



Words of Blessing

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Weekly Words **Pentecost Week 12: August 8, 2010**

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.

Pentecost: Building

*I have given you new life. Now what will you do with it?
Begin with the Church and its mission: Evangelism.
Build faith. Share food. Give time. Help. Reach out to the poor.*

Martha and Mary often shared food, gave time, helped me, and provided comfort. They reached out to others, especially the poor. They also looked forward to sitting with me, learning, and sharing their faith. It is important to share food, and someone needs to prepare it—that is building, sharing faith, and reaching out. But Martha and Mary also had to build up their own faith. One does this through sharing one's faith, sharing food, and reaching out to others. You can do much, but do not be so busy with what must be done that you can't sit with me. Make time to be with family and friends. Stay at church each week and visit with people. Leave the dust in your house so you can meet with others, share my words, and build up the faith of others. Do you spend time with a friend who needs hope or people in a nursing home who would love a visit? Reaching out to the poor, helping build up the faith of others, sharing food with the homeless, and giving time to a friend in need are all ways of giving time. This is an important mission, and it happens as you reach out to the poor. When you see the poor, share love and hope. The mission is evangelism, helping others in my name.

There are many ways to grow and build faith. One way is to help the church to grow, by renewing it, building it up, and taking action. The disciples and followers had teamwork. Apollos traveled far, wanting to preach the good news. He was humble and yet so excited to go out that people were drawn to him. They were touched by his life and encouraged him to keep going.

They wrote ahead for him, telling more and more people to welcome him. And when he arrived they helped him, too. It was teamwork. Growing your church takes sharing and helping one another with one's mission, call, gifts, and projects. Everyone is different. Work together.

The men and women who helped Apollos were ordinary people, like you, but they wanted to grow this church of Jesus' love, to help build up more churches. They trusted and had faith in Apollos and wanted to help his mission. It takes humility to see the gifts and call of others and to step back to help and encourage them. This is why the church grew and why yours can grow, too. People grew and the church grew as they built it up with action, helping and reaching out to the poor. They knew the mission I gave them was important to all. Together they all built the church.

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.

Grow

Help others

Build the church

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, giving, helping the poor, reaching out and sharing your food? What does it say about what you have and your mission in life right now? Which passage really speaks to you right now?

John 21:15-16 After they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?" "Yes, Lord," he answered, "you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Take care of my lambs. " A second time Jesus said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," he answered, "you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "take care of my sheep."

Acts 4: 32-35 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. And so it was that Joseph, a Levite born in Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "One who Encourages"), sold a field he owned, brought the money, and turned it over to the apostles.

Mark 12:41-44 As Jesus sat near the Temple treasury, he watched the people as they dropped in their money. Many rich men dropped in a lot of money; then a poor widow came along and dropped in two little copper coins, worth about a penny. He called his disciples together and said to them, "I tell you that this poor widow put more in the offering box than all the others. For the others put in what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, put in all she had—she gave all she had to live on."

Action for the week: This week it is really important to take to heart my words about building. What you will do with these words? Your action and mission this week is to respond to areas of your life that need action. Choose one of these: (1) Your church: Think of the gifts and call of two people in your church. What do they do in offering their gifts and time? How do they help

others? Write a note to them and let them know how you appreciate how they help others and build up your church. (2) Make time for people. Listen, share your faith, and give them your time and friendship. Choose at least two people you will reach out to, talk to, and share with on Sunday or during the week.

Decisions/Questions: I have given you new life. What will you do with it this week or this year to help build your church and its people or help the poor or hungry? If you could share food or give food to someone in need, where would you go and what would you offer? If you could encourage the faith of one person, giving this person your time, whom would you reach out to and why? Nothing holds you back from living these words and actions.

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 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?

Daily prayer for this week: Lord, you have blessed me with so much, and I want to give back to people and the church. I know I could do more to help others, share my food with the homeless, give time to those in hospitals or nursing homes, help the poor and those without jobs, and help in my church and build it up. Remind me each day to take the new life you give me and to share it through helping others in your name.

