

your groceries to what you watch on TV to what you vote for. Jesus invites us to talk with him about all these things.

Notice he not out to force himself on you, because that's not how a relationship of trust works. Remember there is a way things work. And in a relationship, we don't force ourselves on each other, but we get invited in or we invite people in so that we can share heart-to-heart with them.

So we can ask Jesus what he thinks, inviting him to give us his thoughts, then we can share how we react to what he has said; a conversation could develop. That's prayer. Prayer shaped by trust, trust in Jesus as king, trust in Jesus' wisdom, trust that we can place our lives in Jesus' hands knowing his love for us. That's prayer.

Let's pray. Jesus we invite you to lead us over these weeks as we focus on your gift of prayer. We invite you to send the Spirit, opening our hearts and minds to you, that we might hear you speaking. We invite you to grow us to greater maturity in our understanding of prayer; this wonderful gift from you. Grow us in learning how to pray, how to talk more intimately with you, drawing on the amazing power and authority you bless us with to be a blessing to the people we live, work and play with. Amen.

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## Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

# 10 September 2017

## MOVING MOUNTAINS

### Week 1



Today we begin a series on prayer, using the book 'Moving Mountains' as our framework. The title of the book is to remind us of Jesus' words he spoke to his disciples when they were unable to cast out a demon. "Jesus told them. 'I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, "Move from here to there", and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.'" (Matthew 17:20,21 NLT)

Wow, what amazing words from Jesus. Yet sometimes I'm like the disciples, my prayers don't seem to be working. Have you ever felt like that; 'you'd asked but your prayers don't seem to be working'?

The first thing Jesus words remind me of is that it isn't about how

much faith I have; faith as small as a mustard seed will do. I have faith in Jesus; he's my power source, not me.

But here is where I fall into the trap of turning Jesus into a resource to meet my needs, rather than the living Son of God, my brother, who has birthed me into a living relationship; which he wants to live and grow in with me.

When I look back on my prayers they have often been like using Jesus to get what I want, and when it comes to a healthy relationship, that isn't how things work. Just ask any mother who has kids who simply see her as their domestic goddess; is that where a mother would want her children to stay or grow to a relationship where they talk heart-to-heart, in real open, honest conversation with her.

I'd be willing to go out on a limb and say that mothers would love their children to grow to the maturity of talking heart-to-heart with them in an honest conversation.

Guess what; that's what God is after. He's not my domestic goddess, simply there to clean up my mess. Guess what, God's not even my Mr-Fix-it, the one I turn to as a last resort.

God, your heavenly Father, is seeking to grow and mature you that you can talk heart-to-heart, honestly, frankly, freely, person to person; or in my case man to man.

I've got some more maturing to do; which is exciting. This isn't as good as it gets, Jesus has so much more instore, so much more to share with me from his heart.

Good News, Jesus is maturing you, so that you might grow in the relationship he has given his life for you to live, to grow in, to share with him; person to person. Not slave to master, but friend to friend.

This reminds me of when I was a child, each week we'd take a small amount of money to school to put in our deposit books. It was exciting to see it grow and dream of all you could do with that money. I

dreamed of lollies. You could buy a serious amount of lollies with \$10. Or could I dare to dream of a Scale Electric's set like one of my mates had. That seemed like moving mountains to me as a kid.

I had to wait till I had kids to buy my first Scale Electric's set; and we had fun. But by then you might be surprised to know it didn't hold the same importance in my life as it once did. Why was that?

I'd matured some, I'd grow up and saw that the wealth I was blessed with wasn't just to be spent on me. The wealth I had been blessed with I now had the wonderful privilege of being a blessing to other people. Over time God had matured me.

I've not got more than \$10 in my bank account

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### There is a way things work.

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and I don't dream of blowing it all on lollies!

What a truly amazing gift we have in prayer; the ability to join with Jesus in changing the world. Not so that I can get a life time's supply of lollies, but that I can become more and more like Jesus in using all that Father has placed into my hands to be his blessing to those people I share life with.

One of the themes in God's Word is that he is seeking to grow us to maturity; it's a passion

of his. God is committed to growing us up;

"... until we reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature ..." (Ephesians 4:13)

"... wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully

assured." (Colossians 4:12)

"Brothers/Sisters, stop thinking like children." (1 Corinthians 14:20)

"Therefore let us leave elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instructions about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal

judgement." (Hebrews 6:1,2)

Jesus is growing us in our relationship with him, with Father, so that we grow to greater maturity. And this does impact on how I pray. For more and more I'm realising that this relationship is the foundation to prayer.

It's not that prayer works, or doesn't work, prayer is part of living out this wonderful relationship which Jesus gave his life for us to live in, to grow in, to mature in.

So John in 'Moving Mountains' reminds us that there is a way things work. And if prayer is a conversation with God, then there is a way for that to be lived out.

So if I thought that through this series I'd learn five new techniques on how to influence God that he might answer my prayers, I'd be totally missing the point, because that's just not how healthy, heart-to-

heart relationships work. Using another person to get what you want isn't a mature relationship.

So more and more I'm beginning not to think of do my prayers work or don't they, but have I been listening to the Spirit. What is Jesus saying to me through this, what is he growing

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### Jesus is growing us up.

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in me through this. What about Father's love for me don't I understand that I'm missing seeing his loving hand in all this?

I'm not out to get my prayers to work; to make God do what I want, to get God to achieve the goals I see as important. I simply want to know him for who he is. I want to know Jesus more intimately, person to person, that I hear his voice, that I'm confidence to share heart-to-heart with him

risking everything trusting him.

One thing Jesus is making more and more focused in my life is that I'm surrounded by lies, deception, all deliberately designed to rob me of life. To steal the heart of God away from me. To destroy me in a world without hope, here the

mountains don't move but crush.

More and more Jesus is focusing me on the fact that I live on a dangerous planet; I don't think he's out to create fear, just awareness, so that I don't live naïve.

Have you ever noticed that the devil's best lies always look like the truth; almost sound right. So I hear about 'equality' which sounds so right. Or I hear about 'human rights' which sound the way to go. How do you work out the way to go? It becomes a matter of trust; Jesus inviting us to trust him, to listen to his voice, and follow his lead, in every area of life. From buying