



# Words of Blessing

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## Epiphany Week 9 Message

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Epiphany is showing forth.  
Epiphany is a time to Live out your call.  
Your anchor is humility.  
Let go of self.  
Take on compassion.  
Your prayer each day: "Lord, send me out. I will be your witness."

*(From Mary Crist: This will be the last set of words for the time of year in the church called "Epiphany". We have had a wonderful journey together. The Lord has told me that he will be giving words each week for the rest of the year-the rest of the seasons in the church calendar. I do not yet know what the words will be about, but I trust that they will be as helpful and meaningful as these words. Many of you have shared these words with others, as the Lord asked us to do. I hope you will continue to do that, and ask those who receive them - to share with others in their lives as well. I do not know how many have received them so far, but know they are going around the world. Soon, we will be putting them on our website and they can be accessed that way as well. More will come on that from me. Thank you for your notes and emails and your affirmation of the words. I pray for each of you every day. May we all be blessed and encouraged by these words so that we can indeed each live out our call. May each person find a way to be His witness and share His love, words and reality in the world. Love, Mary)*

My child, it is the end of this season, and I have tried to guide you in changing your life and deepening your faith. This has been an epiphany time in your life. My words have not come to you by chance but through my love for you and my need for you. I have blessed you with these words and hope that you choose me and choose to live out your call and be my witness to a needy world. In these past few weeks I have tried to shape you, encourage you, challenge you, and show you my real presence in your life. You were meant to receive these words, for it is time for you to step out and live that new life.

These past few weeks I have tried to help you to see that you have gifts and a call that are uniquely your own. It is your choice to use your gifts and to decide how and where to use them. Many of you are still pondering that. But the call is not easy, and it is not just about "doing" something in my name. It is also about who you are and who you are striving to become. It is about being shaped to do that work. I have begun that shaping in these past weeks.

At the end of this part of the journey the path will turn, and I will walk at your side toward Calvary, the way of the cross. I invite you to prayerfully consider walking the next part. It will be a different challenge, and I believe you are ready. I love you and bless you. I thank you for your faith and for your openness to my words, love, and reality in your daily life. But now, let us complete the Epiphany part of your journey. You have done well. Those of you who have struggled to make the time to read these words and take them to heart, begin anew with greater dedication to me and to yourself. These words are real, and they are a gift to you at this time in your life.

Are you ready to go out and be my witness in the world? I have brought you the gift of these words so that you might be willing and ready to take those steps outward. What is witnessing really about? It is

simply sharing the things you have seen and know and the things I will yet show you. How do you witness? I hear the fears and denials bubbling forth already! "I don't know how to speak in public." "I do not know how to write or preach." "I have no story to tell."

My child, you can be my witness. You are already my witness! Be yourself. By the way you live your life and speak, you are witnessing. People witness in countless ways because the world needs to hear and see the witness of my love, words, and reality in different ways. Each person will respond to a different kind of witness. So my words today will begin to help you find your way to tell who Jesus Christ is and who he is in your life. Yes, there is a way for you to be a powerful witness for me.

My child, I called forth ordinary men and women to journey with me and to carry on the message of salvation once I was gone. I wanted my words to go out to all the world, and they have. My words go out in many languages, countries, and places. Each person has his or her own story to tell that reflects my reality in his or her own life. I want to send you out. Before you panic, let me assure you that you may be called to witness in your own neighborhood, your church, your job, or family. It may be to strangers or through a particular ministry that has been drawing you. When you risk and step out in my name the first time, to just show forth my love, the next time will be easier. What I wait for is your prayer each day: "Lord, send me out. I will be your witness." I need you to live out your call and show forth my love and words. Listen for the invitations, the opportunities, and the open doors. They will be there. Trust me.

Each of you can yield much fruit. You can be my hands and heart in the world. You can love others as I would, share the words that I would share, and work miracles through my presence and reality in your lives. Other seemingly ordinary men and women have allowed themselves to show forth my love in the world by being instruments of grace. The world is so divided at times. Pray for unity and live in unity with others. Let my Holy Spirit fill you and guide you so that you can help to rebuild your church—my church. It will take setting aside individual biases and looking at unity, being one under my will and plan. When people can set aside their own ideas and let my plan unfold, then oneness happens and miracles unfold.

