



Words of Blessing

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Weekly Words Pentecost Week 16: September 5, 2010

Living the Word

John 15:16-17 You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name. This, then, is what I command you: love one another.

Pentecost: Building

*I have given you new life. Now what will you do with it?
Begin with the Church and its mission: The youth
Meet together. Encourage everyone. Listen. Support each one's gifts. Build faith.*

Seemingly ordinary people like Mother Teresa are a light and inspiration to others, especially to the youth of today. She continues to show the youth and adults around the world how to live the word and the mission of the church. You can live that mission today by inspiring the youth in the church—meeting with them, encouraging them, listening, and building up their faith and gifts. Mother Teresa brought hope and new life in the church by doing what seemed impossible: comforting the dying, feeding the starving, sheltering the homeless, and praying with and for everyone she could touch. She inspired hundreds of people from around the world to help her in the poorest of places, the streets of India. She encouraged others to help save the children, youth, babies, and adults who were dying and had no one to listen to them, and soon a church, hospital, and shelter became a reality. Today there are still people of all ages and faiths who give their gifts, lives, faith, and encouragement to this mission in other places of poverty around the world.

You may ask, “What does that really mean to me today?” I want you to understand the importance of this mission and what it means to my church, its people, the youth, and those in need. This is how you build my church, help others, and use your gifts. Make time to listen to people and encourage them. Reach out and meet with people and really listen to them. Support people’s gifts and see their faith deepen. Mother Teresa listened to each person. She prayed for them, touched them, and listened to them. And each person who gave up something in his or her own life to help Mother Teresa in this mission was grounded in prayer and offered a human touch, encouragement, and love.

Today I call you to encourage, pray with, listen to, and support those who want to know my love, words, and reality, those who need hope, healing, a friend, food, prayer, encouragement, and faith. I ask you to offer this to the youth in your life, church, schools, jobs, and town. Use your gifts. As you build up the youth in your life, you will build up the youth in your church and town. Reach out. Do your own children, family members, and neighborhood children know me, feel a part of my church, know what their gifts are, and know how they can bless and change the

world like Mother Teresa? I gave you new life. What will you do with it? Mother Teresa and her helpers gave new life and healing in the slums of India. Begin with your home, school, job, town, and church, using your gifts, and let the cross lead you forward. This is a mission from me to you for the church. Begin to build up the youth and you will build up your church. Think about what one woman did and know you can do but more. Have faith in me. I have faith in you.

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. Sometimes finding a “word” to live out for the week comes from sharing and actions.

1. This week, make time to meet with someone who needs encouragement and support with his or her gifts or call. Help this person with his or her spiritual journey or just be a friend and listen. Building friendships builds a community. Sharing your story always brings new insights.
2. Plan on a way you can offer time, help, and gifts to your church or to a mission in your church. What do you think is important? Nursing homes? Hospitals? Reaching out to the youth, the poor, and the homeless people? Or the church itself? Talk to others about how you can build a mission.
3. Think of a mission that you believe would be important to the youth. Talk to some youth in your church, neighborhood, and family. What is a mission or need that could be compared to Mother Theresa’s mission in India? Ask each one to talk about what needs in the world are important to them, and then talk about a group mission and a personal one. How to choose one?
4. Building up the youth in your church and life is an important mission. Plan ways to encourage them. Reach out, listen, and support their activities and mission. Visit their class some day and just listen. How is their faith growing? How are the people in the church helping them? Connecting to young people in your life, in some way, is important in building friendships.

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 4: 32-37 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.

John 21:15-16 After they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?” “Yes Lord,” he answered, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Take care of my lambs.” A second time Jesus said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” “Yes, Lord,” he answered, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Take care of my sheep.”

Philippians 1:1-6 From Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus—To all God’s people in Philippi who are in union with Christ Jesus, including the church leaders and helpers: May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. I thank my God for you every time I think of you; and every time I pray for you all, I pray with joy because of the way in which you have helped me in the word of the gospel from the very first day until now. And so I am sure that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus.

Action for the week: Make time this week to meet with a group of Christian friends. Talk about your journey and who encouraged you along the way so you believed you had gifts and were needed in your church, family, community, or the world in a special way.

Decisions/Questions: I have given you new life. What will you do with it this week or year? In your journey, who encouraged you the most to become who you are today and to see and use your gifts? Who affirmed you as a Christian? Think of one person you encouraged along the way. How did it turn out? How can your church encourage individual youth in your church in more ways?

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 the words mean to others. Help others to see their own special mission and gifts through these words.

