

# EXCELLENT SPIRITUAL GROWTH



20  
**SEPTEMBER**  
**2020**

ED.LXXXIV.09.2020

*Bethany International Church*  
THE HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

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Ps Djohan Handojo

## PASTOR

Ps Daniel Prajogo

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Ps Unggul Santika  
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## Next Generation Pastor

Ps Rudy Nurtanaya

## Pastoral Care

Ps Lily Karto

## Prophetic, Praise & Worship Pastor

Ps Hemah Demak Panjaitan  
Ps Suzana Tahir

## Teaching Pastor

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## Foreword

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Now that we have been made new, born again to be the children of God and that we have an unshakable hope in Christ, we should become who we're supposed to be, to bring our life to be conformed to this new identity found in Christ.

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. (1 Peter 2:1-3)

As a new creation, we should desire the Word of God: the very Word that brought us into this newness. Then we can taste and see that the Lord is good through the Gospel that we read. The purpose is clear, so that we could grow — growing towards our salvation.

Christian life is a dynamic process — we were born, then we drink (the Word), therefore we grow, and we arrive at salvation. The drinking and growing is not optional, it is essential and it doesn't undermine our assurance of salvation — the unshakable hope. Our assurance does not lie in the fact that once we believe we are automatically saved, but it is in God's power that produces our faith that leads to salvation.

Knowing this truth of how good our God is, we'll realise how much we need to grow spiritually. It is not optional and it is not accidental. God gives the growth, but we should also work for it, out of our love and gratitude to Him.

This month we will discuss what it means to grow in the fullness of Christ, in faith, in wisdom and in godliness. We hope that all of us, who have been made new by His blood, will have this great longing to grow, to grow more like Christ and in the knowledge of Him.

# HELLO *new comers!*

Welcome to Bethany International Church Melbourne.  
So glad that you are here with us. We want to help make your  
first experience at BIC Melbourne a great one!



## GET CONNECTED

Christian journey shouldn't be alone because it is a community project. Join our Community of Love (COOL) every Friday 7PM!

## LET US CONTACT YOU



Lastly, please enjoy a cup of coffee on us! 



# COOL LIST



## MAIN

Canaan	Kezia, Freddie
Ephratah	Steven, Henry
Berea - Bethesda	Romy
Bethlehem	Felix, Fransisca
Jordan	Sony, Wilfred
Horeb	Ferry, Febria
Bethany	Paulus, Erina
Bethel	Christy, Elvina
Cana	Bobby
Philadelphia - Pniel	Dwi, Vero
Moriah	Elve, Calista
Ephraim	Kevin L, Sonia
Ekklesia	Edo, Ica
Emmaus	Fabian, Priska
Galilee	Kevin Y, Corine
Gennesaret	Reinetta, Albert
Gilgal - Carmel	Erika, Mike
Hebron - Philippi	Yoseph, Rian
Zion	Monica, Raymond
Eden	Jennifer

## FAMILY

Antioch	Andy, Iwan
Tiberias	Andre, Albert
Doncaster	Michael, Rudy
Jerusalem	Edwin, Gerda
Mt Hermon	Lily, Unggul
Phillipi	Hariyanto, Ivan
Shekinah	Alice
Tabernacle	Sandi
Westal	Michael

## 180

Macedonia	Eric, Alicia
Shiloh	Daniel, Clarissa

## NEXT GEN

Judea	Valentina, Sylvio
Judah	Aldo, Kezia M.
Israel	Catherine, Jerry
Jeremiah	Sinta, Kevin W.
Heaven	Pauline



# My journey in knowing God

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STORY KEZIA JOCELYN

My journey of growing in the knowledge of God started from a relatively young age. I am very blessed to be raised in a Christian household with both parents invested time and effort for me and my siblings to learn to be committed to our faith. From being enrolled in a Christian school, going to Sunday school, even attending a bible school every Thursday, it all created a pathway for my faith even though I didn't choose all of that myself.

