


BETHANY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH MELBOURNE

APRIL EDITION

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 JOHN 4:7-10

KINGDOM POWER

The background of the image is a sunset over a rocky landscape. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and red, with some light clouds. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted rocks. On the right side, a large cross is visible, also in silhouette. The entire image is framed by a green border that forms a large 'X' shape, dividing the image into four quadrants. The text is written in a black, cursive font on a white, torn-paper-like background in the left quadrant.

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



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Jangan Membatasi Roh Kudus Berkarya Dalam Hidupmu!

“Aku akan minta kepada Bapa, dan Ia akan memberikan kepadamu seorang Penolong yang lain, supaya Ia menyertai kamu selama-lamanya, yaitu Roh Kebenaran.”

Yohanes 14:16-17a

Pernahkah kita merasakan ketakutan dan kebingungan saat mengetahui bahwa pribadi yang dikasihi dan mengasihi kita, yang selama ini senantiasa bersama-sama, mendidik, mengayomi, memberikan teladan akan segera pergi meninggalkan kita? Sedih, gelisah, takut, rasa tidak siap kehilangan, bingung, tentunya terasa berkecamuk dalam perasaan kita. Demikianlah kira-kira yang dirasakan oleh murid-murid Tuhan Yesus pada saat itu ketika Dia menyampaikan pesan perpisahan kepada murid-murid-Nya. Tentunya Tuhan Yesus mengetahui kegalauan hati mereka, hingga akhirnya Dia berjanji memberikan Penolong yang lain, seperti yang kita baca dalam ayat di atas.

Siapakah Penolong yang Tuhan Yesus janjikan? Yang jelas *“Penolong yang lain”* (Yun: *allos parakletos*) yang dimaksudkan oleh Tuhan Yesus bukanlah tokoh manusia lain yang datang setelah Yesus seperti klaim salah satu agama tertentu. Sebab dengan jelas dan tegas Yesus menyatakan bahwa Penolong itu adalah Roh Kebenaran, bukan manusia. Jika kita membaca Alkitab terjemahan Bahasa Indonesia Sehari-hari (BIS) disebutkan: *“Dia itu Roh Allah yang akan menyatakan kebenaran tentang Allah.”* (Yoh 14:7a).

Penolong lain yang dimaksud oleh Tuhan Yesus adalah Roh Kudus, Dia adalah satu Pribadi. Ia eksis dan nyata, sekalipun tidak dapat diraba secara fisik. Sebagai satu pribadi, Roh Kudus mempunyai pengetahuan, kehendak, emosi dan kuasa. Ia adalah Allah itu sendiri, bagian dari Allah Tritunggal bersama dengan Allah Bapa dan Tuhan Yesus.

Eksposisi keberadaan Roh Kudus dalam Alkitab bukanlah baru dimunculkan

dalam Perjanjian Baru, melainkan telah diekspos dalam Perjanjian Lama dengan menggunakan istilah Roh Allah atau Roh Tuhan. Roh Kudus telah ada sebelum segala sesuatu ada dan turut serta dalam peristiwa penciptaan alam semesta ini. **(Kej 1:2; Mzm 104:30; Ayb 33:4)**

Dia adalah Roh yang hinggap, memenuhi dan menguasai manusia yang telah dipilih dan ditetapkan TUHAN sebagai hakim-hakim, raja-raja, nabi-nabi, atau orang-orang tertentu yang dikhususkan untuk melakukan tugas tertentu seperti yang dilakukan oleh Bezaleel dan Aholiab. **(Kel 31:1-11)**

Dia juga adalah Roh yang dijanjikan dalam **Yoel 2:28-29** dicurahkan ke atas semua manusia, kemudian digenapi dalam peristiwa Pentakosta Pertama di Yerusalem lebih dari 2000 tahun yang lalu, kemudian membesar pada Pentakosta Kedua di Azusa Street (1906), dan puncaknya pada masa sekarang ini yakni Pentakosta Ketiga yang dimulai dari Indonesia di SICC menyebar ke bangsa-bangsa sampai kedatangan Tuhan Yesus yang kedua kali.

KARYA ROH KUDUS DALAM HIDUP KITA

1. Memimpin dan menuntun

“Pada waktu itu dalam jemaat di Antiokhia ada beberapa nabi dan pengajar, yaitu: Barnabas dan Simeon yang disebut Niger, dan Lukius orang Kirene, dan Menahem yang diasuh bersama dengan raja wilayah Herodes, dan Saulus.

Pada suatu hari ketika mereka beribadah kepada Tuhan dan berpuasa, berkatalah Roh Kudus: “Khususkanlah Barnabas dan Saulus bagi-Ku untuk tugas yang telah Kutentukan bagi mereka.” Maka berpuasa dan berdoalah mereka, dan setelah meletakkan tangan ke atas kedua orang itu, mereka membiarkan keduanya pergi.”

