



# Words of Blessing

EMAIL ADDRESS: [wob@wordsofblessing.com](mailto:wob@wordsofblessing.com)  
OUR WEB SITE: [www.wordsofblessing.com](http://www.wordsofblessing.com)

## **Weekly Words** **Pentecost Week 11: August 1, 2010**

### **Living the Word**

**Acts 4:30-35** [“]Reach out your hand to heal, and grant that wonders and miracles may be performed through the name of your holy Servant Jesus.” When they finished praying, the place where they were meeting was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim God’s message with boldness. The group of believers was one in mind and heart. No one said that any of his belongings was his own, but they all shared with one another everything they had. With great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God poured rich blessings on them all. There was no one in the group who was in need. Those who owned fields or houses would sell them, bring the money received from the sale, and turn it over to the apostles; and the money was distributed to each one according to his need.

### **Pentecost: Building**

*I have given you new life. Now what will you do with it?  
Begin with the Church and its mission.  
Everyone share their faith: Evangelism, passion, and openness.  
Give to people. Heal. Pray for the sick. Build faith.*

Pentecost is about sharing faith, giving to others, praying for the sick, miracles, and building faith. But you need to do these things with a passion. Don’t just make them part of your to-do list. Instead, have such a heart and passion for others that these things are a call to you every single day and you are aware of them at all times.

Pentecost is about being filled with the Holy Spirit and using your time and gifts in my name. It is about you sharing your faith—everyone sharing his or her faith. That is what evangelism is all about. There are so many ways to show your faith. One person can make dresses for poor children in Africa and then inspire friends to do the same. That is sharing faith, building, giving, and doing church mission. Everyone has his or her own special gifts and combination of gifts and needs to see how and where to use them—like making those dresses. My disciples and followers each went out and used their gifts in many ways, but they worked together. You will meet people who share some of your gifts and depth of spirituality but each is different. You are unique and special—you really are!

Let the Holy Spirit fill you. Let go and don’t be afraid of your gifts or the needs I show you. I am real. Love me as I love you. Countless lives are changed along the journey of faith. Build up the church and help people. People are excited about building up the church, helping people, teaching, and using their gifts. In the early church people gave away everything to follow me without fear or doubt. They accepted the call that makes me real and alive in people’s journeys. I

will empower you to be my witness of love. Open your heart and let the world in. Let me in. Have a passion to use your gifts in all ways—no lukewarm commitment. Use your gifts and time to help people everywhere. Believe passionately that people can be healed through your prayers. Be an evangelist. Give with faith, joy, and humility. Share our story. Tell people who I am in your life. Take your mission. Go! Heal, give, evangelize, pray, and share.

**Word for the week:** Choose one of the following words or phrases that can most help you in planning or working on your mission and/or using your gifts to build up my church and people.

*Healing*

*Commitment*

*Pray*

**Scripture for the week:** Choose one of the following scripture passages that you believe is meant for you. What does it say about Pentecost, faith, building, and mission in your life right now?

*Ephesians 2:8-10* For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it. God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do.

*Acts 4:30-33* ["Reach out your hand to heal, and grant that wonders and miracles may be performed through the name of your holy Servant Jesus." When they finished praying, the place where they were meeting was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim God's message with boldness.

*1 Peter 4:10-11* Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God. Whoever preaches must preach God's messages; whoever serves must serve with the strength that God gives him, so that in all things praise may be given to God through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

**Action for the week—Giving time:** Make time to do something for others this week, giving your prayers, words, and support. I ask you to do at least one of these actions. You can, of course, do all of them! Keep simple notes about what happens and share them with a friend or two who are doing the same action. Here is the list: (1) do an act of kindness, (2) give a blessing of hope for someone, (3) write a note of thanks for the friendship of someone, (4) give a note to someone who inspires you and tell this person how he or she inspires you, or (5) reach out to someone who needs healing and offer your prayers.

**Decisions/questions:** I have given you new life. What will you do with it this week? If you could share your faith more, do some evangelism, be involved in a mission in your church, give support to someone who is sick or struggling, or do something special for or at your church, what would you choose to do and why?

**Witness my love and reality:** Share these words with others this week. Reach out to someone who does not know about the words I offer. Share what the words mean to you. Listen to what the words mean to others. Help others to see their own special mission and gifts through these words.

