



Words of Blessing

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Weekly Words Pentecost Week 15: August 29, 2010

Living the Word

Ephesians 2:20-22 You, too, are built upon the foundation laid by the apostles and prophets, the cornerstone being Christ Jesus himself. He is the one who holds the whole building together and makes it grow into a sacred temple dedicated to the Lord. In union with him you too are being built together with all the others into a place where God lives through his spirit.

Pentecost: Building

*I have given you new life. Now what will you do with it?
Begin with the Church and its mission: The youth—new life and gifts
Help one another. Change hearts. Encourage others. Build up your church. Follow your mission.*

What are you willing to do with this new life? Begin with the church and its mission to bring people to know and love me and to live their lives using their gifts, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to bless and help people in my name. Your mission today is to be the church. Make it strong, filled with people, loving, and caring. Make sure it is reaching out to others, growing, and blessed with active youth. Make sure everyone is using his or her gifts in my name. Be a community. The heart of the church community is sharing my love, words, and reality. The church community is a place where all use their gifts for the good and saving of the world. There are many missions, but in the months and year ahead, focus on the youth. Then focus on each person's gifts, new life, helping each other, changing hearts, being encouraging, building up your church, and following your mission as you share my love, words, and reality.

If your church has only a handful of youth, build it up. Show the youth my love, words, and reality. Show them my words and scripture and share them. Inspire them to use their gifts—and help them find their gifts. Invite them, love them, and build a youth program that they believe in. Help them use their gifts to create and reach out. Begin with the church and its mission. Encourage the youth now.

You can change hearts and so can the youth. It is a challenge to use your gifts, but it's also an invitation to change lives, spirits, and hearts. You can do this. The youth can do this. I want you to help them discover the excitement of feeling good about yourself when you trust in me.

A new life is given. From the youth to the aged, people want to know that their gifts will be empowered. You can help others in simple but special ways and new life unfolds. You can help others in powerful ways and see miracles happen. You discover gifts you are to use that will change your life, rebuild the church, and change hearts and lives everywhere.

If people became united as one through prayer, listening, helping one another, and sharing their gifts, miracles would happen. Truly, your church would be filled to overflowing. I pray for unity in my church—your church—and that will happen by the love you share with one another; through sacrifice, unity, listening, prayer, courage, and love; by being there each week; by forgiving, accepting, and helping; through the gifts of the youth; and by being filled with the Holy Spirit!

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.

1. Follow your mission, use your gifts, and change hearts.
2. Mission: Build up my church and its people, the youth and their gifts.
3. Encourage and help others to use their gifts and follow their mission.

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

1 Thessalonians 3:6-9,12 Now Timothy has come back, and he has brought us the welcome news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always think well of us and that you want to see us just as much as we want to see you. So, in all our trouble and suffering we have been encouraged about you, brothers. It was your faith that encouraged us, because now we really live if you stand firm in your life in union with the Lord. Now we can give thanks to our God for you. We thank him for the joy we have in his presence because of you....May the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow more and more and become as great as our love for you.

Ephesians 4:11-13, 16 It was he who “gave gifts to mankind”; he appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. He did this to prepare all God’s people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ. And so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God; we shall become mature people, reaching to the very height of Christ’s full stature. ...Under his control all the different parts of the body fit together, and the whole body is held together by every joint with which it is provided. So when each separate part works as it should, the whole body grows and builds itself up through love.

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.

Action for the week: Reach out to one to three youth who are in your church or life. Choose at least one from your church. Offer support, help, encouragement, time, and friendship. Meet with them, share part of your story, and listen to their stories. Talk about missions in the church now and what they could do with your help and their gifts. How can each of you help to build up the

church, change hearts, get more youth involved, and find a special mission for the youth that is supported by the rest of the church? How can the youth figure out their gifts? Sharing and looking at their gifts is important to how they can feel needed in the church and with its people. Maybe you can find a way to help each other. This week's action is important. Talk to a few others on how to do it as individuals and as a community. You need the youth to build up our church.

Decisions/questions: I have given you new life. What will you do with it this week or year? I ask you to contact at least one youth to share with, ask questions, and listen to about how this youth can help renew the church by bringing in more youth and doing more things with them.

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. *Note:* Sharing the words is a mission, need, joy, and encouragement that will build up your church. So share them with at least one youth. Listen, really listen to what this youth says. You will change hearts. Share these words, this gift of words, with at least four people this week two must be youth.

Special witness this week: Share these words and this mission with the youth in your life, neighborhood, church, town, school, and family and with others who will be touched and renewed as they experience my love and reality. Build up my youth and teenagers near and far away. Stretch yourself. Some may live far away, so write to them. Some may need a group to share in, so offer groups to share in. Ask family members and even strangers. Remember, you are building faith, listening, supporting, building people up, building up the church, helping people find their gifts, and then encouraging them to use them. Evangelize, pray, and be open and humble. See how you can help one another, change hearts, build up the church, find a mission, and use your gifts. Love all. Reach out and be my hands and heart in the church, in your home, at your job, in your mission, with youth, with my people, and in the world. What will you do with these words?

