



Words of Blessing

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Epiphany 2003

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Epiphany is: **A sign from heaven - A Revelation of Jesus**

It is a time to: **Move out to do the work**

Your anchor is: **Faith**

Let go of: **Doubt**

Take on: **The expectation of miracles!**

Your prayer each day: **“Lord, open my heart and mind. With you, nothing is impossible.”**

This week we look at Epiphany from another place, how it is also about a “revelation of Jesus”, a sign from heaven. Those signs help you to begin to know how and where to move out to do the work you are called to do using your own special gifts. To do the work, you have to let go of your doubts, anchor yourself in faith and then expect those miracles. You have moved forward in this journey these past weeks, step by step you have grown, stretched and been faithful in seeking how to find and live out your own Epiphany. I know it is not easy to make the time for me and for the gift of these words. You have done well. Some of you had to learn to slow down and let go of too much busyness. Others took that slowing down time to renew or deepen their prayer life. Most of you have stretched your faith and begun looking at your call and your gifts with new eyes. Now for the work. I think you are ready. Thank you for being open to my words and guidance, know that you will be blessed. You just might experience some miracles in the week ahead!

How do you know when you are ready to move out to use your gifts, or try a work to see if that is “the right one”? How do you know that this is the right time, how will I tell you or show you?! My child, you must really think of what “signs” are for and why I give them. Signs are given to help build up your faith and to show you my authority comes from God. There are times when you are so unsure of your trust in me that you need a sign, a word, an experience of a miracle. The Holy Spirit will help you to see and understand those signs. I have given you signs throughout your journey. Do you remember any of them? How did you feel and what did you think? Sometimes those signs are so subtle that you realize that you must journey through life expecting them and being open to them. A sign is not always something painted across the sky. It can be an unexpected note of appreciation for a work you just agreed to do. It can be simple act of kindness like a word of welcome in a new setting, or a meal from a neighbor. It can be an invitation to help in a new ministry, or to take over leadership in a job. It can be a simple affirmation of your gift in one particular area. It can be a gift of money when you are struggling

or an unexpected opportunity from a new friend. You have already received signs from me. Most have been seemingly simple things. Listen to my voice, look for my hand at work in your life and in the lives of those you love. Oh yes, some of my signs for you are things I do for those close to you. Just learn to recognize them, see them, and expect them! All of them.

How can you be more open to those signs and miracles that help you to keep moving out to do my work and use your gifts? Trust. Let go of your doubts by having faith in me, in yourself and in what you are seeing and experiencing! Trust in yourself and your faith. Next, do not be afraid to ask for signs! I want people to ask and desire revelations and signs of my reality and love. I will help you to see those signs more clearly, and to take away the doubts that cloud your eyes. I will help you to see my hand. When doubts fill your mind, turn to prayer to sustain you. Pray that your faith would increase. You have the faith needed, you just need to know you have the faith. Pray, ask for my presence and signs, then believe. I will show you when to wait, go forward or trust. This is a time of testing. Have faith in me that I will supply all you need to go out. Nothing is impossible for me. I am your help and supply.

My child, God speaks to you through His son - Jesus Christ. Open your heart to me and know the revelation of love. Let the Holy Spirit build up your trust in God's promises and show you how to step out. My Holy Spirit can be your companion in the week ahead, in the whole journey that is unfolding. As your counselor and companion on the way, you will be led to the truth and the right decisions. Let grace fill you so that you can go out and use your gifts to encourage and build up the body.

When you see those signs and revelations from me, it is time to move forward-to move out. Sometimes the answer, direction or sign comes in the quiet when you are just praying or waiting. So, take time to listen - really listen - for me and to me. You will have to still your thoughts from racing ahead, and just be. You will have to put away those lists of things to do, and even the issues and people that worry you. And you will have to make time to listen by making me a priority sometime in your day. I want to reveal myself to you in a way that will build up your trust in me. I want to speak to you in the quiet of the day and tell you how and where to move out to use your gifts in the world. Trust me. Cast out your doubts. Believe in me even though you don't understand. Know that I am here and ready to walk with you on the path ahead. In the week ahead think back on these past few weeks. I gave you a clear sign, invitation and word to build up your faith in me but more. For some it was a special invitation to show you how to be a part of the "body" of faithful. For others it was an affirmation of how much you are needed. Did you see those signs?

Everyone wonders what their mission is and when to begin it. Have you asked me what it is? Have you let me show you how to use your gifts to bring my love and words to the world - to help my people? I want to show you your mission just as I showed my own disciples. They each had different gifts, and in time went out to different places. You do not have to be like them and travel to far off countries...though some of you will go there and some are already there. But, one thing is the same, you are called to go out and tell people that I love them and want them to know of my love. I will work through you, if you go out.

