



Words of Blessing

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Epiphany 2003

Week 5. February 2, 2003

Epiphany is: **A Decisive Moment**

It is the time to: **Say "yes"**

Your anchor is: **Confidence**

Let go of: **Anxiety**

Take on: **Openness**

Your prayer each day: **"Lord, I say yes."**

You enter the fifth week of Epiphany, and perhaps you have been wavering in spending as much time with my words. Life and busyness move quietly but surely back into life. You can't waver in your commitment to me and your desire to grow spiritually, to answer your call and use your gifts. This is not about one day choosing to be spiritual and then the next day going on to something else, thinking you will "get back into it" later on. This is the time for a "yes". This Epiphany has been about making that final last commitment to follow me. Some of you have faithfully followed my words, prayed, thought about the words, shared with companions, read the scripture and responded honestly to the call. But, some have not followed through. Some are now busy or feel they tried it awhile but have other things to do now. Maybe they feel the words are too long or taking too much time to read, they are busy with other things. They may not realize the precious gift these words are. There are times an opportunity is given to you, and you don't accept it, and it's gone, or you take it for a little while and then let it slip away. To you I say, this is the time for a decision, that decisive moment when you say "yes". I will give you the confidence and time you need to move through the weeks ahead, ever deepening your faith and your awareness of your unique gifts and call in life. But, it is up to you to recognize this moment of decision and say yes...or no.

For those of you who have been so open to my word and to this experience of grace, and of accepting me as your Lord and Savior - you will be blessed beyond measure. Your life will never be the same, and the journey will continue to unfold with miracles, and a faith and joy that will last. I will bless you.

Do you seek greater peace in your life? Do you want me to guide you throughout your day and in the decisions you face? Do you want to be close to me? Do you want to reach out to others as my own disciples did, bringing them love, healing, comfort and hope? You will have to put your trust in me as my own disciples did. It means saying "yes". I ask you to really pray in the week ahead. Take real time away with me in quiet. Come, be with me and I will bring you peace. Be open. Find a quiet spot in your life and each day go away and be with me. Let me take away your

anxieties and fill you with confidence. You can do this. You do have a call. Keep your eyes on me. If you struggle with the “yes” to giving me your life, trust that when I enter your heart you will know me and my truth. I will reveal myself to you in a way that will enable you to see what your life can be like. My peace will fill you for the journey ahead.

When you say that yes, you will grow in confidence. You will pray, and trust in my answers. Only believe. Know I hear your prayers, every one. Believe in my love, and persist in those prayers for yourself and others each day. Be open to my blessing and confident in my love. My hand will touch you in some way through seeing the beauty of a flower or even the wind blowing. You will know I am there.

The one thing that keeps you from having confidence in me, in giving me your “yes”, is anxiety. Are you anxious about what your gifts are, or are you anxious about what you might be called to do, or how and where you might be needed to use them? My child, follow me and do not worry. Simply believe in me and I will work in you and build up your confidence. All you have to do is be open to my word and to me. My child, do not be troubled for I am the way, the truth and the life. Your “yes” will allow my Holy Spirit to show you the way, teach you what you need to know and fill you with all the confidence you need.

Be open to how I can use you after your “yes”. There are many gifts and many ways to use your gifts. You are not like any other person. Your call is linked to your gifts and to who you are within your soul. Some people heal, others serve, and still others pray. Look at your gift as something very special and unique. You can keep it hidden away and take it out only when it needs to be shared or offered to another. Or you can use it every day, giving it to those I put in your path. You may never get thanked, but instead draw joy from the knowledge that you are serving your Lord and sharing my love.

Be open to my word. I will be your source of confidence and faith. You will grow and deepen in faith. Your works will bear much fruit, beginning within the next year. When you ask for my word, it shall be given to you. When you ask for my guidance, it will be there. You cannot be meek, but bold and go out. Your peace and confidence will grow, and you will find yourself loving others as I do. I will fill your heart.

