

EXCELLENT SPIRITUAL GROWTH



06
SEPTEMBER
2020

ED.LXXXII.09.2020

Bethany International Church
THE HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

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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

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Foreword

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

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Macedonia	Eric, Alicia
Shiloh	Daniel, Clarissa

NEXT GEN

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



Reflecting on my journey towards Christlikeness

BY ANDREW

The goal of our spiritual growth is to be more and more like Christ. We are saved not just to inherit eternal life, but also to experience life transformation on this earth.

As God's children, we are sent to this world not to enjoy what the world offers to us, but there is a mission that God wants us to fulfill in our Christian journey, which is to become more and more like Christ. But what does it mean to become like Christ?

First to start with, I would start by as simple as checking our attitudes, how do we respond to problems? Do we reflect Christ in our daily life? Do we respond to those who troubled us with anger and emotions or do we respond to it with care and love?

There are times that we need to take time to reflect on our actions and examine our heart. Sometimes we tend to follow what our ego wants without even realising it, let alone reflecting on it. And it is dangerous as our ego and our flesh will always desire worldly things, and therefore will lead us to worldly conduct.


It is written in **1 John 2:15-17** *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If*

anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."

To become like Christ is to deny ourselves, to deny our flesh, our comfort, our ego. It is extremely difficult, but we have the Holy Spirit who gives us the strength we need. Praise God! We need to remind ourselves and soak in the Gospel, in what Christ has done for us. It is only by realising that we have been cared and loved undeservedly that we can start caring and loving others sacrificially.

Secondly, the reason why we have to become more like Christ is also to bring others to see God through our good deeds.

in **Matthew 5:13-16** says that *"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but*



on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Bringing good impacts to our surroundings is one of the fruits of becoming more like Christ. It should never be about us alone. Perhaps we should ask ourselves from time to time whether our presence in this

world brings any good impact or not.

However, we know we cannot do this with our own strength. Even if we think we can, once we have achieved a few "successes", we are going to give credit to ourselves instead of giving glory to God. Therefore, it is utterly important for us to depend on the Holy Spirit to guide us and to lead us so that we are not doing this for our own sake but to glorify His name. Amen.

WEEKLY DEVOTION

06 SEPTEMBER

1 Timotius 4-6

Ayat Renungan:
1 Timotius 4:7-8

“Tetapi jauhilah takhayul dan dongeng nenek-nenek tua. Latihlah dirimu beribadah. Latihan badani terbatas gunanya, tetapi ibadah itu berguna dalam segala hal, karena mengandung janji, baik untuk hidup ini maupun untuk hidup yang akan datang.”

07 SEPTEMBER

2 Timotius 1-4

Ayat Renungan:
2 Timothy 1:7

“Sebab Allah memberikan kepada kita bukan roh ketakutan, melainkan roh yang membangkitkan kekuatan, kasih dan ketertiban.”

08 SEPTEMBER

Esther 1-5

Ayat Renungan:
Filipi 4:13

“Segala perkara dapat kutanggung di dalam Dia yang memberi kekuatan kepadaku.”

09 SEPTEMBER

Esther 6-10

Ayat Renungan:
Filipi 4:4-5

“Bersukacitalah senantiasa dalam Tuhan! Sekali lagi kukatakan: Bersukacitalah! Hendaklah kebaikan hatimu diketahui semua orang. Tuhan sudah dekat!”

10 SEPTEMBER

Titus 1:3

Ayat Renungan:
Titus 2:7-8

"dan jadikanlah dirimu sendiri suatu teladan dalam berbuat baik. Hendaklah engkau jujur dan bersungguh-sungguh dalam pengajaranmu, sehat dan tidak bercela dalam pemberitaanmu sehingga lawan menjadi malu, karena tidak ada hal-hal buruk yang dapat mereka sebarkan tentang kita."

11 SEPTEMBER

Ayub 1:4

Ayat Renungan:
Ayub 1:21

"katanya:
"Dengan telanjang aku keluar dari kandungan ibuku, dengan telanjang juga aku akan kembali ke dalamnya.
TUHAN yang memberi, TUHAN yang mengambil, terpujilah nama TUHAN!"

12 SEPTEMBER

Ayub 5:8

Ayat Renungan:
Ayub 5:2

"Sesungguhnya, orang bodoh dibunuh oleh sakit hati, dan orang bebal dimatikan oleh iri hati."

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

psalm 119:105

Healthy spiritual growth

STORY TANIA GISELA

All living things grow - including our spirit. According to Scripture, spiritual growth is the process of becoming more and more like Jesus Christ. This spiritual growth will enable us to “distinguish good from evil” (Hebrews 5:14). Furthermore, 2 Peter 1:3-8 tells us that by God’s power, we have everything we need to live the lives of godliness. This, in turn, will keep us from being ineffective and unproductive in our knowledge of Jesus Christ; rather, one of the goals of spiritual growth is effectiveness and productivity. The key to obtaining everything we need is through our knowledge of Him, which comes from the Word of God given to us for our own personal edification and growth.

