



Words of Blessing

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

Weekly Words Pentecost Week 2: May 30, 2010

Living the Word

Acts 9:36-42 In Joppa there was a woman named Tabitha, who was a believer. (Her name in Greek is Dorcas, meaning “a deer.”) She spent all her time doing good and helping the poor. At that time she got sick and died. Her body was washed and laid in a room upstairs. Joppa was not very far from Lydda, and when the believers in Joppa heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him with the message, “Please hurry and come to us.” So Peter got ready and went with them. When he arrived, he was taken to the room upstairs, where all the widows crowded around him, crying and showing him all the shirts and coats that Dorcas had made while she was alive. Peter put them all out of the room, and knelt down and prayed; then he turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. Peter reached over and helped her get up. Then he called all the believers, including the widows, and presented her alive to them. The news about this spread all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

Pentecost: Building

*I have given you new life. Now what will you do with it?
Begin with the church and its mission. People will grow in faith.*

The church and its mission have not really changed in hundreds of years. The mission is to bring people to me through my story, through who I am, and through my words and witness, which have endured for all time. I offer new and everlasting life through my death and resurrection as the son of God. Today the world, the church, and people are going through difficult times. The mission of the church is in danger, and it is even more important to not just save it but to grow it. The church can be changed in new, powerful, and exciting ways. Will churches close? Will people leave? It could happen.

So, what will you do to help the church and its people? What will you do to deepen the faith of the church and its people? This mission is serious. How can you help the people to grow in faith? What do you need to do and what are willing to do help others have greater faith? How about beginning with sharing and living your faith each day? Find ways to give your time and gifts to the church. Be involved each week. Lead, follow, serve, listen to people, and share these words each week. Build up the youth, for they are the future. Affirm the gifts of others and use your own. Work with others in mission, in activities, in outreach, and in meeting needs. Pray with and for others.

What will you do about the church and your call and mission? When you reach out to others, when you share my words and scripture each week, you are all growing in faith, and the church is growing, too. When you see the mission of your church and the wider church and take on that

battle, you will all grow in faith. Evangelize, teach, heal, pray, and work with the youth. Support some work for the men, some work for the women, and some missions for all. Pentecost—yours and mine—will be about a new and very real faith that is growing into a mission to renew and build my church, the church of the people of today, you and those around you. Build a mission!

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 using your gifts to build up my church and my people.

Faith

Grow

Call

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 10:38-43 You know about Jesus of Nazareth and how God poured out on him the Holy Spirit and power. He went everywhere, doing good and healing all who were under the power of the Devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of everything that he did in the land of Israel and in Jerusalem. Then they put him to death by nailing him to a cross. But God raised him from death three days later and caused him to appear, not to everyone, but only to the witnesses that God had already chosen, that is, to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from death. And he commanded us to preach the gospel to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God has appointed judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets spoke about him, saying that everyone who believes in him will have his sins forgiven through the power of his name.

Luke 17:5-6 The apostles said to the Lord, “Make our faith greater.” The Lord answered, “If you had faith as big as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Pull yourself up by the roots and plant yourself in the sea!’ and it would obey you.”

Romans 10:13-17 As the scripture says, “Everyone who calls out to the Lord for help will be saved.” But how can they call to him for help if they have not believed? And how can they believe if they have not heard the message? And how can they hear if the message is not proclaimed? And how can the message be proclaimed if the messengers are not sent out? As the scripture says, “How wonderful is the coming of messengers who bring good news!” But not all have accepted the Good News. Isaiah himself said, “Lord, who believed our message?” So then, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through preaching Christ.

Action for the week: Write a note of thanksgiving for the witness of faith you see in someone in your church or life. Tell this person how he or she has inspired you and challenged you to walk the same path of faith. And select one thing that you have seen this person do or say that showed his or her faith. Share how much this meant to you and why.

Decisions/questions: I have given you new life. What will you do with it this week or this year? What will you do before the end of the year to show me and my mother Mary that you have grabbed hold of a new time and journey of faith in action?

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. I believe you can do this. Share these words each week and watch miracles happen. See my church renewed and see 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.

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 with it?

Daily prayer for this week: Lord Jesus, I want to use and share my faith in more and more ways and places. I want to go out, trusting in your guidance and empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is Pentecost and I have to move forward in this journey of faith. Help me to do this. Show me how.

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.

- Believe it or not, you have a very special place and role in my plan for you. It is a unique call that only you can fulfill. I have given you the exact talents, gifts, personality, and fruits of the spirit needed. I will make your part in this call absolutely amazing! Look and you will see.

Discover and be amazed and excited about your role in my mission. Trust. Believe. Surrender.

