

From The Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster  
Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost XII, in the silence with God  
1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14, Psalm 111, Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58

The question for today; do you spend more time talking to God or listening to God? The mystics are fond of suggesting it is in the listening that we learn. That is why reading the bible is a help because it is a way that God can speak to us.

There is also a sense of getting in touch with the spirit of God within us and each other. In other words, God's answer or what God is trying to tell us does not always come from outside ourselves, but within us, even though we may need to hear what others have to say.

I don't know if this has ever happened to you, but have you ever in the course of a conversation said something, and when you heard what came out of your mouth was a revelation to you, it was as if the other person had said it?

In Genesis 1:27 *So God created humankind<sup>[a]</sup> in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;<sup>[b]</sup>  
male and female he created them.*

It sounds like splitting hairs, but we are made in the image of God, but we can make God in our image, and assume what we want and need is what God is going to give us, that God is going to answer our prayer with a yes. Maybe it is that we are not perfect images or complete images of God, so there are differences between God and us.

But the idea of the spirit of God within us and a strengthening of the relationship is a way to bridge that gap, and seek the will of God in our lives instead of just what we think we want and need.

Now we come to the end of the psalm; *the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;*  
Am I the only one who does not like the idea of fearing the Lord?  
Maybe it is too strong a word, and maybe this is more about respect and listening to rather than fear. Why? Because fear illicit flight behaviour and running away from God, whereas having a healthy respect for makes more sense to me. In other words, listening to the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, even when the listening is about what we don't always want to hear.

Amen.