My child, have faith in me. Believe I can move mountains! Do not doubt or be afraid. My Holy

Spirit will fill you. If you ground yourself with peace, joy and faith in me, then miracles happen. Expect them! I will give you the wisdom you need through prayer, and reading my word is scripture. I want to teach you how to make the right decisions and choices in life and thus be able to do what you are called to do. The greatest leaders in history have all turned to prayer as a way to cast out their doubts and make the right decisions for their people. They had faith and listened to God. And the way forward was revealed to them. Sometimes they had to wait, other times change their plans - just like with you. I am with you and will show you the way forward. I will be your source of strength and comfort. I will be your hope. You will see a sign - a revelation of Jesus your Lord. Anchored in prayer and faith, move out to do your work. I love you and bless you. I am here. Trust in me and believe!

In the week ahead I ask you to say this prayer throughout the day especially when you are faced with issues and situations that would cause you to doubt yourself or doubt in my grace. When you struggle with a difficult decision, wait, pray, be open to me. Listen.

“Lord, open my heart and mind. With you, nothing is impossible.”

Think and pray about the words and questions that follow. Not every word may speak to a situation you are facing now, but there is wisdom and guidance for your life. There will be words you might share with another. And there might just be words that reveal my presence in your journey in a very real way. There will be a word that is just for you. You will know what it is. Trust.

- I know the uncertainties and situations you face can be overwhelming at times. Doubts can flood your heart. I want you to expect and believe in miracles. They happen in little things as well in huge ways! Put on the cloak of faith and keep it on. Faith can change the limits you put on me. Believe in my miracles.

- My child, there is nothing that will ever take me from your side. When you feel most alone and struggle with doubts or the future, believe I am with you. I love you and you can trust in my words and reality.

- My child, nothing is impossible! Believe!

- Are you looking for a miracle in your life? Is there something that you feel is going to take that kind of power for “it” to happen? If you have tried praying or asking, then feeling that nothing is happening, know that I do hear you. Do you feel that your prayer is not strong enough? Miracles do not depend on how effective one’s prayer is, or knowing the right prayer. But, I do want people to pray simply, trusting in my wisdom. Pray with faith when you ask for those miracles. Pray and wait knowing I will answer.

- Let go. Move out. Move forward.

- How does your schedule look? Are you overly busy and overly committed? Are you working so hard at your job, at home or with your other commitments that there is little time for me and for yourself? Is it time to look at the endless list of “to-do’s” that you have? Are you willing and

ready to deepen your faith? It takes time with me. Are you ready to see me working in your life in a powerful and real way, pointing the way to how and where your gifts can be used and celebrated? My child, you have to slow down and let go of the pace of life that keeps you from peace and prayer. But, it's a choice you make.

- There are times one has the opportunity to make a decision for another because of one's position, power or relationship. Do not let negative feelings, resentment or even jealousy cloud the "right" decision. Because then you are acting from a closed heart, mind and spirit. You will close the door to miracles, faith, gifts and fellowship for another. Ponder that and open doors - then your faith will grow.

- It is time to know what your plan is. How are you going to do the work you so want to do for me? Be calm and open and I shall lead the way. I will give you the wisdom and understanding to do it. I will help you to see the vision in a new way. I will open doors and close some. Inner peace will grow as you move forward, knowing you are following my signs.

- Whenever you are faced with doubt, or you wonder about my words or love, cast out the thoughts by praying this prayer: "Jesus is real. Jesus is my savior."

- Stubbornness of heart to another chips away at faith & closes doors to my love, words, reality and joy.

- There are some people in your life that you may have closed your heart and mind to, though you know I have put them in your life for a reason. I have used them to show you a "word". That word will show you how to live in grace, charity, openness and a non-judgemental heart.

- Your church needs you. I have given you signs and shown you how and where you are needed. Be open in mind and heart. Move out to do my work and you will see clear signs from me about what to do. Expect miracles. Expect a blessing and surprise.

- Pray. Be open. Nothing is impossible with me.

- I can lead you and guide you forward to a life filled with miracles and the revelation of my love. But, you have to trust me and give me your life. Let go and allow me to lead you. It is only your own doubts that will hold you back and prevent you from attaining the goals you seek in life and from using your gifts to change the world. Doubts can slow down your daily life, the simple decisions you face and the big ones as well. When you doubt me, yourself or those gifts you have. The progress you seek...stops.

- Step out. Do not limit me. Unless you open the door, you won't know what is there. Trust in me.

- Sometimes the battle seems overwhelming. How do you overcome evil or Satan's forces in the world? How can you win? My child, I will provide angels to do battle for you. They are special spiritual beings who are God's helpers and messengers. They are there to help you and bring you my word. Faith!

- I offered you an invitation to grow spiritually and to be a part of the body in order to deepen your faith. That invitation may be offered again. That invitation would have been for another but it was a sign of how you can grow and do your own work. Was your heart and mind open?

- You can do it! Do not doubt your gifts, talents and skills. I am clearing the path! Be ready! Believe.

- I gave you a word. It was a sign of my love. It was to open your heart to the path I have for you
- just ahead! My child, believe in that word. Step out! You are needed. It will work out. Trust in me.

- You bless people with your kindness and faith. Would that you could believe that.