There are no shortcuts to maturity; instead, spiritual growth is a gradual process of development. It takes time and effort to become spiritually mature. I believe that the secret for ensuring individual success in growing is through our personal daily routine. We can start from spending time with God – by reading His Word, praying, worshipping, having fellowship with other Christians and using the gifts God has given to us. Learning to grow spiritually is a life-long journey which occurs as we

read and apply God’s Word into our daily lives. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 teaches us that “All Scripture is God-breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” This is the essence of spiritual growth.

Another key to Christian growth is walking in the Spirit and allowing Him to fill, control and guide us. If we are led by the Spirit, we will not gratify the desires that are sinful in nature as they are in direct conflict to the Spirit. “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not be conceited provoking and envying each other” (Galatians 5:24-26).

Speaking from my own personal experience, I remember back when I was still in school, I carried out a fun science project – the focus of which was a seed sprouting experiment. The purpose of this experiment was to cultivate my seed, such that it grew into a new plant. I was excited to carry out this experiment, and I could not wait to see my plant grow and emerge. At first, I was quite disheartened to

see that my friend's sprouts were growing faster than mine. I was questioning why my sprouts did not grow. I thought it might have been damaged or had died as I was unable to see any signs of growth. However, my teacher told me to be patient and instructed me to ensure that the growing conditions for the seeds were optimal.

In order for the seed to germinate and sprout, I needed to ensure that the seed was planted in good soil, positioned in an ideal location, watered sufficiently, and that the growing temperatures were kept sufficiently warm. Once the conditions were optimised and right, roots began growing out of the seed and digging into the soil underneath, anchoring and rooting the newly-grown plant to the ground. Subsequently, the stem, which had sprouted, began growing upwards and towards the light. Those were the signs that I knew I had been successful in growing my plant. One thing that I learned about seeds from this experiment is that they need to carry and store a sufficient amount of nutrients within them to feed the sprouting plant during the early stages of growth, until the plant becomes capable of producing its own nutrients through photosynthesis.

Growth should be a sign present in healthy Christians. It is important to note that some Christians will grow more rapidly; others may grow slowly but steadily. Our focus should not be on comparing ourselves to others, but it should be on comparing



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ourselves with God's Word. Galatians 5:22-23 describes what spiritual growth looks like: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Therefore, if you start becoming more loving, more joyful, more kind, more self-controlled, etc., then you can rest assured that spiritual growth is genuinely occurring in your life. When we place our faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit begins the process of making us more like Him and conforming us to His image.

Oftentimes, there may be seasons of stagnancy where we feel like we are not experiencing growth in line with what we wanted or expected. However, the Bible has an abundance of analogies that pertain to sprouting and spiritual growth. For example, there is a short parable about the growing seed in the Gospel of Mark: "He also said, 'This is what the Kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come'" (Mark 4:26-29). I believe it is important to not be discouraged during times of slow progress in our spiritual growth.

In the parable described above, the farmer

cannot explain the growth that takes place – he simply plants the seed and waits while God cultivates and makes the plant grow. The same process can be applied for our spiritual growth – we might not be able to explain how it happens, but we know it happens because of God. Our responsibility is to just plant the seed (God's words), ensure that we water it regularly (through prayer, worship, fellowship with other Christians) and allow God, through his Spirit, to cultivate the spiritual growth in our hearts. At the end of the day, ultimately what matters most is not about how fast the growth is, but the harvest of our spiritual growth for God (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

Lastly, I believe that a warning for each and every one of us is needed – a warning about "self-righteousness". Should we see ourselves growing faster or more than our fellow Christians, it is important that we do not become 'self-righteous'. Remember, although there must be someone to sow the seeds (God's words) and there must be someone to water the seed that is sown – it is always God that cultivates the growth and ensures that there are "increases" in our spirit. The essence of spiritual growth is not about us, but it is about God and the power of His word. Finally, we are also reminded of how little control we have over the outcome of our sowing – as evidenced in Paul's letter to the Corinthians: "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow" (1 Corinthians 3:6).

MINISTRY LIST

VOCAL



Jessica Sutiono

MUSICIAN



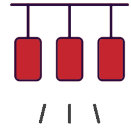
Raynaldo Ali

MULTIMEDIA



Budi Sendjaja

LIGHTING



Budi Sendjaja

SOUND



Steven Santika

USHER



Elbert Pranoto

TRANSLATOR



Elbert Pranoto

CARING



Felix Hariyadi

DANCER



Priska Sunaryo

DRAMA



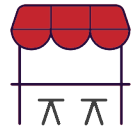
Jennifer Chandra

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



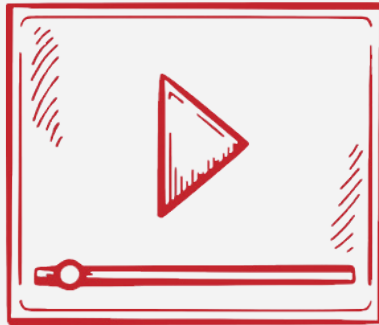
Rio Susanto

**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



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