

BETHANY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH MELBOURNE

DECEMBER EDITION



*I have fought the good fight, I
have finished the race, I have
kept the faith*

2 TIMOTHY 4:7

FINISH THE RACE LIFE



for my house
will be called
a house of
prayer for all
nations



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Peran Roh Kudus Dalam Hidup Kita

“Pada suatu hari ketika Ia makan bersama-sama dengan mereka, Ia melarang mereka meninggalkan Yerusalem, dan menyuruh mereka tinggal di situ menantikan janji Bapa, yang demikian kataNya –

“Telah kamu dengar dari pada-Ku. Sebab Yohanes membaptis dengan air, tetapi tidak lama lagi kamu akan dibaptis dengan Roh Kudus.”

Kisah Para Rasul 1:4-5

Sebelum terangkat ke sorga, Tuhan Yesus berpesan kepada murid-murid-Nya untuk tinggal di Yerusalem, jangan melakukan aktivitas apa-apa sampai Roh Kudus dicurahkan atas mereka. Pesan ini bisa kita maknai bahwa Roh Kudus adalah penolong terpenting dalam perjalanan selanjutnya dari pelayanan murid-murid sepeninggal Tuhan Yesus. Bahwa murid-murid tidak akan bisadengan penuh makna menjalankan peran yang tersedia bagi mereka tanpa kehadiran dan pertolongan Roh Kudus.

Dan yang selanjutnya terjadi adalah ;

- Pencurahan Roh Kudus di Kamar Loteng
- Petrus berkotbah dan 3.000 orang bertobat
- Gereja Mula-mula bertumbuh secara luar biasa

Itu semuanya membuktikan kebenaran yang secaraimplicit ada di dalam pesan Tuhan Yesus tersebut, bahwa setelah penantian 10 hari di Yerusalem, pencurahan Roh Kudus adalahtrigger, yang kemudian menjadi growing power Gereja Mula-mula.

Apa yang kita lihat dari kejauhan itu, adalah peran Roh Kudus:

1. Menjadi sumber kekuatan Gereja
2. Mendesain gaya hidup bergereja
3. Merancang target-target perluasan Gereja
4. Menetapkan penugasan-penugasan

Peran-peran dalam skala korporat itu sesungguhnya adalahkumpulan dari peran-peran Roh Kudus dalam setiap pribadi murid-murid. Dengan demikian – dalam konteks kehidupan kita masa kini, peran-peran yang sama seharusnya eksis dalam perjalanan hidup dan kontribusi kita kepada Gereja di akhir jaman ini.

1. DIA Menaruh Visi Allah Dalam Hidup Kita

Ini adalah horizon hidup kita, satu arah perjalanan profetik hidup kita yang kemudian akan mengerucut kepada satu titik sasaran.

Ketika Elisa sedang membajak di ladang ayahnya dengan 12 pasang sapi, Elia lewat disana dan melemparkan jubahnya. Dari titik itu, seluruh pengejaran Elisa hanya tertuju kepada jubah Elia. Sementara banyak murid Elia yang lain terhenti di Gilgal, Bethel dan Yerikho, dia lanjutkan pengejarannya sampai menyeberang sungai Yordan.¹ Raja-raja 19:19-20 dan 2 Raja-raja 2:12-14

Pengertian tentang destinasi yang Allah tetapkan bagi perjalanan hidup kita; begitu spesifiknya. Itu akan berubah menjadi cita-cita rohani kita. Itu tidak berkaitan dengan kalkulasi-kalkulasi apapun yang biasa kita pakai kalau kita ingin memutuskan sebuah pilihan dalam hidup;

- Kalau ingin kaya, jadilah pengusaha,
- Kalau ingin terkenal, jadilah bintang film

Dan seterusnya.

Ketika Allah mendownload visi-Nya kedalam hati kita, itu menyingkirkan segala kalkulasi macam itu.

2. DIA Mendorong Kita Ke arah Destinasi Kita

Ini berbicara tentang kompas hidup kita.

Ketika kita menghayati visi Allah tersebut, itu seperti sebuah gerbong yang diletakkan di atas relnya, lalu didorong oleh Roh Kudus sebagai driving power-nya. Kita hanya harus menyerahkan hidup kita kepada dorongan yang tidak tertahankan tersebut. Kita tidak bisa beralih ke rel yang lain atau kalau tidak kita akan merasa seperti gerbong yang berjalan di atas jalan yang berbatu-batu atau bahkan “berjalan” di laut. Kita tidak tahu bakal sampai di mana nantinya hidup kita alias tersesat dan terhenti/gagal; atau jalan di tempat.

