



Words of Blessing

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

Weekly Words **Pentecost Week 7: July 4, 2010**

Living the Word

Acts 16: 11-15 We left by ship from Troas and sailed straight across to Samothrace, and the next day to Neapolis. From there we went inland to Philippi, a city of the first district of Macedonia; it is also a Roman colony. We spent several days there. 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 worshiped 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.

Pentecost: Building

*I have given you new life. Now what will you do with it?
Begin with the church and its mission.
Equip everyone to go out!*

I often gathered my disciples and followers together to share and to witness to one another. I told them what God asked of me and them. They asked questions as I taught them how to go out, evangelize, and build a community. This was their mission, and I had prepared them for this time. After my death and resurrection and Pentecost, they began this mission of building. Paul and my disciples were sent out to share my love, words, and reality. Paul knew he was ready to go on his first missionary trip, where he would offer new life to others. I have equipped you to go out and do the same. I will help you each step of the way, as you help others to go.

The Holy Spirit encourages you to go out and use the gifts you have been given and truly live and evangelize as my disciples and early followers did. It is time to share the gospel in more ways; it's a new evangelism time. It is not up to the clergy but to *you*, to every Christian. I call you to share my love, words, and reality. Act on the needs around you. If people tell you they are sick or troubled, pray with and for them. Share my grace and love so they can be healed. The Holy Spirit will fill you.

I called simple fishermen to be disciples, and they were commissioned to go out. I gave them all they needed. I have given you all you need to go out. And you can help others to go out by encouraging them in this mission of building. My disciples were just fishermen, but through the power of the Holy Spirit, they were equipped to go out and build the church. Today, I call you to a community of disciples, empowered to go out. Let this Pentecost and these words be a mission to equip everyone to go out in my name. You all have the gifts and power needed; just use them.

Don't say you are too busy to help someone. Go out! You don't need words. You need action.

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

Go out!

Use your gifts to help others

Action

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?

Acts 17:10-12 As soon as night came, the believers sent Paul and Silas to Berea. When they arrived, they went to the synagogue. The people there were more open-minded than the people in Thessalonica. They listened to the message with great eagerness, and every day they studied the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was really true. Many of them believed; and many Greek women of high social standing and many Greek men also believed.

Mark 1:16-20 As Jesus walked along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw two fishermen, Simon and his brother Andrew, catching fish with a net. Jesus said to them, "Come with me, and I will teach you to catch men." At once they left their nets and went with him. He went a little farther on and saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat getting their nets ready. As soon as Jesus saw them, he called them; they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and went with Jesus.

Acts 1:8-10 "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." After saying this, he was taken up to heaven as they watched him, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They still had their eyes fixed on the sky as he went away, when two men dressed in white suddenly stood beside them and said, "Galileans, why are you standing there looking up at the sky? This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven."

Action for the week: Reach out to at least one person and encourage him or her in using their gifts and faith to a mission you believe he or she could do or already does. Tell this person how his or her gifts have helped to build up your church, its mission, or an outreach or how those gifts have helped you.

Decisions/questions: I have given you new life. What will you do with it this week or year? Think of all the needs and programs in your church that still need to be built up. Reach out to one or two people this week and decide on an action that will involve reaching out to others in the church, to people in the community, to youth, to people in nursing homes, or in other places of need. You will grow so much.

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 these words mean to you. Listen to what they 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? You can reach out to a friend you don't see much any more or to someone in the church you would like to help or spend more time with. There is one particular person who needs your witness this week. You can be the encouragement for this person to go out. You could even go along.

Daily prayer for this week: Lord, I know you have given me the gifts and time needed to help others to know of your love, words, and reality. I have the time; now give me the courage and faith to step out and help others to go out in your name. You have equipped all of us. I am ready to go out and ready to build up your church and the community.

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 called you, just as my Father called me. The mission is to love others and do all you can to share my love, words, and reality with people. You are to love others, as I love you. I ask you to walk with me each day, setting out to build up my people, the church, and the mission each one has. I will work with you and through you to change the world. Begin with your church.

- As I empowered Lydia and Paul, so I empower you. All you need is to be hungry, thirsty, and excited about your special call, too. Be open and you can do whatever I ask you to do. I will bless you and your gifts. You have gifts you have not even opened yet. They are exciting and amazing, and they will change your church and your path. You have gifts of faith, evangelism, and helping.

