



# Words of Blessing

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## **High School/College Weekly Words Pentecost Week 14: August 10, 2008 Living the Word**

**Acts 9: 10-16** There was a Christian in Damascus named Ananias. He had a vision, in which the Lord said to him, “Ananias!” “Here I am Lord.” he answered. The Lord said to him, “Get ready and go to Straight Street, and at the house of Judas ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying, and in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come in and place his hands on him so that he might see again.” Ananias answered, “Lord, many people have told me about this man and about all the terrible things he has done to your people in Jerusalem. And he has come to Damascus with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who worship you.” The Lord said to him, “Go, because I have chosen him to serve me, to make my name known to Gentiles and kings and to the people of Israel. And I myself will show him all that he must suffer for my sake.”

### **Pentecost: You Have a Mission—The Journey and Mission to Go Out**

Paul is a powerful witness to you about the mission and journey to go out and share my love, words, and reality. How did he prepare for this difficult and demanding work? He began by working in one area to establish a Christian community. He worked hard, stayed grounded in prayer, and let the Holy Spirit guide him. Paul knew he needed to establish many new communities and help them carry on the work of bringing my love, words, and reality to people. He focused on helping people to use their gifts, especially the gifts of leadership and evangelism. Paul worked hard everywhere he went. He settled the disagreements and helped them to continue to deepen their faith. He showed the people how to tell others about Jesus, and he taught them how to open their doors and welcome others.

Paul showed them how to go out into villages and neighborhoods and tell people about this new life. Evangelism! When they kept their eyes on Jesus, the community grew, and so they sent out more people with the same mission. They used their gifts, prayed, and witnessed. Whatever community you are in now, it has a mission, too. The mission is to increase people’s love for me, to be at peace and united, and to pray and be joined together as family. And the mission is to go out and evangelize.

Your mission is to share my love, words, and reality and that mission involves many things. You offer your gifts to bring people to me, to build up my church, and to show everyone you meet that they are loved. You tell others that they have gifts that are needed in your community and can bless others. You can begin your journey and mission now. It is time to move out. Be in church each week. Get involved. Help where it is needed, and use and offer your gifts where they are needed. If you are not in church each week, it is much like any big task: it won’t get done and people will lose out.

My child, I will lead you and teach you. Know that you have a mission, and the journey to live it out has already begun. Maybe you are to heal people, teach Sunday school, evangelize, preach, pray, sing, witness, or be a welcomer and friend. The mission, as with Paul, is to build up my church and its people. Let the Holy Spirit fill each one so all can go out on their mission. Let every day and each Sunday be a Pentecost time!

Get a group together this month. Think about September as a new beginning. Be a “Mission Team” and plan ways to build up your people and church. Think about how to bring other people into your church. Build up your church until it overflows and there are no seats left! Start groups to share my words and scripture. They are provided for you each week, and all you have to do is offer these words and be there to share. You are my today missionary. Your mission is to build up my church and its people. Your mission is to use your gifts every day in my name. Be a Paul. Be like Lydia. Be a missionary today. Go out every day and bring people joy, love, and hope through me. I have chosen you and filled you with the power of the Holy Spirit. My mission is to send you out into the world to help my people.

### **For Sharing**

**Word for the week:** Choose one of the following words that you believe is meant to help you this week. Share your answer with others.

**Mission**

**Opportunity**

**Welcome**

**Scripture for the week:** Choose one of these scripture passages. What does it say to you in your journey? Share your answer with others.

*Ephesians 2:20-22* You, too are built upon the foundation laid by the apostles and prophets, the cornerstone being Christ Jesus himself. He is the one who holds the whole building together and makes it grow into a sacred temple dedicated to the Lord. In union with him you too are being built together with all the others into a place where God lives through his spirit

*1 Corinthians 12:9-11* One and the same Spirit gives faith to one person, while to another person he gives the power to heal. The Spirit gives one person the power to work miracles; to another, the gift of speaking God’s message; and to yet another, the ability to tell the difference between gifts that come from the Spirit and those that do not. To one person he gives the ability to speak in strange tongues, and to another he gives the ability to explain what is said. But it is one and the same Spirit who does all this; as he wishes, he gives a different gift to each person.

