



Words of Blessing

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Weekly Words **Pentecost Week 1: May 23, 2010**

Living the Word

Acts 2:1-6 and 17 When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak. There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious men who had come from every country in the world. When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because each one of them heard the believers talking in his own language.... This is what I will do in the last days, God says: I will pour out my Spirit on everyone. Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message; your young men will see visions, and your old men will have dreams.

Pentecost: Building

I have given you new life. Now what will you do with it? Begin with the church and its mission. The goal is renewal.

The church and its mission and people have come to a new and challenging time. Some people are worn out and have left, while others stayed. Many have stopped working. Pentecost is very important as it is a time to build up my church. I have given you new life. I died and gave all to you, your family and friends, the church, and the world. Now it is your turn. What will you do with this time? Begin with the church, my church and your church, and its mission. Begin today with a new mission and vision. Don't close my churches; renew them. I have a 6-week plan for you to do this, and all through Pentecost you will find ways to build and renew my church and your life. What to do? Pentecost will involve sharing your faith and story, welcoming others, and using your gifts. It will involve a mission plan to live, action, prayer, joy, sharing, and growing with a new vision.

My church is going through a building time. Some things are worn out and must be made new and stronger. Some things must be shared together. I have given you new life, and it's time for a new vision of yourself and your gifts, call, commitment, faith, passion, and giving. We need new things. The old is gone. Some things have faded away or changed, but when you see what is left of my church and what it can be, smile. Rejoice! Celebrate and give thanks! It's time for you to take the new life and vision I give you. There is a goal: build. Rebuild my church—not the church of the world, but the Pentecost church I brought to my disciples and followers, for it is a church that is alive and renewed; it is a mission church.

You are my builder. I love builders! John, Paul, Lydia, Peter, Mary, Matthew, and countless

others went out in my name with faith and courage to renew and build the church and its new mission. They made so many sacrifices for my church and people to lead its mission to renew all, just as you are doing today. They brought new life to my church and made many sacrifices for its mission to go out. What will you do with that same call? That call is for now, not tomorrow or when you are less busy. This is a new time. Now you are to renew and rebuild my church and its missions. It is time for a new church, a Pentecost lived church. It is time for new life and mission.

Begin with your church. Build it up. Be there each week. Bring people in. Be involved in missions, outreach, healing, prayer, study, youth work, and helping. Be seen and heard. Draw people to you. Set goals for yourself and for the church now, this year. Go out. Bring at least one person to church. Think of a plan and mission that you will do to bring new life to the church. Make it your own personal mission, and then help others with theirs. Share ideas with others. Post what people are going to do. That brings enthusiasm. Post all the things and actions people want to do and get others to sign up to help them. Encourage one another. Build up your church so much that by the end of the year you will run out of seats on a Sunday.

Renew each other. Remember your mission each day. Bring people in. Gather groups together—the young, teens, college students, women, men, or just a mix. Have a big lunch or coffee hour and get people to share in different groups to find out the many things they could do. Have one "group" that can be visited that is 100% new ideas. Whatever you do, the goal is renew your church and people. I will empower you in ways you will not believe. This is a new Pentecost time.

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.

Build

Mission

The goal

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

Acts 1:8 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.

Mark 16:14-18, 20 Last of all, Jesus appeared to the eleven disciples as they were eating. He scolded them, because they did not have faith and because they were too stubborn to believe those who had seen him alive. He said to them, "Go throughout the whole world and preach the gospel to all mankind. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. Believers will be given the power to perform miracles: they will drive out demons in my name; they will speak in strange tongues; if they pick up snakes or drink any poison, they will not be harmed; they will place their hands on sick people, and these will get well....The disciples went and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and proved that their preaching was true by the miracles that were performed.

Acts 2:17-21 This is what I will do in the last days, God says: I will pour out my Spirit on everyone. Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message; your young men will

see visions, and your old men will have dreams. Yes, even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will proclaim my message. I will perform miracles in the sky above and wonders on the earth below. There will be blood, fire, and thick smoke; the sun will be darkened, and the moon will turn red as blood, before the great and glorious Day of the Lord comes. And then, whoever calls out to the Lord for help, will be saved.

Action for the week: There is a special mission and need in your church, your community, your neighborhood, the wider church, your family, youth groups, nursing homes, and prisons and with college-age adults, service people away from home, people in nearby hospitals, and those who are lonely or sick. There is a need in your church that you can meet. Do something this week for at least one person who needs some blessings, renewal, and love.

Decisions/Questions: I have given you new life. What will you do with it this week? Next week? What will you do with your mission to build up my church and your church? Keep a journal for all of Pentecost and record your answers to my questions. Keep copies of the weekly words in a notebook so you can go back and read my words and your answers and plans.

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 and what they can mean to others. Show others how to see and hear their own special mission and call through these words. I believe you can do this. Share these words each week and watch miracles happen. This is an amazing gift! Look. You will see me.

