

the Spirit. Now I can share life with Jesus through the Spirit.

And what's Jesus' goal; an academic exercise or life lived with him in a relationship of love and trust? In other words; 'living a life of faith with God', which is what we heard Paul saying to Timothy.

Do I need the Spirit to be living in a personal relationship with Jesus, right now? Do I need the Spirit to be able to hear and follow Jesus in my everyday life, right now? Do I need the Spirit to give me the power and authority to walk and talk as Jesus' disciple? Yes, yes and yes.

Do I receive the Spirit when I'm baptised? If not, then what sort of relationship do I have? Do I have a

relationship to live and grow in without the Spirit? No personal presence, no personal relationship.

What do you want to be living; an academic exercise or personal relationship of love and affection, lived out in a conversational atmosphere?

I think I know which one Jesus has personally committed himself to. He sent the Spirit at Pentecost so that you might live personally with him, and personally introduce him to the people you meet, that they too might know him.

Who wants to have an academic debate, or would you rather be living a personal relationship of love and affection, lived out in a conversational atmosphere?

I know what the Spirit wants. What does your life say about you?

My desire is to be living that wonderful personal relationship of love and affection, lived out in a conversational atmosphere which the Spirit's presence makes a reality.

Spirit, open my heart and mind to you, that I live and grow in that wonderful relationship of love and affection that Jesus has created to be our reality. Spirit, open my heart and mind to you that we spend the day in conversation; I don't want to be doing my own thing. Jesus I invite you to send the Spirit that we share this week together in a wonderful intimacy with Father.

## Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

14 July 2019

## DO I RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH I'M BAPTISED?

Luke 10:25-37



This week we are beginning looking at a new question from the six we picked at Pentecost. The question is; 'Do I receive the Holy Spirit when I'm baptised?'

My initial thought was to give a yes or no answer; but that might miss what the Spirit wants us to be reflecting on. Why do you think the Spirit would have brought this question to mind and have it as one of the questions we picked out? I wonder what the Spirit is wanting to say to us through this?

Over the last few weeks we have been reflecting on the first three questions we picked out, or should I say that the Spirit placed in our hands. And the first three questions were what; three blank pages.

Three blank pages tell me that God doesn't want to be a blank in our lives. He got us to draw out three pages that were blank to make a very strong point. God doesn't want to be a blank page in your life.

I know one way I am tricked into turning God into a blank page is to have what I call a theoretical debate; lots and lots and lots of words, followed by lots and lots and lots of words. Lots of hot air, with lots of argie bargie. What does God think of us simply arguing over words?

Here's a few thoughts from Paul to Timothy: "command them in God's presence to stop fighting over words. Such arguments are useless, and they can ruin those who hear

them (1 Tim. 2:14)". "Don't let them waste their time in endless discussion... these things only lead to meaningless speculations, which don't help people live a life of faith in God (1 Tim. 1:4)".

It is good to ask questions and discuss them, and seek answers, but not because you're trying to win a theological debate; our goal is to 'live a life of faith in God'.

I'd characterise a life of faith as one where I take God at his word, doing what he says. In faith I take Jesus at face value, believing what he says he means, and then I base my life, my actions on what Jesus has said; on what Jesus has promised.

And what is the conduit for being connected to Jesus?

At Pentecost Jesus sent the Spirit. That is God in the person of the Spirit, there with us, telling us what Jesus says. And where does Jesus get that? From his Father. The conduit, the connector to Jesus is the Spirit whom he sent for that very reason.

So Jesus told his disciples not to go off and do their own thing, but to wait for the Spirit. Don't go off and do your own thing, wait for the Spirit, and then step out trusting Jesus, in his power and authority, doing what he does, saying what he says. That's faith.

If God is a blank to me, does anyone see a problem here? If I can't hear from God because the Spirit isn't with me; all I get is a blank, how can I step out in faith? Does anyone see a problem here?

Jesus gave his life that we might live lives of faith; that's a life that trusts him, that finds its worth and purpose in him. That's where I find me identity and value as a person in him.

Jesus didn't give his life so that I might read a book, discern what it

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### Live a life of faith in God.

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says, and then try and do the best I can. Does that sound like faith to you? Or is it more like me doing the best I know how, according to my ability to understand and implement a set of rules. Is that faith?

Today's Gospel reading is where Jesus deals with a person who is into this intellectual type of debate. He asks a question that the theologians where commonly debating:

'What must I do to inherit eternal life?'

Jesus asks; what does the book say? To which he responded; love God, love your neighbour. A good answer, wouldn't you say.

But what happens next reveals what is on this guy's heart; he wants to justify himself, so he asks, 'who is my neighbour?'

This is where Jesus goes from the theoretical debate; which isn't aimed at helping people live a life of faith in God. This guy is just out to look good, to look smart, to get the right answer, to feel superior; he's won the debate.

Jesus brings everything back down to earth with a simple story. The parable we call 'The Good Samaritan'. A guy is in need, two walk past, one stops to help. By the way it was the wrong guy; a

Samaritan, an enemy. Then Jesus asks that simple question; 'Who was a neighbour to the man attacked?' The obvious answer; 'The one who showed him mercy'. Then Jesus brings things home; 'You go and do the same.'

The man is left with a step of faith; keep arguing, debating, posturing, or step out and actually do it.

Does he go and do it or not? Actually the question is directed at the reader. What will I do? Which raises the question; do I have what it takes?

The first two guys knew the book, and walked by. What is that telling you?

It tells me that in and of myself, I don't have what it takes. I need more. If we did have what it took then the world should be a very different place; but fear, greed, insecurity, false religion, all get in the road. We all know

the truth, so why is there so much inequality when it comes to the world's resources. Even when we know the right thing to do and want to do it, we sometimes just don't have the means. We need more, so much more.

What do we need? What do you need to

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### How do you live a personal relationship?

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love your neighbour like Jesus? He loved you more than he loved himself; dying on a cross is extreme. Jesus is beaten, humiliated, degraded, executed the worst of criminals; all for those who don't deserve it, and probably won't appreciate it, throwing it back in his face.

Knowing that would you willing be executed to save a criminal from what they deserve?

I think I need much, much, much more than my good intentions for it to be a living reality in my life. What about you?

Actually Jesus is inviting us to share life with him. To walk with him into the adventure of life; sharing Father's love with those we meet. Being Father's loving arms as we embrace those we meet. The much more I need is God in person with me.

I do find it hard to live a personal relationship with someone I don't know, who isn't there, let alone listening. How do you live a personal relationship without the person?

Quite obviously you can't. I can't share in a personal life with Jesus if I have no personal connection with him. Bring on the Holy Spirit.

Now I can talk with Jesus through the Spirit. Now I can be led by Jesus through