

# EXCELLENT VICTORIOUS LIFE

**25  
OCTOBER  
2020**

ED.LXXXVIII.10.2020

*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

## Mission & Evangelism Pastor

Ps Gideon Gunawan

## Office Manager

Ps Suzana Tahir

## CONTACT US

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## Foreword

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Thanks be to God who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Jesus came to the earth – sinless, to take our place under the judgement of God. In Christ, by grace through faith, we are victorious.

Why are we all subjected to eternal damnation? It is because we are all sinful. The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. We are all guilty, sinful and fall short of God's glory. Knowing this, yet Jesus came to take our place – being punished for our sins. It is the most amazing and most precious gift that one could ever get, that is being saved and receiving eternal reward in Heaven, because someone sacrificed Himself for you and me. That is Jesus! Our Saviour and King!

Jesus has won over death, won over sins, He is victorious. In Jesus, we are no longer condemned and we live a victorious life. So what does it mean and how to live a victorious life that God has given graciously to us through Jesus? We will learn about it through the sharing of our brothers and sisters in this October edition. I pray that as we understand deeper, the Holy Spirit will open our eyes to see and savour the beauty of Jesus' victorious sacrifice on the cross.

*"Death is swallowed up in victory."*

*"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"* The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:54–57)

# 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
Gethsemane	Michael, Rudy
Jerusalem	Hestu
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



# Faith that overcomes the world

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BY KEZIA JOCELYN

When we hear about “Faith that overcomes the world”, what is the first thing that usually comes to mind? Unfortunately, without reference and the full awareness of its starting point and what it means biblically, the term is often misused as a selfish antidote towards personal worldly dilemmas. This blunt approach is vacating the true power that lies within its actual meaning. 1 John 5:1-5 provides us with the train of thought we ought to follow through to understand the true meaning of “Faith that overcomes the world”.

To put it simply, the train of thought follows this consequence: new birth produces faith in God, love for God and His people, joyful obedience, and the overcoming of the world. The starting point is the new birth which happens as we are brought into encountering the gospel as the living and abiding word of God. After we surrender ourselves to God and put our trust in His Son Jesus Christ, faith that sees value and beauty in the Kingdom of God is generated within us as the first effect. Our whole being waits for the Kingdom of God where it is the confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1). Jesus

alone confirms this process by saying to Nicodemus, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again” and continue to explain that “no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.” (John 3:3-5). Therefore, it is the Spirit who enables us to follow through to what’s next which is to love God and His people. To love God means to be compelled by the love of Christ so that we no longer live for ourselves but to let the lordship of Jesus Christ be the governing influence that controls every area of our lives. Therefore, we love others because God has first loved us and we love others only by the love of God because we know that true love cannot be defined apart from God. Subsequently, our love for God enables us to obey His commands freely and joyfully because the powerful attraction of the world has lost its power over us as the result of our new birth in Christ. This is the full effect of what it truly means to have faith that overcomes the world.

This train of thought is presented by John in His writing to remind us to maintain rock-solid confidence in our faith, the faith that overcomes the world. It is to help us be aware and acknowledge that

we are born again and are sustained by God's great gift of spiritual life which will lead to eternal life. In a world like today, it is so easy even for us to go on living our lives without acknowledging this faith. It is easy for us to look at our lives only in the context of this world instead of the life to come and it is apparent that the consequence of it takes place like a ripple effect. It seems easier for us to see value and beauty within the entertainments and gains of this world instead of within the Kingdom of God. We easily forget about the starting point of this faith. Instead, we surrender ourselves to the world to only end up being defeated by it. These are destructive forces of the desires of the flesh and eyes and pride (1 John 2:15-16). And because of that, we don't make the conscious effort to surrender and live by the spirit and that is why we often fail in loving God and others. God loves us so much that through this text of 1 John 5:1-5, He wants to remind us of the freedom this faith brings, an overcoming of the enslaving power of the world to be our supreme treasure.

The faith that overcomes the world is not about getting our desired way in this world. It's not to be used selfishly in hopes that all of the current troubles and

problems immediately disappear. Rather, we are overcomers because we don't spiral into despair due to our failures. We are not paralyzed by the hopelessness of this world. We can freely confess our failures, repent, and then to embrace the forgiveness he bought. And the new heart and spirit of ours will enable us to have joyful obedience towards His beautiful commands. What a victorious life we have in Jesus.

"Everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."

