministry, and grow into the person I need you to be. You have to have faith in me and in others. This means trying to be a loving and forgiving friend and family member. It means believing in the goodness of others, no matter what. Think of those you need to love, forgive, and believe in.

- There is a need in my church and in the lives of many people to know I am real, and a need for people to be loved, supported, and invited. Go out and bring my people to me. Be my hands, words, and love. I bless and commission you to step out and think of more and more ways to be a friend to others, as my disciples were to me, each and every day. People love you! And your friends find you a joy and inspiration to be with. They love your smile and kindness.

- JJ is a special angel. JJ stands for Jenny Joy! Jenny has been at your side for many weeks, through all your times of questions, struggles, smiles, and joys. Being on the young side, she sees prayers answered in simple ways. Jenny knows the answer from me is always the best. Jenny brought you a gift—a tiny box of faith. Open it soon and know that all you are worried about will be okay. A new time of grace, peace, healing, smiles, and joy will soon be here.

- A special friend has been put into your life. No, this was not an accident. You need this friend and this friend's faith in me. I need you. It is time to make changes and take the new path that brings you closer to me. People can't just worship me alone or in their home. They need to be with others, so they can grow in their faith. This friend needs your help, and you need the help of this friend. I will be there, too.

- Did you see me? I was there. Yes, I was dressed in rather ordinary clothing but I had a special smile. I was encouraging you and praying for you. I know you have been praying for answers and an assurance of the right path to take. You also needed to see me and to know my love and reality. I blessed you. Did you feel it? I commissioned you to be my simple, humble, powerful love to all.

- You have some special gifts and talents. I could use them all, but I think my people most need your gift of humble, strong faith in me and in others. You are going to find the right things to do, places to go, and activities this summer. It will be where you can use your gifts to help others and where your faith and confidence in me and in yourself will grow. Watch for me. I will be there. I will bless you. Watch for a man in a T-shirt with a logo or words that let you know it is me.

- I have given you special gifts, and I commission you to go out each day and use them in the world to help, bless, teach, and proclaim my love, words, and reality. Where there is turmoil, bring calm. Where there is anger or hurt, I ask you to bring love and healing. Where friendships are struggling or broken, bring and show hope, my words, and forgiveness. You are a healer. Begin with those in your life and believe in miracles. You can be a powerful healer in the world around you. Go out.

- Think of one person who needs your prayers, support, and faith this week. This person may not have any problems but may just need a smile. This person may have a decision or difficulty or may be making a change. Reach out and talk to this person. Send this person a cheerful note or meet and talk with him or her. You have the gift of being a good friend. Many friends look to you and are blessed by who you are.

- Pentecost is now! I commission you to go out and believe in my love, words, and reality. Share them with others each week. Tell people about my love. Love people in my name. Forgive all who have hurt you. Hug those who you have hurt. Be my disciple and share our story. The year ahead will be amazing. There will be invitations to use your talents, be with friends, and help family.

### **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 43:18-19

Hosea 10:12

Isaiah 44:1-2

Ezekiel 34:26, 30-31

Jeremiah 29:11-12

Isaiah 49:6

Deuteronomy 2:7

Psalm 40:4-5, 9-10

Psalm 48:12-14

Psalm 121:1-2, 8

Psalm 16:5-6, 11

Psalm 84:5-7  
Luke 24:48-53  
Matthew 28:16-20  
John 15:16-17  
Acts 5:14-16  
Mark 16:14-18  
John 17:6-8  
Acts 16:33-35  
Mark 16:19-20  
Acts 26:15-17  
1 Thessalonians 1:2-4  
2 Timothy 2:1-2  
1 Corinthians 12:7-11  
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4  
Ephesians 2:20-22  
1 Thessalonians 2:13, 19-20  
Philippians 1:1-5  
1 Corinthians 2:9-12  
2 Corinthians 8:1-4, 6-7

**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](http://www.wordsofblessing.com/pdf_docs_other/word_sharing_instruct_v5.pdf)

And for more details about the Words of Blessing EGGS Project, see the website at <http://www.wordsofblessing.com/eggs.html>.