- Come, watch with me for a time. Let me reveal my love to you in a very real way. Let me show you signs from heaven of my reality. My words will build up your faith and wisdom. Give me some of your time each day. You will not regret it for it will feed your heart, mind and soul with peace. Pray with me. Pray to me then you will be able to move out into the day filled with unshakable faith and joyous praise.

- Decisions.

- Have faith that I hear your prayers and will answer. You have the ability and power to do much more than you realize. My Holy Spirit will fill you with the strength and power you need to finish the work. For some, it will be the strength to begin the work. I will bless your work when it is done. You will see a miracle of strength and patience in action.

- I know you are trying to be open. Have faith in me and in yourself. Do not close any doors. The right one is there. You will know. I will guide.

- You may doubt an important decision that you made. Trust and have faith in me and in yourself. You will see signs from heaven that will assure you of your own wisdom and courage. Though some important decisions are hard and even painful - you are not alone. Keep your heart and mind on me. Continue to pray. Listen to my guidance and assurance for the way ahead. Go forward! Believe.

- There are times when the way forward is unclear. Be open. I will reveal the right way. Have faith.

- I know those secret and quiet things that you are afraid of, that bring up fear in your heart. Trust in me. Let my light guide you forward in the month ahead. Follow my light and path. I have heard your many prayers. Yes, there have been many. I will answer clearly, through another and in the quiet of morning.

- Miracles happen every day. As you step out, let go and put your faith in me. A miracle will happen to show you how and where you are needed most, where new life and joy is waiting.

- You can see signs for heaven, revelations of Christ your Lord. Trust and take my hand. You don't have to understand it all, just believe that I will bring good out of everything for you. Believe I love you.

- You are a treasure to me. I love you and all my sheep. Each person is important to me, even if they reject my words or love. I died on the cross for all. You welcomed me into your life with love. Can you welcome the hungry and poor, the neglected and lonely? Can you feel compassion for the lost, or love those who have hurt you, rejected or betrayed you, those you struggle with? I ask you to open your hands and heart to serve me. Move out into the world and look at others with my eyes. Expect miracles as you welcome others to meet me.

- I went out with my disciples to preach the gospel of love and salvation. They believed the words, and it was revealed to them that I was the Savior, the son of God. And they believed that. Then they had to believe that their mission was to go out to all the world with it. They had to be bold in loving me and loving others. Bold in serving me and the people. What of you? Do you believe in me and in my word. You too have been chosen to go out into your world and be available to others and share my love. People are waiting for you to bring them my word and my love. They will see my reality in you.

- Do you see the way forward as an unsure path or a clouded vision. Does the task in front of you seem impossible to finish or to even begin? My child, the only thing that is getting in the way is yourself. It is a bit of procrastinating and a little bit of self pity. You are letting things distract you and pull you away from what you know you need to complete. Satan loves to toss extra tasks and unimportant distractions on the path! The only thing holding you back from doing what you need to do to move forward, is yourself. You don't have to rush through things, just stay calm and focused. It will get done.

- Don't worry about what you don't have or what you need. God will provide. Have faith. Let go.

- I am revealing my plan and path for you. Expect a word. Expect a miracle. Expect a special sign that says "nothing is impossible!" You are going to be amazed!!

- Are you letting go of trying to control your life or the lives of those around you? Let go. Trust in me.

- Do not let the difficulties or struggles of the past few months bring you down. A new door will open and the way forward will be clear. I will bless you and help you. Peace will come.

- When you doubt your ability to do this new work, turn to me. I have faith in your gifts and ability. You are needed in this job. You have all the gifts and experience needed. Be open. Move forward and out to do this work - this job. I will bless you with a miracle to assure you. Watch for it!

- Have faith in me. Entrust your children and loved ones to me. You may have to change some things. You will have to trust them to me and believe in my wisdom and love. Whatever their

needs, they are in my care.

- When you doubt - pray. Reach out and hold my hand. I am here. I want you to have faith in yourself.

- Forgiveness is important in the journey. It may not always be easy, but it brings peace to the soul.

- I have given you a special friend who will help you have faith in yourself and your ability to do the work at hand. It may not always be easy to do a task or to trust. But, your friend will sustain you and listen.

- I know you are a good person and loved by many. Trust me and do not ever doubt that. I will multiply your gifts and talents in the next three years so that the path ahead will be clear. You will know how to help and bless my people - the one's most in need. It is time to step out. You will know such joy.

- Do you hear my call? I ask you to move out to do my work. I will open your heart and mind to where you are needed and how to help. You can do it, you can even do more! Rely on me. I will show the way and give you the courage you need. I will empower you through prayer and you will see miracles.

Read and reflect on my words in scripture. More guidance is found in them.

Matthew 18:1-5 & 17:20	Psalm 147:4-5 & 10:11	Wisdom 6:12-14	1 John 4:11-12
Luke 9:57-62 & 17:5-6	Psalm 9:1 & 10:17	Jeremiah 32:16-17	Hebrews 2:4
John 16:27 & Mark 1:40	Psalm 82:3 & 85:9-10	Genesis 9:13	Romans 15:20-21
Acts 2:43-44	Psalm 91:11-16	Job 4:9	Ephesians 2:10 & 20-22