*Acts 8:4-8* The believers who were scattered went everywhere, preaching the message. Philip went to the principal city in Samaria and preached the Messiah to the people there. The crowds paid close attention to what Philip said, as they listened to him and saw the miracles that he performed. Evil spirits came out from many people with a loud cry, and many paralyzed and lame people were healed. So there was great joy in that city.

**Action for the week:** Tell three (or more!) people this week about my love, words, and reality. Share these words with them and tell them how real I am in your life. Yes, you can even send or give them a copy of these words. Yes, you can tell them your story and what you are doing with

your gifts to build up my church. See this as a simple mission opportunity to bless and help others to know my love.

**Decision/question:** If I could give you any mission to do in the world in my name, what would you want to do? What would you be willing to do? Would you be ready and willing to go out?

**Witness my love and reality:** Share my words with others each week. Tell someone about your faith and journey.

**Daily prayer for this week:** Lord, I know that so many people I meet each day do not know you as I do. I want to carry out the mission you gave to your disciples and followers so many years ago. I want to share your love, words, and reality with those I know and meet. I want to go out into the world, unafraid and excited, to bring people to know you as I do. Let my journey begin with my church, family, and friends. I am ready to step out.

**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.**

- My disciples Mark and John and my followers Paul, Lydia, Barnabas, and others were grounded in prayer so they could go out each day strengthened for the journey and ready to live out their mission wherever it might take them. They prayed for each other, they prayed for the people they met along the way, and they prayed for guidance in how to share my love, words, and reality and how to know what they were to do next. I am showing you what to do next. Pray, listen, and see.

- Sometimes I try to show you new ways to live out and use your gifts where you are. Other times I want you to use your gifts in new places. That means looking at your mission and journey with an open heart, trusting that whatever I ask you to do and wherever I ask you to go, I will be with you and all will be well—and exciting! Offer your time and gifts to be used in new places and paths now.

- My mother Mary was a witness of healing and gentleness, but she was also a witness of faith who went out to share my love, words, and reality. Mary inspired people with her humility and courage. She wanted nothing for herself. Instead, she always pointed to me, to her son. She believed in me, in my disciples, and in others who followed me, always being the encourager and welcomer in the background. I want to help you believe even more and to help those I put in your life and path to believe even more. How? You have already begun the how: You said yes.

- You have received the same Holy Spirit my disciples did. You have scripture and my words to sustain you. Set aside schedules, exercise, busyness, and concerns. I call you to let my vision fill you so you can look at the world and my people through my eyes. Beginning now, set out on my path. Be diligent and joyous in daily prayer and you will see the vision of my call for you and the work I need you to do for the world. Keep your eyes on me and on the path. Be humble.

- The people around you need you. Reach out and be open. Let down your guard and just be yourself. You will be loved for who you are and for your generous spirit of love and joy. People see the faith you have in me by what you do and say, but also by how you live out your life every day. Continue to be the friend you are to others, and plan to reach out to even more people.

- Is it going to be a new friend or relationship? Is it going to be a new school or job? How about a new ministry that you are saying yes to? I will be giving you a gift. Consider it a very early Christmas gift. When you receive this gift, which can be most anything, accept it and open it. Give thanks, because this gift is in thanksgiving for how faithfully and courageously you have lived through so many things this past year. You impressed many people. Now look forward!