**Special witness this week:** Share these words and this mission with others who will be renewed as they experience my love and reality. Build up my church and people. The words this week have given you many things to do that will bless and help many. What will you do with it? I wait.

**Daily prayer for this week:** Lord, you have given me new life, and I am thankful for the blessing in my life and journey. I want to help build up my church and its people. Show me how to do more for others. I am ready to step out in a bigger way. I want to help build up the faith of others. Lord I also ask for your healing grace and miracles for all who are sick, especially\_\_\_\_\_.

**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 given you new life, hope, friends to support you in your faith journey, my own words to you, and your own gifts and mission to be used in a powerful way to heal; build the faith of others; open the doors; and give out my love, words, and reality, just like my disciples.

- People are not going to church or sharing my love, words, and reality. I know what you are doing, and I bless all you do. It is time to share your faith and story. Be passionate and open. Build up the faith of others by bringing them to church so they can share my words and know that their gifts are needed, too. You know people who are not going. What are you waiting for? Begin.

- Building the church is also building the mission, gifts, and faith of the people. That is what I want you to focus on this year. At the end of the year, let's talk about what you did, what you learned, and what happened. This is a mission for you, but you need many others to join in and help you. That takes evangelism and faith. You are ready to really, really live my word. You are.

- You have the gift of healing. Use this gift in the ways I show you, and be open to blessings and surprises when you least expect them. I know you pray for the sick, but I want you to pray with a strength, power, and faith, like Mary, Paul, John, and Lydia. Expect miracles as you offer to pray for people. This is your call, gift, and mission—and it leads to a very special invitation.

- Give hope and faith to others by praying for them. Prayer is the greatest way to live out Pentecost today. You can make your prayer life live, move, heal, bless, and encourage others in countless ways. If you let prayer and faith live in you at all times, you will be the one I call on to save someone's life. Yes, that is evangelism, too. Be aware of the people I send to you. Listen.

- The Holy Spirit will fill you over and over again, so go and see where your gifts can help people. Heal; deepen people's faith; empower their gifts; and show them how to evangelize, witness, and love all. Open your heart and spirit. Trust and believe passionately in me and in your own call, which is empowered by me to go out in a bigger and wide way. Let's build a church.

- How do you build up the church? Evangelists. Who are they? Yes, the friend you see reach out with energy and passion to bring people to me is an evangelist, but you are an evangelist, too. You just have to have faith and go out and believe you are giving people what they are looking for. I know your journey. I have given you so much. Now, what will you do? Step out. Live Pentecost now.

- You have the gifts of healing, faith, and prayer. That was on the application I had you fill out. You are just what the church and the world needs. I will empower you with faith, joy, courage, and evangelism. It is time. My church struggles, so you cannot wait. When you least expect it there will be a call to go out and build. Pack your bags. Gather a friend or two. I will be there.

- In the past 10 months you have grown in your faith, and that has affected what you are going to

do with your gifts in the years ahead. I measure faith in many ways. One is when you are ready to set aside your past, needs, ideas, pride, frustrations, hurts, time, and health—trusting all to me. You are ready for the next step. It is big. Share your faith, give to others, and love all—no matter what. Let go of the past. Believe you are healed, and cast out anything that holds you back from loving others. You will find a passion to share our unlimited love with everyone and go out.

- Have you ever been in an old church, convent, or monastery? They are so quiet. You can feel prayer all around you. And thus, a peace fills you in new ways. Some questions are answered. The next step or direction in your life seems clearer, and a gentle healing begins to happen. I ask you to seek such a place in the next six months. Know that it will give you new life. Then, what will you do with it?

- Pray for people with your whole heart and with faith and trust in me. Become a prayer, the kind people call and contact for help. You know when you need a miracle or they do. You know when they need hope and faith. Bring them to me, and together we will bless them. Anchor yourself in prayer each day, and a passion for building up the lives of others through me will happen.

- I am giving you a new time in your journey and path. It is a time of building your faith, prayer, and gifts in new ways. I want you to be able to reach out your hand and heal; bless; pray; witness; love; empower; and give my love, words, and reality to others. You don't have to be a noisy bell. Be like my mother Mary or friend John. Go, share, and just believe in my love for you. I am there.

