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Wollongong Congregational Church

30th August 2020

**Greetings and welcome in the name of
our Lord Jesus.**

**Our next Church Service will be at 10am Sunday 6th September
2020 which will be Father's Day.**

**Please remember to wear a mask. Keep 1.5 metre distance from
others and avoiding hugging, kissing and hand-shakes and help
with after service disinfecting.**

All welcome but please do not attend services if

- ♦ you have any cold or flu symptoms,
- ♦ have travelled to hotspots
- ♦ you have been in contact with anyone known to have Covid-19

Please continue to join our activities:

- ☼ Listen to Con's recorded video devotion each Sunday from our website www.wollongongconchurch.org
- ☼ Tune into Con's radio program on Pulse 94.1 FM Sunday **Worship 7-10am**. Repeated Tues night 10pm. Morning devotions 6-7am daily.
- ☼ Church Prayer Chain Ring or text Leonie
- ☼ Tuesday Bible Study at 10am at Con and Leonie's home at Figtree all welcome

Annette is resigning from her church duties from 30th August
Thank you to Andrea Bell for volunteering to assist with
secretarial duties.

Summary of last week's message...

Is there a better way to live? A good question. The author of Hebrews says that in the Lord Jesus we have a new way to live. A way that is different to that of following a set of rituals, rules, and regulations. A call to live by faith. This new way of living impacts every area of our lives. It does not make us perfect, or take the struggles of life away, BUT it will give us a quality of life that cannot be equalled! Strength, resistance, and fortitude, are just a few attributes of this new life. What are the implications when we live by faith? God the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives this is why it is a new and living way. The Apostle Paul in **Galatians 5** beautifully explains the work of the Spirit in a believer's life. **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.**

They do not negate our free will, our stubbornness and tenacity. If we subject ourselves to the wonderful will of God then our quality of life will dramatically improve. They are a challenge to everyone who would call themselves Christian. As one commentator has said: *'They are a God given badge of honour, a medal that can be worn on the heart of every believer.'*

I do not believe that Paul writes these things to hit his readers over the head in relation to their failures and inabilities. The idea is not to convict and shame or to set the reader on a guilt trip. Just the opposite! **These words are written to encourage, to inspire and to motivate to action every member of the Church.** Paul has not only taught good theology; he has shown by his own life how to live out good theology. I suppose that this is the key to a true witness for the Lord Jesus. **God is more than a study of words, actions and history. Paul wanted his readers to experience the joy of a relationship with the triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Our message begins with **Galatians 5:16** and concludes with **vs 25**.

Vs 16 *"So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh".*

Vs 25. *"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."*

In **verses 17-24** we have the nuts and bolts of Christian living and the working out in a practical way the wonderful words of our Lord Jesus. **John 13:34-35** *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."*

John 1:5 *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

The Lord Jesus is the Light of the world, darkness cannot overcome HIS BRIGHTNESS.

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

We are faced with a challenge: Allow sin to reign and control our lives, our thoughts and actions or allow God's perfect will to work in our lives. When God's love works in us, we can display the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives. God will never leave us, even though we may stray.

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.* The Fruit of the Spirit is produced by the Holy Spirit; it is God's gift to us. It is His enabling. **This is in direct contrast** to living a life that does not express the Fruit of the Spirit, that is to walk in darkness instead of the Light. These words are moving and should stir us to action.

Con

Prayer Points

Please pray for:

- ◇ Our church family
- ◇ Those In Care: Joan Weber & Dawn Coleshill—recovering from a fall
- ◇ Janice and her son Steve—Janice is still experiencing pain
- ◇ Gail and Ray returned home safely.
- ◇ Jenny and Dave Rowe in USA working for Wycliffe Bible Translators
- ◇ Adam and the Togo Group
- ◇ FCC Churches: *Engadine Congregational Church*
- ◇ Church family members: *Cathy Edwards (due to Covid-19 she is unable to travel to be with us)*
- ◇ God's leading and authority over decisions concerning our church
- ◇ God's leading concerning need for new Elders, Deacons, Assistant Pastor
- ◇ Romani Evangelical Congregational Church in Macedonia and their Pastor
- ◇ Pulse 94.1 FM and the effectiveness of Con's radio program
- ◇ Wisdom and opportunity to reach our community with the Gospel
- ◇ Persecuted Christians in *Sudan*
- ◇ Joyce Souter's son John, who is fighting cancer
- ◇ Bernice for healing of leg ulcers
- ◇ Conviction of how we can best support & show love to others around us
- ◇ Completion of outstanding repairs to Con and Leonie's new home
- ◇ Dennis and Karen Bagnall and the letter box distribution of "Living Water" (Gospels of John) throughout the Illawarra.
- ◇ SRE and school ministry workers; for wisdom, strength and grace and for health protection as they serve their schools
- ◇ Max and Irma recovering from surgery
- ◇ Nabila and her family who have relatives in Lebanon who may be affected by the traumatic explosion and unfolding situation
- ◇ Don has been transferred to Bulli—The family thanked the Church for their prayers. Visitors allowed.
- ◇ Lynda's nephew Rodney Ratcliff from Victoria who under went heart surgery on Thursday
- ◇ Jennifer Ramsay who goes into hospital for vascular surgery on Monday
- ◇ Jeff and Mary for safe travels visiting family and friends
- ◇ Tim F. who has been accepted for the Home Affairs Graduate Program in the Public Service next year in Canberra
- ◇ George and Annette for their move to Canberra. Their last Sunday with us will be 6th September 2020