Sesungguhnya, kita tidak akan sanggup melaksanakan area ini tanpa dukungan Roh Kudus; seperti yang dinyatakan sendiri oleh Tuhan Yesus:

“Masih banyak hal yang harus Kukatakan kepadamu, tetapi sekarang kamu belum dapat menanggungnya. Tetapi apabila Ia (Roh Kudus) datang, yaitu Roh Kebenaran, Ia akan memimpin kamu kedalam seluruh kebenaran;” (Yoh. 16:12-13a).

Dalam Perjanjian Lama, Zakharia dipaksa oleh Roh Allah untuk melaksanakan kehendak-Nya menegur raja Yoas, sekalipun itu mengakibatkan ia kehilangan nyawanya.² Taw. 24:20,21

3. DIA Mendesain Proses Pelaksanaannya

Ini bicara tentang jam dalam hidup kita.

Ada tahun, bulan tanggal, jam, menit, dan ada detiknya. Sangat detail. Allah punya detail-detail pelaksanaan visi-Nya untuk membuat semuanya terselesaikan dengan sempurna.

Hakikat Allah itu sesungguhnya seperti kita; yang diciptakan menurut rupa dan gambar-Nya; memiliki sisi cita rasa dan emosionalitas.

a. Desain Rumah Rohani Kita

Seperti Dia menuntun Bezalel dalam setiap detail proyek Tabernakel, demikian pula Dia menuntun kita dari waktu ke waktu, dari situasi ke situasi. Sesungguhnya kita ini adalah Bezalel-Bezalel masa kini seperti yang dikatakan oleh Rasul Paulus: “Tidak tahukah kamu, bahwa kamu adalah bait Allah, dan bahwa Roh Allah diam di dalam kamu?” (1 Kor. 3:16).

Bait Allah yang adalah hidup kita perlu dibangun di dalam cara Bezalel membangun Tabernakel Musa. Kita harus membangun kepekaan kita akan tuntunan dan arahan Roh Kudus di dalam membangun tabernakel rohani kita ini.

Ketika setiap orang percaya mulai membangun bangunan rohani nya, itu bisa jadi tepat atau tidak tepat; sesuai atau tidak sesuai dengan selera atau cita rasa Sang Calon Penghuni nya.

b. Route Perjalanan Hidup Kita

Dari situ kita memulai perjalanan hidup Kristen kita ini dengan tuntunan Roh Kudus. Sesungguhnya, tuntunan Roh Kudus akan menjadi seperti tiang awan dan tiang api dalam perjalanan Israel di padang gurun. Satu medan yang tidak jelas alur-alur jalan nya, yang tidak ada papan petunjuk nya di setiap persimpangan;

- Kalau belok kiri kita akan mengarah ke mana,
- Kalau belok kanan arah kita akan mengarah ke mana dsb.

Kita hanya harus memasingkan rohani kita untuk menangkap instruksi-instruksi Roh Kudus.

DIA-lah yang dari tempat yang maha tinggi dapat melihat keseluruhan bumi, keseluruhan sejarah, maha mengetahui apa yang akan terjadi, apa yang sedang menghadang di depan kita, lalu memilihkan bagi kita jalan yang paling tepat agar kita bisa tiba di garis akhir dengan sempurna. (RT)

Steadfast Love

09 DEC

“I love you!” my dad called out as I slammed the car door and headed into school. I was in sixth grade, and for months we had played out basically the same scenario every morning. We arrived at school, Dad said, “Have a great day! I love you!” and all I said was “Bye.” I wasn’t angry with him or ignoring him. I was simply so wrapped up in my own thoughts that I didn’t notice his words. Nevertheless, my dad’s love remained steadfast.

God’s love is like that—and more. It endures forever. The Hebrew word that expresses this steadfast kind of love is *hesed*. It’s used over and over again in the Old Testament, and twenty-six times in Psalm 136 alone! No modern word can fully capture the meaning; we translate it “kindness,” “loving-kindness,” “mercy,” or “loyalty.” *Hesed* is a love that is based on covenant commitment; love that is loyal and faithful. Even when God’s people sinned, He was faithful in loving them. Steadfast love is an integral part of the character of God (Exodus 34:6).