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, and in Pentecost I ask you to build up my church and people. It is a mission that will take your time, energy, prayers, courage, humility, and love. That is your mission, and I want you to make it the mission for your church. Build up the faith of those around you so they have the courage to step out and evangelize. I appoint you a leader, like Paul. Go out.

- How do you build my church and the faith of the people? Give your time, more and more time. Help where it is needed—which is everywhere! Share your food with the poor. Feed others with my words and love. Help people to have faith and to believe in me and in their gifts and call. I am counting on you and a special team of seemingly ordinary people who are builders of faith.

- Build up people in my church. Encourage them to come to meetings and gatherings, and let them know they are needed. Give people a call or send a note. Act on your faith by helping anywhere you are needed. Offer your time by coming to word gatherings, study groups, and special services. Show appreciation to leaders, teachers, and clergy. People are drawn to your witness and faith.

- To grow our church right now you have to get moving and get involved You have to be active, caring, faith filled, humble, and strong. But we can do it. We are a great team! I will bring the gifts. You bring the love, faith, and time. As you step out in the building mission, you will see miracles. You will reach the poor and rich, the youth and the elderly. Work with everyone! I count on you.

- You have the gifts of compassion, faith, and giving. I see the many things you do for family

and friends and for those in need. You have taken the new life I gave you and taken on the mission of helping others by building up their faith and giving them time, encouragement, friendship, and support. You build up lives and my church by living my words and call. Bless you.

- Building up Christians is building up the church and the world. You do this in countless ways with your kindness, faith, and courage. You help others to see and use their gifts. You inspire others to find their mission in life and run with it. You work with others and take the last seat. I bless you for living my words each day. You took the new life I offered and blessed others.

- You will experience the infilling of the Holy Spirit in a powerful way. How do you know you can and will use your gifts? How do you know where to use your gifts? You will receive invitations to share. You will see how your church needs building up and will step forward. You will use your gifts of faith, courage, and evangelism to build the church and its people and future. Action—now. Courage—Now.

- Share the gospel. Evangelize. Be open to the Holy Spirit. Heal people, listen to my voice and words, and help the poor. And call others to help you in this mission. You will experience my love, words, and reality in such a personal way that you will go out and share the Good News.

- It is helpful to have a companion to step out to help others in a ministry and to build up my people and church. Teamwork is important, just as my disciples and followers saw. There is a project needed in our church that needs a team of three. Ask people who have strong faith; are good at getting others to help; work hard; and are open, prayerful, friendly, and a bit of an evangelist. I think that is a good group. Begin now so you are ready for the fall launch of building.

- I love road trips. They are marvelous, teaching, learning, and exciting ways to see me and know my love, words, and reality in a powerful amazing way. You can reach out to the poor, help those in need, share your faith, help someone who is hungry, and see what the church and its mission are really about. Plan for this year. Pack for a week. And look for me along the road. I will be there.

- The gift of healing is a powerful call and gift. It takes deep faith as you see healing happen through me, your prayers, and the faith of many. Use this gift more. See the many ways you can offer this gift of healing and see it happen. Go out. Trust. Let go. Know that you are healing through me. Be part of a team. Keep learning. Healers have many different gifts but all work together. Believe.

- When you sit with me in quiet, listen, and then share from your heart, I smile. I bless you in that time. I speak to you and guide you. Your faith, your love for others, and the way you reach out to share grows each day. Don't worry about the to-do list. Just make time for me. And that time flows over into your giving time for family, friends, and those in need. You listen, share, and love.

- You are part of my church, the part that is being built newer and stronger. You are part of the mission to renew lives in my name. You need to give me more time and help, but you will bless many friends and strangers. I ask you to help and inspire others to use their gifts in ways that will be life changing. You have the gifts of kindness, love, prayer, and evangelism. Let's use them!

