



Words of Blessing

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Weekly Words **Pentecost Week 4: June 13, 2010**

Living the Word

Acts 1:12-15 and 2:43-44 Then the apostles went back to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is about half a mile away from the city. They entered the city and went up to the room where they were staying: Peter, John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Patriot, and Judas son of James. They gathered frequently to pray as a group, together with the women and with Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brothers. ...Many miracles and wonders were being done through the apostles, and everyone was filled with awe. All the believers continued together in close fellowship and shared their belongings with one another.

Pentecost: Building

*I have given you new life. Now what will you do with it?
Begin with the Church and its mission.
Share your faith and build community.*

I call you to share your faith and build up your church and its community—my people. You have been blessed in many ways. Your gifts and talents are shared and used to encourage others, but I ask you to use your gifts in more ways to build up your community by sharing and living your faith. The church and its people will grow as one in their call and mission, but it will take everyone to make it happen. That means you—and that means you go out and share.

I gave my followers new life, but what were they to do with it? Many were just fishermen, but they were called to build a church. Their mission was to be fishers of men, to be a community of disciples, leaders, prayers, evangelists, healers, and helpers. Through the power of the Holy Spirit they would build a church and its mission. Today I have given you a place to do this, a community where you can share the gospel and be one witness of faith. My church faces hardships that threaten to bring its work down, but you can help. Be there each week. Share the gospel each day, no matter what, no matter how tired or discouraged you are. Remember the disciples. Step up and out.

The Holy Spirit will empower you when you seek and accept that infilling grace. My disciples and followers found the courage to do what they were called to do, and you have that same infilling power today. Strengthen one another. You can help build an exciting growing church, family, and community that will be a witness as one in faith. Build your community each day in more ways. Believe in me. Believe it will happen. You can do it. In working together the church and its people grow. Their gifts are built up. They have a mission as one.

How can you and others build a community of faith? Open your heart to me. Pray. Listen. Do all you can. Do your best to love and encourage others. Give people your smile and attention. Listen to people. Invite people to help and use their gifts. Share your faith story. Listen to theirs. When you do this, miracles will happen in the church. All will become one. Believe. Trust in me.

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.

Community

Share

Encourage others

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

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.

Philippians 2:1-2 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.

Acts 11:20-26 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 had 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 men met with the people of the church and taught a large group. It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.

Action for the week: Think of a mission or need in your church. How can that mission be helped or supported by you and others? It can be simple or it can meet a big need over time. Ask a friend or small group to help you. Encourage the team by supporting and using the gifts and talents of each one. This can be a very exciting mission that will amaze and bless many. One thing that builds community and faith is giving to those in need. When deciding what to do, remember that people especially need the basics, and they need your compassion and love.

Decisions/Questions: I have given you new life. What will you do with it this week or this year? Think of someone you know who shares and gives to the church and others in many ways. Send this person a note of support and thanks for all he or she does. Question: How do you see this person building up the community and encouraging others. Let this person know.

Witness my love and reality: Share these words with others this week and every week of Pentecost. Reach out to someone who does not know about these words I offer. Share what the words mean to you. Listen to what these words mean to others. Help others to see and hear their own special mission, call, and gifts through these words. Share these words each week and watch miracles happen. See my church renewed and its mission go out. I believe you can do this. Share my words. Watch miracles happen. This is a gift. Look. You will see me. Keep looking.

Special witness this week: Plan on sharing these words and this mission with others who need their life renewed by experiencing my love and blessing. The words this week have given you many things to do that will bless and help you and others. What will you do?

Daily prayer for this week: Lord, by your own witness you showed us that we are to go out and build up the church and share our faith and story just as you did. I want to see your words and love go out around the world. I want to share my faith with others, especially those you put in my path. I will make it my mission to begin now with my church, friends, and family, and with those I meet. Open my heart to share my faith with those in my community and family.

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.

- Pentecost was an exciting time when my disciples and followers went out to begin building a church and a community. How did they do it? Everyone believed and helped. They shared their gifts and faith. This Pentecost time you are in now is meant to be powerful, life changing, and filled with many things for you to step out and do to build a new church. You will be my witness.

