



Words of Blessing

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High School/College Weekly Words Pentecost Week 6: June 15, 2008

Living the Word

Acts 14:21-23, 27-28 Paul and Barnabas preached the Good News in Derbe and won many disciples. Then they went back to Lystra, to Iconium, and on to Antioch in Pisidia. They strengthened the believers and encouraged them to remain true to the faith. “We must pass through many troubles to enter the Kingdom of God,” they taught. In each church they appointed elders, and with prayers and fasting they commended them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust....When they arrived in Antioch, they gathered the people of the church together and told them about all that God had done with them and how he had opened the way for the Gentiles to believe. And they stayed a long time there with the believers.

Pentecost: Journey to Discipleship—What Am I Calling You to Do?

The widow’s heart was so filled with love that she wanted to give away all she possessed. The joy in heaven! I gave my life that you and all would have everlasting life. This woman sacrificed all she had. The cost to her was huge, for now she had to depend on others for the rest of her life. I, too, gave everything I had to save my people, to save you. The cost to me was that I would have to depend on my disciples, followers, and you to continue the work of the gospel. Why did the widow give all? How could she? She trusted in God for her very life and gave her last penny. She had found her security in God and knew that he would bless her. And he did.

Today, I ask you to trust in me. I gave my life for you, to save you, help you, and bless you. What are you willing to do for me or for others in your life? What are you willing to do for the world, for its people and their needs? Remember, my disciples gave up homes, friends, and families to follow me. And some gave their lives to follow me. They were willing to use their gifts to share my love, words, and reality and to pray for people, heal people, and help people. The disciples were willing to do whatever I called them to do.

My followers—like Lydia, Paul, and Barnabas—gave of themselves in order to use their gifts in my name to help others. They were ordinary people who said yes to the journey of discipleship. Today, I call you. I need you and ask you to follow me. I ask you to say yes to the journey of discipleship. I will fill your heart and life with love. I will help you overcome any obstacles or difficulties and to make any sacrifices. I will fill you with peace when you lack peace or confidence. I will provide the needs and the invitations.

So I ask you to say yes. Say you are willing to do what I call you to do. Just say, “yes, Lord,” and I will show you what this call is. I will provide the invitations and opportunities. Some are already there! Some may have heard about some opportunities and needs and some have already

been asked. Never be afraid. No matter what your life's circumstances are and no matter what the world's needs are, be confident. I am in control. Even if you cannot see or understand my miracles, guidance, or wisdom, go forward. Be grounded in prayer. Be part of a group that meets and shares my words. Say yes to your call from me. I know it will be amazing.

What am I calling you to do? Help and bless my people. Be willing to use your gifts to build up my church and its people. Use your gifts to help people in the world. I may be calling you to a healing ministry, to teach in schools or churches, to write books, or to lead a study group or young people's program. Maybe you are called to be part of a prayer team, work with women, evangelize, or join a Bible study or choir. Support others who have a ministry. Support youth work. Go! Now! I am calling you to use your gifts, just like I called the disciples and the world

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. **Give** **Trust** **Witness**

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

Luke 21:1-4 Jesus looked around and saw rich men dropping their gifts in the Temple treasury, and he also saw a very poor widow dropping in two little copper coins. He said, "I tell you that this poor widow put in more than all the others. For the others offered their gifts from what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, gave all she had to live on."

Acts 5:20 and **Acts 6:7** Go and stand in the temple, and tell the people all about this new life."... And so the word of God continued to spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem grew larger and larger, and a great number of priests accepted the faith.

Mark 16:15-18 He said to them, "Go throughout the whole world and preach to all mankind. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. Believers will be given the power to perform miracles; they will drive out demons in my name; they will speak in strange tongues; if they pick up snakes or drink any poison, they will not be harmed; they will place their hands on the sick people, and these will get well."

Action for the week: Think of one thing you have wanted to do for me that you know I am calling you to do at this time in your life. Share that with others and ask people what they think of your plans.

Decision/question What do you believe I am calling you to do with your gifts or for the church right now?

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, it is not always easy to do what you call me to do in your

name. Help me to have the courage to follow through when I say I will help. Give me a little push when I feel too busy to go to church and support the people and its mission. Remind me of the gifts you have given me and how I can use them each day in many ways. It is even okay to let me feel sad when I don't reach out to share your love, words, and reality with more people. Help me each day to love others, help my family, and be caring and kind to others.

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 have a long list! Build up my church. Support it and save it. Be a source of wisdom and faith. Be courageous. Inspire others. Bring new people in, and bring people back who have drifted away. You can see where and how to build up all people, including the youth, those who are new, and those who are weary of doing so much. Begin this week or the list will get longer. You can do this!

