



# Words of Blessing

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## Weekly Words Pentecost Week 14: Augusts 22, 2009

**Acts 1:3-8** For forty days after his death he appeared to them many times in ways that proved beyond doubt that he was alive. They saw him, and he talked with them about the Kingdom of God. And when they came together, he gave them this order: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift I told you about, the gift my Father promised. John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” When the apostles met together with Jesus, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time give the Kingdom back to Israel?” Jesus said to them, “The times and occasions are set by my Father’s own authority, and it is not for you to know when they will be. But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

### **Pentecost: Building**

*I have given you new life. Now what will you do with it?  
Begin with the Church and its mission: Evangelism.  
Faith: Use your gifts. Be involved. Be open.*

Evangelism is sharing your faith. As you use your gifts, you share your faith. The way to live the Christian life is through faith and sharing my love, words, and reality. I will do everything to help you. Your part is to live out your faith— because faith empowers you to use your gifts. Faith is trust in me, trust in God, and thus letting go and giving yourself fully to me. I fought the battle for you, your call, and the church and its mission. It is Pentecost. The battle is won! Your part is to accept the prize. Victory was won on the cross and through the gifts and faith of many people, like you.

Mary is a reminder of what was won for you. Through her grace, faith is lived and real. Mary and the women left the tomb with joy and hurried to tell the disciples and others about what had happened. They were the first evangelists at that point. What do you do with the Good News and grace won for you? Start proclaiming the resurrection with faith. Be involved in your church and use your gifts. Be open to all kinds of blessings, miracles, and missions. You are blessed. Now what will you do with it?

On Pentecost my followers were filled and baptized with the Holy Spirit. They received the power to go out, just as you have been given the same power today. They performed miracles and went out further, baptizing people in my name. The church grew and spread throughout the country. Some of my followers suffered and died, but through their faith, evangelism, and willingness to use their gifts they went wherever this mission took them. It was dangerous to go out and there were setbacks. But they just kept growing stronger, anchored in prayer and using

their gifts. When it was hard, they asked for more infilling of the Holy Spirit. This is true for you. Keep asking. If you are not sure you can do anything for me or how to be more involved in your church, simply be open and have faith. This is how the early church grew. What about you? The challenges you face today as a Christian are great. I am here. Your mission is to build the church. Be open and involved. Be there and use your gifts.

**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.

*Faith*

*Be Open*

*Ask*

**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?

*Colossians 3:12-15, 17* You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity. The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body And be thankful. ...Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father.

*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."

*Philippians 2:1-2, 4,8* Your life in Christ makes you strong, and his love comforts you. You have fellowship with the Spirit, and you have kindness and compassion for one another. I urge you, then, to make me completely happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and being one in soul and mind. ...And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own. The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had: ...He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to his death—his death on the cross.

**Action for the week:** Be open. Use your gifts this week. Each day, do one action each day that reflects and uses your gifts and faith. Each day, think of one person you would like to spend more time with and share your journey. Talk about your involvement in your church and what you would like to see happen. Share ideas on how each of you could use your gifts in more ways in your church and the world. Talk about your gifts and how you have been using them. Finally, share how your gifts could be used to evangelize and share my words each week.

**Decisions/Questions:** I have given you new life. What will you do with it this week or year? How are you using your gifts at this time? What are your gifts? If I asked you to use them in a greater way, what do you think I would be asking you to do? And where would they be used?

**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 them?

**Daily prayer for this week:** Jesus, thank you for the new life and new beginning you offer me each day. I want to do more to build up my church. I want to use my gifts in more ways and be open to the new opportunities you send me to share your love, words, and reality. 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.**

- You are called to evangelize and renew my people by using your gifts, witness, love, and strength to build up the church. Renew people. Trust me. Trust that your gifts are needed and use them. The Holy Spirit has been preparing you and your gifts to be my witness. Now is the time. Where do you want to go first? What will you say and do?