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

Daily prayer for this week: Jesus, you have given me and others new life. What can I do with it? What should I do with it? I look at what you did and gave for me so I would have new life. I know it is time to do something with this gift for others and the church. There is a mission for me. I have seen it and know it is there. I accept this mission so I can help build up the church and its people. You gave me a new life not long ago, and I am going to use it to build.

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.

- Through my love and blessing I will help you to pursue your hopes, prayers, and goals with patience and faith. Just as the action of the yeast makes bread, so my blessing and love will make your hopes, prayers, and plans become real. Trust in my timing and wait for the opportunity to come to you. Seek support, wisdom, and prayers from special people. I will set your mission and goal on the path. I hear you. I love you and bless you for your faith and your action.

- I see all you do for others. When your works and time serve me, the church, the common good, and the hopes of others, you will be bread for the world. You will be filled with the Holy Spirit. My child, your faith shines through. Believe in your call, work, and future. Believe in me and trust. I see how you help others in my name. I will be helping you.

- Being bread for the world means taking the gospel out, and through the Holy Spirit people will know of my love, the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and peace. The disciples went out and shared the Good News. The Holy Spirit filled them and others. Their faith grew. People turned to me

and were baptized and renewed. Today I commission you to go out and transform lives in my name.

- I was there. I did not speak to you, but I looked your way. I was praying for you and giving thanks for your gifts and kindness to others. I know you have some questions and decisions to deal with. I am here, You can see me. Make time in the week ahead to find a quiet place where you can go, sit, listen, be at peace, read your Bible, look at a book you have wanted to read, or pray for the things on your heart. I will be there. Come. Listen. I will answer. It is blessed time.

- You are a blessing and a joy! You feed, nourish, and teach others. You reach out with compassion to bless and give hope. You overflow with living prayer. Your anchor is your faith and love for me and others. I give you the gift of courage today. I want you to use it to build up your church—my church—and my people. That is your mission and call for Pentecost.

- Some people have lived and walked with great faith in me, compassion for others, and a love for my people and for me. Their missions were great, wonderful, and powerful, but they cannot do all they did before because of age, illness, and other things. Yet they still want to go out and help others, pray, and share. And they want to learn, to talk to other Christians, and to hear the stories of faith. I ask you to take on the mission of reaching out to these people and listening. Look around and you will see where to go and what to do. I will go with you. Bless you.

- There are homeless, poor, and lonely people everywhere. Your compassion, gentleness, and love could be a light for them. What a mission that would be to live and do. I ask you to look each day for those in need of hope, faith, and a friend. Each time you go out, look for ways to reach out. And look at a need near you where you can offer hope, new life, and our friendship.

- You have the gifts of faith and giving. People see you as a witness to what it means to really walk the Christian journey. You live what you say you believe and your faith and daily journey are a quiet witness of humility and yet great courage. I know what you would have been like had you walked with me as one of my friends and followers. You would have been just the same—giving and faithful. You are very special and many people look to you for how to model their own lives.

- Did you see me the other day? I was standing near you, and I was looking tired and lonely. You smiled at me and that was the first smile I had seen all day as I tried to see which people would smile or be friendly. You were the first person all day. I watched you as you went on with your day. I saw who you are—caring, friendly, and faith filled. You live what you believe.

- I have a mission for you to do beyond what you do each day in sharing my love, words, and reality. I ask you to add the work of evangelism and prayer. Yes, you will be great at it. I will send Mac and Joe to help you. I want you to share your faith whenever you have the chance. Just be yourself—caring, not pushy, simple, smiling, patient, and honest. Share the weekly words with people and tell them how they can hear my words. Hmm. I guess you need to have a copy of these words with you at all times. You will bless people beyond what you can imagine.

- I love miracles, don't you? I loved healing people and then seeing people smile and give praise and thanks for that healing. It is a gift to be healed and a gift to offer healing. You have been blessed with that gift and call, and you have used it to heal more people than you realize. I also know that you have been healed yourself. You were healed through the prayers and love of many people. Healing is so needed in the world. And miracles are always happening, right?

- Whatever happens in your journey, day, ministries, work, or family, I am with you. I watch over you and guide you. You are coming to a time of renewal. A season of your life has ended, and the new season has just begun. It will be a very special season of grace and new life. It will be a mission of healing, sharing my love, witnessing, and helping others to see me as real. This is your season and time: new life, renewal. It is a time to let go and step out in a bigger way to follow me.

- Your mission? Healing, prayer, and love. A new time and new life are yours. People need to renew their prayer lives and want to grow and step out as a disciple, prayer, or evangelist like Paul. Put all these things together, like a puzzle. You can help them. How can you put it all together in a mission? Pray and talk to a spiritual friend. What can you do with this? I led my disciples, but each one found his or her own unique call and gifts. You will, too—this year.

