

# EXCELLENT SPIRITUAL GROWTH



**27**  
**SEPTEMBER**  
**2020**

ED.LXXXV.09.2020

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

## FOUNDING PASTOR

Rev Niko Njotoraharjo

## SENIOR PASTOR

Ps Djohan Handojo

## PASTOR

Ps Daniel Prajogo

## Associate Pastor

Ps Unggul Santika  
Ps Iwan Adinugroho

## Next Generation Pastor

Ps Rudy Nurtanaya

## Pastoral Care

Ps Lily Karto

## Prophetic, Praise & Worship Pastor

Ps Hemah Demak Panjaitan  
Ps Suzana Tahir

## Teaching Pastor

Ps Daniel Hardjosuwito

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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



# Spiritual discipline

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BY KARTIKA GONDOBOENTORO

## Spiritual discipline vs legalism

Some people associate spiritual discipline with legalism, which in turn creates a fear that keeps them from pursuing it further. For example, if we do not feel thankful at the moment, aren't we being hypocritical and legalistic to pray and thank God? This confusion of the two is dangerous and would lead us to oversee the importance of spiritual discipline. Legalism is defined as being disciplined in order to live up to the law in our own strength, for the sake of achieving justification of sins. It emphasises the performance of certain deeds as opposed to a belief that salvation is given through faith in Jesus Christ, according to Romans 11:5-6. The Bible said that God saved us not based on foreseeing anything good in us. He chose us by grace—not on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

## Benefit of spiritual discipline

Having understood the true biblical understanding, the goal of our spiritual discipline is not to gain our salvation, instead, as a means to be close to God and to remain in Him, as John 15:5 describes. There are no shortcuts to

this and it involves activities, i.e. reading the Bible, praying with one another, meditating on Scripture, fasting, worship, and service. The discipline will develop us into a mature Christian. As we grasp the goodness of God, we can submit to His guidance and allow the Holy Spirit to transform us to be like Jesus.

## Challenges and tips

John Piper's foreword in the book *Habits of Grace* (2016) explained that "God is at work in you" (Philippians 2:12-13) does not mean for us to be idle and do nothing. Instead, he pointed out that we are to work hard as Paul, though it was not him, but the grace of God that is with him (1 Corinthians 15:10). It is the grace of God that will empower our successes in spiritual disciplines, but it also requires persistence to remain in Him. At the same time, we trust that the faithfulness of God is sustaining us and giving us "grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16)

A disciplined life is a grace-driven life, requiring structure, planning and effort, i.e. Daniel prayed three times a day, which was a pattern and structure he followed (Daniel 6:10). Spiritual discipline is not a spectator-sport. There is a joy that is deep and satisfying through this process of

self-control, that ultimately leads to godly habits.

From the book of Habits of Grace, several Christian articles and discussion with other believers, there are some suggestions to encourage us in this journey and to overcome the tediousness:

*Challenge 1* - Set aside consistent time in God's Word, memorise Scriptures and learn to apply it.

Tips:

1. Understand that God's words will give us the life-giving truth, hope, and power that we all desperately need.
2. Vary your sources & seasons, including learning from personal conversation with other believers, reading good Christian books, watch Christian videos and recorded audio
3. Taking classes is also beneficial as it guides us to learning in context, benefiting from other classmates' questions, and being forced to focus on the material
4. Adapt to new media, i.e. podcast, documentary, online Bible commentary
5. Create awareness of our weakness and vulnerability and protect ourselves from the temptation to compromise our spiritual discipline, i.e. limit time spent for social media updates

6. Mind your mindless moments and develop the resistance to simply veg out whenever you feel the impulse

*Challenge 2* - Pray persistently and regularly in praise, thanksgiving, repentance and supplication.

We have heard that Paul urged us to Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). However, it can be challenging at times as there can be so much noise in our head that shifted our focus.

Tips:

1. Understand that if we allow the noise of the world to fill our minds, we become susceptible to lies, burdened with anxieties, and unable to hear the Holy Spirit.
2. A consistent habit of journaling prayers can be effective in helping with lack of focus, while also allowing to look back on answered prayers.
3. Begin with the Bible – prayer is a conversation we didn't start, but a response to God's initiation and speaking to us in his Word. Adore God with praise for the truth revealed in your reading of and meditation on the Scriptures.

# WEEKLY DEVOTION

## 27 SEPTEMBER

Ibrani 6-10

Ayat Renungan:  
Ibrani 10:25

“Janganlah kita menjauhkan diri dari pertemuan-pertemuan ibadah kita, seperti dibiasakan oleh beberapa orang, tetapi marilah kita saling menasihati, dan semakin giat melakukannya menjelang hari Tuhan yang mendekat.”