To convert the souls of others to know me you must experience a conversion of your own soul. Living out the call involves looking into your own life and taking responsibility for what you do and how you move out in your journey. It means looking at divisions and trying your very best to bring about healing and unity. It means looking at the struggles and pain of others and offering my love and words. Seek my presence and pray that all become one. Be my witness of faith and unity. Live it.

To live out the call—to show forth my presence and be a witness to my love and words—you have to let go of self and show compassion to others. This is a time in your life when I am trying to stretch you and help you to see where you can change and become more open and yielding. Yes, there is a plan for you, but you have to be open and willing to set aside self and trust. Are you ready and willing? You have to trust that I will provide all you need. I am your shepherd and will show you how to care for my people and how to serve them in a special ministry. I need you. Clothed with humility, you are ready to go out.

How do you live a life of humility, be my witness, and go out? How do you know what to do or how to make the right decisions? One important way is by reading and reflecting on the words in scripture each day. Find a way to make reading the Bible a "must" time in your day. Place a Bible where you will be able to see it in the day. It can be at work, in the kitchen, or beside your bed. Just seeing the Bible will be a reminder that I wait to feed your spirit, to teach you, and to shape you.

Letting go of self may take a lot of work and diligence. In addition to my word in scripture, prayer is vital. Prayer is a determined act of will where you set aside self and turn to me. Prayer involves transformation and change. You let go and give your cares and time to me. Prayer requires spending time with me and ignoring the demands at hand. It is a decision.

I know you seek to have a heart of compassion for all my people. It is an important part of living out the call and showing forth my love. A witness has to have compassion. That means letting go of self. I know that at times it is hard to be compassionate. You see selfish or dishonest people "taking" money, time, or energy from others and doubt the need to be compassionate. You wonder if they deserve it.

Do not let doubts or discouragement hold you back. Compassion is what I offered to all. Compassion for you is loving people as I do, seeing their hurt and holding their pain for them, and sharing in that same pain and suffering. Compassion is not judgmental; it means accepting what another has gone through and bearing it with him or her. I will put opportunities in your path over and over again to show you how and where to make yourself available to do my work and show love and compassion for my people. In the next six weeks I will show you some certain things to do to begin to use your gifts and show compassion for people. You will be tempted to waste time on things that are not as important, things to distract you, but I will place certain opportunities in your path. Make one thing, one work, your first priority. At first it may seem like you are doing little things, but it is to make you ready, anxious, and willing to do a greater work.

I will empower you to do this work; just be faithful to your call. You will accomplish some amazing things in my name. This work of compassion and using your gifts will move to a new place by spring. You will have a new joy about the tasks you have accepted. Know that I will provide all the compassion, strength, love, energy, and joy to overcome all things, to live my word, and to be my love in the world of those who need.

Some of you are ready to live out your call, to show forth my love and be my witness. Some are still preparing for that step. To live out your call, take more time alone with me in prayer. Just be with me and be aware of me throughout your day. In these times you will grow and deepen your faith. You will begin to see how to go out each day in my name.

I also ask you to entrust your journey and learning to others who are further along in their journey of faith. Seek out a trustworthy person who is a leader. Seek out a person who has strong faith, someone you look up to and who can help and guide you as you go out to live out your call. I also ask you to look at the ministries you are doing. Pray about them. Are there new ministries to do or do those you are doing just need renewed faith and energy? Is what you are looking at or doing right now only part of your call? Will the rest unfold later? Are you seeing your call through my eyes?

Living out your call involves deepening your spiritual life and seeking ways to continue to grow in faith and wisdom. You may need others who have a faith that is a bit more mature to be a resource for you, someone to share with. Some may just need a companion of faith to hold onto.

