

area of their life, of the decisions they make. Invite Jesus in, listening to him, trusting his love for you, then go for it.

Do you notice that faith doesn't make something right. Whether I believe something of not has no bearing on whether it is true. Faith is me grasping what Jesus says, trusting him, and then going for it. Living it to the full, because I trust Jesus to always tell the truth, to always love me from the heart.

One thing I've discovered in life is that good intentions on their own rarely become reality. Today I'm inviting you to take this book and be open to the Spirit; asking Jesus, 'what are we doing today?' But with good intentions alone you'll probably run out of steam.

So the first thing I'd encourage you to talk with the Spirit about is who does Jesus want you to partner with. Then invite them to join you, to share with you, taking the risk of being open and real with Jesus, together.

I pray that each of these young people know in their hearts what it is to live loved by their heavenly Father, through Jesus, in the Spirit. I pray that their heart burns with Jesus passion, that it will shape their minds, their choices, the way they live, and enjoy the fullness of life that Jesus has won for them through his death and resurrection.

I pray that you daily invite Jesus in; being willing to talk with him about everything and anything. Invite Jesus into your celebrations. Into your sorrows. Invite Jesus to be with you in your mistakes. Invite Jesus in, and ask him to allow you to feel the warmth of his loving presence; to change you from the heart out, as you live heart-to-heart with him.

Each day invite Jesus in, listening for his voice, trusting his love for you, then go for it.

12 November 2017
FROM THE HEART
Confirmation



As I was thinking about what to say today three things came to my mind; and in my mind they all had the same core. That being, the core of Christianity is that God is after a heart-to-heart relationship.

What else do you think Jesus died for? Jesus comes in person, so that we might know what is on his heart, directly, personally. Jesus is after a heart-to-heart relationship with you.

During confirmation I handed out this little note book with the instructions to talk with God and then jot down what you think he is saying to you, what he is placing on your heart, what images he brings to your mind, what people the Spirit pops into your consciousness.

The hope was that these young adults would begin practicing living a heart-to-heart relationship with

God, through the Spirit, who Jesus sends to us. For Jesus is after a heart-to-heart relationship with each person, today.

One thought that the Spirit popped into my mind and that I recorded was bit of a song. I found myself waking up, singing – in my mind, I didn't want to shock Yolette that early in the morning. I was singing; 'Don't give up. Don't give in. When you're working for the Lord you're never working in vain. Don't give up. Don't give in. With the Lord you're going to win.'

At that point in time the Spirit was ministering to my heart and soul. For what is on God's heart is having a heart-to-heart relationship with you. A conversational heart-to-heart relationship.

And then I opened up a devotion entitled; 'God as Lover'.

Here's the first few lines. "John Wesley was thirty-five when he experienced the now famous 'warming' of his heart – not his mind – toward Christ, and knew in that moment he had become not merely a Christian, but something more – a lover of God. Shortly after, he penned the hymn 'Jesus, Lover of My Soul', whose first verse goes like this: 'Jesus, Lover of my soul/Let me to thy bosom fly'."

John Wesley didn't sit an exam to test his knowledge, rather he became aware that God knew him personally and through Jesus' death and resurrection he knew God personally. In fact he was invited to live life loved by God, through the Son, in the Spirit. This wasn't some head knowledge, but it went to his very heart and soul. It shaped his life. It defined who he was and how he would

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

live the rest of his life. Nothing stayed the same.

In the same devotion the writer highlights some of David's Psalms. He writes; "The poetry that flowed from the heart of this passionate Lover is filled with unapologetic emotion toward God. He speaks of drinking from God's 'river of delights' (Ps 36:8 NIV), how his Lover has filled his heart 'with greater joy' (Ps 4:7 NIV) than all the wealth other men have found, and he writes in many of his love songs how his heart sings to God."

The writer sums up about King David; "These are not the words of a dry theologian or moralist. These are not the words of even your average pastor. For David, God's love 'is better than life' (Ps 63:3 NIV). David is captivated by the Beauty he finds in God. On and on he goes. The man is undone. He is smitten as any lover might be, only-can we begin to accept this?"

The last thing Jesus needs is people who have great

head knowledge but it doesn't affect them; it doesn't determine the choices they make, it doesn't define their identity where it is lived out in every aspects of life.

Knowing things about Jesus and the Christian faith is great, is important. But so often we get things back to front. We come

The Purpose... love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith.

up with head knowledge and then work on that changing our heart.

I've often heard people say that the longest distance travelled is from the head to the heart. But just recently I was struck when someone said we've been going the wrong way. We should be travelling from the heart to the head. After all it is the relationships in our life that shape us and make us who we are. Then we are able to use the knowledge we gain in a heart-to-heart way of living.

As I was reflecting on the note book I'd handed out to each of the confirmees hoping they'd encounter the Spirit in a personal way, and then being re-affirmed with the devotion on John Wesley's 'warming' of the heart, I read this passage.

Paul is writing to Timothy; "The purpose of my instructions is that all believers would..." What would you expect to follow; what is the purpose for all believers? What was the goal of confirmation?

Here's what Paul is after; "The purpose... that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith."

Paul then goes on to lament that people are spending their time in meaningless discussions and pushing rituals as if that were what Jesus gave his life for.

Did you hear the purpose; to be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience and genuine faith. That is all relationship language.

Jesus is after a pure heart that loves as he does, because it knows, it feels, it has experienced being love by God through the Spirit. The Good News is that in Jesus, we are loved by God. In Jesus, we are forgiven, that means those things that could get in the road of a heart-to-heart relationship with God have been dealt with in Jesus.

That's also why, in Jesus, we have a clear conscience. Not because we've never done anything wrong, but because we trust God's love for us in Jesus to the point of absolute honesty with him. We don't try and play games to manipulate things to our favour. With Jesus there is no need to play politics with God, for we trust him from the heart.

When we confess our sins, we're not telling God something he doesn't

know. It's no surprise to him, he was there. But we are inviting him into that situation, to bring his healing, to be present and to grow us to ever greater maturity, that we might grow to be more and more like Jesus. To be like Jesus, as he is at one with his Father.

Our genuine faith flows from God's heart, for it is

My prayer is that they love God from the heart.

his promises that we trust with our lives, that we take to heart and risk everything on. Our faith is genuine because Jesus never lies; we can take him at his word. That's what faith is, taking Jesus at his word, then going for it.

The purpose was to have a heart, I'd like to emphasize the word 'HEART', that is pure, with a clear conscience and genuine faith. Jesus isn't after a mind that has no trust in him. He's after a heart that trusts him and that shapes the way we think,

that shapes the choices we make; because we trust Jesus, even if our logic can't work it out.

The heart is the core of who we are. It is not simply being emotional. Obviously emotions are involved for God created us in his image, to have the capacity to relate to him heart to heart. To cry with him. To laugh with him. To feel disappointment as he does. To feel the same sense of rage when people are trampled on and lied to. To celebrate life joyfully as he does. God seeks us to live life from the heart, just like he does.

So today I'm going to give each of these young adults another prayer journal, and invite them to ask Jesus each day to reveal himself to them, and then jot down what they feel, sense, imagine, hear in their mind. For my prayer is that they love God, their heavenly Father, from the heart, just as in Jesus he loves them, holding nothing back, but trust Jesus to be real and open with him. Inviting Jesus into every