## 28 SEPTEMBER

Ibrani 11-13

Ayat Renungan:  
Ibrani 13:5

“Janganlah kamu menjadi hamba uang dan cukupkanlah dirimu dengan apa yang ada padamu. Karena Allah telah berfirman: “Aku sekali-kali tidak akan membiarkan engkau dan Aku sekali-kali tidak akan meninggalkan engkau.””

## 29 SEPTEMBER

Kidung Agung 1-4

Ayat Renungan:  
Ibrani 13:8

“Yesus Kristus tetap sama, baik kemarin maupun hari ini dan sampai selamanya.”

## 30 SEPTEMBER

Kidung Agung 5-8

Ayat Renungan:  
Ibrani 13:15

“Sebab itu marilah kita, oleh Dia, senantiasa mempersembahkan korban syukur kepada Allah, yaitu ucapan bibir yang memuliakan nama-Nya.”



## 01 OCTOBER

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Yakobus 1-5

Ayat Renungan:  
Yakobus 1:22

“Tetapi hendaklah kamu menjadi pelaku firman dan bukan hanya pendengar saja; sebab jika tidak demikian kamu menipu diri sendiri.”

## 02 OCTOBER

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Yesaya 1-3

Ayat Renungan:  
Yesaya 1:18

“Marilah, baiklah kita beperkara! – firman Tuhan – Sekalipun dosamu merah seperti kirmizi, akan menjadi putih seperti salju; sekalipun berwarna merah seperti kain kesumba, akan menjadi putih seperti bulu domba.”

## 03 OCTOBER

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Yesaya 4-6

Ayat Renungan:  
Yesaya 6:8

“Lalu aku mendengar suara Tuhan berkata: “Siapakah yang akan Kuutus, dan siapakah yang mau pergi untuk Aku?” Maka sahutku: “Ini aku, utuslah aku!””

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

psalm 119:105

# Godly vs Religious

BY NATALIA WIJAYA

One can be a zealous church worker, a talented Christian leader, a diligent parent, leading COOL or preaching sermons, but none of these things matter if, at the same time, he or she is not a godly person. This person may be called a religious person, but perhaps not equally as a godly person. What is the difference between the two? What does it mean to be a godly person?

I personally think being “religious” and “godly” is different, regardless if you look in the dictionary those two words are closely related. One can be a religious person but not godly (merely doing activities seen from the outside but his or her heart is not attached with the Lord), whilst a godly person by nature is also a religious person (voluntarily doing the good works and the rituals as fruits of his or her faith). To be godly means **we reflect the characters of God**, just like the original design God created us before sin entered (Genesis 1:27).

There is one godly man among many in the Bible and his name is Enoch. In a short three-verse summary of his life in Genesis 5:21-24, he was described as one who “**walked with God**”. In Hebrew 11, his name is also

mentioned as “**one who pleased God**” (verse 5). Truly there is no higher compliment to a Christian other than to be referred as such!

Enoch’s life must be centered in God and he enjoyed his relationship with Him, he is devoted towards God. Devotion always results in action, not merely an emotional feeling about God. Devotion is also more than just our private time reading the Bible and praying (which we call the practice as ‘devotions’). It is more towards **our attitude; the way we fear Him, love Him, desire Him.**

All of these are what make being religious and godly different. *We may be busy with God’s works, but are devoted to the ministry and not to the Lord Himself.*

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Godliness is crucial in our spiritual growth. Peter mentioned in 2 Peter 1 for us to supplement our faith with many virtues and one of them is godliness (verse 6). “The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (verse 8).

The “secret” that enables us to do so is the

key words in the beginning of verse 5, “for this very reason”. What is “this reason”? The previous verse apparently explained to us that God’s promise enables us to share His **divine nature**.

My pastor gave a good illustration regarding this, that *“an eagle learns to fly not in order to become an eagle. But because it is a bird, and by nature birds can fly!”*. When we receive salvation in Christ, our corrupted nature has died! To be godly and to live like Christ is now our new nature!

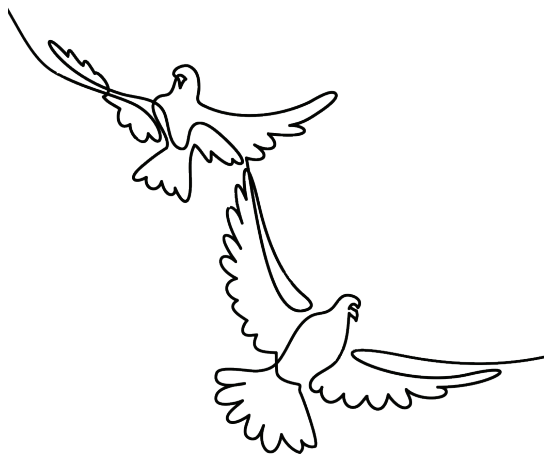
I find this is a liberating truth!

