

liberating us. Jesus has empowered you to build knowing your identity, for in baptism God the Father has declared that you are his child, chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life. So Jesus empowers you to live secure in your identity, value and worth.

You're not left in a churning sea of other people's opinions. Seeking approval, wanting value, unsure if your life counts. That's not the way to a rich and satisfying life; I'm sure we've all had a taste of that insecurity. I have, and it wasn't satisfying and I didn't feel that I was richly loved.

Today Jesus reminds us that he offers a solid foundation for

you to build your life on. He won't let you down. Jesus reminds you that you can always consult his architect; the Holy Spirit, and you'll build a life that reflects his love, grace, mercy, hope, wisdom, courage. You'll build a home that isn't shaped by the storms of life; battered and beaten.

In Jesus you get to build a life that withstands the storms of life and is shaped by God's very character of love, his very personality of faithfulness, living reflecting his nature of loyalty. Amazingly God gives us his eternal character qualities to build our lives with.

And God doesn't have a used by date. In Jesus, God invites

you to build a life that doesn't have a used by date as you build with his love, grace, mercy, peace, hope, wisdom, courage, as you build a life that glows with his very character.

Today why not invite Jesus to send the architect, the Spirit, to guide you in what you build this week, the life you build this week. Invite Jesus to send the Spirit, asking specific questions to your life situations, then grab that first thought and go for it.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

21 July 2019

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

Amos 8:1-12



This week as I reflected on what to say the image of a foundation kept being presented to me.

As I walk around the Bridge in the morning I often see a foundation, which is the first step in building a house. Who would only want a foundation, and have no intent to build a house on top?

Then God put together in my mind baptism and the foundation image. Today we are laying a foundation, and that foundation is Jesus.

Baptism isn't just a church ritual, or a naming rite, it doesn't make you a member of the Lutheran Church of Australia. I'm not sure what you think baptism is. I do know that Jesus

commanded us to go and baptise, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Just an aside, when you heard the word 'name', what did you think of?

My first thought is that 'name' identifies a person. Is that all we are doing in baptism, 'identifying' God?

That's not a bad thing to do for the word 'God' has so many different meanings, to the point you wouldn't know who is meant. The 'God' we're talking to, listening to, has identified himself as 'Father, Son, Spirit'. The 'God' we're talking about has made himself personally known through Jesus, in human history. The

'God' we're talking about is still involved in human history through the person of the Spirit.

So it is good to clearly identify who is acting in baptism. But 'name' more importantly refers to 'power'. This God has the power to do what he says. When we baptise in his name, we're using his power.

I'll let you in on a secret; Promises are worthless if you don't have the power to deliver.

What did the devil promise Adam and Eve? God said; 'Don't eat the fruit, it'll kill you.' The devil said, and I quote; "You won't die! God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like

God, knowing both good and evil.” (Gen. 3:4,5)

They were promised a better life. What did they get? Are we living in paradise now?

When we baptise in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, it means we’re using their power. It means this God is making a promise, and he has the power to deliver what he says.

Today Jesus invites you to trust him. But not without reason; this Jesus who empowered us to baptise is the eternal one, born our brother, lived on earth experiencing life as we do, died to win forgiveness and hope, was raised to new life, is in heaven interceding for us and will return to usher us into his paradise. A life of intimate love and affection with Father, where

together we celebrate and enjoy life together, enjoying each other. Today this Jesus invites you to trust him.

And in his claim we see his power to deliver; the cross, his resurrection, Jesus has the power to deliver. So he invites us to trust him with

Does Jesus have the power and authority to do what he says?

our lives.

So I see baptism as the foundation. Jesus in baptism is committing himself to us, to these children who are baptised in his power and authority today. The foundation is solid and true.

The question is often asked of me; do you receive the Holy Spirit when you are baptised? In my mind, of course you do, that is part of the foundation.

In Jesus do you receive the foundation for a relationship of love and affection lived out in a conversational atmosphere, where we get to quite naturally live out the supernatural love of God. That is precisely what Jesus

promises. And Jesus is the one who promised to send the Holy Spirit, the means for us to begin living out that relationship today, right now.

Does Jesus have the power and authority to do what he says?

I believe so.

Do I always listen? Am I always attentive to Jesus? Do I always take him at his word and do what he says? That’s a totally different question.

If baptism relied on me, I’d be in real trouble. I don’t have

the power and authority to keep all my promises, let alone play at being God. I’ve made plenty of promises, with the best of intent, and then forgotten, or simply didn’t have the resources to deliver.

Thank God baptism doesn’t rely on me. Thank God I’m not the foundation of life, of my life. Jesus is the foundation, and he has the power and authority to do what he promises.

The obvious next step after laying the foundation is what?

In Paul’s letter to the believers in Corinth he wrote: “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have – Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 3:11). So the foundation is laid.

Next Paul writes; “Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of

materials – gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgement day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done” (1 Cor. 3:12,13). The next question is; what am I building on this foundation?

And Paul reminds me that the stakes are

The stakes are high. We’re dealing with people’s lives.

high. What’s at stake? I am. It is your life that’s at stake. Today we’re reminded that it is these children’s life that is at stake. This is not a trivial matter.

So parents take great care in giving their children good food, clothing, a home, a good education. Parents go out of their way to ensure their children develop socially, emotionally, physically, because the stakes are high.

We’re dealing with people’s lives.

Jesus has given a solid foundation, but wait there’s more. He also provides the architect that you might build a wonderful life. The architect is the Holy Spirit, the guy in direct contact with Jesus and you. The one able to lead and guide you in making decisions that are in harmony with the author of life; Jesus.

Jesus great passion is that you build a spectacular life on his foundation. Jesus focused passion is for you to build a ‘rich and satisfying life’(Jn. 10:10). At least that’s what he says.

Jesus has empowered you to build with his love, for he loves you. Jesus has empowered you to build free of life’s hurts, regrets, disappointments, frustration, for he has won forgiveness,