Daily prayer for this week: Lord, thank you for your challenging words about how I can build up your church and reach out to the youth and make them more a part of the church. The youth bring new life and their own wonderful gifts, and we all need to receive and use their gifts more. We can help one another, encourage each other, and thus change hearts. Lord, we can build up your church together. What a powerful church we will build. Look for it soon.

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 have a caring heart, and I know how much you do for others. The ability to help, support, and listen to people is a gift. For you it is, in reality, a call and mission. When you take the time to listen to someone and help, he or she is much changed. You give this person hope, a focus, courage, and peace. This is a gift you have and share with all. You live the word, your mission, and your gift.

- I asked you one day what you were willing to do for me in your life. How will you live my word and use your gifts? You were not 100% sure at that special moment, but you have answered in some tangible way each day. In fact, you willingly did many things for me over the years in answering your call, following a mission, using your gifts, supporting others, and

helping many.

In a quiet way you do all you can to live out Pentecost and build up my people. Bless you.

- You have the gifts of encouragement and helping. You get the projects and missions done. You make the time for people, listen, pray, and build people up. Every church, community, and family needs you or someone like you. You know what your mission has been. Keep this mission for now and add one new one. Work with teens or older people. Be an encourager, especially in helping them to find and use their gifts. You will be helping them in such wonderful, joyful experiences.

- Everyone has at least one gift to be used and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Some gifts change lives, and some change you. You have the gifts of faith and giving, and you use these gifts every day in some way to help others. Your other gifts are a bit more “out there,” and that is uncomfortable at times. Your humility surrounds you and is seen. Here is your mission for the year: Go out. Follow that bigger mission and help my people.

- Being like Paul, Lydia, and that friend of yours who is soooo filled with the Holy Spirit that it spills out into all they do, that is what Pentecost is about. It is that lightning-bolt moment when you think you have been hit over the head by me. Well, you have! I have given you that “filled” moment many times. One more is coming very soon. You will inspire and change hearts and spirits. You will heal and give people hope as they receive their gifts. A new life, a new time, is given to all.

- I need you, your church, and its people now. These are difficult times for all, but especially the youth. They read about and see things happening that tear at the spirit of so many around the world. Your gifts of prayer, helping, compassion, and faith are the shield to protect, give hope, and change hearts. Always, always be involved in a mission. Start with reaching out to the sick, the aged, and the youth in your life. I will send angels Grace and Joe to help you. They are very helpful.

- One of your missions is to *be* the church. That means building it up, helping in its mission work in the community, and reaching out to people who need help and a friend. You are a powerful and real witness to what people will do for others in my name. You live my word and journey each day through your faith. See each day as Pentecost, and let the Holy Spirit fill you anew.

- I want to see you and your church become filled with people, especially youth. Let’s do this at the same time. One way is to do something that is needed but has few volunteers. Provide active support to the youth programs. Get the youth involved in some activities and missions that are currently only done by adults. Help them use their gifts. Encourage them and give out hugs.

- Having a mission is part of building your spiritual life. You are doing some things, but there is an important need and mission in my church right now that requires time and building. You can have a team of people help you, and each can use his or her gifts. The no. 1 priority is to share my love, words, and reality. Bring more people in—that’s evangelism. Use the gifts of others in ministries. Help one another in all that is done. Encourage each person, especially the youth, to help build our church and new life.

- Encourage people every day. That is your witness, and it will bless and change lives. It is a powerful mission that in time affects others.

- I loved it when I gathered together with my disciples or stood by the water and people came to hear me or be healed. I was encouraged by their presence as we lived God's word and it was made real. They encouraged me to follow my call as much as I encouraged them. They began seeing and affirm gifts in each other and supported one another. We were a community. Without that, the building of the church would not have happened. I want you to support others and be supported. You have an incredible call and powerful gifts. Help others and be helped.

- Healing comes in so many ways for people. I have seen that and so have you. Sometimes

people are healed of things over time, and sometimes the healing comes in unexpected ways and times. You have the gift of healing. It is a humbling gift. It helps people and changes hearts. Pray each day for those who are sick; the aged; those who are alone, troubled, or afraid; those who need financial help; and those who have no job or home. You will see these people because I will put them in your path. Go. Live my words.

- The church today is not the same; it needs building up, especially the youth. People go to worship God, to see me, to be healed and renewed, and to learn. I am there. Look for me. Some stories you have not yet heard. Angels are real and you have seen yours many times. Miracles happen and people are really healed. The words you hold are a miracle and blessing that comes at a cost of countless hours of prayer and listening each day from one person. I give you a mission and count on you to do it. Build up my church—your church. Be there. Love it or it will close.

- One day I spent the morning around a fire with my disciples and followers as we shared and prayed. A few hours later, as we entered a nearby town, strangers gathered near to hear me and to be healed. Every day offers you the opportunity to use your gifts and share my love and words. Go out and share your story, my story, to give people something to hold on to. Go out.