- You have the gift of evangelism. Go out. Spread the Good News like Lydia, Paul, John, and Mary. Go out like people you read about or know who are answering the call of evangelism. Tell people my story and your story. Open doors! Be an encourager and a challenger. Hug people, love people, and listen. Share my weekly words. Go to people who are not attending church every week. Begin with friends and family, then move on to neighbors and even strangers. Maybe you need a team to help you.

- Healing is needed in the world in so many lives. I ask you to look at healing as a call in your life and a need in the church, in places around you, and in the world. Keep a prayer list of healing needs. Stay in touch with people. Learn more about healing. Learn from places and people who offer healing or teach about healing. Go out now and you will see healing happen in amazing ways.

- You are my encourager! You are the one who sees the best in others. You see and affirm the gifts each one has to build up the body and recognize how all can work together. Your support and words have blessed many friends and people. I ask you to look for ways to do that in your daily life, in your church, works, and mission. As you encourage others with your smile and faith, you will see them change, and I will smile and surround you with my love and joy.

- You are much like Lydia and Peter, who opened their lives to share my love, words, and reality. Lydia was wise and taught and inspired people, just like you do. Peter was a leader who was strong in his faith and leadership, just like you. You have grown so much this year and are ready to do more in my name. I will be walking with you each day, pointing out the next path to take.

- I love miracles! You can see them every day. Remember the last one you saw and experienced? I thought it was a "wow" miracle, and so did others. You can help me with another miracle. See what you can do each day to help, bless, or heal someone; to pray for someone; or to share my words with someone. Listen to others. Listen to me. You will help me with several miracles this summer.

- I have a special call for you to do in life. You know what some of your gifts are—like caring, love, faith, and kindness—but how do you use them in your own unique way? The way is there. I have been showing you what it is and drawing you to that way more and more. Talk to some friends within the next 48 hours about the call each one has. Ask them how and where they could see you using your gifts in a unique way right now. I think you already know.

- You are like Paul, courageous, determined, faith filled, and a leader. You know the right words to comfort a friend or how to give another person hope and guidance in what to do. You are a leader and a friend. I ask you to focus on your gifts and how to use them more in the year ahead. What do you need to learn? What people or friends can guide you? Are there people who inspire

you and from whom you can draw strength? Become more like Paul this year and trust in me.

- This is a powerful and exciting time in your life. You are seeing what your gifts are and how people listen to you and want to be your friend. It is time to deepen your path and plan ways to use your gifts and strengths in the years ahead. It is time to make changes, letting some things go and taking on some things. See how and where you can help others, be a stronger Christian, and be a leader who builds up my church and its people, especially those your age. Prepare for this with daily prayer and by sharing your journey with a spiritual friend who can help you.

- Your angel was there. Did you notice? Your angel was quiet, but you felt a strength and confidence. You saw the smile that seemed to fill you with joy. That is what your angel offers to you all the time. Your angel is there no matter what happens in life, no matter what you do or do not do. Your angel is there through the hurts and the joys. Because of your believe, you will see a special miracle. It is one you need but have not asked for.

- What are you willing to give or do in my name for the church and for others? People say yes, but do they know the road might be hard? I ask you to say yes every day, trusting that I will give you all the help you need. Trust that I will help you to do what is needed to help friends, to help people you know and don't know. I need you to build up my church: its ministries of healing and evangelism, its outreach to the poor, and its outreach to youth. Just say yes and begin now.

- You have the gift of humility, so you don't realize how many friends you have. Some stand back because they are shy or are not sure you notice that they really want to have a closer friendship with you. They see your smile, the funny things you say, and how kind you always are.

You can never have too many friends, so be open to making new friends and doing things with them.

- Summer is here. It's a great time to relax and do new things. Some get to sleep late and others are busy in many ways. Don't forget church each week and don't forget to call friends you don't see often. Take walks. Meet people for ice cream and see how they are doing. Get a new group together to share the weekly words. Look for angels. Help in your home or do something for someone in your family. There is a lot to do, and I will be watching for you every day.

- You are called to be an evangelist and you have the gifts of helping and encouragement. I know you believe in me and in these words, but do you tell others? Do you offer to share the words with people? Or do you leave that work to others? It is time to use your gifts, and summer is a good place to begin. Start a summer group that will sit outside and share these words. If they don't know how to use the words, show them. And as you meet each week, encourage people to bring a friend. Watch the group grow into two groups and on and on. I will be there. I will bless all with a miracle.

- My church and people need so many gifts, but one of the most important is prayer. It takes sacrifice of time to pray with me for others each day, but I ask you to be in prayer at all times. Be ready to pray with someone in need or to offer a prayer for someone who comes to mind and heart. I ask you to pray quietly for someone you see at a baseball game, in a park, or walking outside. You will be blessed for using your gift of prayer. You will bless others.

- Just say yes to what I need you to do in the world. You have gone out and seen a bit of the world this year, and you know how miracles happen and friendships are deepened. Your call in life seems clearer. Believe I will help you each day. I give you the gifts of courage, faith, and joy. Remember, people receive hope from those who smile, offer a hug, or spend time with them. Hugs do wonders! I had joyous disciples, even in the challenging times. Be joyous!