When I was a child, I sometimes took my dad’s love for granted. Sometimes now I do the same thing with my heavenly Father’s love. I forget to listen to God and respond. I forget to be grateful. Yet I know that God’s love for me remains steadfast—a reality that provides a sure foundation for all of my life.

God, we praise You for Your steadfast love to us! Even when we’re faithless, You’re faithful.

Read

Psalm 136:1–9

Bible in a Year

Daniel 11–12;

Jude

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.

Psalm 136:1

By Amy Peterson

Take time to show the love of God to someone today.

10

DEC

“The Lord’s”

It doesn’t take much to notice that getting “inked” is very popular these days. Some tattoos are so small that one barely notices them. Others—from athletes to actors to everyday people—have opted to cover much of their bodies with multicolored inks, words, and designs. The trend seems like it’s here to stay, a trend that netted \$3 billion in revenue in 2014—and an additional \$66 million for tattoo removal.

Regardless of how you may feel about tattoos, Isaiah 44 speaks metaphorically about people writing something on their hands: “The Lord’s” (v. 5). This “self-tattoo” is the climax of an entire paragraph that speaks of the Lord’s care for those He had chosen (v. 1). They could count on His help (v. 2); and their land and descendants were marked for blessing (v. 3). Two simple, powerful words, “The Lord’s,” affirmed that God’s people knew they were His possession and that He would take care of them.

Those who come to God through faith in Jesus Christ can confidently say of themselves, “The Lord’s!” We are His people, His sheep, His offspring, His inheritance, His dwelling. These are the things we cling to in the varied seasons of life. While we may have no external mark or tattoo, we can take heart that we have the witness of God’s Spirit in our hearts that we belong to Him (see Romans 8:16–17).

Father, the expressions of Your love and care are all around me and Your Spirit lives within me. Thank You!

Read

Isaiah 44:1–5

Bible in a Year

Hosea 1–4;

Revelation 1

*The Spirit
himself testifies
with our spirit
that we are
God’s children.*

Romans 8:16

By Arthur Jackson

▮ *How can the truth that you belong to God impact how you live?* ▮

Expect the Messiah

11
DEC

The repairman looked young—too young to fix our problem, a car that wouldn't start. "He's just a kid," my husband, Dan, whispered to me, showing his doubt. His disbelief in the young man sounded like the grumbling in Nazareth where citizens doubted who Jesus was.

"Isn't this the carpenter's son?" they asked (Matthew 13:55) when Jesus taught in the synagogue. Scoffing, they were surprised to hear that someone they knew was healing and teaching, and asked, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" (v. 54). Instead of trusting in Jesus, they were offended by the authority He displayed (vv. 15, 58).

In this same way, we may struggle to trust in our Savior's wisdom and power, especially in the familiar and ordinary details of our daily lives. Failing to expect His help, we may miss out on the wonder of His life transforming our own (v. 58).

As Dan found, the help he needed stood right in front of him. Finally agreeing to accept the young man's aid, my husband allowed him to look at our old car's battery. By switching just one bolt, the mechanic had the car running in seconds—engine humming and lights ablaze. "It lit up like Christmas," Dan said.

So too may we expect and experience the Messiah bringing fresh light, life, and help into our daily journey with Him.

When I doubt You, Lord, help my unbelief.

Read

Matthew
13:53–58

Bible in a Year

Hosea 5–8;
Revelation 2

*"Isn't this the
carpenter's
son? Isn't
his mother's
name Mary?"
Matthew 13:55*

By Patricia Raybon

▮ *What are some practical ways you can remind yourself or others that God is in control and He is able?* ▮

12

DEC

The “No-Secret” Secret

Read
Romans
7:14–25

Bible in a Year
Hosea 9–11;
Revelation 3

*I do not
understand
what I do. For
what I want to
do I do not do,
but what I hate
I do.*
Romans 7:15

By Randy Kilgore

A coworker confessed to me that he didn’t think he was “Jesus material.” I listened as he described what he called his “comfortable, narcissistic” life, and how it didn’t satisfy him. “But here’s my problem, I’ve been trying to be good, even caring, but it isn’t working. It seems that the very things I want to do, I can’t do, and the things I want to stop doing, I just keep doing.”

“What’s your secret?” he asked me in complete sincerity. “My secret,” I answered, “is that there is no secret. I’m as powerless to live up to God’s standards as you are, which is why we need Jesus.”