- Step out as my disciples did. They did not hold back from going out both near and far. You have had a wonderful year where you went out and met new people and had some different and amazing experiences. Keep stepping out and going forward. A very special path has already unfolded for the year ahead. Look for opportunities to learn new things and meet new friends.
- Summer will be coming to a close soon, and everyone will say “It so went fast!” What did summer mean to you? Did you go out on your journey and experience something special that will help you in the year ahead in using your gifts to bring people to me? Did you see your mission in a new way or with greater commitment? I was with you each day and kept showing you the path forward. Remember that love, humility, courage, and faith are your grounding.
- Are you ready to go out? I ask you to begin each day this year by coming to me and saying, “Here I am, Lord!” And just as Paul went out to villages and neighborhoods to tell people about this new life, so can you. You can go wherever you work, play, and worship. You can also go to new places—coffee shops, schools, stores, parks, streets, and jobs. You can go out each day and look for people who want to know me, those who have forgotten me, and those who are waiting.
- I ask people to use their gifts in their mission. One of the gifts you have is healing, and this gift is needed in the world in countless ways. Most everyone needs healing from something, and yet how do you know where to begin? Begin with the people I put into your life to show you how and where you can help. Be open to invitations. Seek places where you can learn about healing. Look at the people you meet who need healing, and see the healing happen as I would. Then believe.
- You have the gifts of prayer and love. You can use these gifts everywhere you go and at all times. I think that makes them much needed gifts. Last year I put people in your life and path almost every day who needed those gifts. You did much good and helped many people as you simply went out each day being your wonderful caring self. But so many more are in need. Now I want you to go out daily with greater awareness of these gifts. You will see me and you will see miracles.
- People often think of missions as being in far-off places and being done by very religious people who live apart from the world. Well, I like teen missions where young people go to their schools, local town, and to at least one challenging place where they need to be my hands and heart to help others. I like adult missions, too. They can go out to jobs, neighborhoods, towns, their church, and other churches or ministries and offer their support. I want you to go out in a special way—now.
- I love teachers! I love Sunday school teachers, schoolteachers, and teachers who work in special places like the military, hospitals, and schools of healing and evangelism. I love people who want to share my story and love anywhere they can. You have a gift of teaching, a love for others, and your own witness of faith and love to share. Be open to a special place and way to teach.
- Summer is a great time for change and relaxing, but I hope you also make time to look for me along the way. I can be seen kayaking, hiking in the woods, by the beach, and in the mountains. I am everywhere and you know that. I send angels to show you my love, words, and reality and to bring you a word to guide you and help you. I even go myself sometimes! Did you see me?
- Make time this week for one day of rest. I know that may be hard with your schedule, but my schedule for you says it’s a top priority! You can rest alone by taking a morning to sit outside in a hammock or walk on the beach or your neighborhood. You can turn the TV off for a whole day and read your Bible or the weekly words or do something fun with a friend. Think of me when you rest and pray for one person in your life who needs a time of resting, and let this person know about your prayers.
- I have put people into your life who have an inspiring faith and commitment to me. They show

you the path you can take in your own journey and mission. Think about the commitment these people have made to me and to others to share their lives in my name. Let their witness show you what I have been asking you to do, to give up, and to take on. You have a very special call that continues to unfold in many ways. Look. See. Trust.

- You have the gifts of faith and prayer, and you can use them in many ways. You can pray for people when you are alone, but you can also pray for them in public or offer your prayers in unexpected situations. You can pray for healing for someone or pray for the healer; both bring healing through your faith. Prayer needs faith. Your faith needs to be grounded in daily prayer. My child, know that in the year ahead those gifts will be needed in a greater way and you need to make more time for these gifts.

- You have had some wonderful experiences this past year. You learned about your strengths and gifts and how you can use them in my name to bless and help others. I was with you each step of the way. Maybe you did not always see me, but you felt my presence in some unique situations or when you were feeling a bit unsure or had some questions about the future. You know I am everywhere, from mountains to deserts to oceans and fishing lakes to parks, stores, and coffee shops. And, yes, I am where you least expect me. I was there. You saw me. I blessed you. Now your mission is to go out and share blessings with others. Give more of yourself.

- Healing comes in many ways and for different reasons. Some need healing and faith in ongoing friendships or broken friendships. Some need healing of a past hurt or disappointment. Many need to let go of the past, forgive, and move on in their journey. I have a mission for you: it is to help others to be healed in any way they need healing. Do this through your love, words, compassion, and understanding. Be a friend and listen. When fall comes look for the miracles.

- You have the heart of Mary. That means you are caring, loving, humble, and faith-filled. But Mary also had a heart of great courage. She went out with love and forgiveness to face a world that had killed her son. If Mary can do that, so can you. I know what you are made of: courage, great compassion, faith, and trust. You will see Mary in the months ahead. Look for her.