- I remember the day I stood with my disciples and turned to them and said: “Heal people in my name.” And they did. Humbly and sometimes with personal sacrifices they stepped out. Healing is a powerful call and mission. Healing renews not just the body but also the soul, spirit, gifts, and missions to help others. I stood beside you recently. Did you notice? I blessed you to go out and heal and renew people I send to you and those you see. Healing is living the word and building up faith. I have given you a special gift and way to heal people. I will show you that vision very, very soon.

- My church and people struggle at times, and it takes away from the mission I gave my people and church. The mission is to share my love, words, and reality in the world. How? Share these words. Bring people together to share them. They will be renewed, see miracles, discover new joy, and be healed. Go out and bring people to me. Together we will bless and change lives.

- Pentecost is that most exciting and powerful time in the history of the church and its people. I want you to make a commitment to me that you will make it your mission to build up your gifts and faith even more. Use your gifts and faith to renew and build up your church in powerful ways. Let Pentecost be a time of joy and living the word. Evangelize, heal, bless, go out, and live my word now.

- Go out to heal, renew, bless, comfort, inspire, and bring joy, hope, and smiles to others. You can do this and others will help you. It will be a life-changing mission and call. You will build up the faith of many, and that is so powerful. My church will be renewed. People all around you will have new faith. I need you and your gifts, smile, kindness, and humility. And you need me.

- I give you three words to live and share this week: blessing, love, and faith. Think of the many ways one uses, needs, or responds to those words. How do people see or need these things? Make a list of people you know you should reach out to. Send or offer each person one of those words. Use all three words, and send the invitation/offer to at least 12 people. Watch what happens and write it down. You are building up lives, offering new life, and sharing your love. I will be at your side.

- Think about mission and how you find one, live it, and build it up. You have the gifts of faith, love, humility, and healing. Sometimes these gifts are used all together and sometimes only one at a time. How can you use them all in a mission that will help three different kinds of needs and people—the homeless, teens and college-age young adults, and those who are aging and or not well. You can use three companions to help you discern once you have this narrowed down and are kind of ready.

- I ask you to reach out. Find your own unique way to share my love, words, and reality and to use your gifts in a special mission. I ask you to work with other areas in your church and in missions and outreach that need your help. Look at the invitations or requests to help in a project or ongoing mission. And make time to share my words and scripture with others each week.

- You reach out to feed my people and bless my children out in the world. I see how you have grown in faith and quiet confidence. It shows in the caring, love, and kindness you show to just everyone. Pentecost is about the unexpected, the surprises along the way. Be ready for a very unexpected blessing that will come through your reaching out to help someone else. It will show you what you have not been seeing, even though I keep showing you.

- Being a friend and listener is part of your call. Being faith filled and sharing that faith with others is at the heart of the witness people see in you. My people in many places around the

world need such a friend and witness as you are. But begin with your church, for it needs much help and encouragement. It needs your gifts and smile, your humility and compassion. Look for me in your church and as you journey out. I will smile at you and wave. Wave back!

- Spring is here, a time for new growth. How do you grow in faith, spirit, and your call and gifts? You make time to be with me!. Yes, I am with you at all times, but we both need those times when you step outside your home and go on a retreat, a road trip, a workshop on faith, or simply to a quiet place with friends who want to share some spiritual time. Make time for this. Go with some friends from church. Do some things together, but make time for each one to be alone to pray and just be. Maybe you can share these words. Brilliant! I love it. I will be there, too. Look for me. I will be outside blessing people and waving at you.

- Friendships grow from the heart, your faith journey, and your ministries and activities in your church, and as you share my words each week together. Pentecost was a lot about friends going out together, growing in courage, sharing, witnessing, and blessing people. They were on the same road together, and it was just amazing to see how their own gifts and call unfolded. I ask you to consider such an adventure of faith before summer. I will be with you and will bless you.

- Your call is unfolding in more and more ways. I have given you a new work to do in addition to what you are doing now. Begin with planning a way to build up your church and its people. The plan is to renew people who are tired, carry the lowly tasks that always need to be done and nobody wants to do, and are quietly working hard in the back ground. This is a very special and important task in the church right now. I know you can do this. I will point the way and will kind of push people over to you. This work and call will bless and renew many people. When it's done you can even write a book about it! Let me think of a good title.

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.

Jeremiah 6:16 (end with "peace")

Isaiah 61:1-2

Zephaniah 3:17-18 (end with "festival")

Psalms 40:9-11

Psalms 41:12-13

Matthew 21:18-22

John 21:15-18

Acts 2:17-18, 21-22

Mark 16:14-18

Luke 9:57-62

John 15:1-9

Matthew 28:16-20

Acts 2:25-28

Mark 10: 24-27

John 14:9-14

Acts 20:22-24

Ephesians 1:15-19 (end with "believe")

1 John 5:13-15

Colossians 3:12-17

1 Peter 1:2-5

Galatians 6:9-10, 18

James 5:13-15

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Philippians 2:1-8, 17-18

2 Corinthians 5:5-7 and 7:4

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

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