- I have sent two angels to watch over you. I guess you need more help, or maybe you are just popular. Anne and Kate are very busy angels. They always have a project to work on, someone to help, or a meeting of angels to attend— or they are just being with me. (I like that part best.) As angels on the go, they are always looking for ways to help others and to build up the church. That is their mission, and they are good at it. What about you? I will give you a project and they will help you. Share my love, words, and reality. Share these words with more people around the world. Everyone can help you.

- The youth of the world need to know my love, words, and reality. Whatever age you are, do your share to see that this happens. Show them your faith and offer support inspiration, friendship, and love. Encourage them by your actions and words. Bring them to church, share the words each week, and help them see that they can build up the church, too.! Show them miracles. You are the church.

- This is going to be a powerful year in your life. It is a time when I will encourage you to use your gifts in more ways and places, some very far away. Some people build homes or shops and others build up the lives of people of faith who want to know me and love me more. How do you build that? Be the wonderful person you are, pray and listen to me, encourage others, and believe in yourself and your gifts, mission, and call. Everyone else does. They love you, too.

- There are many needs all around you. Countless people need help, support, comfort, a friend, and faith. You give all of this and more, so one day each week, I want you to plan a day just for you to do what would build you up, help you to have some quiet time or relax, and enjoy the stillness. You see, I want to help you this time, and the best way to keep you going as you are— sharing my love, words, and reality with such faith—is to make one full day to just be you.

- Part of the call and journey with me is to keep your life and goals simple. Take time to enjoy the flowers outside. Enjoy each season of the year. Give up a project or your list of busy things to do and enjoy the flowers outside. Sit with a friend and share, read a book, take a walk, or read the Bible (you are always going to do that). Take a walk, sit and pray, write a note to a friend in need, and don't waste a minute of the day. Summer will soon be gone, yet I gave you new life.

- You hear countless stories today where young and older people, poor and rich are serving me by building up the church, changing hearts, and helping others. They go out and give food to the homeless, watch a man burn his shoes to stay warm, and give a coat to one who is freezing. Their mission may change over time, but the call to go out and give will not. This is sacrifice and mission needed to build up my people and church again. Will you help? How?

- Pentecost began a movement around the world as the Holy Spirit filled people and evangelism and building up the church began as never before. Do your work and the Holy Spirit will come with a new power. Love is the first step—love for all—then each will take up the mission to use his or her gifts to help others. You are at a powerful time in your life. You will build up my people.

- You have the gifts of healing, faith, and prayer. They come together for you when you pray for others. You will continue to heal and comfort many people, some in other countries. You will help others to find peace. You will change hearts so that love, faith, and joy are real to people as they live it. You do so much for others and your witness to live my word has changed hearts.

- Believe you are coming to a new time in your journey. Yes, just as with my followers and disciples, the path changes and it turns. That can mean new experiences, calls, or missions in your life. It can also mean coming to a time of deep, unshakable faith, inner peace, love that is not held back, and joy in all things. That new time for you has begun. Embrace it with all your heart.

- I loved going out with my disciples. As we went on new paths and roads there was always the wonder about what would happen next. Plan a time before winter and go out with some like-minded, joyous, open to the Holy Spirit, and adventure-minded friends (or even just one friend). You will discover new things about each other; about angels, miracles, blessings, surprises, hope, love, humility, and kindness; and about your very own gifts. Look for me. I will be a teenager in need.

- You are building a life right now. It is your spiritual life. What do you want it to look like? What do you want to do? How will you keep growing? It is your church life. How will you use your gifts there? How will you help build it up? Focus on how to encourage others. How can you help friends and family? I see all of this like an old house with many rooms, each holding something special to do. Build your house and call it—well, I will let you name it today.

- I bless you for all you do for my people and for how many people have been inspired and changed by your faith in me. Keep trying to build up your church—it will work out. Encourage and support the youth in new ways. Bring them in and listen to them. Change hearts with your love and compassion, your friendship, and your kindness. Encourage others to lead. Picture me sitting with you and listening to the wonderful singing. Watch for the miracle and blessing. I am building it now.

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.

Micah 6:6-8

Isaiah 50:4-5

Psalm 37:3-6

Psalm 107:1, 15, 32

Matthew 28: 16-20

Luke 18:15-17

Acts 11:21-26

Matthew 5:1-2, 14-16

John 12:24-26

Luke 5:27-32

Mark 10:13-16

Acts 2:40-47

Matthew 16:13-19
Luke 4:18-21
Galatians 5:22-23 & 6:9-10
Hebrews 10:21-25
2 Corinthians 9:1-3, 6-7, 11-15
Colossians 3:12-15, 17, 23-24
Romans 10:13-18
Ephesians 1:13-19 (end with “believe”) and 22-23
1 Peter 4:10-11
Philippians 4:2-9 and 13
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Ephesians 4: 7, 11-13, 16

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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