



Words of Blessing

EMAIL ADDRESS: wob@wordsofblessing.com
OUR WEB SITE: www.wordsofblessing.com

Weekly Words **Pentecost Week 13: August 15, 2010**

Acts 11:20-26, 29 But other believers, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and proclaimed the message to Gentiles also, telling them the Good News about the Lord Jesus. The Lord's power was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. The news about this reached the church in Jerusalem, so they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw how God has blessed the people, he was glad and urged them all to be faithful and true to the Lord with all their hearts. Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul. When he found him, he took him to Antioch, and for a whole year the two met with the people of the church and taught a large group. It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians. ...The disciples decided that each of them would send as much as he could to help their fellow believers who lived in Judea.

Pentecost: Building

*I have given you new life. Now what will you do with it?
Begin with the Church and its mission: Evangelism.
Family and Friends: Encourage, listen, help, and give time.*

The world faces ever-increasing needs from those in slums, small towns, and cities and from those with nothing and no place to go. How do *you* help? Begin with your church, community, town, and family and with the elderly and the youth. Then go to nursing homes and to the homeless and the poor. Your mission is now. Go. Evangelism is a big word that involves witnessing my love, words, and reality as well as your story and faith to family, friends, strangers, and those who need hope, love, and me. Your mission of evangelism and love is critical. What will you do with it? Go out! Begin with the church. Be involved. Come each week and attend other groups and offerings. Listen to people's needs, joys, and struggles. Help! There are tons of things to do, and you have the time. Give up a night of TV, a nap, the latest book to read, or shopping. Give your time. What does it cost when you see that it saves lives and builds up my church, families, friends, and those in need. List things you can do and you will build a mission. Help others do the same.

Be a better listener. So many people pray and ask for a friend who will listen. Listening costs nothing, yet the impact is beyond value. Give your time. What if 20 people in your church gave even one hour to help at the church, be involved in their outreach or mission, visit the sick, go to nursing homes, build a youth group, or reach out to the homeless. Everyone can help.

Do these things. Share your faith, time, and help. Be a Christian who believes and reaches out to encourage, listen, help, and give. I am with you. The Holy Spirit will fill you and guide all you

do and say. I am with you. Each time you step out you become closer to me and to others and your faith grows. We can change lives and bless people. There is nothing more exciting than a powerful, grace-filled heart. Show that my gospel is real. The most powerful message you will ever share is your life.. Bring people to me to receive the faith that will renew them. Show people that the gospel is real and that I love them. It is the most powerful message in the world.

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.

Be involved

Listen

Reach out

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?

Philippians 1:1-6, 9 From Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus—To all God’s people in Philippi who are in union with Christ Jesus, including the church leaders and helpers: May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. I thank my God for you every time I think of you; and every time I pray for you all. I pray with joy because of the way in which you have helped me in the work of the gospel from the very first day until now. And so I am sure that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus. ...I pray that your love will keep on growing more and more, together with true knowledge and perfect judgment so that you will be able to choose what is best.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5 From Paul, Silas, and Timothy—To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. Our brothers, we must thank God at all times for you. It is right for us to do so, because your faith is growing so much and the love each of you has for the others is becoming greater. That is why we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God. We boast about the way you continue to endure and believe through all the persecutions and sufferings you are experiencing. All of this proves that God’s judgment is just and as a result you will become worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering.

Acts 16:13-15 On the Sabbath we went out of the city to the riverside, where we thought there would be a place where Jews gathered for prayer. We sat down and talked to the women who gathered there. One of those who heard us was Lydia from Thyatira, who was a dealer in purple cloth. She was a woman who worshipped God, and the Lord opened her mind to pay attention to what Paul was saying. After she and the people of her house had been baptized, she invited us, “Come and stay in my house if you have decided that I am a true believer in the Lord.” And she persuaded us to go.

Action for the week: Send a note of encouragement to three or four people in your life. Encourage their journey and gifts with praise, love, and affection. Mention the positive things you see them do to help others. Appreciate the time they give to others. Offer to meet them some time to talk, share my words, or just give thanks for what they do. You are building them up just as they do the same for others.

Decisions/Questions: I have given you new life. What will you do with it this week or year? I hear you asking why each week I keep talking about building the church, finding your mission, evangelism, prayer, using your gifts, and helping others in need. It all connects to my words and what I show you in your own life. I offer the same words to hundreds of people each week. I give this opportunity to you to change lives, change your life, and to build a church for today that is active, holy, renewed, and filled with people each week. Will you do this for me and for others the rest of this year? Build my church through evangelism (you know what that is) and by welcoming and supporting families and friends. How? I ask you to be an encourager, listen to people, help others, and help your church and its mission to grow. Give your time.