- You have the gifts of faith, kindness, and encouragement. Many people are blessed by you. Others are inspired to model their own journey after yours. But I tell them that your path has been different, so I will have to equip them to follow their own mission and call. What is powerful about you is you are what Pentecost is about. You will see a Pentecost miracle! It will create a special call to take a journey of witnessing

- Angels are so busy in the world around you. You have seen them, been blessed by them, and received a word that is to change your life. I saw George, Theodora, Helen, Mark Alan, Kathryn, Ros, Frank, and two other angels with a box. They were standing outside and seemed to be hoping for donations or help. In truth they were blessing people with a word, a prayer, a smile, and a gift. The gift was special. It was a blessing and empowerment for each person to go out. You guessed it: they blessed and equipped you for an unbelievable mission that will change and heal many lives.

- I was there. Yes, I love to wander around hospitals, stores, churches, coffee shops, supermarkets and places where young people and children gather. I was there when you came in. You were quiet and lost in your thoughts. You were thinking of the many people who are on your heart. Your gifts, call, and mission are about prayer and faith. The Holy Spirit fills and renews you each day, and with your gifts you can go out and move into action. Begin each day to follow your mission. Your life, prayers, and gifts are empowered to bring miracles. Go out now.

- Sometimes I offer words that are simple and short. Other times there is no way to make it brief, though I try. You have been using your gifts in more ways and places. The gifts of prayer, faith, healing, and kindness are needed in schools, jobs, hospital coffee shops, neighborhoods, churches, baseball fields, schools, offices, learning centers, and places where people can go out and live the mission of building my people and church. Pray. Listen. Ask for a specific mission to do in the next three months. You will not need words, just action and faith in me. Go! No

more waiting.

- There are countless needs in the world, so it is important to be open. I ask you to use your gifts of compassion, listening, and faith to help others in your family, in your church, and in the areas of your life where you connect with others in special ways. People trust you, admire the Christian journey that you have taken, and see much you try to help others in my name. Look around you in your church, town, job, and family and see what I am showing you. Begin the action of building anew.

- Maybe you are waiting for the call to go out and use your gifts, to do something special to build up your church, or to be on that evangelism or prayer committee. Don't even pause. Keep going forward. Knock on doors—one will open. Volunteer—I will answer clearly. I am building the foundation in you of a place that will equip many to be rock solid. You will see miracles happen and prayers answered. Trust in me. I am using you as an instrument of faith and healing.

- Paul, like you, used his gifts in many way, encouraged by others. Everyone needs their gifts to be supported. Step out and make encouragement your way to build up my church and people. Step out, help, and reach out to others. Support and thank people for their gifts and contributions. How? Well, that is your building mission. Live the word. Begin this week. Share your ideas with a mission support team of 1 or 2 people. They will help equip you to go out and help others.

- I give you a challenge to build up your church and community. Act on this mission. Put your trust in me, in others, and in the building up of my church in new ways. Look for signs. Look for the miracles that are there. All will be well. I pray for you to keep moving forward. Don't look back. Look to this new time. See the friend who is always there living my word. This friend will help you.

- Healing comes in many ways. Healing in my name is living the word. It is living with the church and its mission. A new time is here for you. It is Pentecost. The infilling of the Holy Spirit and the prayers of those with the gift of healing and those who need healing are happening. A new time brings healing, and the journey unfolds in miracle ways through the Holy Spirit.

- There are lonely people in nursing homes and hospitals. There are people who have few friends or who live alone. Some people are shy or have been hurt and need friends, hope, and joy. Where can you begin? Go out. Plan on action. Use your gifts. See challenges as a wonderful adventure. Your kindness, gentle heart, and healing touch can build up the lives of many. I will go with you. You will need a friend or two. Like John or Simon—simple fishermen—they will be great companions.

- I ask you to really focus on living the word during the rest of this year. Your faith is a witness to all—friends, family, church, and strangers. But what would I have you do with your gift of faith? Well, that is a wide area and a big list. I put that to you: Decide today what you will do with that gift the rest of this year. Seek the support of a friend who will walk with you and pray for you.

- Living the word is about continuing to build a life of faith. It is about building up my church and people . It is about helping each other to use your gifts and go out. It is also about action—not standing still but acting and moving through the power of the Holy Spirit. Churches are closing, and more will close if its mission is not fulfilled. People are too busy to come, help, and believe. I have given you many gifts, all that is needed for things to change and grow. Will you go out?

- I have been trying to get your attention lately. You are busy, thinking about what to do next that will work out. You feel that summer is time for a break. You wonder how I will use your gifts and what I am really planning to do in your life and journey right now. Deep down you know this time is only a pause for renewing. It is to prepare you for going out in the fall and through the rest of the year. You will need prayers and faith. I see the road and it's near where

you can see.