- This year will bring some new experiences that involve traveling or going places with friends. These times will show you more ways to use your gifts to share my love, words, and reality. Look for me or for signs from me to guide you and point out the possibilities and direction to

take next. There are several possibilities for you ranging from familiar places where you are comfortable to new opportunities and people who would bring challenges and affirmations for your next decision.

- It's a new time—summer is here! Summer brings sunshine, friends, new places to visit, and exciting things to experience. Summer can even bring some special memories of times with family and other special people. It is time to catch your breath and look around. See the needs of people. Some need a friend or encouragement. Some look for support or a friend to count on. You are one of those special friends people look for all through life. That is an important call in life and you have it.

- So many people need prayers and kind words. They are all around you in schools, parks, ball games, churches, coffee shops, hospitals, dance studios, jobs, and stores. Look carefully. Look as I would. I ask you to do more than you have been doing. I want you to pray for people, as prayers are needed. Offer a smile, kind word, or a hello. Show interest in what is going on in the lives of others, and show that you really care. You are my presence and reality in a special way this year.

- I have made your path clear. I continue to show you how and where to use your gifts and talents. I bring you new friends and deepen old friendships. I show you where you are needed. I need you to be a joy in the lives of children, people who struggle, the clergy, and people trying to keep churches and ministries going and growing. You have the gifts of faith, love, and humility. You are compassionate and thoughtful. Most of all you are filled with the Holy Spirit!

- Step out. Go out and meet people each day as my friend and disciple. The disciples went out, and so did Mary and others, to do my work and to help and bless people. You can't always do this by staying home. You can take a walk or go to a store, restaurant, doctor's office, or grocery store, but go out and look. Set aside your needs and make time for me. I promise to walk with you. You will see me.

- I was there. I blessed you with a new peace and a quiet confidence in your life, gifts, talents, and decisions. You are using your gifts in more ways and with more power. People are noticing more and more. But your humility and quiet spirit keep you always looking to me. You inspire more people than you realize. They see who you are, what you believe, and what you are willing to do for me and for others. You encourage people and challenge them to do more.

- Friends are important to the journey and one's call. You have many friends who help and inspire you. You have two friends you can count on for anything. You have a family who is there for you (even the grumpy ones). You have a friend you have become closer to this year. Share my words with them. Share your faith and story and know that I will be there with you. I will bless you. Then I will call you to do something together this summer. Listen.

- You make me smile. You are a very nice person. Yes, everyone says that! What a truly wonderful thing to be said about a person. It is well deserved. You reflect calm, joy, faith, and quiet confidence. You are compassionate and caring. What can you do with those qualities? You can take them to a ballgame, swimming pool, coffee shop, job, hospital, school, or church. Use these gifts everywhere you go. I am counting on you to go to many places each week.

- Did you see me? I was there watching over you. I know you had had a tiring day, and it was hard to relax and just be. There always seems to be so much to do. There are worries about jobs, family, the church and its future. You wonder how to use your gifts, what path to take next, or how to help others in your life. I blessed you. I blessed you through the gentle warm smile of someone else.

- The past months have shown you other ways I can use you to bring hope and healing to people, to reach out as a friend, and to see how your gifts can be used both on your own and in a group or gathering. Healing is a very special, important, and powerful gift. It is to a call to be used with

great humility and faith. You can heal many people through your gifts and how you use them. Take time this year to learn how to use this gift in simple but powerful ways. Use your faith. - People look for me everywhere. And I am everywhere. I am always trying to show people what they are called to do for others in the world. I often point out the obvious; it's amazing how you can miss it as you are reading, fishing, walking, praying, gardening, playing ball, or even attending church. Use your gifts of humility, faith, and serving. How? Look at the sign at church and on the door.

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
Zechariah 4:6-7
Jeremiah 42:3-6
Daniel 2:20-23
Micah 4:1-2
Joshua 1:7-9
Isaiah 30:19-20
1 Kings 2:1-4
Psalm 149:1-2
Psalm 96:1-3
Matthew 11:4-5
Acts 9:32-37
Mark 8:22-26
John 15:26-27
Acts 16:14-15
Matthew 16:24-27
Luke 6:27-31, 35-36
Acts 20:32-36
Matthew 8:16-17
John 21:15-16
Acts 10:3-8
Mark 10:50
Luke 11:1-4
Matthew 17:14-18
Acts 12:24-13:3
Philippians 3:12-14
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Ephesians 6:14-18
Romans 15:1-4
1 Corinthians 16:13-16
Hebrews 6:7, 10-11
2 Corinthians 1:3-7
Ephesians 4:23-24
Romans 10:13-17

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

And for more details about the Words of Blessing EGGS Project, see the website at

<http://www.wordsofblessing.com/eggs.html>.

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