- The church is about building a mission where people come together to share their gifts and all they offer of time, faith, and friendship. Your part is to open your heart, spirit, gifts, life, and time to living my word. There is a need for you to be there each week to help others. People need you. You need to step into their lives and journey to listen, help, and build a real community.

- The power of the Holy Spirit is in you, but as with the Pentecost you read about in the Bible, I am going to make your Pentecost a personal mission of the life-changing infilling of the Holy Spirit like you have never seen before. All you have to do is step out and begin to live and share your story, the one I know you have. Your faith and courage are real and powerful. Now what will you do with all of this?

- I love giving tasks and challenges to people. I know you will love yours. I showed my disciples the importance of community, working and praying together. The Pentecost church was built for community. I ask you by your own witness by your own witness —no, I plead with you—to make plans to share your faith by building up a community of faith. Ask two people of faith to help you. You have three weeks to start.

- Each person in your church community has special gifts, a mission, and a way to build up the church and its people. It is about going out—not sitting safely in church. It is building faith, building friendships, supporting one another, and sharing the gospel together. My church is truly threatened, so step up to the plate, go out, bring people in, and be one. Come on! Live the word.

- It is Pentecost, time to offer your gifts and faith. Don't waste time worrying so much about what to do, where to do it, and how to do it that it never gets done. Just step out. If you are doing things to build up the church and community, then do more. Add a new way. When you help others by using your gifts and time, you will learn more about other people and about their gifts and call. There is a special need and call right now that you could help build. Trust in me and say yes.

- It is nice to be asked to help with something in your church, but it is a bigger challenge to offer to help. Don't worry about whether it will take up too much time or you won't like it. Trust that I always give you the ability to use your gifts. Remember that any two people with gifts of healing, evangelism, or teaching will do it and live it in different ways, so trust. Your gifts and time will be received with joy and appreciation. You are giving gifts and the church will have new life and grow.

- I call you to offer your time, gifts, and love to a mission that will build up my people, those you know and those I will put in your life. Have faith and help me build a community of faith. When you wholeheartedly give me your life and gifts to use where I see the need, you will see miracles. I could call someone who isn't busy, but there is nobody like that in your life or church. So you are blessed: I call you. The work is there. The specifics will come soon.

- You are faithful, compassionate, and strong. That's a great combo. Your call and mission are there. Build up my church, your community, and people's faith. Show others their gifts and how to use them. Affirm and support others. There are leaders, teachers, evangelists, helpers, youth, clergy, healers, and musicians. All are needed. It will be exciting as all the people live action, faith, and prayer in powerful ways. The wind of the Holy Spirit will fill each person. How exciting!

- I have given you new life. Your part is to build the church and its mission, to share your faith, and to build up the people. I want you to truly take on this new call and mission. Begin now. Gather evangelists, teachers, prayers, healers, leaders, followers, musicians, children, and teens. I will show you what to do. Sometimes it is the simplest ideas and actions that begin a mission of the church that truly is about living the word.

- You share your faith in countless ways every day. Bless you. Sometimes you help someone in need or visit people in nursing homes. There are many days when you simply sit in a hospital coffee shop with your Bible on the table, worn, bedraggled, loved, and lived. The simplest way to proclaim your faith is to say little and just show it. Pentecost is seen and lived then, every day.

- You have the gifts of encouragement and helping. You really listen to people with caring and patience. You are the friend people turn to for support, and you never let them down. You live my words each day in simple ways that change lives in amazing ways. You are the kind of person who gives life to the church. You make it a community joined together in my name. Bless you.

- I can see you going to meet with the disciples and followers at the beginning of their building up the church. You would have loved all the gatherings, praising, singing, praying, and sharing of stories. You would have been filled to overflowing with joy and amazement at the new community being built. You would have been the encourager, the one who built up the others so they could begin this new work in my name. Now you have another chance to build. My church needs you. Step out. Don't hold back.