- Healing is a gift that happens through grace, prayer, miracles, and me. Some have this gift as the Holy Spirit works through them. Prayer is the way. Don't give up. Healing can come in a moment or in months or years, but it does come. Each day pray for the sick and those who need healing. Build your faith and each day it will grow.

- You have the gifts of faith, prayer, and healing. I have seen you use these gifts in many ways to help others. Many have been blessed, and their lives have been changed by your gifts, and yet you have rarely known how much your gifts meant to them. You don't realize how these gifts unfold because you are just sharing your faith. I gave you new life one day, and you used it to bless others in this way.

- Faith takes trust and persistence. When you pray for the sick, it builds up their faith—and yours as well. As you go out to listen to a friend, support someone in a difficult place, pray for someone who is sick, or encourage someone who is searching for a direction, your faith and their faith will deepen.

- The way to live in a relationship with me is to turn to me and lean on your faith. Spend time in scripture and prayer. Let my words fill you. You will come to know me as someone real, not just a name in a book. You will find a love for me that is deep and abiding. That love will lead you to a mission and call that will heal others and build up the faith of others, especially the youth.

- I was there. I know you saw me, but I don't think you realized it was me. I prayed for you and watched as you listened to a friend. You were there to support and encourage this friend. The words you shared were from a loving, giving, and prayerful heart. As you shared from your own journey of faith, this person's heart changed and was filled with new hope. I blessed you both.

- You are a strong Christian, stronger than people realize because of the often quiet ways you live your faith. People lean on you, turn to you, and see how you love everyone. You take the last seat and then offer that seat to someone else. Your mission is there; it has always been there. Keep it.

- Offer your gifts and time to build up my church and my people. Use your gifts of encouragement, prayer, and evangelism to help those in need, the lonely, the sick, youth and those who feel far from God. Think of the homeless and those who need faith. Show them how

to find me. You are an amazing witness of courage. Use this to build up my church and my people. You will know how.

- The journey of faith is about building a life of faith and using it to help others. I have given you new life and many blessings. You have the gifts of healing, encouragement, and giving. I ask you to share my love, words, and reality as part of your story and witness. Now what will you do with these words and questions? Are you ready to take that new life? I know you are!

- I have put some special friends in your life. What will you do with that gift and those friends? Begin. You have many good and faithful friends. Do you let your friends help or encourage you? Do you pray for them, offer support, and listen? St. Francis had friends who let him follow his call and supported him with love, prayer, and encouragement. Be such a friend of faith.

- There is a church, a community, and people who need you and your help, gifts, support, and family. The people are on a journey to live their lives, build their church, and share their mission. They need you and your gifts of leadership, faith, and evangelism. They are on a special journey to live their lives with me, and you are on this same journey. Step out. Help, lead, and build. Give.

- Road trips! I loved going out with my disciples and friends. The road became part of the mission to share my love, words, and reality. It was a time to bless, help, encourage, heal, and pray with people. Today I often join people on their road trips—or meet them along the road. I love that part!

- Evangelism is a call, mission, and gift. It is needed to build up people and the church. You don't have to stand on a street corner and shout at people. You can share your story with a friend; invite someone to come to your church; tell people about my love, words, and reality; and invite someone to a church workshop, a Bible study, or a group that shares these words. You have this gift, and it is the most powerful way to build up people and the church. What will you do with it?

### **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

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Isaiah 49:16-18

Psalms 16:5-8, 11

John 9:1-7 New

Luke 4:38-41

Matthew 5:14-16

Acts 5:12-16

John 16:29-33

Luke 5:12-16

Matthew 21:18-22

Mark 7:31-37

Acts 9:32-35, 42-43

John 15:11-17

1 Peter 1:3-7

Philippians 4: 1-7, 19-20

1 Thessalonians 3:6-9

Romans 8:24-25, 28-30

1 Corinthians 12:4-11  
Ephesians 6:14-20, 23-24  
2 Corinthians 9:6-11  
Philippians 1:3-5 & 4:5-7  
1 John 3:11, 16-18  
1 Corinthians 16:13-14

**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)

© Copyright 2010 - Words of Blessing Ministry - all rights reserved