I pulled out a Bible and showed him “his” quote as the apostle Paul expressed it in Romans 7:15. Paul’s words of frustration often resonate with both pre-Christians and Christians who find themselves trying to be good enough to deserve God but falling short. Maybe it resonates with you. If so, Paul’s declaration that Christ is the author of our salvation and its resulting changes (7:25–8:2) should thrill you. Jesus has already done the work to free us from the very things that have us so puzzled with ourselves!

The barrier between us and God, the barrier of sin, has been removed without any work on our part. Salvation—and the changes made by the Holy Spirit in the process of our growth—is what God desires for all. He knocks on the door of our souls. Answer His knock today. It’s no secret that He’s the answer!

See christianuniversity.org/NT225 for more study on the book of Romans.

“Without Jesus, salvation and spiritual growth are both gifts beyond our reach.”

The “Hope for a Baby” Tree

After wrapping the tree with clear twinkle lights, I tied pink and blue bows on its branches and christened it our “Hope for a Baby” Christmas tree. My husband and I had been waiting for a baby through adoption for more than four years. Surely by Christmas!

Every morning I stopped at the tree and prayed, reminding myself of God’s faithfulness. On December 21 we received the news: no baby by Christmas. Devastated, I paused by the tree that had become a symbol of God’s provision. Was God still faithful? Was I doing something wrong?

At times, God’s apparent withholding results from His loving discipline. And other times God lovingly delays to renew our trust. In Lamentations, the prophet Jeremiah describes God’s correction of Israel. The pain is palpable: “He pierced my heart with arrows from his quiver” (3:13). Through it all, Jeremiah also expresses ultimate trust in God’s faithfulness: “His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (vv. 22–23).

I left the tree standing well beyond Christmas and continued my morning prayer. At last, on Easter weekend, we received our baby girl. God is always faithful, though not necessarily on our timeline nor always according to our desires.

My children are now in their thirties, but each year I set up a miniature version of the tree, reminding myself and others to hope in God’s faithfulness.

Dear God, help me trust You today even when I can’t see what You are doing. You are faithful.

13 DEC

Read

Lamentations
3:1–3, 13–24

Bible in a Year

Hosea 12–14;
Revelation 4

His

*compassions
never fail.*

*They are new
every morning;
great is your
faithfulness.*

Lamentations
3:22–23

By Elisa Morgan

“The best reason for hope is God’s faithfulness.”

14

DEC

Heaven's Love Song

In 1936, songwriter Billy Hill released a popular hit song titled “The Glory of Love.” Before long a nation was singing about the joy of doing even little things out of love for one another. Fifty years later, lyricist Peter Cetera wrote a more romantic song with a similar title. He imagined two people living forever, knowing together they did it all—for the glory of love.

Revelation, the last book in the Bible, describes a new love song that will someday lift the voices of everyone in heaven and earth (Revelation 5:9, 13). The music begins, however, in a minor key of mourning. John, our narrator, cries, seeing no answer to all that has gone wrong with the world (vv. 3–4). But his mood brightens and the music builds to a crescendo (vv. 12–13) as John learns the real glory and story of love. Soon he hears all creation praising the powerful Lion-King of Judah (v. 5), who has won the hearts of His subjects by lovingly sacrificing Himself, like a Lamb, for our rescue (v. 13).

In the most moving lyrics ever sung, we see why even simple acts of kindness rise on the wings of a song. The glory we sing about reflects the heart of our God. We sing about Him because He gave us our song.

Father, please help us to see that even the smallest acts of love and kindness can remind us of Your love for us.

Read

Revelation 5:1–1

Bible in a Year

Joel 1–3;

Revelation 5

We love him

because he first

loved us.

1 John 4:19

By Mart DeHaan

▮ *In what ways can you thank God today through simple acts of kindness?* ▮

Mosaic of Beauty

15 DEC

Sitting in the courtyard of the Church of the Visitation in Ein Karem, Israel, I was overwhelmed with the beautiful display of sixty-seven mosaics containing the words of Luke 1:46–55 in as many languages. Traditionally known as the Magnificat from the Latin “to magnify,” these verses are Mary’s joyous response to the announcement that she will be the mother of the Messiah.

Each plaque contains Mary’s words, including: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. . . . For the Mighty One has done great things for me” (vv. 46–49). The biblical hymn etched in the tiles is a song of praise as Mary recounts the faithfulness of God to her and the nation of Israel.

A grateful recipient of God’s grace, Mary rejoices in her salvation (v. 47). She acknowledges that God’s mercy has extended to the Israelites for generations (v. 50). Looking back over God’s care for the Israelites, Mary praises God for His powerful acts on behalf of His people (v. 51). She also thanks God, recognizing that her daily provision comes from His hand (v. 53).

