

heart the more intimate the conversation.

Today we are celebrating that Jesus has sent the person of the Spirit to be with us, that we might share life together. That we might be live a life interwoven together; sharing with each other about everything. Talking with each other about everything.

So today I'd like to encourage you to ask the Spirit what God is saying to you, and then listen. This is the type of relationship Jesus gave his life for us to live, now and into the future. He invites us to ask, to talk, to share. And has promised to be involved in the conversation; it's not a one way deal.

Over the next we weeks we'll be looking at some of the stories in the bible, looking at

how these people shared life with God. We'll also be looking at prayer using the book; 'Moving Mountains'. For what sort of relationship do you have without conversation?

These weeks I'd encourage you to be sharing with God about everything by talking about everything. Invite the Spirit in and share what you're thinking, how you're feeling, or just talk about the sort of day you're having.

And then ask; God what do you think? And then listen, expectantly, for the Spirit's reply; a prompt, a thought, a knock at the door, a person's name, an image coming to your mind. And then talk about what you have received.

Like Jesus I got the image of a closed door when I asked you about my conversational maturity; is that me or you? Do you want me to open the door? What ways could I be more open? Then listen, and respond again to what you have heard. For Jesus is after a living, vibrant, conversational relationship. It's what he's given his life for.

4 June 2017

## WHAT IS GOD SAYING

Acts 2:1-21



This week we celebrate one of the great festivals of the year. Christmas time is that wonderful celebration of Jesus birth. Easter is that high point of celebrating Jesus death and resurrection; the new life we now have in Jesus. And today, Pentecost, we celebrate; what?

Pentecost is on a par with Christmas and Easter, what are we celebrating?

When two people get married, what are we celebrating?

I'd say the beginning of a life together; ideally not as acquaintances but life interwoven. A shared life, where together they face the highs and lows. Where they take on the adventure of life together. And I'm sure one of the key components of this

shared life is conversation.

Who would agree that conversation is essential for a relationship?

Today we celebrate the festival we call 'Pentecost'. We remember God coming in the person of the Spirit to be with his people. Father sends the person of the Spirit to be with his children. Jesus sends the person of the Spirit to be with his disciples; that they might have this personal link; so that they can do and say what they see Jesus doing and saying.

Obviously it is hard to share life with a person who isn't there. Obviously it is hard to follow Jesus as his disciple if we don't have a person to follow. If we only have a text to read and implement, then that's not really

discipleship. A key component is missing; the personal relationship.

An apprentice learns, not by simply reading a book, but under the guiding eye of a skilled trade's person.

Thank God we don't simply have a text book to apply, but today we celebrate that we have a relationship to live. Today we celebrate life interwoven with God in the person of the Spirit. Together with the person of the Spirit we take on the adventure of life. Together facing the highs and lows; in a living, vibrant, conversational relationship.

Jesus hasn't disappeared leaving us to go and simply do the best we can. Read the book, and do the best you can.

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**Christ Church Lutheran**

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

Actually that's part of the problem; simply doing the best we can. Who spots the subtle trap of the devil if we are simply doing the best we can?

That's it; we're doing the best WE can, when discipleship is doing what Jesus does. The Spirit comes that we might learn to live life the best Jesus knows how. But it's not just learning to live life, it IS living life with Jesus.

Our life isn't some big education; learning this or that, I'm sharing life with Jesus. I'm growing in a relationship. I'm getting to know a person, not a set of rules and regulations.

At the end of life you don't end up in a big hall sitting an exam. Here are 5000 questions that you should have learned. All you have to do is answer then 100% correct and you'll pass the test!

Thank God our life isn't some big lesson

where the focus is on what we learn or don't learn.

The Spirit isn't a classroom teacher. I like the old word used to describe the Spirit; 'Paraclete'. Part of the image behind this word comes from war, where when in the midst of battle you cry out and you hear your mate call

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### A living, vibrant, conversational relationship.

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back. You're in this together, you're not alone.

We don't have a school room with lessons to learn, but a life to live, and thank God we're not on our own. We're not on this adventure of life, alone, cause then it might turn out to be a night mare!

If all I can do is the best I know how, I'm severely limited. My imagination is so limited compared to what Jesus has dreamed possible for us. My best

efforts fall so far short of what Jesus has won for me through his death and resurrection.

What an amazing life Jesus has created for us to share together. Thank God, in Jesus, this isn't as good as it gets. In Jesus the life we have to share goes way beyond our wildest dreams.

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Jesus goal is that we share life together. And that life has begun. Jesus has sent the person of the Spirit to be with us, now.

Now we walk together, living this wonderful relationship in all the ups and downs. Now we talk together living out this wonderful, conversational relationship.

The Spirit is with us; that's what we are celebrating today. Jesus has sent the Spirit, so that we are able to share life together. So that we are able to share from the heart how we feel. So that we are able to talk together about all aspects of life; Spirit my kids are

driving me crazy what am I to do. Spirit, what's on special at Coles today? Spirit, what would Jesus do in this situation? Spirit, I'm feeling good today, thanks for a wonderful sun rise.

Jesus has sent the Spirit. We have a wonderful relationship to live, to enjoy, to celebrate.

We have a wonderful relationship; how do relationships work?

One of the keys to any relationship is conversation, for it is in the sharing of our thoughts, our hopes and dreams, that we allow the other person in. Through conversation the other person becomes part of what we're doing, or how we're feeling, of what we're thinking.

If I don't talk with you, if I don't share with you, then I'm shutting you out. That's not the best way to live life together in a wonder interwoven

relationship. When I share with another person, I'm inviting them into that part of my life, so that we can share it together.

And Jesus' goal is to share life, life together with you. So he has sent the person of the Spirit to be with us, that we might start the conversation. That we

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### How do relationships work?

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might share with the Spirit our hopes and dreams. That we might be talking with the Spirit about what we're doing, inviting him into every aspect of life.

Are you a farmer, then talk with the Spirit about the weather. Are you a parent, then talk with the Spirit about your hopes and dreams for your children. Talk about your joys and frustrations. Invite him in.

Of course conversation is a two way act; it

involves talking and listening. Without the listening what does a conversation become? A monologue, boring, irrelevant, distant. A conversation is a two way act; talking and listening.

I've discovered that listening can be difficult, because it is more than hearing the words that are spoken. Listening involves me being attentive; seeking to understand what is being said from the other person's perspective.

Listening involves me being open to what the other person is say; actually wanting to hear how they feel, hear their thoughts and opinions.

So a conversation isn't me giving a list of things I want done; and then expecting you to do it. How would you feel if that was the depth of your so called conversation?

A conversation involves speaking and listening, and the more you speak from the