- Come to me. Knock on the door. It will open. Experience my reality. I am your wisdom, joy, and patience. Take a big step of faith. I will so fill you so that your strength and encouragement will help others to grow in faith. You can do this. Fill your heart with my love, then go out and help others to be renewed and filled, for that is needed. People need to grow in faith so they can claim their mission and call. I will journey with you. Yes, I will be right at your side. This will be life changing.

- Who are you? What is your purpose in life? What do I want you to do? Like John and Mary, you will hear my voice at a special time and place—not what you expect at all, because that is how the Holy Spirit works! You will be called to share your talents, time, wisdom, faith, and joy. I let each person choose to accept my guidance and mission. I know you will say yes, because I know who you are inside. Your faith will stand out and miracles will happen.

- You have the gifts of faith and evangelism. Plan to use those gifts each day, in some way, during the whole season of Pentecost. You can make a plan, wing it, or ask me for help and ideas. I hope you will ask me at least now and then because I am really good at guiding and sending people out to bring my love, words, and reality to the world. This is a year-long project of faith.

- Believe in me because I am Jesus. I believe in *you* because you are my child. You have a very special mission to do in the world. Yes, that means going wider and farther than you could imagine. You have already touched many lives because of your faith and witness, but now it's time to build up the lives of people young and old in many places. You will help people to see.

- Pentecost is an exciting and powerful time in the journey. It is the kickoff, the pushing out, the daring to believe you can do so much more in my name, and the realization that your mission in life is to share my love, words, and reality out into the world. You have already begun. You talked to someone recently (remember?) and this person heard me and saw me through you. This person's life and journey were renewed. You have the gift and call to bring me to many in the world. It is time to go.

- What is your mission? Pray. Listen. Evangelize. Heal and offer love. Each day read scripture and take the time to really listen to the words *and* to me. Don't get distracted or let your mind

wander. Stay with me 100%. Focus. Open your heart and spirit to how I will use you and your gifts in a mission to bring hope and new life to others. You will change lives, give hope to the brokenhearted and lost, heal the sick, comfort the weary, and make me real to others. Go out.

- A mustard seed is very small, yet when you plant it in your garden, it grows very large. You, your family, your friends, and those you will reach out to this year are like seeds planted in earth. Your call and mission will take time to grow into the very large tree it will become. You will use your gifts in a mission that will take time, sacrifice, and love for it to grow. Step one of your mission begins now: It is to bring people to my church—our church—and build it up through mission outreach, workshops, retreats, healing ministries, Bible study groups, learning experiences, sharing-my-word groups, youth outreach, men's and women's groups, and at least three very new and exciting things that nobody has even thought of yet but for which the seeds are planted. Got your bag packed?

- The seeds buried in the ground are small, yet when you plant them in your garden they can grow to be beautiful, strong, and big. Your call, mission, and gifts of faith, healing, and helping are just what is needed. It will take time and patience to grow things and build up and strengthen my church and people, but you can do it. Use your gifts. Follow me and keep your eyes on the mission, the cross, and the cross of faith. The seeds will grow and bloom and be seen around the world.

- The mission of your life and your church is renewal, new life, and growing in faith and action, but what will you do about it? Will you get more involved in your church—building it up and bring people in? Will you make more time to listen, pray, and learn? A church and people with a mission to renew themselves, others, the church, and the gifts and call of each one will grow and bloom and welcome many. You are a friend, listener, encourager, prayer, and witness—and you are my helper. Step out. Make your mission happen right now.

- What you do in my name, I will bless. I will help you in all things, and together we will make good out of all things. It is time to go out more. Step out. Take some risks, just as my disciples and followers did. Trust! This is Pentecost, the time to renew, step out, evangelize, bless, heal, and share my love, words, and reality in the world. Build up your church and its clergy, leaders, helpers, teachers, youth workers, healing team, prayer team, community outreach groups, women's groups, and men's groups—the list is long. So do what you are doing, but I really need your gifts, energy, and inspiration to get this going and help others. Just say yes.

- I came into the world to save people and renew the church and its people. I came to bless and teach people. I came to empower people through the Holy Spirit to use their gifts in greater ways to bless and help others in missions and outreach and to renew the youth and the clergy, who are most at risk of being lost or hurt because you are all not helping and building them up enough. I am counting on you. Meet with me each day, first thing in the morning or last thing at night. I will guide you, help you, and encourage you. This is a job that will save lives.

- What you do in my name, I will bless. I will help you in all things. Together we will make miracles happen. I love the miracle of the young man who hits the first home run, the girl who is picked for a part in the play, a mother who is praised by neighbors for her caring, or a man given encouragement and praise for his hard work. I ask you to make these things a call in your life; it's a powerful way to renew and help others. Your caring and faith are the icing on the cake.