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Netflix, Korean dramas, worldly entertainment, music, magazines, social media are not necessarily “bad things”. Yet when our life is filled with these things more than God’s own words, thoughts about Him, time to seek and be in fellowship with Him, how could we expect to be a godly person? First of all, they rarely or almost never discuss and mention about the Lord Himself! They offer a worldview without God in it!

John Piper explained it very well in his

“**God has given to each one of us everything we need for life and godliness”**



interview “What Do My Entertainment Habits Reveal About My Soul?”:

*“Or to say it with more precision: He’s not presented at all. It’s an absolute void. I used to say, back when people read newspapers, that you opened the Star Tribune and you go page, page, page, page, page. Here’s a whole section on business, here’s a section on leisure, here’s a section on travel, here’s a section on sports — a whole section on sports — **zero sections on God, not one paragraph on God. I mean, the most important reality in the universe gets zero attention in the newspaper. The same would be true of most movies... If He does get presented, He’s presented in a way that does not inflame our love for Him, but questions His reality and His use.**”*

Yes, I believe godliness is the work of the Holy Spirit in us, it is not by our own will power. Yet I also believe that **humans are creatures of habit**. The more we make the practice of godliness (walking with God, be in close communion with Him each day) our habit of life, the more we reflect His

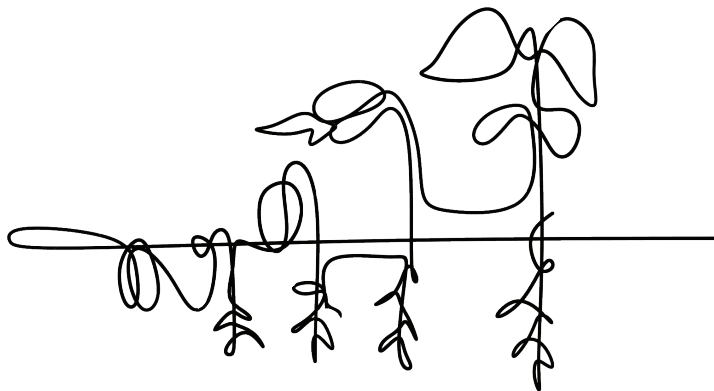
characters and draw closer towards Him, and not to the world.

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Paul advised Timothy the same advice we need to follow, “But you, man of God, .. pursue godliness...”(1 Timothy 6:11). The word “pursue” indicating unrelenting, persevering effort. It is not something to be achieved in just days, or even months and years. It requires our lifetime perseverance and commitment, just like a marathon runner aiming for the reward!

Good news is we don’t need any special talent or equipment! **God has given to each one of us “everything we need for life and godliness”** (2 Peter 1:3), what a wonderful news! As I read the following sentence from Bible.org, *“The most ordinary Christian has all that he needs, and the most talented Christian use same means in practice of godliness”*.

We have had it all; we have what we need to be a godly man and woman. Let’s make growing in godliness our goal every day!





# MINISTRY LIST

## VOCAL



Jessica Sutiono

## MUSICIAN



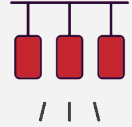
Raynaldo Ali

## MULTIMEDIA



Budi Sendjaja

## LIGHTING



Budi Sendjaja

## SOUND



Steven Santika

## USHER



Elbert Pranoto

## TRANSLATOR



Elbert Pranoto

## CARING



Felix Hariyadi

## DANCER



Priska Sunaryo

## DRAMA



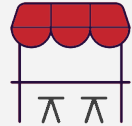
Jennifer Chandra

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



Reinetta Tanujaya

## HOSPITALITY



Tasmin Ifah

## INTERCESSOR



Monica Haryanto

## MISSION



Felix Chietra

## MEDIA ART



Sonia Pranatha

## COMMUNITY KITCHEN



Yolanda Tjong

## PODCAST



Ravello Satria

## YOUTH



Rio Susanto

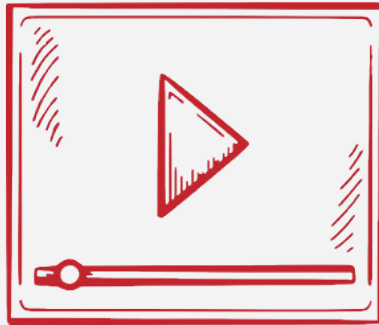
*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"*

**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!**