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# WEEKLY DEVOTION

## 25 OCTOBER

Yeremia 1 - 3

Ayat Renungan:  
Yeremia 1 : 10

“Ketahuilah, pada hari ini Aku mengangkat engkau atas bangsa-bangsa dan atas kerajaan-kerajaan untuk mencabut dan merobohkan, untuk membinasakan dan meruntuhkan, untuk membangun dan menanam.”

## 26 OCTOBER

Yeremia 4 - 6

Ayat Renungan:  
Yeremia 5 : 25

“Kesalahanmu menghalangi semuanya ini, dan dosamu menghambat yang baik dari padamu.”

## 27 OCTOBER

Yeremia 7 - 9

Ayat Renungan:  
Yeremia 9 : 24

“tetapi siapa yang mau bermegah, baiklah bermegah karena yang berikut: bahwa ia memahami dan mengenal Aku, bahwa Akulah TUHAN yang menunjukkan kasih setia, keadilan dan kebenaran di bumi; sungguh, semuanya itu Kusukai, demikianlah firman TUHAN.”

## 28 OCTOBER

Yeremia 10 - 12

Ayat Renungan:  
Yeremia 10 : 12

“Tuhanlah yang menjadikan bumi dengan kekuatan-Nya, yang menegakkan dunia dengan kebijaksanaan-Nya, dan yang membentangkan langit dengan akal budi-Nya.”



## 29 OCTOBER

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Yeremia 13 - 15

Ayat Renungan:  
Yeremia 17 : 5

"Beginilah firman TUHAN:  
"Terkutuklah orang yang mengandalkan manusia, yang mengandalkan kekuatannya sendiri, dan yang hatinya menjauh dari pada TUHAN!"

## 30 OCTOBER

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Yeremia 16 - 18

Ayat Renungan:  
Yeremia 17 : 7

"Diberkatilah orang yang mengandalkan TUHAN, yang menaruh harapannya pada TUHAN!"

## 31 OCTOBER

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Yeremia 19 - 21

Ayat Renungan:  
Yeremia 17 : 10

"Aku, TUHAN, yang menyelidiki hati, yang menguji batin, untuk memberi balasan kepada setiap orang setimpal dengan tingkah langkahnya, setimpal dengan hasil perbuatannya."

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

psalm 119:105

# Walking in victory

BY SONIA PRANATHA

I went into 2020 expecting it to be the year where my life gets sorted out. 2019 wasn't a particularly great year for me. It was my first year transitioning from a student to being an adult. I had been applying for jobs for the whole year, yet it always ended unsuccessfully.

Hopelessness crept in every time I received rejection emails. I remember praying to God, asking Him whether He still wanted me to stay in Melbourne or to go back home. I asked for a sign that if I were to stay in Melbourne, that He would provide a job for me. Two days after that prayer, I got a phone interview with a major bank in Australia. Long story short, I was hired by the company and I started working in early February.

Everything seemed perfect for a while. I got an answer to my prayer. I had God's confirmation that He wanted me to stay in Melbourne. But then a month later, the pandemic hit Australia. Everything had to be closed, including my office. As my role was in the call centre area, I couldn't work from home. In the end, my team had to be stood down. After two months working, I was jobless again.

There is every right reason for me to be angry towards God at that moment. How could I survive in this situation? How could He be so unfair? Yes, I was disappointed at first. But through this season, I learnt a valuable lesson about walking by faith. And it replaced my hopelessness with an incomprehensible peace. I hope through what I share here, it will help you to have faith in Christ, even when circumstances seem dire.

## Why can't we trust God?

Imagine this. God comes into your life, and through Him you are born again. You start to walk in this new journey with Him. It's exciting to have a great God walking by your side, surely things will be smooth sailing from now on, right? Wrong. Somehow after God comes into your life, things start to fall apart and your life hit a dead end. You begin to question, "if God is with me, then why is this happening?". The next morning you read the Bible, and the verse in 2 Corinthians 5:7, "for we live by faith, and not by sight" hit you in the face. Is that way of living even possible?

The world teaches us that we are responsible

for our own life. You determine your future. Your goals and dreams may be influenced by others, but at the end, you are the captain of your ship. We learn that dependency is for the weak and self-reliance equals strength. But self-reliance comes with a consequence. Being on our own means we are more vulnerable to be under intense pressure to survive. So we switch ourselves to survival instinct mode. We need to be aware and be alert of our surroundings. Focus on what you can see. Be independent and be pragmatic.