I always thank God for his faithfulness in guiding me through this journey. In the beginning of my college years, I often didn't know how to approach problems with godly wisdom. I would acknowledge that something is not sitting right in my heart, but I wouldn't know exactly why. I couldn't pinpoint it because I hadn't yet educated myself with His words, what's even worse is I hated reading. Thankfully, He guided me to come across and learn from His wonderful servants that I found through YouTube videos that helped me with my Bible reading. Not only from preachers but platforms like Bible Project also helped me a lot in seeing the bigger picture the Bible is describing. It then eventually became intuitive for me to test anything else I hear from other sources except the Bible, not because I felt like I was already an expert, but I

believe it's because the Holy Spirit gave me a discerning heart. Even now, after committing to study the Bible since 2013, I am far from perfect in execution. Apart from still struggling to read the Bible every day, I also struggle to memorise verses and truly want to work on that. However, God is faithful in that if there is one fruit as a result of this journey of growing in the knowledge of God is that discerning heart, I mentioned which has countless prevented me from consciously going against God's will. I finally knew by then that the Bible was not meant to simply be read and done, but to be studied, meditated, and to be delighted upon.

In my personal journey, the way God intervened in the initial stages of my Bible study journey is to reveal me to the true gospel. The gospel of Christ which had manifested its power in my heart is the fact that we are more loved than we ever dared hope and it made me want to transform this life to a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to Him. However, it does take a lot of trying times and humility to also understand the other part of the gospel that says we are more sinful than we ever dared believe. For me, the very thing that led me back to searching for His truth is the fact that every day I still, unfortunately, struggle with the same sin and sometimes

feeling frustrated because I know my self-sufficiency will never lead me anywhere. It's that back and forth feeling of knowing that I am hopeless if I don't live in the view of the cross. And it is only when we learn the Bible we discover deeper, more indescribable, uncontainable, liberating truths of the cross. It is from this personal experience I have been constantly tasting and seeing how important it is to grow in the knowledge of God.

Knowing God is a never-ending process. The Bible is not a book that will run out of things to be fleshed out, even the best most knowledgeable Bible scholar would be surprised with the things he can still learn about the Bible within each day. Our spirituality indeed needs to be grounded in the truth. But there is a key to this – letting that truth speak to your heart. If a person loses sight of this, the knowledge they have stored up in their heads often can result in pride. As it is often quoted, “The journey from head to heart is one of the longest and most difficult that we know”. Alister McGrath in one of his articles for the C.S. Lewis Institute titled Loving God with Heart and Mind mentions that theological correctness alone is no balm for the wounds of our frail and sinful humanity, that we cannot nourish the mind while neglecting the heart. He

further talks about how the gospel should affect every level of our existence, not just the way we think, but how we feel and live. We need to let these truths take on a new depth. If faith is the distinction we have as Christ-followers, then the “faith which believes” – our personal quality of commitment and trust in God is of as much importance as the “faith which is believed” – which is our Christian doctrine (I truly recommend you to read this article! [https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/webfm\\_send/615](https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/webfm_send/615)).

My journey through a growing knowledge of Christ is all because of His mercy. From my end, it is full of ups and downs and insufficiency. But I am forever grateful that from God's end, it is full of grace and the perfect power of the blood of Jesus. I can truly say that it is not I, yet through Christ in me.

*“Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God”*

**- Colossians 3:1-3**

# WEEKLY DEVOTION

## 20 SEPTEMBER

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Ayub 37-39

Ayat Renungan:  
Ayub 37:5

"Allah mengguntur dengan suara-Nya yang mengagumkan; Ia melakukan perbuatan-perbuatan besar yang tidak tercapai oleh pengetahuan kita;"

## 21 SEPTEMBER

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Ayub 40-42

Ayat Renungan:  
Ayub 42:2

"Aku tahu, bahwa Engkau sanggup melakukan segala sesuatu, dan tidak ada rencana-Mu yang gagal."