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?

Daily prayer for this week: Lord, thank you for the new life you have given me. I am working at a call that will build up the church and its mission to share your love, words, and reality in the world. I know I can evangelize, reach my family and friends, help and give time to my church, be a listener, and encourage others. I am ready to do more of my share. Help me begin today.

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 words this week are important for you, the church, and the world. I count on you to build up my people and church. This mission needs evangelists, including you! Begin with a new passion and energy or the church will fall. My followers and disciples gave up everything, even their lives, to build the church you have. All you have to do today is grow and renew it through your time, help, and gifts; by encouraging others, inviting people, and listening; and through prayers and family. Begin.

- I know you are busy, but I have something that you can do anywhere and at any time—and it costs nothing. Love people in my name, tell people who I am in your life, and share our story. Listen to people and help people through prayer and encouragement. Be in church each week, bring others, and be involved by helping where the needs are. Bring your family so they will be part of this new life.

- Your work and task this year is to share your faith, time, and help. Be a listener. Pray with and for people. Do something to build up your church. Be there each week, respond to the needs with joy, and get others to work with you. Ask people to give time and then pick a need or project. Make a poster and a sign-up list. Make the gospel real. I want people to see you and remember that it is for me.

- You have a powerful story to tell. It is a witness of faith, giving to others, and pouring out your gifts empowered by the Holy Spirit. You are a witness of listening. You seek me out, listen, and then believe in how I encourage you to go out and help others to know my love, to come to me and my church, and to be built up and made new. Listen to others and pray with them. You are my church.

- I see how you pour out to family and friends, being the listener, helper, prayer, and encourager

—the one who just gives and gives. Keep sharing who you are because then others see who they can be. You make the gospel a reality every day because you build faith, hope, joy, humility, and courage in everyone you meet. People will talk about your life for many years to come.

- You have had an incredible journey. It has not been easy and has been filled with difficult things to deal with. Yet you went on and you keep going forward, seeing each event as part of your story that could one day be used to help others in my name. Today you stand firm in the world, willing and ready to love, help, and encourage others to see and know my love, words, and reality. You are my witness.

- I want you to balance work and prayer, busyness and quiet, sharing our faith and letting others build up your faith more. Give your time to the needs of the church by being involved in groups that meet to share my words each week; being involved in evangelism, outreach, teaching, and leading; and helping with coffee hour, music, youth, and outreach groups. You will be my head “builder” this year. Let’s give your team (you need one) a name.

- I have a great way for you to go out and bring people to me, to my church, and to their call. Plan a building/evangelism event or activity in and for the people in your church and for families and people looking for “Builders’ Day.” Easy! Plan times people can move around and join a group that is sharing ideas on building the church. Focus on encouragement, listening, helping, and giving time as the topics. No cost! Have refreshments for all these missionary builders. I love it!

- Family is important, and your family is important to you. Give time to your family, just as my mother and father did for our family. Slow down, be with them, and listen. Families today are too busy with jobs and their friends, and the family comes last. Start with this week and make time for each other somehow each day. Begin to share and talk about how you can all make more time. Try praying together and for each other. Have a family mission. It is called “encourage each one.”

- Each day you are transformed as you use your gifts in my name to help others. Reach out to friends and family. Listen to my words. Speak out. I love you and see your strengths, those that can bring the Good News out to the world. I have chosen you to proclaim the Good News, defend the faith, and encourage new life in my name. You will see miracles. You will see me.

- The apostles, like you, grew into their role of sharing, giving, healing, witnessing, and showing people how to love God and one another. I want you to believe how important it is to serve others. See how important it is to be a true friend, to support and love others, to help the needy, and to give your time to building your church. It is important to use your gifts, pray for others, and heal any broken relationships, for then you are living Pentecost and building the church and the people.

- You can love, support, and help everyone as I did. Look at the witness of someone like Mother Teresa who loved, gave to, and helped the weak, the poor, the dying, and the sinner—all who were in need. She saw them through humble eyes and through a heart of compassion and love—and gave to them. She ministered to their needs without judging. I ask you to listen, help, and give to family, friends, strangers, the sick, the elderly, and those who are alone. You are caring and faithful. I count on you.