Kis 13:1-3

“Sebab adalah keputusan Roh Kudus dan keputusan kami, supaya kepada kamu jangan ditanggungkan lebih banyak beban dari pada yang perlu ini:” **Kis 15:28**

Dari dua peristiwa diatas, dapat kita pelajari bagaimana Roh Kudus memberikan instruksi, arahan mengenai hal-hal yang harus dilakukan atau diputuskan oleh para rasul terkait dengan pelayanan misi maupun pelayanan kepada jemaat. Roh Kudus memimpin dan menuntun kehidupan kita, Roh Kudus yang ada dalam hidup kita siap menuntun, memimpin, memberikan arahan dan langkah yang harus kita tempuh dalam perjalanan hidup kita agar selaras dengan kehendak TUHAN, jika kita mengizinkan dan memberi ruang bagi Dia untuk berkarya dalam hidup kita. Sangat penting bagi kita untuk melibatkan Roh Kudus, bukan hanya dalam mengambil keputusan atas hal-hal yang penting saja, bahkan yang sering kali kita anggap kurang penting dan kita pikir bisa kita putuskan sendiri pun kita

2. Sumber Kuasa

Sebelum terangkat ke Sorga, Tuhan Yesus berkata kepada murid-murid-Nya, *“Tetapi kamu akan menerima kuasa, kalau Roh Kudus turun ke atas kamu, dan kamu akan menjadi saksi-Ku di Yerusalem dan di seluruh Yudea dan Samaria dan sampai ke ujung bumi.”* **Kisah 1:8**

Janji Tuhan ini, Dia genapi dan terjadi sesuai dengan perkataan-Nya. Setelah peristiwa Pentakosta Pertama, kita dapat membaca dalam kitab Kisah Para Rasul bagaimana murid-murid dipakai dengan kuasa Roh Kudus yang dahsyat, yang menyertai pelayanan dan pemberitaan injil mereka.

Orang buta melihat, lumpuh berjalan, mati dibangkitkan, segala kelemahan dan sakit penyakit disembuhkan dengan kuasa Roh Kudus. Bahkan ada seorang yang bernama Simon meminta agar ia dapat menerima kuasa itu, jikalau ia menumpangkan tangan atas seseorang, ia juga boleh menerima Roh Kudus, dengan iming-iming memberikan imbalan uang kepada Petrus dan Yohanes jika mereka mengimpartasikan kuasa tersebut kepadanya. **(Kis 8:14-20)**

3. Menyatakan Kehadiran Yesus dalam Hidup Kita

“Jawab Yesus: “Jika seorang mengasihi Aku, ia akan menuruti firman-Ku dan Bapa-Ku akan mengasihi dia dan Kami akan datang kepadanya dan diam bersama-sama dengan dia.” **Yoh 14:23**

Mereka yang benar-benar mengasihi Yesus dan sungguh-sungguh menaati perkataan-Nya akan mengalami kehadiran dan kasih yang langsung dari Bapa dan Anak. Bapa dan Anak datang kepada orang percaya melalui Roh Kudus.

Yesus menyatakan diri kepada orang percaya yang taat, melalui Roh Kudus yang menyatakan kehadiran Yesus didalam orang yang mengasihi Dia. **(Yoh 14:21)**

Roh Kudus menyadarkan kita betapa dekatnya Yesus dan realitas kasih, berkat, dan pertolongan-Nya dengan kita.

Kita perlu menyadari bahwa karya Roh Kudus itu tidak terbatas, oleh karena itu kita jangan membatasi karya Roh Kudus yang bekerja dalam hidup kita. Jika kita hanya memberikan ruang bagi Roh Kudus sebagai tempat kita bertanya dan sekedar meminta arahan dalam hidup atau pengambilan keputusan, sama saja kita menganggap Dia hanya seperti google assistant atau artificial intelligence (AI) lainnya yang ada dalam gadget kita di zaman now ini, yang kita gunakan untuk menambah kenyamanan dan mempermudah hidup kita.

Demikian juga seandainya kita hanya menjadikan Roh Kudus sebagai sumber kuasa yang kita gunakan dalam pelayanan untuk melakukan tanda heran dan mukjizat, terlebih sering kali tanpa sadar beberapa hamba Tuhan seakan-akan *'menempatkan diri'* lebih tinggi dari Roh Kudus, dengan memerintahkan Roh Kudus untuk berbuat begini, berbuat begitu kepada jemaat dan mengambil semua kredit (baca: kemuliaan) hanya untuk menambah popularitas bagi dirinya sendiri saja. Dengan melakukan hal tersebut, mereka bukan hanya sedang membatasi Roh Kudus berkarya, tetapi juga tidak menghormati-Nya.