- There are people in your life who need your love and guidance. They need your support and kindness. They trust you. They look up to you. Show them how to believe in me. Show them the best path to take and the wisest decisions to make. Step out with courage and show people that you care. Listen to others. Your call is to use your gifts in more ways and places and to be fully open to helping those I put into your life.

- “Coffee House Monday”— what a great idea and name! I hope you love it, too, as I thought it was very clever. Coffee House Monday is when you set aside three hours to meet people, talk to people, share words, pray, listen, help each other out, and become closer friends. You can do this in a real coffee shop, a hospital, a school, a family room, a house, or a yard. My disciples gathered together at least once a week. Most often it was an ever-changing group with one being gone one week, and someone new coming another time. It was wonderful! When you go there, I will be there. Be open to what you can do in this time and what people need and want to do. When I cannot be there with you, I will send Carrots, a red-haired angel, or Charlie, who is a smiling angel but a bit shy. You will love them.

- I know healing happens. I have done it, seen it, encouraged it, and shown others how to heal. Through the Holy Spirit people have been given the gifts of healing and the call to support healing ministries or an outreach. Healing is about loving others in my name and believing in miracles. I can heal you. I can heal others through you. I can show you those who need healing so you can pray for them or help them. Love and faith are needed in healing. Believe.

- It is still summer. Yay! How about doing something special for yourself? Go for a walk in a park or on the beach and look for angels. Work in your garden and listen for my voice. Go to a baseball game, go swimming, or go fishing and know that angels are all around you and are

having a great time, too. I also want you to do something special for someone else this week and every week until fall begins. It can be sending a nice note or email, inviting someone to do something fun, bringing someone to church with you, going out for ice cream or coffee, going biking or fishing or even kayaking, or doing activities that take you up into the sky. You are special. Do something for yourself and for someone else.

- Summer is a great time to explore paths and see where they lead you. You may find yourself walking on a beach and meeting angels that give you a word or guidance. You may take a path to a place where you can fish and enjoy sitting in the sun with a friend, a parent, or a brother. You can go boating and know I am right there with you. Summer is the time to renew the spirit and heart. I want to renew and bless you. I want to heal you and show you that a new time is just ahead. It will be a blessing time that will show you how you have already begun to live out your mission in life.

- Paul went out to new places all through his life. He wanted to keep sharing my love, words, and reality. He wanted to heal and bless people. He went out both alone and with companions. It was always an adventure because I was always with them. It may be hard for you to understand today, but part of your mission in life is to keep going out more and more to help others in my name, to bless and heal, and to help and teach others about this new life. I will show you a miracle very soon.

- There were some disappointments this past year but there were also some joys. As you went out I showed you new friends and blessings. I deepened some friendships and brought you new ones. The friendships that fade or are difficult are painful, but that is part of growing. My disciples made close friends as they went out; some remained good friends and others chose another path. Always believe in yourself and in your goodness and faithfulness. Keep going forward.

- Look for angels this summer. They love the warm weather and sunshine, so they are always anxious to go out to help people and give others words or blessings. They love to be outside. You have seen angels this summer and will see an angel before fall is over. The angel's words will guide you for the future and will tell you how and where you are needed. The words will be a blessing, an encouragement, a joy, and a happy face for the day. Your angel will be there. Angels love water, trees, mountains, and shops. Some angels love baseball games, lakes, fishing, and coffee shops.

### **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.

2 Kings 2:1-4

Jeremiah 31:10-12

Deuteronomy 3:23-25

Micah 4:2

Isaiah 61:1-2

Exodus 3:10-14

Psalms 46:1-4

Psalms 78:23-25

Psalms 9:1-2

Psalms 147:15-20

Acts 2:25-28

Luke 4:16-19

Matthew 10:5-12  
Acts 17:10-12  
Mark 10:46-52  
Luke 14:25-27, 33  
Acts 1:7-8  
Colossians 4:2-6  
1 Timothy 4:4-5, 9-10  
James 2:14-18  
1 John 4:7-12  
Romans 12:5-8  
2 Corinthians 6:17-19  
Hebrews 12:1-3, 14  
Ephesians 4:7 and 11-13  
Galatians 1:11-12, 15 (end with "him")  
1 Corinthians 16:8-10, 13-14

**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)

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