- How do you use your gifts? Be involved in your church and stretch your gifts and call. Seek quiet ways to use your gifts. Help others and affirm their gifts—and you will learn more about your own. Your gifts of faith and evangelism are needed. Step out. Be open to what I show you needs to be done, and say yes with joy and excitement.

- What do you do with the gift of these words each week? Are they stacked in a corner or not even printed out? Am I important to you? Is the world and the faith of many important? These words are a gift, but they are also a way to save and bless countless lives. Do you share them? Do you realize that your future and the future of the church depend on what you do? Gather people together. Share the words. If you are using them each week, know that your gifts and faith will save many lives and churches.

- The church needs hope, joy, a mission, and courage. The church needs people to come each week. You are the church and an important part of it. You are really needed. Use your gifts more and more. Be there and build up the church. Help, support, and lead. The Holy Spirit will empower you as I give you a mission that will change the future of your church and your journey. Life-changing miracles will happen.

- What can you do? Listen, trust, and go. You give so much time to “things” and going places. How about doing something special to build up your church at this time!? I knew you would say yes! How about evangelism in and through a special mission in your church? Let your passion fill you so you proclaim the Good News and share my love, words, and reality with more people.

- My church is in need. I ask you to build it and save it by giving your time, money, gifts, and love to be used in many ways. Look at programs to bring in new people and energize others who are too busy to stay or come another evening. Encourage people with various gifts to use them, and your gifts are very much needed, too. I love it when you reach out to people and bring them in. Good work!

- Your warmth and smile build up my church. That is a mission, and you are good at it. You enfold people and encourage them to be involved. Look at the programs for the young people, singles, men and women, teens, and college-age people. Much is needed—now. Pray, listen to me, talk to a few others, and look for my clues and an unexpected word that will show you it will happen. Begin.

- Let the Holy Spirit go! Release the Holy Spirit and be set free! See me as someone who loves you so much. Listen for that still small voice saying, “I love you and bless you and your family and friends.” Now take my love and your gifts of love, compassion, giving, and encouragement all out. When you go out, you will see me and hear my words. A new time will begin.
- It is not easy to know the best path to take, what to do next, and how to make the best decision and still trust in me fully. You have some decisions to make, and either way is okay in different ways. Whatever you decide, I will help make good out of it. You are learning and growing in amazing new ways each day as you help more people than you realize. You are growing as you step out to that new place in your life—unknown but exciting. I will bless you. New doors are opening. I love it.
- You have the gifts of helping, giving, prayer, and faith. You use them each day in different ways as they are needed. You have helped and inspired more people than you realize. That is great! So I need you to go out and do more. All you do will build up my church. So much is needed. It is time for action and evangelism. Get everyone doing something. Celebrate and use their gifts. They matter. Ask people to use their gifts. Ask the young and the old. Be creative. Look for me.
- You are a witness of faith, prayer, and openness to the Holy Spirit. That has been your journey. You build up my church and inspire others. I gave you new life, and you took it with a humble, grateful, and joyous heart. You ran with it. You continue to step out in my name to share your gifts and time, to be involved, and to work on the mission to share my love, words, and reality. Be open this season to a very special need that will renew faith for many.
- You are busy. You have ministries and activities to see to, but it is important for you to take the time to sit with me, to let the Holy Spirit renew you, and to be filled with my love, peace, and joy. I have a building project for you. Fill your church building with people each Sunday. You can do this. Plan on sharing my words as a group so everyone is embraced and encouraged.
- You have gifts empowered by the Holy Spirit. The gifts of giving, teaching, serving, and faith are so needed. Like my disciples and followers, like Lydia and Paul, use your gifts in more ways. Baptized by the Holy Spirit, they went out and the church grew. I have given you the Good News they had. You are blessed. The challenge is there: new life. What will you do with it?
- Your journey makes me smile. You are ready to go out. You look for that need or project to build the church, help the poor, bring people together, and get everyone involved. Your smile and words are a gift to many. You seek no praise and are unaware of how you bless lives. I send angels to check on you. They tell me of your faith and humility, your open and loving heart.
- Be open—more open. Be Holy Spirit, miracle, evangelism, and enthusiasm open. Now, get involved in my church. Get everyone involved. Encourage people’s gifts. Pray with and for people. This is a new and critical time in your church. I need you. I will show you someone who will help you. Be open because it is not who you expect. You can do this with your gifts of enthusiasm and faith.
- You have come to a new time in your life and in using your gifts. I need them more. It is a time of sacrifice, giving, supporting people, and building up your church through its mission. Celebrate the mission! Know what it is and what it means to you. Begin with sowing seeds and planting strong gifts that will help and involve everyone. Invite. Have faith. Evangelize.
- Your faith is strong, and you are always open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in your life. Be open in the days ahead because the Holy Spirit is bringing a need and mission to you. It is a bit of evangelism, prayer, and faith. You can ask two people to help you. I ask you to begin to plan a special church event that will encourage, see, celebrate, and use the gifts of others. Well, that is it. Plan to launch it when school starts. I will help you. Be open and just love this mission.
- I ask you to be open to a mission that will reach out to many who are in need. The mission will