But God wants us to live by faith. Faith, according to the dictionary, is defined as “a complete trust or confidence in something or someone”. In Hebrews 11:1, the author said that faith “is confidence in things we hoped for and assurance about what we do not see”. So faith is the exact opposite of the world’s teaching. It means dependent upon God. It defies our survival instinct as we surrender our life fully to Him. He has full control now. And that means we allow Him to do everything in our life, be it good or bad.

When we see these two contradicting ways of living, we start to realize why often it’s so difficult to walk by faith. That’s because it doesn’t come naturally for us. We have lived for decades with this philosophy of independence, it’s wired in our brain. That’s



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why when we are born again, walking by faith doesn't happen instantaneously overnight.

Instead, God transforms us through a process that may end in success or more often, failure. And so it is with our faith. So we shouldn't put too much pressure on ourselves when we fail to trust God. Failing is part of the process.

## **What to do when we struggle?**

I recently stumbled to walk in faith with God. As my visa is about to expire next year, I need to start planning ahead what I'm going to do next year. And it's very scary. Especially after being rejected multiple times for two years when searching for work. I was scared of making the wrong decisions and had to go through the same thing again. Like Peter in Matthew 14:22-33, I was looking at the "wind" surrounding me, and I began to drown in my own fear. I started to demand assurance from God that I'm walking in the right direction. But we know, God doesn't lay out His plan completely for us, or else, what is the point of faith?

Oftentimes, God wants us to keep walking by faith, even when He has yet to reveal His plan for us. And I learnt something from the verse God gave me when I was struggling. It was Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." How can we

trust someone and feel joy and peace out of it? Shouldn't we feel anxious when we're not in control?

But this is what God wants us to learn. That we are not just trusting a random person. We're not depending our life on another mortal, limited, morally-corrupt human being, but we are trusting the Lord. The God of hope. The Creator of the universe. And even better is that He will fill us with joy and peace when we truly trust in Him. Isn't that amazing? That God Himself helps us to be content with Him when we fully depend on Him.

This verse also reminds us that trusting God is not based on our works, but rather it's the work of the Holy Spirit that enables us to have faith in Him. So when we struggle to walk in faith, we shouldn't force ourselves to trust Him. In my opinion, struggling in our faith indicates a greater problem in our life. I begin to struggle in trusting God whenever I stray away and become distant from Him. When God is no longer the focus in my life, I start to look at my surroundings, and that's when I stumble.

So whenever I go through that season, I spend time reflecting my own heart, asking God to reveal to me the cause of the problem. And when He does show the problem, I would come to Him and ask for His forgiveness, to truly repent from my sins. It's only then where the Holy Spirit helps me

to walk in faith again, because only when you repent from your sins, can your eyes be fixated upon God again. When we still indulge in our sins, we will never be able to walk in faith, because sins will hinder us away from God's perfect plan.

### **In the end**

As I started to walk by faith again, God showed me His beautiful providence in my life. Not long after I lost my job, I was offered

a casual part time role, and it was enough to keep me being able to stay in Melbourne without relying on my parents. God really kept His promise for me. He provided a way for me to stay in Melbourne. While the life I live now is far from what I imagined earlier this year, I'm grateful, because through the season that I had to go through, I learnt yet again to be dependent upon God. And for me, to live by faith with God means walking in victory, because only by faith we can overcome the world and its temptations.



# MINISTRY LIST

## VOCAL



Jessica Sutiono

## MUSICIAN



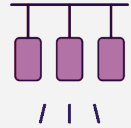
Raynaldo Ali

## MULTIMEDIA



Budi Sendjaja

## LIGHTING



Budi Sendjaja

## SOUND



Steven Santika

## USHER



Elbert Pranoto

## TRANSLATOR



Elbert Pranoto

## CARING



Felix Hariyadi

## DANCER



Priska Sunaryo

## DRAMA



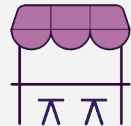
Jennifer Chandra

## 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  
from 8.30 am onwards**

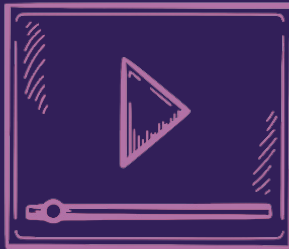
**You can access it through:**

**Website:**

**<https://www.bethanymelb.org.au>**

**Youtube:**

**Bethany International Church Melbourne**



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