## 22 SEPTEMBER

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Filemon 1  
Pengkotbah 1-3

Ayat Renungan:  
Pengkhobah 3:11

"Ia membuat segala sesuatu indah pada waktunya, bahkan Ia memberikan kekekalan dalam hati mereka. Tetapi manusia tidak dapat menyelami pekerjaan yang dilakukan Allah dari awal sampai akhir."

## 23 SEPTEMBER

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Pengkotbah 4-6

Ayat Renungan:  
Pengkhobah 5:10

"Dengan bertambahnya harta, bertambah pula orang-orang yang menghabiskannya. Dan apakah keuntungan pemiliknya selain dari pada melihatnya?"



## 24 SEPTEMBER

Pengkotbah 7-9

Ayat Renungan:  
Pengkhobah  
9:18

"Hikmat lebih baik dari pada alat-alat perang, tetapi satu orang yang keliru dapat merusakkan banyak hal yang baik."

## 25 SEPTEMBER

Pengkotbah 10-12

Ayat Renungan:  
Pengkhobah  
12:14

"Karena Allah akan membawa setiap perbuatan ke pengadilan yang berlaku atas segala sesuatu yang tersembunyi, entah itu baik, entah itu jahat."

## 26 SEPTEMBER

Ibrani 1-5

Ayat Renungan:  
Ibrani 3:13

"Tetapi nasihatilah seorang akan yang lain setiap hari, selama masih dapat dikatakan "hari ini", supaya jangan ada di antara kamu yang menjadi tegar hatinya karena tipu daya dosa."

*"your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path"*

psalm 119:105

# Growing in wisdom

BY ELVINA PARLINDUNGAN

## Wisdom in the eyes of the world

The very name of our own species *Homo sapiens* signifies 'wise man'. The word 'philosophy' literally means 'the love of wisdom'. It is too loose, too grand, and too mysterious of a concept that people have various ways and perspectives of defining wisdom. Socrates, a notable ancient Greek philosopher who is credited to be one of the founders of Western philosophy said that "wisdom begins in wonder". Leonardo da Vinci who is known as one of the most talented, universal genius according to scholars and historians, believed that "wisdom is the daughter of experience". Just like Socrates and da Vinci, others have myriad definitions of what wisdom means to them. Even I used to say that wisdom is about learning how the world works and making decisions that will be a fork in the road of life to achieve the intended goals.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon many times mentioned that everything is meaningless under heaven, like chasing after the wind. He includes earthly wisdom, as one fleeting, meaningless pursuit and said – while being wise is better than being foolish,

the wise and the fool are equally subjected to death (Ecclesiastes 2:12-16). Wisdom, in the eyes of men, differs from the true and sound wisdom that is of God. While earthly wisdom says to always follow our heart as we please, godly wisdom tells us to always guard our heart as the heart is deceitful above all things (Jeremiah 17:9). Earthly wisdom says to love our family and friends, but godly wisdom tells us to love even our enemies and bless them (Matthew 5:43-47). Moreover, earthly wisdom may claim that there are many paths to God and salvation, however, godly wisdom tells us that there is only one way to God, that is through Jesus (John 14:6). These demonstrate that we live in a world with viewpoints, images, and ideals that contradict the Bible.

The Bible has the answers that we need to know of true and sound wisdom. The Bible contains the objective truth, so we can learn and understand what wisdom truly means, how and where to get it, and what is its purpose, for "[the Bible] is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy

3:16). That is to say – true and sound wisdom is grounded and rooted in the God of the Bible.

### **True and sound wisdom**

To know what true and sound wisdom is, first we can look at the characteristics of the person who has it. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (Proverbs 9:10). This is where true wisdom lies – it begins with knowing and fearing God. A filial fear here is intended, means – in awe and reverence of Him, desiring to depend on Him, to seek refuge, joy, and hope in Him, fearing to run away/be far from Him. All the later characteristics of wisdom flow from the fear of the Lord, like a river flows from the offspring.