come to you this year. It will need and use your gifts of faith, serving, leadership, and giving. You will have to step out of your safe place, just as Paul, Mark, and others did. Be open, just as they were. This experience of evangelism and building up a church will open other needs in the world. Look.

- You are called to go out, just as my disciples and followers did. Each was called to use his or her gifts, tell people about me, share his or her story, heal, pray, bless, and make my words real. Share your personal relationship with me and tell people how your faith grew; tell what happened. Practice sharing now by praying about it and telling others. You are building up my church. Bless you.

- Follow where I am leading you. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Pray each day. Ask for my guidance and live by and through your faith. The needs all around you are great. Your call is important, and yet you have the gifts and faith to do it. I have given you new life; now offer this to others. Heal, pray, give, serve, and teach. Be anchored, as always, in prayer.

- My mother, Mary, watches over you. She will be there to build up your faith and to follow a mission to help others who need greater peace in their lives. You have the gifts of love, caring, compassion, and giving. You do so much for others. Look for Mary. She is there to guide you.

- Be open to where I am leading you and what I am showing you. Your journey is one of faith. Let this gift be used in more ways and places. There are countless ways to build up your church and its people. With faith in me and my faith in you this can be a growing time for all. Be open to the invitations and needs; they may not be what you expect. You will help many people.

- Some are called to take the gospel out. Others are called to heal, help the poor, teach, or evangelize. But each person has a calling. What is yours? I have blessed you and given you unlimited resources to do so many things. You can do this. Use your gifts. Be open. Have faith in me and in this call. I am giving you a mission and have equipped you with all needed gifts. The work begins this year.

- You have faced difficult challenges at times. Many hear “You can’t win the battle” or “You can’t renew and build up the church.” That is not true. I have seen the good you have done, the lives helped and changed, and the people turning to me with deepened faith. I have seen healing, blessings, and miracles happening. This year, reach out to at least one person each week, offering them hope, love, and faith.

- Healing is a powerful gift; it is a need in the world and a blessing. Keep a healing list at hand, and each day draw on your faith and love to pray for the healing of those people. I give you the mission of reaching out to help, pray for, visit, write to, and encourage people who need my healing grace. You will see miracles. I have given you new life. Now 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.

Zechariah 4:6-10

Jeremiah 1:4-8

Isaiah 58:7, 9, 11

Psalms 40:9-10

Acts 16:13-15

Matthew 28:16-20

Luke 7:1-9

John 15:26-27

Mark 6:53-56

Luke 10:30-37  
John 20:19-23  
Matthew 17:14-21  
Acts 11:21-26  
Mark 8:22-26  
Philippians 1:3-11  
2 Corinthians 1:3-7  
Ephesians 2:8-9, 20-22  
2 Timothy 1:3-7  
1 Thessalonians 1:2-8  
Colossians 1:3, 7-12  
1 Corinthians 12:4-11  
Hebrews 10:7, 22-25  
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, 16-25  
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](http://www.wordsofblessing.com/pdf_docs_other/word_sharing_instruct_v5.pdf)

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