It is important for all to make this moment of “yes” a truly a life changing event. I ask you to live this Epiphany in all ways. Live Epiphany every day. Know my love for you is forever and my presence right now in your life is real. I know you and love you. You are my child. Will you say “yes” to my call? Will you let go of your fears and anxieties? Will you be open to the call and work ahead, your own special call? Will you serve me gladly!? Love will be the anchor and the power to do all. Trust and have faith in me.

My child, this is the moment in time to choose. I will be your answer, your confidence and peace. You will hear my voice and the touch of my hand. But, be patient. Do not be anxious about anything but put all your trust in me. I will help you. This is the time to make that choice, to say “yes”. Be prayerful and open. My Holy Spirit will fill you and guide you. I will supply all you need for the journey. It is your choice. I love you and bless you. I am here at your side. In this moment can you say “yes”?

My child, in the week ahead, I ask you to pray, read and think about these words and the questions and words that follow. Find someone to share this with. Share and offer these words to others who are searching for that moment and that yes. Say my prayer each day if you can.

“Lord, I say yes.”

- If you are going through difficult times, know you are not alone. Let my calm fill you and take away your anxiety and struggle. Trust in me for I will never leave your side. You are not alone.

- Everyone does and says things they regret. You can't take back what you have done or said, but you can learn from it. You can choose to forgive yourself and you can choose to ask for forgiveness.

- Have confidence in me that the opportunity to serve me and to use your gifts will be there. I will teach you, walk with you, love you and guide you. You will not fail. Nothing is too hard for us to do together.

- There are times when a huge decision faces you that will not just affect your life, but the lives of those close to you. Go slowly. Be prayerful. Seek spiritual counsel. Listen to me. What would I want you to do?

- It is easier to say “yes” than “no”. It is easier to be honest than to try to live with untruths.

- Are you willing to change and be changed? Can you look to what others need first? If you stand in front of a mirror alone, you see only one smile. If you stand with a friend the smiles are multiplied and grow!

- Do you feel that you have wandered off the path? I am here. I am ready to lead you back to the path and in the right direction. I am ready to answer your doubts and questions. I will show you the way.

- You have a gift and a call. But, you wonder what it is? Begin with prayer and meditating on what you have been drawn to. What has always pulled you and stirred your heart with compassion, pain, or joy.

- Do not be concerned about the future. Be calm and have faith in me. I will do the rest. Trust. Believe.

- The world crowds in and interrupts. Be strong. Be grounded in simple daily prayer. It is vital.

- Decisions are made through prayer and listening. Ask 3 people to pray for you each day. And ask one person to pray for a situation you are struggling with. Be open.

- I will enable you to do the work that is ahead. It will be difficult at times, for the work and the commitment is big. Do not be anxious but filled with simple and humble confidence that comes from me.

- You cannot change others, but you can make a decision on how to live with them, work with

them, worship with them and be a friend - or you just distance yourself but more. What would I have you do?

- Judging others before knowing all the details is a little seen trap. Be aware of when you do this, and choose to not do this. It does not help you or them. It hurts and destroys good.

- I will show you what to do. I will give you the boldness to speak up. I did the same with my own disciples and they were filled with the confidence needed. So will you.

- Let go of your fears. My love shines a light down upon you. You are my child. You are my hands and words to the world. I need you. I will be with you always. My word will bring you peace and hope.

- Your “yes” can make a difference in the world and in the lives of countless people. I wait. They wait.

- A new path is just ahead. A new beginning for your future. There are some new friendships. But, you have to be open. Don’t look inward at what you want and need, but outward to what the world needs.

- This is the time for your decision. Are you willing to say “yes”? Be open. Be confident. Live Epiphany.

Read and pray and share my words in:

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| Mark 6:30-32 | Psalm 4:5-8 | Isaiah 50:4 | Hebrews 13:20-21 & 25 |
| Luke 13:18-19 | Psalm 121:1-8 | Proverbs 3:5-6 | 1 Corinthians 9:17 |
| Acts 4:32-22 | Psalm 21:6-7 | Nehemiah 9:6-7 | 1 Timothy 4:4-5 & 9-14 |
| John 15:4-9 & John 15:11-17 | | Micah 4:1-2 & 6:8 | |
| Ephesians 1:13-19 end with “believe” | | | |
| Psalm 40:7-11 begin with “instead” | | | |