Another characteristic of a wise person is that he/she is filled with humility. “When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but with the humble is wisdom” (Proverbs 11:2). The person who is proud does not fear God, but the person who fears God is humble, as he/she depends on God for everything and fears to take credit himself/herself for what

“ **The fear  
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and  
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of the Holy  
One is  
understanding.**



God does. Humility demonstrates that one is teachable, open to change and growth, listens to counsel, ready to be corrected, and follows the truth. Proverbs 12:15 also mentions that “[t]he way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice”. Furthermore, wisdom consists in knowing and doing God’s commandments. Jesus said that everyone who hears His Words and does them will be like the wise man who built his house upon the rock (Matthew 7:24). Also, Paul says in Romans 12:2, “by the renewing of [our] mind” that we can examine and approve the good and perfect will of God. It is by saturating our mind and heart with God’s Word that we gain wisdom to guide us in all situations.

It is important to note that such humility requires our understanding and awareness that we are fallen, sinful creatures, undeserving, incapable of saving ourselves, in need of God’s grace which is fulfilled through the sacrifice, redemption, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This keeps us grounded and humbled, knowing that our sins are great, yet His love, mercy, and grace are greater.

Jonathan Edwards says –  
*“[a] truly humble man is sensible of his natural distance from God; of his dependence on Him; of the insufficiency of his own power and wisdom; and that it is by God’s power that he is upheld and provided for, and that he needs*

*God’s wisdom to lead and guide him, and His might to enable him to do what he ought to do for Him.”*

Without such awareness, at some point in our life, we may grow to love God’s blessings more than God Himself, we may even treasure the act of wisdom itself (which will lead to self-righteousness) rather than treasuring the Author of true wisdom Himself. Overall, wisdom is hearing and doing God’s Word, and the people who do this are those who are relying on Him, fearing to seek happiness and life not anywhere else but in Him.

## How and where to get wisdom

There are practical, biblical instructions on how and where to get wisdom, adapted from Ps John Piper’s sermon back on April 20, 2018, titled: *“How to Get Wisdom”*.

### How:

1. Prize and pursue wisdom.

*“Prize her highly and she will exalt you; she will honor you for your embrace” (Proverbs 4:8).*

*“If you make your ear attentive to wisdom...if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.” (Proverbs 2:2,4–5)*

To prize is to earnestly desire and cherish. We have to perceive wisdom as invaluable,

we have to seek and pursue it!

2. Pray – ask God for wisdom.

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him” (James 1:5).*

Let's have a look into Solomon's wisdom as written in 1 Kings 3:16-28. In summary, two women came to King Solomon, both gave birth to a son. One night, one of the sons died and both mothers argued and claimed that the living son was theirs. King Solomon then gave an order to cut the living son in two, so each mother can own half portion of the living child. However, the first woman whose son was alive yearned for her son and pleaded King Solomon not to slay the child, while the other woman supported the King's order to cut the child in half. The King then said to give the living child to the first woman as she is the mother. The story then concludes: “[a]nd all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice” (1 Kings 3:28). It takes mature judgment and discernment (through practical knowledge and experience) to deal with unique circumstances, and God is the one that bestows wisdom to Solomon. Solomon was not born a wise man, but he prayed to God for wisdom and God gave him a wise and discerning heart (1 Kings 3). Another example from the Bible is Daniel,

who admitted to having no wisdom and yet God gave him wisdom (Daniel 2:30,23). True wisdom comes from God, indeed it's a gift and we must pray for it!

#### Where:

1. In the Word of God.

*“The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.” (Psalm 19:7).*

We must know the Word by reading, studying, and meditating on it and do it.

2. Walking with the wise.

*“Walk with the wise and become wise” (Proverbs 13:20).*

We can learn from other believers who are wise and spiritually mature. One example that we can witness, is from the relationship between Paul and Timothy. Paul called Timothy “[his] true son in the faith” (1 Timothy 1:2), and Timothy grew to learn from Paul's teaching, faith, patience, love, and endurance (2 Timothy 3:10).

