

So ask. Ask Jesus for the Spirit to guide, to speak, to lead, to shape your life with his presence. And Jesus has promised, that if you ask for the Spirit, that's what you'll get. I just read this week in Luke's life story of Jesus; "keep on asking, and you will receive... your heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him." (Lk 11:9-13)

How do you ask: simple; Jesus, send the Spirit to be with me at work this week; it's dragging me down. Jesus send the Spirit, I'm looking at buying a new car. Jesus, send the Spirit to guide me so I know what to do with

my kids; how to love them, care for them. Jesus, send the Spirit that I have the right words to say as they go back to school.

I love the fact that Jesus keeps things straight forward; we don't have to play games with him, learn methods to twist his arm, just ask. Just come straight out with it and talk about it, and then listen.

Listen; grab that first thought, and go for it. Listen, grab that first thought and share questions that come up, you're in a conversation, and conversations are two way acts.

Who wants the Spirit? I do, every minute of every day. Let's ask; Jesus we invite you to send the Holy Spirit, flood our hearts and minds with your presence, with the reality of you. Jesus we invite you to send the Holy Spirit, we want to be living out that wonderful conversational relationship of love and affection Jesus has created, naturally loving with your supernatural love. Spirit, come and fill us for life with you this week, person to person.

13 January 2019

## HOLY SPIRIT

Luke 3:22



At Jesus baptism we heard; "the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on Jesus like a dove." (Luke 3:22) Why is it important that we know the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus?

When the apostles hear that some Samaritans have accepted the gospel, they send Peter and John, who laid their hands on them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. Why is it stressed at the start of the church, that's Jesus' community of faith, why is it important that each new group receive the Holy Spirit?

When I was growing up there wasn't much emphasis on the Spirit. Or should I say, I didn't perceive any emphasis on the

Spirit. I know I had to memorise the Ten Commandments, the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Lord's Prayer.

They were the foundation of confirmation. But I was never encouraged to learn how to follow the Spirit's lead, to listen to the Spirit, and then act.

Why is the Holy Spirit important? Surely all I need to do is follow the Ten Commandments, know the creed and pray the Lord's Prayer. Why is the Holy Spirit important?

John the Baptist emphasised the Spirit when talking about the Messiah; "He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." John's ministry was to get people

ready for the Messiah, the one who would baptise them with the Holy Spirit and with fire. There is more going on here than just repentance.

Why is the Holy Spirit important?

It's good to remember that the Holy Spirit isn't some divine force or power, but God. God in the person of the Holy Spirit. So we're talking about why is it important for God to be with his people, in person.

Why do you think it would be important for God to be with his people, personally?

God's goal wasn't simply to clean up our act. God's goal is to build a conversational relationship of love

### Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

and affection, where we naturally live out his supernatural love, where we are a living reflection of him.

I guess if God's goal is to have a personal relationship, he needs to come in person. He needs to make himself available, in person.

So Jesus told the disciples; "I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven." (Luke 24:49)

Jesus hasn't sent us out simply to talk people into accepting that there is a god. That's not our mission. Jesus sends his disciples out so that his kingdom comes; comes into people's lives. And Jesus' kingdom comes where he reigns as king. Jesus sends us out to defeat the enemy

and to seek and save the lost; so that they might share life with him, in an intimate conversational relationship of love and affection.

Have you noticed I've repeated the phrase; conversational relationship of love and affection; because I have,

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### Person to Person

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deliberately. God isn't out to change a few bad habits by getting us to obey a few rules.

How well did that work with the Children of Israel? They lost focus on the fact that they were living a relationship of love and affection with God, based on his promises, and turned it into keeping rules and regulations so they wouldn't go into exile again. They ended up living from

a fear agenda. They were scared God would send them into exile, so let's all be good.

I'm sure God wants us all to be good; whatever that means, but not out of fear. Who things Jesus was crucified so that we would be so scared of him, we'd toe the line? I hope nobody does.

Why did Jesus listen to his Father? Why did

Jesus go to the cross, when we see in the garden of Gethsemane that he was stressed to the max? Why did Jesus not let the shame of the cross determine his action?

I'm sure it wasn't out of fear; but out of trust. A trust which knew Father, personally. A trust lived in Father's love, grace, mercy. A trust lived out in a conversational relationship of love and affection. None

of Jesus life is a response to him being scared, or intimidated, or threatened, or posing to gain approval, or simply following a set of rules to find acceptance. None of this motivates Jesus.

Jesus lives in that wonderful conversational relationship of love and affection he has with Father. So Jesus only does what he sees Father doing. Jesus only says what he hears Father saying. Our language is so not up to describing the relationship God the Father and God the Son share.

And they share it with God the Holy Spirit. Who else do they seek to share this relationship with? Who else do they seek to be living out this person to person relationship?

Here's what Jesus says: "I have loved you even as the

Father has loved me. Remain in my love." (John 15:9) Jesus hasn't given us a set of rules to follow, he's come to embrace you in the same loving relationship he shares with Father.

No wonder the Holy Spirit has to come. You can't live a

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### Conversational Love and Affection

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person to person relationship when someone is missing. I can't talk to my wife if she isn't there. She can't talk to me when the Big Bash is on, because I'm not there.

Isn't it great; the Holy Spirit is with you, is with us, and he's never distracted. Just ask, and the conversation begins, in a loving, affectionate relationship. Fear's got nothing to do with it. The Spirit is there

ready, willing and able to live out this most precious person to person relationship Jesus has given his life for you to live, to enjoy, to discover together.

Without the Holy Spirit all we'd have would be a user's manual. Handy to have, but I'd rather have the owner teach me what to do. I'd rather have the relationship than a book that tells me about it but without the person it doesn't deliver.

At your baptism, the Holy Spirit descended on you, to share life daily with you. To invite you to share in the adventure of life together. Reading the bible with the Spirit brings the manual to life. A life living out that wonderful conversational relationship of love and affection that Jesus has given his life to be a living reality.