Special witness this week: Share these words with the youth in your life, neighborhood, church, town, school, and family. Share this mission 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 in which to share, so offer such groups. Ask family members and even strangers. Remember, you are building faith, listening, supporting, building up the youth, building up the church, helping the youth find their gifts and then encouraging them to use them. Evangelize, pray, and be open and humble. Love all. The words this week have given you many things to do that will bless and help the youth in the world and the youth in your own life. What will you do with it? Think of what one woman, Mother Teresa, did for individuals every day.

Daily prayer for this week: Lord, when I think of how many people Mother Teresa helped in her life, I realize there is more for me to do in your name. I want to reach out to more people in your name—from children to teens, adults, families, and most of all, the poorest of poor. Mother Teresa helped the dying. She comforted and fed them, prayed for them, and touched them—yes, even the lepers. She brought healing, love, and compassion. Show me how I can do that in some way today.

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 the gifts of faith and compassion. Like Mother Teresa and people in scripture, you offer who you are, your gifts, and your love to others. So many are seeking ways to make a difference in the lives of others in my name. And you do this each day in countless ways. You are the new “missionary.”

- You support people by listening and sharing your own journey. You offer people encouragement and new ways to look at their call and gifts. Meeting with people allows the time to set aside the daily schedule and reflect on the journey ahead with a Holy Spirit freedom. Those are the times one remembers in a busy world. Make more time for them. They are a gift.
- Evangelism is a call that brings people together and to me. How do you do it? Just get going! Evangelism is an urgent call and need in the world, especially for the youth and the church. Meet with people. Talk to them about their gifts and the needs in the church. Get the members of your church to be there each week. Bring them together, listen to them, and give them a mission.
- I have a job for you—building my church before it's too late. Bring people together. See what the needs are and use people's gifts. Plan some outreach, mission work, church building, and getting the word out. Have a goal to bring in more youth, get men more involved, and start a group to share my words each week. Encourage, support, listen, use people's gifts and BELIEVE!
- Summer ends, and a new season is here. For many fall is a season to settle down to new ways to build up the church, ministries, and people's gifts. Think about how you can bring fresh energy and new ideas to your ministries and the programs in your church. How can you bring people together and support others in your life with greater encouragement? Your energy brings many smiles.
- You have the gifts of love and faith, which you use in so many ways in your life to help people all around you. Those gifts have changed how many see the church, its people, and their own gifts and faith. You touched someone whose life was changed because of your friendship and words. This person now sees his or her gifts now as needed. Bless you.
- I have a job for you: building up my church and its people. It's fall—a perfect time for new ways to use your gifts of encouragement, love, helping, and leadership. Start with planning something for the women, then for the men. Ask for help from others. Then plan something for the young people. That will be the fun job! Food always helps. This will be a great time for you.
- The needs of the church are great, but you can begin with the adults and youth in your own church. How about planning some special events that get them all talking and sharing? It can be spiritual with a smile. Get people sharing, talking, and listening. Talk about ideas for the church and planning things. Remind people to keep seeing one another as I do—very special.
- What does Pentecost mean to people, especially in the church? What does it mean to you and to your church and its people, both young and old? Pentecost is about building up the church, finding and living the mission of your church as one, and changing hearts so people know me and believe. Pentecost is using your gifts in my name in more ways. Pentecost is using your gifts more. What about you?
- Pentecost changed many lives. What an exciting time for the church and people. The disciples were ready to go out and share my love, words, and reality. There was excitement as my followers went out to use their gifts alone and in groups where the gifts of each were shared. I want Pentecost to change your life this year. Use your gifts in a ministry or mission with others. Then plan on a way to use your gifts in a mission that will help youth and bless and inspire others.
- Like my disciples and people like Mother Teresa, the call to support and encourage others and to be a listener is so important. You can't rely on others meeting those needs. I count on you. It takes no money or skills. It needs faith, patience, compassion, and a belief in the good in others. I want you to accept this call in my name and in the names of so many who gave so much for others.
- You have to live your call each day and believe there is someone who needs your friendship, love, and support. They are there. In fact there are three special people who can grow in their

gifts and can almost see a new life and path ahead. Meet with them, share, listen, and pray. You will help them move forward into a wonderful new time of using their gifts.

- Make more time for me. Look to the people I put in your life—from family to friends and even strangers. It is hard to not get caught up with the daily demands in your life—the new people in church, the family schedule, illness, reading, studying, or committees to meet with. Make more time for prayer and for me. Make time to thank those who are always there for you.