Going out to be my witness of love and hope is not easy. You may have to give up some comforts, the easy life you had, or even some freedom. Some people have given up homes and communities so they can go to other lands. Others make sacrifices each day in countless ways. You have been blessed with many good things. Some of you have a great deal to share with others. To go out I ask you first to be generous in the things that are really important: goodness, compassion, generosity, and love. Be humble and think of each person as one I sent to you. How much you give is up to you. Show forth my love, words, and reality in all you do and who you are. I will bless you.

- Comfort the hurting with compassion and love. Offer them the same new life that I offer you.
- I will provide for all your needs. Tiny seeds thrown into a field will, in time, bring forth food for many people. I have planted small seeds within you. There are seeds for a new life, seeds for a ministry that will grow beyond your imagination, seeds of love within you that will touch many lives as you pour them out, and seeds of courage that will grow as you step out in faith to answer that call and do the work that is yours to do in my name. I have planted seeds of trust that will multiply as you take those next steps in your call. I have planted seeds of compassion within you that will yield amazing abundance, for you will have enough to touch all in your life and all you will meet. Those seeds, watered with humility and grace, will be a witness to the world of your faith and my presence in your life. The seeds will be your witness.

- You do not have to take credit for the work you do in my name. Nor do you have to accept praise for your own worth as a committed Christian. In fact, all praise to God will bring about the change of hearts to all.
- I have brought you these words as a gift, a showing forth of my presence in your life right now. I want you to be able to share my words and be a witness of my love and presence in your life. You will see when and how to tell your story. You will know the right words to lead and comfort the children and young people of the world around you. You will be able to show and teach how to be a mother, a father, a worker, a friend, a husband, a wife, a child of God. You will be able to be a light in the dark. Be wise in what you say and do. Be compassionate and humble. I am right here at your side now.
- I will always take care of you. You may not understand how I can do that when times are difficult, but expect the unexpected. Ask for what seems impossible. Be bold in your courage and faith. I am here.
- It is hard to take those steps of faith, to risk reaching out to a stranger or a person in need. There are times when you will see a person in need, a person who is hurting or begging. Offering my love is not easy, but I can assure you that it is received gladly. I touch people's lives in many ways. The compassion of a friend or stranger is a powerful witness of my love. It shows your trust in me. I will give you the grace and courage to step out and act in compassion, and you will find the door opened to deeper faith. Through your witness, I will touch your life and theirs in a special way. Listen and look for my direction and love.
- Your own hardships can help you to deepen your faith and to grow in compassion for the struggles of others. I will always be at your side and will teach you something through your difficulties. Trust in me.
- The disciples and friends were ordinary men and women, but they responded to the call to follow me and help people in my name. They were humble and did not see that they had any extraordinary talents. In time they went out and did many works, including healing, preaching, and praying for people. In time they did amazing things. Let me take away your fears and use you to bring my love to others.
- I know you love surprises. I have prepared some surprises for you, just as I did for my own disciples. They will come, much as the wine did at the wedding feast. They will be joyous surprises from me. In those surprises you will see more clearly my loving plans for your life in the year ahead. Watch!
- In every journey there is that time when life seems to deal a painful and unfair blow to your life. It is hard to be positive or keep your eyes on me in those times. I do not make bad things happen, but I do make good out of all things. Believe. You will be all right. There is something good that will come from this time. Lean on friends of faith. Let go of what you cannot control. Pray. Trust in me. All will be well.
- I have given you the gifts you need to do my work. Just believe you have them and begin to use them. You will be able to offer healing, just as my own disciples did. People need healing in many ways, and there are many ways to heal. Some need to be heard, some need to be prayed for, some need to be comforted, and others need to know it is okay. Use your gifts in and through my power. Heal my sheep.
- I want to clear away those things that keep you from giving your life to me fully. Open your heart.
- Have you struggled with the vision of what I am asking you to do? Look to my word and follow it. I have given you words and guidance many times over in the past years; reflect back on that. You

have heard and seen the many needs of my people. What can you do for me and in my name? In the next six months you will have opportunities to seek counsel from some strong and committed people of faith. You will have opportunities to seek the prayers and insights of people you trust and love. There will be invitations. Look to them with a heart of faith. Clarity will come. Put aside self. Be humble and open.