- The Pentecost call is to build up lives, gifts, people, the church, and the faith of all. So that is what I ask you to focus on each day in prayer. How do you do this? I have blessed and renewed you. I have shown you where you are needed and have given you the faith and confidence to do it. Like my disciples, I sent you two people from afar to help you. I gave you two friends to show you the way. It is time.

- I have given you new life. Now what will you do with it? I am also sending a special angel to protect you. You will meet your angel this year. There will be a message that will show you your

gifts and call and will bless you and heal you, The angel will look like a person and will guide and help you and make you smile. There might be a group of angels, so watch out!

- No prayer is unimportant. You can pray the same prayer for miracles, healing, or guidance every day. How long do you offer the prayer? Until you feel or know it is answered. No prayer is too small or too hard, so don't limit me. What is important is to share the faith of your prayers to me. You are building a mission of love, sacrifice, and belief in me. I love miracles from prayers.

- I was there and I blessed you. You did not see me, but I saw you giving time to a friend who needed help and support. This friend needed a faith booster, and you gave it. I watched you as you prayed for a friend you just wanted to be blessed. And I blessed this friend, just as I bless you today.

- Sharing these words in a group of friends is a powerful, life-changing way to experience faith, love, friendship, and my reality as you build friendships, faith, and my church. You help each other and support the gifts and work each one has. You leave humbled and encouraged, and my church and people grow. Make special times to come together in a different building that will offer each one new ways to experience my love and words. I know a great place to go first!

- It's Pentecost—time for new life, faith, and a mission to build up others. There is lots to pray about and think about. Find some places where you can go and just be. You can pray, read the Bible, listen, and watch me at work. In this quiet time, away from home, job, and tasks, you are set free to just listen and be with me. There will be an angel looking out for you, and of course, I will be there too. Look.

- You have the gifts of listening, faith, and love. Those are "friend" gifts. My disciples had those gifts, and people like Lydia and Paul shared them as well. Like them, you can experience Pentecost in personal and real ways each day. Just reach out to people to share our story and my love, words, and reality. Take risks, reach out, and listen to people. Build faith.

- I want you to experience Pentecost every day and in countless ways as the Holy Spirit fills you to overflowing and you see your gifts and how they can build up the church and my people. I see you building the faith of others through invitations to be involved in the church, sharing my words with them, offering a welcoming smile, and giving people your time. I bless you!

- Evangelism built the church you have today. What is your part now? Give me time each day: pray, learn, and listen. Offer prayers for the church and prayers to strengthen the people. The church can grow as you can grow. What can happen is exciting! I see people using their gifts, helping the poor, and listening to one another. What is your part? What are your offerings? Begin now.

- I want you to see me not just as Jesus but as your friend. It is important for us to be close, as I was to my disciples. We shared and we helped and encouraged one another. We prayed for and with each other. We shared hopes, faith, joy, tears, and struggles. We loved each other. We shared our journey and our faith in God. We shared our mission to help the poor.

- I called ordinary people to be my followers, teachers, helpers, and evangelists. They all shared a witness that reached out to everyone, especially the poor—the poor in spirit, faith, or hope. I call you and ask you to reach the ordinary people. Just share your story of faith and what you have overcome. You will build up their faith and help them to see me.

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 58:7-12

Jeremiah 29:11-13

Isaiah 61:1-3
Psalm 130:5-7
Matthew 15:32-38
Acts 2:43-47
Luke 10:38-42
John 21:15-17
Mark 12:41-44
Acts 4:30-37
Luke 14:11-14
Matthew 9:35-38
Mark 8:1-10
Acts 18: 24-28
1 John 3:16-18 & 4:7
Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18
Romans 15:1-6
1 Peter 4:7-13
Galatians 6:2, 6-10
3 John 5-8,13
Romans 12:1-2, 5-8
1 Corinthians 1:2-9
Ephesians 1:12-20
Hebrews 12:1-2, 12-13

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

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