Mary shows us that recounting the great things God has done for us is a way to express praise and can lead us to rejoice. This Christmas season, consider God’s goodness as you reflect on the year. In doing so, you may create a mosaic of great beauty with your words of praise

Father, we praise You for the great things You’ve done in our lives this year. We rejoice in Your mercy and care for us.

Read

Luke 1:46–55

Bible in a Year

Amos 1–3;

Revelation 6

My soul

glorifies the

Lord and my

spirit rejoices

in God my

Savior.

Luke 1:46–47

By Lisa Samra

Make a list of the ways God has blessed you this year and reflect on it in silence. Then share stories of His goodness with someone.

Pray for Nation

SURINAME



Capital: *Paramaribo*

Population: *568 thousand people*

Religion: *Majority Christian*



1. The condition of cities in Suriname that are gloomy also affects the spiritual life of this nation which is predominantly Christian. Pray for the movement of the Holy Spirit over God's children there. Every lukewarm is replaced with a burning spirit. The dead faith is raised and those who are bound by idolatry and occultism are set free in the name of the Lord Jesus.

2. Pray for the unreached people in this nation. Let God bless the Evangelical churches on every effort in winning the soul. God empowers His church to harvest many souls for the Kingdom of God.

3. The spirit of unity is poured out on the churches in Suriname to prepare the church of God for the harvest of souls there. So that all the Surinamese people only know and worship one name, Jesus Christ the Lord.

4. Pray for the young generation, especially small children in this nation. Many of them were displaced and experienced abuse. Through the ministry of the Lord's Church there, let many of them be restored and saved.



COOL

Community of Love

MAIN

<i>Berea-Bethesda</i>	Ika, Mareta	<i>Ephratah</i>	Steven, Henry
<i>Bethlehem</i>	Felix, Fransisca	<i>Galilee</i>	Kevin, Reinetta
<i>Bethany</i>	Paulus, Erina	<i>Gilgal</i>	Jessica, Mike
<i>Bethel</i>	Christy, Erika	<i>Hebron-Philippi</i>	Yoseph, Rian
<i>Cana</i>	Bobby, Vissy	<i>Horeb</i>	Ferry, Nyssa
<i>Canaan</i>	Kezia, Freddie	<i>Jordan</i>	Sony, Wilfred
<i>Carmel</i>	Rio, Cinthya	<i>Moriah</i>	Andy, Novi
<i>Eden</i>	Jennifer, Jessen	<i>Philadelphia</i>	Dwi, Alicia
<i>Ekklesia</i>	Tabita, Edo	<i>Pniel</i>	Ribka, Vero
<i>Emmaus</i>	Fabian, Priska	<i>Zion</i>	Monica, Raymond

FAMILY

<i>Antioch (West)</i>	Andy, Iwan
<i>Tiberias (West)</i>	Andre, Albert
<i>Doncaster (East)</i>	Michael, Rudy
<i>Jerusalem (East)</i>	Edwin, Gerda
<i>Mt Hermon (East)</i>	Lily, Unggul
<i>Phillipi (East)</i>	Hariyanto, Ivan
<i>Shekinah (East)</i>	Cynthia
<i>Tabernacle (East)</i>	Sandi
<i>Westal (East)</i>	Michael Moeidjiantho

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<i>Ephesians</i>	Ivan, Anjani
<i>Israel</i>	Timothy, Adela
<i>Judah</i>	Friska, Hendy
<i>Judea</i>	Valen, Charles
<i>Macedonia</i>	Priscilla Kezia
<i>Nain</i>	Sylvia, Alicia

MAIN SERVICE

8.30 am & 11 am

(Indonesian with English
translation)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9 am (English)

180

(TEENS)

8.45 am (English)

NEXT GENERATION

(YOUTH)

11 am (English)

PRAYER TOWER

Point Cook | Monday | 7:15 PM

BIC Melbourne | Tuesday | 6:30 PM

Mount Waverly | Wednesday | 7:15 PM

BIC Melbourne | Friday | 12:00 PM

BIC Melbourne (Fasting Prayer) | Saturday | 10:00 AM

COOL

Friday, 7:00 PM

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Women of Impact Community

Tuesday 10:30 AM, at BIC

EVENTS

Last Holy Communion

Sunday, 16 December

Christmas Service

Tuesday, 25 December, 10 AM



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