- People in your church, friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, and school friends—yes, countless people in your life need prayer. I think you could be praying off and on all day and still not get everyone prayed for, but your gifts of prayer, faith, and love are so important and needed. How do you do this each day? Come and sit with me. Listen. Open your heart and spirit. Listen to me. Trust that you will hear me guide you in what to do next and how to use your gifts in a mission.

- You are a strong Christian in so many ways, and you face difficulties and challenges in life with faith. Your witness of courage and humility builds up your community, family, friends, and all who know you. You share your faith openly. You live it by encouraging others. Your mission to build up my church and its people is truly an amazing Holy Spirit-filled call. Keep pushing forward to take this Christian life out to others and make it a new and powerful way to live.

- Many owe their growing faith and witness to the courage and faith of some ordinary people who build the church, witness, and do the hard work of renewing a church of faith, prayer, and evangelism. The people who can and do build your church community—from the young to the old—are committed to sharing my love, words, and reality. They are humble and strong. They are like you. Bless you. Keep going forward. There are so many exciting wonderful things to come.

- We are partners together with those special Christian friends who are part of your journey and mission. Hard work is needed in all areas of your life right now, and many will help you. Mary will give you inner peace. Paul will give you the words. John will give you commitment and faith. Now, what will you do with these gifts and the call I have given you? My child, do all things out of faith in me and love for all people everywhere. You are free.

- There are many people who look to you as a witness of kindness and love. You are the person who is always there with a smile, an offer to share or talk, and a hug when they need it. You build community in who you are and what you live and do for others. You, like Lydia, Mary, Philip, and John, live my words and build my church today.

- During the past few weeks I have shown you how much people look to you for inspiration, and how much they love you for your compassion and humility. You bless people every day and do not even realize it. I gave you new life some time ago. Do you remember? I see what you have done with it, my child. It is well done. You share your life, faith, blessings, friendship, and gifts. I bless you.

- Faith moves mountains, right? I moved mountains and so did my disciples, followers, and friends. You will move mountains, too. I bless you with a Pentecost call and mission. I ask you to think of one way to build up my church—your church—and mission now. Then think of one way to make Pentecost real, truly real, in your church now. Write it out. Share it with a Pentecost group of friends.

- Begin each day in prayer. Ask for wisdom, guidance, patience, and courage. Ask for a heart of love for all. Make daily prayer—throughout the day prayer—a priority, a way to build community and live out your faith. You will see miracles happen. You will find a strength within you that you never thought possible. It comes from living my word, believing, and trusting in me.

- You have had a Pentecost life and journey. What does that mean? Read my words in your hands now. You did reach out to build up the church and its mission. You continue to share your faith and journey. You have helped to build up others—friends, family, and even strangers—so that they know me and believe. You have blessed many along the way because you said yes to my call to go out and build up lives in my name. Now it is time to do even more, but you are ready.

- You are a wonderful friend to new friends and old. You make people feel like they matter and are special. People want to have someone listen, and you do. Some friends need and want to believe in my love, words, and reality, and you show it by how you live. Sometimes you use the best answer to how to help them. You pray for them, listen to me, and give them hope.

- What a wonderful season you are coming to in your journey. I have been at your side, put people in your path, celebrated your gifts, hugged you, and blessed you. Your gifts grow but stronger and your courage makes them happen. You see every mission as something you believe in and will help support. You are always wondering how to help more people. Bless you my child of the word, my builder, and my humble witness.

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 4:6-7

Isaiah 26:1-4

Jeremiah 24:6-7

Psalms 40:9-10

Acts 16:13-15

Matthew 28:16-20

Luke 17:11-19

Acts 6:3-7

Mark 11:20-26

Acts 4:30-31

John 9:1-7

Acts 4:32-37

Matthew 25:35-40

Mark 8:4-10

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Philippians 1:1-7

Colossians 1:3-10

1 John 4:7-12

Romans 10:13-17

1 Peter 4:10-11

Philemon 4-7

Hebrews 10:22-25

Philippians 4:10-11

1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

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