

I've seen in people great faith as they have faced the hardest of challenges. The Spirit has given them what they needed to face the hard times they were in.

What gift do you need this week? A word of knowledge because one of your relationships is totally out of control; you need Jesus to send the Spirit to speak the right word into that situation, to bring healing, clarity, life. Then ask. Don't wait, ask now.

Are you faced with a time of sickness? Then invite Jesus in. Invite him to send the Spirit to bring healing; healing of body, mind and soul. Healing that grows our faith in him. Don't wait, ask now.

And when you come to Jesus; not trying to barter with him or manipulate him in anyway. When you invite Jesus into this aspect of your life, no strings attached, what's he going to do?

Ignore you!

Or send the Spirit?

Let us pray. Jesus you know we've all got issues; stressed relationships, health concerns, financial problems, pride, envy, fear. Jesus we come to you now (take a moment to focus on one thing). Jesus we ask that you would send the Spirit to us now; give the wisdom we need, that word of

knowledge to open things up, that power of healing, that faith to face the un-faceable, words of praise to exalt you where our words just won't do. Jesus flood us with the Spirit that we grow in you, grow to know you, live loving you as we love the people you bring into our lives. Jesus we come to you now knowing we can trust you, knowing you will be faithful. We praise you, you're amazing.

As you invited Jesus in and asked for the Spirit, what came to your mind? Go and do it. Go and live it.

20 January 2019

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1 Corinthians 12:1-11



Recently I read this quote; "Jesus, don't send me like this to do your bidding without the power and presence of your Spirit! I will not Go without You! I will not do this anymore! I am not willing to be a voice without Your presence, your naturally supernatural love, and signs following. If you do not send Your Spirit upon me and endue me with power, don't send me!"

The reading from 1 Corinthians reminds me that Jesus has sent the Spirit, that we might go in his power. Paul mentions some of the gifts that have been given.

"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice (a

word of wisdom), to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge (a word of knowledge). The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and to another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit." (1 Cor. 12:7-10)

So Jesus has authorised each one of us to GO. To 'GO' and make disciples of Jesus. But we don't go simply doing things our own way.

Can anyone see a problem; if I go and do things my own way?

If I go and do things my own way, who do you think will end up running the show, over time? If I go and do things in my own strength, I'm limited to what? If I go and do it my way, who could end up getting the credit?

But I think the biggest problem; if I go and do it my way, I'm in danger of making thinks in my image and not in Jesus' image. After all I can't create Jesus, he creates me, and then in him I discover myself. In him I launch out into life. It's all his idea. After all it's about Jesus kingdom coming into people's lives as they come to know him, personally.

Thank God I don't go off and do it my way, then you'd miss Jesus!

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**Christ Church Lutheran**

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

Thank God that Jesus has sent the Spirit, so we can live Spirit filled lives. And the Spirit is able to make Jesus known, so that people can build a personal relationship with him, living with him as part of his kingdom.

But before we go much further I think it is good to remember that as followers of Jesus, we're not dualists. By that I mean we don't break life up into the spiritual and the physical. This mindset leads people to value the 'spiritual' over the 'physical'. The 'spiritual' becomes our means to manipulate the 'physical' to get what we want.

Paul wrote; "You know that when you were still pagans, you were led astray..." (1 Cor. 12:2) Pagans believe in a divide between the spiritual world and the physical world. They seek to influence the spiritual to get a better life.

Note this is not what we, as followers of Jesus, believe.

Jesus sent THE SPIRIT. That's God, himself, come to us, so that we might live life in, with and through him. We have a personal relationship, which floods through all of life. There is no aspect

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### When I ask Jesus, what will he do?

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of my life that I want to keep the Spirit, that's God, out of. Through Jesus I'm inviting God into every single part of my life, no matter how small it is or how big it is.

I don't want the force to be with me; I want Jesus to send the person of the Spirit to be with me, personally. It's in this relationship that I want to live, all of my life. Jesus has torn the temple curtain; there is no divide in his mind; he loves all of me,

however you want to break it up. Jesus is in this relationship totally.

So when I run into a situation in life where I need wisdom to know the right way to go. And for me the right way to go is always Jesus' way. I'm reminded today that I can ask. And when I ask Jesus what will happen?

Let me remind you of this passage from the gospel of Luke: "So I (Jesus) tell you, keep on

asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened... how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him." (Luke 11:9,10,13)

When I ask Jesus, he will send the Spirit to give me the wisdom I

need for life. Wisdom is all about knowing how to live life well. And life is lived well when it reflects Jesus, when it follows Jesus, when it looks and sounds like Jesus.

Why wouldn't Jesus send the Spirit to give me the wisdom I need to actually do what he's given his life for? Jesus died that I might live life as his disciple; reflecting him, just as he seeks to reflect Father.

Sometimes I've read passages like this one on the gifts of the Spirit and thought that this must apply to someone else. They have the gift of wisdom, and this person over there has the gift of healing. But me, I'm just a plain, run-of-the-mill type of person. The thought has run through my mind; 'surely this doesn't apply to me.'

Who thinks Jesus wouldn't want you to use his wisdom to live life well?

I reckon Jesus would want all his disciples to have his wisdom. All we have to do is what? All I have to do is ask.

'Jesus I need your wisdom for this situation, please send the Spirit'. 'Jesus I'm confused, help!' 'Jesus come in and shape my

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### Today I'm reminded that Jesus has given the Spirit.

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life so I live reflecting you in every situation.' If you ask Jesus for wisdom in a specific circumstance, what do you think he's going to do?

If you're talking with another person and feel lost, not knowing what to say, why not ask Jesus for a 'Word of Knowledge'. Not to look smart, but to help the other person; so they might grow in their relationship with Jesus, or be set free from a lie of the devil,

or be able to hear God speak personally into their lives that they might repent.

Jesus' goal is to draw us close, so that we trust him. Trust him with our lives, trust him with the way we live our lives and the way we spend our money. So he invites us to ask, and promises to send the Spirit.

Jesus doesn't send the Spirit as some party trick or so I can look smart and

get acclaim for my wise words. Actually they're some of the attitudes which get in the road of me hearing the Spirit.

Today I'm reminded that Jesus has given the Spirit. I can live a life built by him. I can live a life that reflects Jesus and matures to be more and more like him, because the Spirit knows Jesus personally and has the power and authority to deliver what I need, what you need.