- Growing in faith is a goal. Set your gifts and goals higher. Make more time to pray and listen to me. Let me help you, guide you, and encourage you to keep growing and doing more with your gifts and talents. I will empower your gifts so they can reach many more people. Trust in me.

Come to me each day. I will be there and you will see or hear me. Trust. When you need a miracle, I will see that something happens. When you pray for healing, watch for the miracles.

- Do you have your bags packed? Keep a mission bag packed and ready each day. Make a plan

to go out to bring my mission to the world. Go to a coffee shop, hospital, or park bench and spend time praying, listening, smiling, and reaching out to people with a “hello.” Go regularly to the same place so people begin to look for you. Keep an open heart and be ready to smile, make friends, offer hope, and be a witness of hope. There is a lot for you to do for others in my name. Ready?

- I heal in many ways. Sometimes I heal, sometimes I use others with the gift of healing, and sometimes healing is a miracle, blessing, and gift. I know you believe in healing through your faith and through what you have seen in your own journey and life. Miracles happen every day. People are healed in so many different ways. What is healing? Is it healing if one suddenly believes and feels better physically and spiritually? Is it when the doctors say they don't know how, but you are healed? Is it when you are at peace, when you have forgiven everyone of anything that ever happened, or when you have let go of worry? My child, you are healed and you are a healer. Make Pentecost your healing miracle time.

- You have worked hard in your journey this past year and into the new year. You have grown in how you are using your gifts. You are stepping out to do more things to help the mission of the church and to be a friend who listens and offers prayer and hope. So many people need a special friend who is kind and filled with hope and encouragement. Keep reaching out, as you are doing, for you bless many. You helped someone who was struggling and feeling alone. Bless you.

- Pentecost this year is about building. I have given you new life. What will you do with it? What will you offer in the way of blessings and opportunities to use your gifts in a mission to help the world? Begin with the church and its mission. The mission is for people to grow in faith and to live my word. What will you do with this call and need I have brought to you? I ask you to take on the call to truly help the people in your life to grow in faith. Do this every day, in all ways, looking for the opportunity and the need. At the end of Pentecost you and the world will be changed.

- You are a good friend, and I use you to bring my presence and presents to people who are struggling in their lives and journey. Your kindness and caring always offer hope and caring to others. You help and show others how to be stronger and to believe in me more. Some people are friends that will stay forever in your journey. You will live the word together. You will help each other with your call, worries, and down times and will help each other in need. Know what people say about you: “There is my friend.” That is living my word.

- Life is not always easy. People lose jobs, get sick, struggle with issues in their lives, and struggle with their faith. But you continue to show the way forward. You show people how to live the word and have faith in me. Your journey has not been easy, but you never stop giving, believing, and reaching out with a smile and a word of kindness. Your call is to be that simple and gentle shepherd, always looking after the sheep and believing in love and new life in me.

- You have the gifts of healing, faith, and love. Your humble spirit inspires others and reflects your spirit of compassion. Your faith is unshakable, and that is because you have been blessed and called to a special mission in life. You think you know what it is, because you have been doing most of it for a long time, but the heart of your mission will really unfold this year.

- I know you have a lot to do. People seek you out for help, listening, friendship, hope, love, and encouragement. And you always give it. You live my word with humility and incredible strength and courage. Your simple unshakable faith shines out as a goal and promise for many. You are what Pentecost can be—filled with the joy of standing with me and going out in my name.

- I was there and I blessed you. You were listening to someone with such kindness and love. Your own faith and humility were a beacon and pathway for the other person. My dear child, would that I had more people like you. The world would be changed and people would believe

and love back.

- Spring is here. This is when you have more time for friends, neighbors, and home projects. I ask you to also make time to reach out and help others in your life. There is a call and mission that each one is seeking and hoping will be made clear. People need a friend and encourager like you. Bless you for doing that. You are like all those early followers in Pentecost who helped others to move forward to build up the church and people. So, when do we go out? I am ready!

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 54:10 and 55:10-11

2 Samuel 2:4-7

Psalm 95:1-2

Psalm 46:1-2, 7

Acts 8:4-8

John 15:7-10, 16-17

Mark 1:29-34

Matthew 16:13-18

Luke 17:5-6

John 15:26-27

Luke 5:12-16

Acts 8:12-18

Matthew 4:18-22

John 14:11-17

1 Corinthians 3:8-12, 22-23

Philippians 4:5-9

3 John 5-8

Ephesians 1:15-20

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Philemon 3-7

1 Corinthians 16:5-10, 13-14

Colossians 1:1-8

2 Timothy 1:11-14

1 John 4:7-12

Romans 5:1-5