- Think of someone you know who seems far away from me. Pray for them five minutes each day and have faith and confidence that I hear your prayer. Bring this person to me and let my love break down walls.
- When you surrender your life to me, you are not losing control, you are simply letting my love and presence so fill your life that you are a visible witness of my love, words, and reality. Let go. Trust.
- Family is very important to me and to you. Believe that your family can grow even closer together in the years ahead. It will not always be easy, because children need to stretch their wings and find their own path. Be faith-filled parents with your own spiritual lives, ministries, and commitment. They will see and continue to model this in their lives. You have laid the foundation of faith. Continue to do this. Worship together when you can. Know that this is a foundation. Encourage your children to look at their gifts, call, spiritual life, and ministry—as you do yours. Listen to them, pray for them, and love them.
- You can offer incredible gifts of compassion by noticing the people in your life and offering kindness. Visit someone who is sick, bring a dish to someone who is struggling, or call someone who is alone. Reach out in my name.
- I have chosen you for a special mission in this world. It is about answering your own call to share the gospel with others. I will give you the help you need to go out. Just be available and open to the infilling of my Holy Spirit. I will reveal myself to you in a special way in the week ahead. Be bold in your gifts.
- The path forward is not always easy. You can become distracted by the struggles of others, by a busy life, or by the desire to do something that is good, but perhaps is not part of your work or ministry. Daily prayer can keep you focused on what I am calling you to do and how to do it.
- Be ready for the opportunity to grow in following your call. It will be there. Be open and listen.
- Open your eyes and see the wonderful life I have ahead for you! Trust. Be my witness of faith.
- I do not want perfection in what you do, I want you to simply listen, yield self, and do what the Holy Spirit asks you to do. You will then experience my presence in your life in a powerful and life-changing way. Trust me to show you how to let go and how to obey my word. I will help you overcome the fear of change and changing your path. It is time to put new wine into new wineskins. Live out your call.
- It is a great temptation to desire the plenty in the lives of others. It is a greater temptation to desire their attention and flattering words. Be confident in my love for you and seek the last place. Be humble.
- Each person has a unique combination of gifts that come together to create a call and ministry. You may know what your ministry is, but you may not know how to do it. Or you may be struggling with figuring out what your ministry is at all! Watch for affirmations and confirmations. A ministry often has several parts to it. With one part you may need the help of a friend, and with another part you may need the help of a spouse to work with you. You may need to do a great deal on your own at this time. Be open to me and to my plan for you. I think you would be

surprised at how I see your gift and ministry unfolding! Look for invitations. They are often from me and will show you the path forward. Be patient. Be open.

- Seek the infilling power of my Holy Spirit. Show forth my love. Live out your call. Be my witness!
- I want to build up everything in your life that will keep your heart and faith open to my presence. Look at your daily challenges as ways to show forth my love and live out your call as my witness. I bless you.
- Invite me to come more deeply into your life. Let my Holy Spirit pour out into your life and all you do. Accepting my call, showing forth my love, living out the call, and being my witness are the beginning of the journey with me. I invite you to pray and read my word each day so I can fill you with my love and knowledge. Let my Holy Spirit fill you and guide you to a greater commitment to me and to your call.

Read and pray the words that follow.

Mark 2:21-22  
Philippians 2:3-9  
Hosea 14:5-6  
Psalm 26:3  
Mark 4:13-20  
Ephesians 4:1-7  
Matthew 16:13 James 5:8

Psalm 51:15-17  
Acts 26:16  
1 Peter 5:4-7  
Isaiah 61:1  
Psalm 37:4  
Matthew 25:23

Isaiah 49:6  
Psalm 33:20-22  
John 1:23  
Galatians 6:2 & 9-10  
Amos 3:8  
Hebrews 13:1-3, 16 and 25