- I have faith in you, just as you have faith in me. I am showing you the call I have had for you for a very long time. You are ready to build it. I am showing you the people who can help you to use your gifts, to let go, to believe, and to have courage. Start anew. The Holy Spirit will fill you. It is action time—no more waiting to go out and step forward. Now you must act on your Pentecost time. I have two angels ready to help you move to a new place. The past will be gone. Now we start.

- Decisions are part of every day, and at times the decisions we face are difficult. You are busy and sometimes have to make choices and decisions about what you will do with your gifts, time, and call. You wonder what you can do in your church and for its mission right now. How do you live out my word each day in your life? What are you willing to do to build up my church so it is strong and growing? Remember, I have given you new life. What will you do with it? Use your gifts more and more and more.

- Evangelism! I try to impress upon you the importance of evangelism in your life and in your church and its mission. If there were no evangelism, the church would not grow or even be built. How can you evangelize? Well, think of all the opportunities in your church to be with others and bring people in so they come to know me in more ways. If you need more opportunities, go for it. Use your friendliness, talents, smile, kindness, and faith to invite people, welcome others, and share. I have been watching you and waiting for you to bloom and to help others to go out and know my reality. Go!

- I love summer and going out on the road. I had to travel slowly using animals or walking, and it was easier to stop and talk, evangelize, share the mission of my Father, heal, and pray with people. Miracles happened every day. You can do that, too. The man you stopped to help along the road, Rev. Rufus, needed a smile, some prayers, and people who believed. He was so blessed by people who stopped to witness to him and help him. Everyone was blessed, including the angels who watched over them: Lucy, Mac, Iris, and Theresa. Go out every now and then, all summer long, and experience miracles, healing, new life, and pure joy and laughter.

- It is summer, but it is also a time to think about living your life, building your life. How do you plan for next fall? What do you do then? How will you use your talents and gifts? What about friends and church and family? I ask you to list all the concerns that come to mind. Write them down. Pray about them. I am going to send you out. It is an important time. Action is needed to use your gifts. I will give you support from family and friends. One special friend will really help you.

- I sent you a friend, and this friend has blessed you by saying yes to building up my church and its people—and you. That was the mission. This friend may not say much to you, but this friend lives my word and each day lives it and prays it for you. This person sits in a hospital coffee shop and prays for you over many hours. This person reads my words in scripture for you so you can go out and help my church and people. It is a quiet act of action, sacrifice, and humility. I ask you to use your gifts to help others in your own way—in the church, your home, and daily life. Live it and go out.

- You have grown so much in the past year. You have been letting go of old things from the past and growing in your trust, and even joy, for the future. You have many gifts and talents—so, so many—and they can be used in many different ways and places. They can be used in greater ways as you go out. I have given you new life. What will you do with it? I have shown you the path to take and how to grow and use your gifts to change lives. What will you do with it?

- It time to think of the past year—the things you did, the places you went, what you learned, and who you met. What did you do in the past year? Where did you go? How were your gifts used? When did you experience living my words, action, and helping others? My disciples were just

fishermen who went out each day to build the church and to help everyone in my name. They made me real, and then those people they me went out. This is what I want you to think and pray about and share. I have given you new life. You have it. You can see it. Now what will you do with it?

- You have the gifts of faith, giving, encouragement, humility, and serving. People love you and are drawn to you because they know that they can see me, touch me, and believe I am real when they struggle. I give you a challenge and task that will need all those gifts. Build up my church, your church, and each person in it. See what the mission of your church is and should be, and then help with that mission. Live my word. Live *the* word. I gave you a new life. Remember when? Now what will you do with it? I don't want just words from you, though that is good. I need action!

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 55:3 & 10

Exodus 33:12-14

Isaiah 49:5-6

Psalms 118:25-29

Mark 1:16-20

Matthew 28:16-20

Luke 8:1-3

John 21:15-17

Mark 8:4-10

Acts 14:21-23

John 15:7-10

Acts: 6:3-7

Mark 14:22-26

Romans 12:1-2, 5-8, 13

1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 27

Philippians 4:2-7, 14-16

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Romans 16:1-2, 25, 27

Philemon 4-7

1 Thessalonians 3:1-3, 6-8

Ephesians 4:2-6

2 Corinthians 8:1-6

Romans 15:20-26

2 Corinthians 9:6-11