

To the Gateway family

I used to play a lot of golf; it seems like a lifetime ago. I loved getting out on the course and enjoying everything around me. There were times when you hit the ball and it just soared beautifully into the air, the ball went off like a graceful rocket, as all the mechanics of the swing had come together, synchronised, harmonious. When the ball came off what golfers term, the “sweet spot” of the club, there was always a great sense of satisfaction and reward in the strike.

Maybe you're not a golfer and what I've just described doesn't really make much sense to you. Let me try and put it another way, because I reckon that all of us in life have things that we like doing and when they go well, the sense of well-being, satisfaction and reward is registered within us. That could be looking at the completed DIY job, bringing the cake or the casserole out of the oven with the accompanying smell wafting through the air or balancing the spreadsheets.

As followers of Jesus Christ we are not just called to live by God's rules and regulations. Please don't stop! Read on. I am not saying that we are not to obey the word of God and the instructions therein. Pay attention! Jesus states clearly in the “you have heard it said's” as I like to refer to them in Matthew 5: 17-48 (please take the time to read them), that as His followers we are to live to an even higher standard! Not only are we to follow the doctrine of the apostles but the leading of the Spirit.

It was refreshing to hear Pastor Simon Foster share with us the other Sunday and remind us that we bring light into the darkness; we are those who are called to bring transformation into the world around us. There are many great Christians obeying the word of God, doing what is right, yet for us to live in the ‘sweet spot’ that God has for us we not only need to obey His word and practice His instructions we also need to be sensitive and walk in partnership with the Holy Spirit. As Simon put it “God has always subjected the advancement of HIS KINGDOM to the partnerships He has with His people”.

To walk in partnership with the Holy Spirit isn't just to cry out to God for help when things aren't going our way, to walk in partnership with the Holy Spirit isn't to ask God to bless our plans that we are going to implement without ever asking HIS

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Meetings in March

Sunday Mornings 10:30am @ The Church & Online

Word & Prayer 7:30pm - Online Only

Check our Events Page on the Church website for updates and more information

To the Gateway family (cont)

opinion. To walk in partnership, is to walk in step, to be sensitive to the direction or often the redirection of the Holy Spirit, to be led, to be guided by Him in the moment to moment situations we find ourselves in throughout the day. When we are open and willing, life gets really exciting.

In Ephesians 2:10 it says “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” In my mind this seems so clear and simple, God goes ahead of us preparing the way and all we have to do is walk closely with Him! It is as if all the dominoes are set up and our simple obedience will cause them to be knocked down.

Sometimes we are looking to do the ‘great’ things for God and we miss the simple domino that needs to be pushed over which will cause such a knock on effect that the big thing will happen. I had one of those moments last week where I could nearly have missed the domino that God set up for me to knock down, it would have been so easy to bypass it but I got a little prompt from the Holy Spirit and praise God I heard..... the dominoes all fell down and the number of lives blessed because of walking in harmony with the Holy Spirit was phenomenal, the sense of joy, satisfaction and reward was much, much, much superior to that of hitting a golf ball from the “sweet spot” of the club.

How do we walk in the “sweet spot”, in partnership with God? In Romans 12 v 1 it says to present yourselves as living sacrifices. Giving all of yourself to God, the unholy trinity of ‘Me, Myself and I’ must step down from the throne of my heart and be replaced by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. When we do that, when Jesus reigns on the throne of our hearts, wow, watch out world! Here we come!

God's richest blessings

Pastors Marty & Rebeca