

one other things. Repeating the question can help to focus our attention. Then listen; Jesus is talking.

And listening involves being open to the other person's response. The danger is putting my words in someone else's mouth as I have a predetermined response I'm looking for. Listening involves being open; open to what comes from the other person. John describes this as putting his heart into a place of surrender. He seeks to be open, open to whatever the Spirit places on his heart.

Jesus might give a sense of urgency. Or the Spirit might place a person's image in

your mind. Or Jesus might have someone come knocking on your door. Or the Spirit might have a question pop into your mind; he might reveal something you need to repent of, or do before you move on to the next step.

The Spirit speaks in many ways, using all our senses. He might respond with a smell that triggers your brain, or your emotions. He might even use a movie you've watched, or speak to you though a sit-com on TV.

One thing is for sure; Jesus is speaking. Jesus has given his life, literally on the cross, so that we might be part of his

life. So that we might have intimacy with him, and part of that is conversational intimacy. He invites us to ask him, and promises to respond.

Let us pray.  
Jesus, grow me to greater maturity when it comes to listening to you. Help me to quiet my mind, to find a place without pressure, being open to what you are saying. Jesus, I want to be living in harmony with you, send the Spirit so that I pray in harmony with you, trusting your promise to act when we pray according to your will. Amen.

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## Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

8 October 2017

## MOVING MOUNTAINS

### Week 5: Listening Prayer



Last week we focused on the prayer of consecration. The prayer of committing everything to Jesus. This week as I was reading Ezekiel I was struck by this verse; "this is the basic law of the Temple: absolute holiness!" (Ezekiel 43:12) What really struck me with this thought is that we are the new temple. We are the place the Spirit lives; so there is no room for compromise. Daily as I'm reminded of the life I live with Jesus, through the Spirit, I'm reminded to set everything aside for Jesus.

What a beautiful prayer the prayer of consecration is. As I remember that my life is held in Jesus' hands, and he doesn't

leave any bits out. He has embraced the whole of me, the whole of my life. It is all lived with him, through his power and authority. In Jesus there is no secular, spiritual divide. All I am, and all I do, is done through Jesus, with Jesus, for Jesus, because of Jesus, joining with Jesus in praising our heavenly Father.

So the prayer of consecration is a prayer that expresses our total trust in Jesus, in every aspect of life. In every aspect of life I'm seeking to know what Jesus is thinking, because that's what I want to be doing. He's the one I trust.

And today we're reminded that we can

know what Jesus is thinking. Jesus hasn't just gone off and left us to do the best we can. Jesus, thankfully, hasn't simply given us a book to follow. No Jesus calls us to follow him; he is the word, he is the way, he is the resurrection and the life. We don't have a book we have a person who loves us and is daily seeking to share his life with us.

We can listen to Jesus because he is definitely speaking.

I love the image of Jesus as the good shepherd that is in the Gospel of John. Jesus says that his sheep hear his voice and follow him; "the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and

leads them out.” (John 10:3)	what to pray, and then being quiet as I listen for his response.’	works is when we enter into that wonderful space of intimacy with Jesus. That’s Jesus goal. That’s why he forgives our sin; so that nothing can get in the road of us living daily in this intimacy, daily hearing his voice, daily following his	him, what will you hear?	disease. Sometimes fear keeps me silent. Other times anger gets the better of me and I express words that destroy openness and trust. When openness and trust are fractured what happens to communication?	Ask small, simple questions; Holy Spirit, in Jesus, am I a loved child of God? Holy Spirit, should I visit my mother this week? Holy Spirit, who do you want me to visit this week?
John assures us that we can have confidence; ‘if we ask anything according to Jesus’ will – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him.’ (1 John 5:14-15) If we pray in line with God’s will, we can stand firmly on the promise, it will be done.	Notice that here prayer isn’t making speeches to God; it is entering into conversational intimacy with him. Who wants to have	lead, daily asking Jesus what he thinks.  So a prayer of consecration might be a good way to start; ‘Jesus, wash away all thoughts that prevent me from hearing you. I know you are speaking, send the Spirit to open my ears, to open my heart and mind to hear you. I only want to be following you, for I trust you with everything.’	I believe Jesus gave his life so that we might share life together, now, and most definitely into the future. But I’m living my future now, for right now I’m in a right relationship with God through Jesus death and resurrection. Through baptism Father has declared me his child whom he loves. The door is wide open for life lived intimately with Father, through the Son, in the Spirit, right now.	Thank God, Jesus has	And then comes an essential in the way things work. After asking a question the essential in the way things work is to do what? It is to be quiet, and listen to the other person.
How do we know Jesus’ will?	<b>Jesus is speaking</b>			<b>Ask and Listen</b>	
When we know Jesus, not just know about him, then we’ll recognize his voice. So we can do a truly radical act; we can ask him, confident that he hears and that he’ll respond.	conversational intimacy with Jesus, because that is a true reflection of the relationship he has created through is crucifixion?  I do!  Notice the focus of prayer that works, isn’t getting Jesus to do what you want. We’re not learning tips and techniques on how to manipulate God to do what we say. Prayer that		And I’ve noticed that for any relationship to work communication is essential. And you’ll never guess what I’m not that good at; communication.	dedicated himself to conversational intimacy with you.  The goal is living in this wonderful relationship Jesus has committed himself to, through his crucifixion.  One way relationships work; remember there is a way things work. To help in listening, begin by asking small, simple questions of Jesus.	Sometimes I find it hard to be quiet, because I’m off answering my own question, or thinking about what I’ll say next. To hear, I need to be quiet, so that I can listen.  Sometimes it might be helpful to repeat the question, to get myself focused. To get my mind in the right space, so that I’m not thinking about a million and
Notice that this involves listening. Giving Jesus the space to respond becomes essential. That’s the listening prayer; ‘Asking Jesus		If you don’t believe Jesus is speaking through the Spirit. And if you don’t believe you can hear	Anyone here perfected communication? I’ve got foot-in-mouth		