3. Setting our eyes towards eternity.

*“Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12)*

Think of the shortness of this temporary life and set our eyes on the infinite length of eternity. This will help us to prioritize and pursue things that truly matters – that is true

and sound wisdom. So we may be reminded that all that glitters in this world is not gold.

#### 4. Bringing all things to Jesus!

*“All things were created through Him and for Him. . . . In Him, all things hold together. . . And in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom.”* (Colossians 1:16–17; 2:3)

Jesus is the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24,30), the way and the life (John 14:6). To know, follow, and love Jesus is to own the treasure of ultimate and eternal happiness, in whom are hid all treasures of wisdom.

### Purpose of having wisdom

If we want to grow in wisdom, we need to have the right mindset of what is its purpose for. The purpose of having wisdom is to be praised, accepted, and admired by others – certainly not! Apostle Paul says, “[f]or from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.” (Romans 11:36) and he also says in whatever we do, we do all for God’s glory (1 Corinthians 10:31). As the gift of salvation is from God, by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, our life purpose ever since is to glorify Him in whatever we do. Hence if we gain wisdom and grow in it, that is to glorify God. Word of wisdom is included as one amongst a number of spiritual gifts from God (1 Corinthians 12:8), that is meant to bless others, edify the church, and ultimately glorifying Him! If we walk, speak, and live in true wisdom that is rooted and grounded in

Him, our life may bless others and God can use it to reveal His infinite glory, perhaps more than we can imagine. There is nothing more thrilling, more joyful, more meaningful, and more satisfying than to find our niche in the eternal unfolding of His glory.

### Growing in wisdom

I have to say that to grow in wisdom takes time, there will never be a point where we can say that we have had enough of God’s infinite wisdom. It takes our willingness to surrender, to constantly be reliant and dependant towards God, knowing that we are not wise, we are powerless, in need of Him every single day. To grow in wisdom, we have to constantly pray and ask God for it, discover Him more through reading the Bible, and experience Him more in our daily walk. Further to these, is saying no to our sinful nature, saying no to self-righteousness, saying no to worldly passion, and living upright, in obedience towards Him. Thus, growing in true and sound wisdom is possible only if we set our eyes on the Author of all wisdom – that is God Himself.



# MINISTRY LIST

## VOCAL



Jessica Sutiono

## MUSICIAN



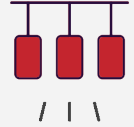
Raynaldo Ali

## MULTIMEDIA



Budi Sendjaja

## LIGHTING



Budi Sendjaja

## SOUND



Steven Santika

## USHER



Elbert Pranoto

## TRANSLATOR



Elbert Pranoto

## CARING



Felix Hariyadi

## DANCER



Priska Sunaryo

## DRAMA



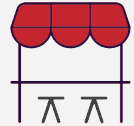
Jennifer Chandra

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



Reinetta Tanujaya

## HOSPITALITY



Tasmin Ifah

## INTERCESSOR



Monica Haryanto

## MISSION



Felix Chietra

## MEDIA ART



Sonia Pranatha

## COMMUNITY KITCHEN



Yolanda Tjong

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"*

## PODCAST



Ravello Satria

## YOUTH



Rio Susanto

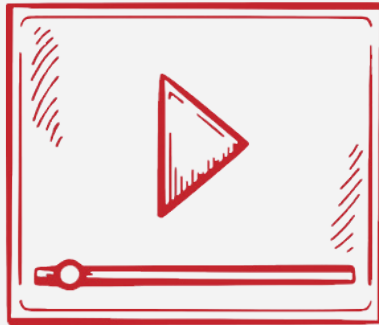


**We invite you to join our  
online service every Sunday**

**8.30 am  
11.00 am  
5.00 pm**

**You can go to the link below:**

**[bicmelb.online.church](https://bicmelb.online.church)**



**Let's celebrate the Lord's Day  
together!**