

## St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Penrith

[www.penrithpresbyterian.com](http://www.penrithpresbyterian.com)

Minister: Rev. Steve Mannyx - Phone: 4721 2440 Mobile: 0412 173 901

Assistant Minister: Rev. Hugh Prattis – Phone: 0410 888 773



*Encouragement Letter (27NOV24)*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

How are you today? I am enjoying the hot weather and thankful as the holidays approach for increased times with family.

Two reminders:

1. This Sunday is the combined service and we are meeting at 10am
2. Please fill in the survey for the Congregational Snapshot  
at: <https://forms.gle/L5qbATyXHJtP88377>

Today our encouragement from Psalm 62 is “Power and Love” before moving onto church matters.

### **ENCOURAGEMENT: Power and Love**

How well do you love people? No matter how much we love someone, there is a point where our love fails. We are finite creatures and we cannot do all that we want for those we love. We fall short. Our weakness gets the better of us. It becomes most apparent when we face trials and hardships – an illness, a death, financial loss, relationship breakdown. Try as we might we cannot be everything those we love need us to be. But God can. And this is how Psalm 62 finishes.

*One thing God has spoken,  
two things I have heard:  
that you, O God, are strong,  
and that you, O Lord, are loving,  
Surely you will reward each person  
according to what he has done.*

Psalm 62:11-12

The words of this stanza proceeds from the Psalmist's relationship with God. He has heard God – perhaps a personal revelation, perhaps he has read the Scriptures and seen it there. God's word has given him encouragement that speaks to his soul. There are two points about who God is that he hears in God's word – that God is strong and that he is loving.

God is all powerful. There is nothing that God cannot do. This means that he can back up his word with his power. If he says he will, we can be confident he can. There is nothing and no one that compares to God in power.

God is loving. He makes a covenant with his people that he promises to keep. He watches over us for our good. He provides for us. He sustains us. He makes plans for our good and welcomes us into a relationship with him.

Power and love – the two together means God in love makes a covenant with us and promises good to us, and because he is strong he can keep his promise and resource out of his limitless power. God's love is enduring, unstoppable and unrelenting because God is all powerful.

God's love and power come together in Jesus. Jesus in love gives his life for us on the cross, taking our sin upon himself. Jesus in power rises from the dead to be declared the Son of God. He is the indomitable Saviour that we need.

God continues to work in us by his Spirit so we may live a life of good works to his glory, growing in our knowledge of him. And if what he has given in Jesus were not enough, he gives us more. He rewards us according to what we do. The good works we do are because of his power working in us, and he rewards us for those works.

The best thing we can give to those we love is Jesus. Our love fails. We stumble and fall. We peter out in weakness. But Jesus' love never fails, never falters, is never exhausted because it is backed up by his infinite power. As the Christmas season begins, remember the best gift we can give to those we love is Jesus – to speak to them of the good news and his wonderful love and to love them with the same love we see in Jesus, empowered by his Spirit at work within us. Who will you give the gift of the good news of Jesus to this Christmas?

## **FINAL COMMENTS**

*I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen not only because I see it but because by it I see everything else. C.S.Lewis*

As always, love and prayers,  
Steve