

We have a small needlepoint wall hanging with the name "Jesus" worked in turquoise on a beige background. If you focus on the background it looks like hieroglyphics – and that is only what some can see; however, if you focus on the turquoise you clearly see it spells "Jesus." It creates a fascinating topic for conversation, as someone new struggles to see the letters, when it seems to take them ages to see "Jesus."

In a similar way – you can read the Bible and fail to see what is staring you in the face! I have been reading through John's gospel and been impacted by how clearly Jesus speaks about his connection and dependency on his Father God.

In John 3:32, Jesus declares that He speaks only of what He has seen and heard from heaven. In the next chapter, He states that the food that sustains Him is to do the will of the one who has sent Him and to finish the work. (John 4:34) Jesus, when praying to His Father in John 17:4 says that He has completed to the last detail the work that has been assigned to Him. He is constantly saying that all He does is Father initiated and Father powered.

We first see this in John 5:19 where Jesus declares that He cannot act independently, but only does what He sees the Father doing. This is restated when He says, *"I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me."* (John 8:28) Jesus continues in John 14:31, *"that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me."*

When confronting the Jewish leaders he states, *"You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word*

dwell in you." (John 5:37) The Jews could not handle His claim that, *"I and the Father are one,"* because they picked up stones to stone Him, accusing Him of blasphemy. His response was to tell them that if they couldn't believe His words then believe the miracles. That is the conclusion of the man who received his sight, *"If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."* (John 9:33)

The disciples finally understand that the secret Jesus demonstrated was total connection and dependence on his Father. The prayer of John 17 shows that Jesus wanted his disciples to live in the same intimacy with the Father, *"...you in me and I in you ... that the world may believe."* Why is this? So that the world will see the glory of God, as a vast army of believers do the works of the Father.

I find this deeply challenging – my constant prayer is that I will be in such intimate connection – listening to the Father, empowered by Jesus and led by the Spirit – that I will be a portal for the miraculous, seeing the love of God setting captives free, spiritually, mentally and physically. Only God can do that but He has chosen to work through human beings like you and me! What a privilege!

*"Channels only, blessed master, but will all Thy wondrous power.
Flowing through me, thou can't use me,
every day and every hour."*

Listen to the message – **"Connections, Connections"** on www.the222trust.org.uk

Joyce WRITES



CONNECT & Depend



In early June, we sent an invitation to our granddaughters in Bulgaria to come and visit us; it seemed a good idea as they could catch up with Ben, Anne and four of their cousins. The reply came back – Tegan would like to come for 3 weeks and Gillian for One year! Gillian had just finished her education and wanted to spend her gap year in the UK. That was fine with us and so we met the plane at Luton and had a great time with Tegan, including a wonderful day at Bristol Zoo, and Gilly is still here.

In October, Gillian celebrated her 18th Birthday, her dad Craig, sent a beautiful bouquet of flowers, we had a great family meal, and suddenly our eldest granddaughter is an adult. She has got a really good job with an IT company, where she is a receptionist and administrator. Her main present for her birthday was a Laptop computer and she now has her Blackberry and Gym membership! She is great fun to have around and we are really enjoying it. The next goal is to learn to drive, the forms for her licence were filled out this week and she is researching the best driving schools.

We are now putting on the gentle pressure to get her University application filled out and sent in, as she hopes to go to University in this country.