- Friendship is a precious gift. It is a choice to be a friend and to love. I chose to love you before you chose to love me. I showed you how to care for others as I would. My disciples, like you, wanted to be a friend to everyone. They wanted to encourage, listen, help, give people time, and pray for people. You are a caring and faithful friend. You give your time. You are what a friend is to be.

- There are so many needs in the world, in your church, in your neighborhood, and with your friends and family. If you are open to a mission, you would bless and help many people. Okay?

You can visit nursing homes, reach out to those in need of family or friends, and pray for people, especially the sick. All gifts are needed. If everyone shared his or her gifts and my love, words, and reality, miracles would happen.

- A young woman in college asked me what path to follow in life so she could use her gifts and make the world a better place. She prayed; helped people; and was caring, kind, and involved in needs in her school. She was a good leader and friend. I listened with joy and tears. I pray that everyone reading this will think about her simplicity, faith, and giving heart. Oh, what did I tell her? That I loved her and was with her pointing the way. What would you tell her? What would you ask me?

- I love angels! They are not only a help but are also a joy. They help people, save people, make people smile, protect people, and show people they are loved. I sent neighborhood angels to bless you in the past months. Remember? I sent Theodora, Daisy, Jeremiah, Iris, Frank, and Mac, and then, of course, Anne and Kate joined in. They love healing people, surprising young people, making children smile because they have new clothes, and blessing people like you for your faith and kindness to others. Oh, they were pretty noisy, but joy can be pretty loud.

- You have the gifts of prayer and giving. You are caring, kind, and humble. You seek no attention. You have a very special mission that brings all your gifts together. Like many calls, it has been unfolding over the past years as it grows in strength. Some are called to do much in a short time. Others, like you, will build a work over time in the next few years.

- Decisions are often not easy to make. Pray about your decisions. Seek wisdom or thoughts from others who are faith filled and wise. Share with a good friend from your church. Listen to those unexpected words that stir your heart and make you feel that they are part of your decision. The path you are on is good. Trust. The way forward will be very clear and safe.

- I love evangelists! Where would the church and people be without those open-hearted, sometimes noisy, and passionate people? Well, the church would still grow, it would just happen more slowly. People would come, but over time. You are able to draw people to me and fill them with a passion and joy.

- Every day is a new beginning! I loved stepping out and opening my heart and spirit to what the day would bring. One day I saw someone in need of healing. Some days I saw many people who came to me for blessing or guidance, and I helped them. Some sought hope. I blessed and helped each one. Make every day a new beginning for you. Use your gifts to help others more and more.

- Have you ever put on sunglasses to avoid the brightness of the sun? Have you ever taken off your glasses so you could see the “Son”—that is, see me or want to see me? Try that at least once a week in some way. Take off your “glasses” and look. Focus on seeing me, seeing the answers to what is on your heart, or seeing what you can do to build up your church and encourage others. Try it.

- New beginning! This is not a typical new beginning like going to college, moving to a new house, or starting a different job. It is a time when your gifts have been built by your faith and suddenly you see what I am calling you to do and you see a plan and need unfold. The mission is clear. It is exciting, and I want you to be excited. You will find new energy, and as you step out, you will be an amazing witness.

- Part of the call and journey with me is to keep things simple. Gifts can be powerful, but you can also use your gifts in simple ways and in nearby places. You don't have to share your witness on a stage but just tell your story sitting in a coffee shop with one person. When you think of evangelizing, think of talking to one person at a time. Be yourself and you will touch lives.

- This is going to be a special year for you. There will be many new experiences where you will deepen your faith and find a powerful peace fill you. You will see how your story and witness bring more people to see my love and reality in their lives. As you share, your compassion for

others will bring them peace and hope. You will find people drawn to our story, and they will believe.

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.

Exodus: 33:12-14

Isaiah 43:10, 18-19

1 Kings 8:28-30

Psalms 69:16 & 30

Matthew 4:18-20, 23, 25

John 14:10-14

Mark 6:45-52

Luke 19:1-10

Acts 28:11-15

Mark 2:13-17

Matthew 4:14-18

Luke 9:1-6

John 15:1-9

Acts 20: 17-18, 28-29, 32, 34

2 Timothy 2:1-7

Ephesians 2:10, 20-21

Philemon 4-7, 21-22

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

Jude: 1-3, 20-21

2 Corinthians 9:8-15

Colossians 1:5-6, 9-10

James 1:1-5, 12

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Titus 1:1-3 & 3:12-14

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