- I want you to be really happy and healthy—and overflowing with peace. So I am sending two angels who will show you how to begin to be healthier (no diets). Peace will come to you because you will feel their soothing touch, their gentle blessing, and their hugs. Look for them. They will stand out, even without the wings. They hear your prayers and bring my answer. Listen!

- Come to me each day with your questions and concerns. Do not worry about what was done. Instead, pray for my guidance to go out, be even more fully who you are, and do what you are called to do in my name. I know you and love you. Listen to those I put in your path who give you courage, guide and inspire you, deepen your faith, and see and affirm your special gifts.

- I love surprises, and the journey is filled with surprises. You expect one thing, and perhaps it does not happen exactly right, but as soon as you let go and trust in me you see that there was a better plan and path to take. The school, mission, ministry, way to use your gifts at this time, relationship, or job you wanted did not turn out as you expected, but in truth here is a much better plan and path for you. Surprise! This will be so amazing! Look for me. I am there.

- The book of Acts is filled with miracles and blessings that my disciples performed, each using his gifts in different ways. Today you too can use your own gifts. If you are unsure whether you have used them in the right place, turn to me and trust. If you wonder about how to unwrap your gifts and be open to new ways and places, trust in me. Open your heart. See what I see. Look.

-The power of the Holy Spirit helped build up my church in new ways My disciples and early followers went out unafraid, accepting the new life I gave them and meeting together often to learn, share, and support each other's missions. I have given you new life. I have given you gifts to be used to build up my church and people, help the youth, make family important, heal, and encourage.

- You are a wonderful friend. You listen, support, make time to meet with people, and pray for people. I am going to pour out my Holy Spirit on you and your family, loved ones, and friends. I want you to believe that when you speak my word with boldness, prayers will be answered, people will believe, miracles will happen, and people will be healed. I have given you new life. Now what will you do with it? Will you take your gifts out?

- You have the gifts of healing, faith, love, and encouragement, and they are so needed in the world. Think of people like Mother Teresa, Paul, and John. They went out unafraid, but trusting in me they listened to people, prayed with them, healed them, and loved them. They were seemingly ordinary people who believed in me and went where they were needed and where I could use their gifts. You have these gifts, too. Listen to that call from me, now and in the year ahead. You will know where to begin. I will be right at your side. Look for me.

- The youth in the world need to know my love, words, and reality. They need to believe and to know they have special gifts and talents that can change lives, heal, or bless many. Your mission is to help them see and believe that. Yes, even if it is just one at a time and it seems to go slowly. Begin where you feel comfortable and then stretch your wings. You are caring, gentle but strong, faith filled, and inspiring with your own gifts and mission. Look for me in the weeks ahead. It's a surprise.

- In many ways, this has been a wonderful year of growing, friendships, new beginnings, helping others in your life, answers, and blessings. I encourage you as you encourage others. Let go of

anything that holds you back from using your gifts, going out, making more friends, and supporting people in your family and life. The bumps that come are part of life. I have given you new life.

- The new life I offer—and that you can offer—sometimes comes through difficulties, illness, broken friendships, job loss, or a disappointment. When these things happen to you, I will encourage you to pray, let go, and move forward trusting in me and listening to the support of friends and family. Each day you have the opportunity for a new beginning in all ways. What will you do with it?

- I love those new beginnings, those times when you are aware of new life. You have been blessed with some new beginnings this year, and this has brought you to a place in your journey where you need to use your gifts more, build up my church, help the youth in the world and church, and offer a special challenge to your church and life. Listen to the youth and use their gifts. Encourage people to share my words each week; that is for you, too.

- There are young adults, teens, and youth who need support, a listener, and an encourager. Make time for them in your life. Show them how wonderful their gifts and future can be. There are adults who need support, a listener, and an encourager, too. Use your gifts for all. Offer to meet with people. Often people just need to know that they matter and that they have special gifts. I count on you.

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 54:10

Ezekiel 36:7-10, 27

Micah 4:2-4

Psalms 91:14-16

John 15:4-9

Luke 9:1-6

Acts 4:30-35

Mark 10:13-16

Matthew 25:35-40

Luke 14:11-14

Acts 2:38-39, 41-42

Matthew 28:16-20

Mark 10:46-52

John 5:1-9 (end with “walking”)

2 Corinthians 1:1-7

1 Peter 4:10-13

Philippians 1:1-14

1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Hebrews 10:22-25

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Ephesians 2:8-10, 20-22

2 Timothy 1:11-14

Romans 12:1, 5-8

1 Corinthians 16:8-9, 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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