

before you know it those good intentions haven't resulted in the action. I'm always grateful for the support of other brothers and sisters in Christ.

But let's not make the same mistake the Pharisees did. They used God's tools not to bring people in but to keep them out. Jesus' passion is to have a multiplying community, a growing family, with new brothers and sisters being born. This always happens best in

community, in fact family is community. It's hard to be part of a family on your own!

Let us pray. Jesus keep us focused on you, on living with you in your celebration of life. We thank you for the tools you have given us so that we can continually be adjusting what we're doing so we don't drift away from you. By the Holy Spirit help us to value living in community with you; supporting each other in our pray life, in reading and listening to

your word the bible. Inspire and lead us together to invest in sharing Jesus with other people that together we might share life in Jesus' community. In the power of the Holy Spirit help us to uses these five tools so that our relationship with Jesus keeps growing healthy and strong, staying open and honest based on Jesus sacrificial love for us. Amen.

22 February 2012

REPENTANCE = CONTINUAL ADJUSTMENT

Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday is a time of repentance. And one of my favourite images of repentance is driving a car. No car left to itself will go in a straight line, let alone take you to your destination. You're continually making adjustments through the steering wheel, with the brakes and accelerator so that you'll reach your destination. Just left to itself your car will veer off the road or worse, crash into oncoming traffic.

Without your continual adjustment there is no way you'd get to your destination. Thank God we have so many different aids to help us make the adjustments needed.

So tonight the first adjustment I make is to remind myself, that if I don't keep making continual adjustments

in my life there's simply no way I'll reach my destination. If I'm left to myself there's just no way I'll grow closer to Jesus, let alone live with him as the one I trust with my life. Left to myself, I'll end up focusing on what feels good for me, right now. I'll end up being selfish. Plus it takes two to have a relationship with Jesus. Left to myself someone is missing!

Repentance is a continual process of adjustment so that I reach the goal of life, and the goal of life is a person, Jesus. Jesus is the one who breathes God's life into me, so that I might be part of God's celebration of life. Without Jesus there simply isn't any way for me to be part of God's celebration of life. I'll end up inviting

him to be part of my life, which totally misses the goal of life; being part of God's life. In Jesus, God doesn't only invite, but he makes it possible for me to be part of his life, as I'm forgiven and rebirthed as one of the Father's children.

In a car I have various tools to help me keep the car on the road, so I don't crash or end up in the bushes. This is my next adjustment; to use the tools but not to focus on them.

In my car I have mirrors to help me drive safely, but if all my focus is on the mirrors and I forget to focus on where I'm going, I think we all know the outcome. I use the tools but my focus is my destination. Even the car is just a tool to help me reach

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

my destination. Which is true of repentance. I don't worship repentance, but I use this wonderful gift from God to keep my life lived with Jesus. Jesus is the goal, not my repentance. Repentance is a gift to help keep my communication with Jesus to be healthy and strong.

So I need to keep changing my heart and mind when my repentance becomes the focus and not Jesus. My goal isn't to be more moral but to live as closely as possible with Jesus. And a key for that is open and honest communication, built on Jesus sacrifice on the cross.

So over the season of lent I'm going to be looking at five tools which help to be continually adjusting, that we live life in an open and honest relationship with Jesus, and don't wander of track. Because if I don't

continually keep adjusting and I let my life take it's own course I'll miss Jesus. Repentance is an essential tool, and here are five tools which help us daily live as part of God's celebration of life in Jesus. The first tool is prayer.

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For any relationship to keep healthy and strong people need to talk to each other. To listen and to share what's on their hearts and souls. The more you listen and share what is on your heart and soul the richer your relationship will be. And the basis of Christian prayer is Jesus. The fact that Jesus has revealed to us what is on God's heart and soul, as he hung on the cross paying the penalty for our sins, that we might be

forgiven, creating this wonderful open and honest relationship we now can share with God through Jesus. Tool one; pray. Make time to pray, each day. Find a place to be quiet and alone with Jesus each day. A place to share with each other. One of Jesus' quiet

places was the garden in Gethsemane. And that is where he was found when he was arrested, praying, pouring out his heart and soul to the Father. Where do you go to be alone with Jesus?

Of course we can pray any time of the day or night, which is a wonderful privilege. But there is something special, within any relationship, about making a special time to listen and share with each other.

Tool number two; the bible. So this year I'll be encouraging

everyone to make time to listen to Jesus as he speaks to us through the clear words of the bible. The bible is a wonderful tool, because left to myself I can easily believe I'm right, all the time. I think all people have the wonderful ability to justify everything and anything. At times the easiest person for me to fool is myself. So I love to listen to Jesus, taking his directions for my corrections. I love listening to Jesus, so that his head lights shine the road ahead for me.

Again this won't just happen. My car needs constant adjustment, it doesn't just happen. Flooding my mind with the bible is a powerful tool to help me constantly make Jesus' adjustments, so that I keep close to him, so that I share in his celebration of life. Where and when do you make the time to

read the bible so that you're open to Jesus? Tool number three; sacrifice my money that other people might come to know Jesus. I don't want to keep Jesus a secret. One of Jesus' priorities is to tell others. To invest our lives in letting other people know who Jesus

It takes two to have a relationship with Jesus.

is, coming into a honest and open relationship with him based on his sacrificial death. So I keep on track by sacrificing my time and money actively seeking to tell other people about Jesus.

Tool number four; take the initiative and go into their context. Go in person, just as in Jesus, God came to us in person. And through the Holy Spirit he continues to come to us personally. My

relationship with Jesus grows as I share him with others, spending my time and money and then going in person.

Tool number five; be part of a 'multiplying community'. We're not a bunch of lone rangers, but Jesus has called us to be a community that loves each other as they are loved by him. Jesus called this community; 'Church'.

What's the church? We are. We are here to give each other love and support. But the church isn't to be a closed community. It's to be a growing community, a multiplying community.

On our own there is very little likely hood we'll be able to sustain the first two tools. We might make a start, but without support and encouragement, if you're anything like me, life will try and sweep you along, and