

wind blowing on your face, the next door neighbour's dog barking; because you just talked with Jesus about who to share his love with next.

And if you do find your mind wandering in a time of corporate prayer, ask Jesus if it's him. If it is, go with it, if it isn't, focus, get involved. Maybe Jesus has just brought something to your mind; something he wants to converse with you about. So ask; 'Is that you Jesus?'

Today I'm reminded that at the heart of prayer is a conversation with another person. So there are times for me to talk, times for me to listen and be attentive, times for me to ask questions, times to seek clarification. But most

of all I'm reminded today that I need to be involved; for conversation is a two way deal.

Isn't that a truly fantastic gift; you can share with Jesus from your heart and soul and he can share with you from his heart and soul. This is not some clinical exercise but a living, vibrant, conversational relationship.

Why wouldn't those first thoughts and feelings be God! After all he's the one who came to Adam and Eve in the cool of

the evening to fire up the barbie and have a chat, and enjoy your company.

So talk, listen, respond, be involved. Why wouldn't those first, immediate ideas, thoughts, images, promptings, feelings be God? He after all is 100% involved, in Christ.

4 August 2019  
**WHY DO MY THOUGHTS WANDER  
WHEN I'M PRAYING TO YOU?**



For me this question opens up the whole aspect of prayer. Is prayer me talking to God, or is there more? Is prayer me going through a list of names, asking God to do something, or is there more? Is prayer me having a 'prayer list' where I've got all my needs and the needs of the people I know written down and catalogued before God, or is there more?

What's the first thought you have when you hear that word; 'Prayer'?

More and more I'm realising that prayer is meant to be a conversation; a two way conversation.

Have you ever found yourself talking to someone and you can't get a word in edge wise? They're

telling you about what they did, about their children and how successful they are, about what problems they face, about how well they are doing at work. They talk on, and on, and on, and on.

What do you find happening in such a conversation which has really become a monologue?

Sadly I'd have to admit I've done that plenty of times to God; and called it prayer. I've gone on and on, telling God what's wrong, what he needs to fix, how to improve the church, our nation's economy. I've come to God with my list of things I want done; and usually I want them done right away, or better yesterday!

When I'm in such a conversation, which isn't a conversation at all, guess what, my mind wanders. When I'm not involved in a conversation; a two way interaction, my mind wanders. What about you?

Do you think God wants to be in a two way conversation with you?

When you're actively involved in a conversation; listening and being listened to, sharing from the heart with each other, do you find yourself wandering? When I'm in such a conversation my mind doesn't wander, I'm too interested, I'm involved.

Does God want to be involved in your life? Sure does.

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**Christ Church Lutheran**

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

Does God want you to be involved in his life? Sure does.

That's the whole point of the bible. God created Adam and Eve to share life with them. He created the 'Garden of Eden' where they could enjoy long conversations together, where they could share life together.

And when Adam and Eve get sucked in and sin; who comes looking? God, their heavenly Dad. For he wants us involved in his life; and one important way we are involved in anyone's life is through talking with each other; talking heart to heart.

Does God want you to be involved in his life? Does God want to be involved in your life? Sure does; that's why we have prayer.

I don't have the gift of communication with God, that's prayer, so

I can tell him what to do.

Who thinks God might know what to do without my help?

I have that wonderful gift of communication with God so we can share life together, letting him know what's on my heart and mind. If I don't

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Does God want you to be involved in his life?

talk there is no communication. If I don't listen there is no communication.

So we have this wonderful gift called confession and absolution. That's where in a trusted relationship I share from the heart with God. In a trusted relationship I admit my need, my hurt, my error, my blatant mistakes. I can share from the depth of my heart and soul.

And then I hear God's wonderful healing voice, I hear what we call absolution. God forgives; he speaks from his heart and soul, breathing hope and love into my soul. I hear his voice; 'my loved child, I'm with you, you're forgiven'.

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There's no healing if it is only a one way act. Have you noticed that love involves two people, giving and receiving?

Love doesn't work one way.

I can say I love you, but if you refuse to talk, won't even acknowledge my existence, I wouldn't call it a loving relationship.

Though sometimes in a loving relationship the hurt we do to each other can lead to silence. That's one of the very places God wants to be, in the midst of our silence, so we know deep within our

hearts his love for us. He seeks to bring healing, that we get our voice back.

I'm not sure what the person was thinking who wrote this question; but it reminds me of God's wonderful invitation to be involved in conversation with him.

Jesus didn't give his life on the cross to be some silent bystander. Jesus didn't rise from the grave to ignore us. Jesus didn't send the Spirit to be a spectator. He did all this so that we might live in a very real conversational relationship.

So if I find myself drifting, wandering, it isn't because God has lost interest in me, or in you. I find it a good reminder for me to get back in the conversation; to listen, to be open to the Spirit's promptings. To respond, not with what I think is the

right answer the expected answer, but to respond with what I'm really thinking and feeling at the time. To respond with openness and honesty; because I know I can trust Jesus.

I find it hard, no impossible, to be open and honest in a

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God gifted you with pray because his goal is a relationship.

relationship where there is no trust.

Who wants to be open and honest with people who are just out to complain and tell you how wrong you are? What wants to enter a conversation where the other person is just letting off steam, tearing you down, just so they can feel good? Who wants to be in a conversation where the other person is just out to prove they're right? Sadly I must confess,

I've done all those things, and they weren't helpful!

God has gifted us with prayer, because he wants to be involved in your life and he wants you involved in his life. God has gifted you with prayer because his goal is a relationship of love and affection, lived out in conversational atmosphere.

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So please don't get bored, get involved. Share how you are feeling and listen, be attentive to the prompts, the images, the feelings, your surroundings listening for the Spirit.

Share from the heart how you are feeling, and then respond to the promptings you experience. You've just started a conversation.

Ask a question and then be quiet; listen for the response, expect a prompt, an image, a thought, the