Biarlah tingkat pemahaman dan pengalaman kita terhadap Roh Kudus tidak berhenti sampai pada pengenalan akan Dia hanya sebagai Roh yang memimpin dan menuntun serta sumber kuasa dalam pelayanan kita saja, tetapi lebih dari itu, bagaimana Roh Kudus menyatakan kehadiran Tuhan Yesus dalam hidup kita. Menyadari bahwa Yesus menyatakan kehadiran-Nya dan menghampiri kita melalui Roh Kudus, seharusnya membuat kita menanggapi dengan kasih, penyembuhan, dan pengabdian kepada TUHAN.

Salah satu contohnya adalah teladan yang ditunjukkan oleh Polikarpus, seorang uskup di Smirna, murid dari Yohanes anak Zebedeus, murid Yesus yang oleh inspirasi Roh Kudus menulis injil Yohanes. Ketika Polikarpus ditangkap dan terancam hukuman mati dengan cara dibakar hidup-hidup kecuali dia mau menghujat Tuhan Yesus, justru dia mengucapkan pernyataan iman dan kesetiaannya kepada Tuhan Yesus:

"Selama 86 tahun aku telah mengabdikan kepada Kristus dan Ia tidak pernah menyakitiku. Bagaimana aku dapat mencaci Raja [Kristus] yang telah menyelamatkanmu?"

Ini adalah salah satu contoh nyata bagaimana seseorang yang tidak membatasi karya Roh Kudus dalam hidupnya sekedar menuntun dan memimpin, sekedar sebagai sumber kuasa semata, melainkan menyatakan kehadiran Kristus dalam hidupnya. Bagaimana dengan kita? (DL)

14

APR

Change Is Possible

Read

John 5:1–8

Bible in a Year

1 Samuel 25–26;

Luke 12:32–59

*When Jesus
saw him lying
there . . . , he
asked him,
“Do you want
to get well?”*

John 5:6

By John Blase

Does the sun rise in the east? Is the sky blue? Is the ocean salty? Is the atomic weight of cobalt 58.9? Okay, that last one you might only know if you’re a science geek or tend to dabble in trivia, but the other questions have an obvious answer: Yes. In fact, questions like these are usually mixed with a hint of sarcasm.

If we’re not careful, our modern—sometimes jaded—ears can hear a bit of sarcasm in Jesus’s question to an invalid: “Do you want to get well?” (John 5:6). The obvious answer would seem to be, “Are you kidding me?! I’ve been wanting help for thirty-eight years!” But there’s no sarcasm present, that’s the furthest thing from the truth. Jesus’s voice is always filled with compassion, and His questions are always posed for our good.

Jesus knew the man wanted to get well. He also knew it had probably been a long time since anyone had made an offer to care. Before the divine miracle, Jesus’s intent was to restore in him a hope that had grown cold. He did this by asking a rather obvious question, and then giving ways to respond: “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk” (v. 8). We’re like the invalid, each of us with places in our lives where hope has withered. He sees us and compassionately invites us to believe in hope again, to believe in Him.

In what ways has your hope grown cold? How has Jesus revealed His compassion to you?

The Marks of Friendship

15
APR

As a little boy growing up in Ghana, I enjoyed holding my father's hand and walking with him in crowded places. He was both my father and my friend, for holding hands in my culture is a mark of true friendship. Walking along, we would talk about a variety of subjects. Whenever I felt lonely, I found consolation with my father. How I valued our companionship!

The Lord Jesus called His followers friends, and He showed them the marks of His friendship. "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you," He said (John 15:9), even laying down His life for them (v. 13). He showed them His kingdom business (v. 15). He taught them everything God had given Him (v. 15). And He gave them opportunity to share in His mission (v. 16).

As our Companion for life, Jesus walks with us. He listens to our heartaches and our desires. When we're lonely and downhearted, our Friend Jesus keeps company with us. And our companionship with Jesus is tighter when we love each other and obey His commands (vv. 10, 17). As we obey His commands, we will bear "fruit that will last" (v. 16).

Walking through the crowded alleys and dangerous roadways of our troubled world, we can count on the Lord's companionship. It's a mark of His friendship.

What does it mean for you to be a friend of Jesus? How has He revealed His presence to you?

Read

John 15:9–17

Bible in a Year

1 Samuel 27–29;
Luke 13:1–22

*You are my
friends if you
do what I
command.*

John 15:14

By Lawrence Darmani

16

APR

Read

Genesis 1:1–21

Bible in a Year

1 Samuel 30–31;

Luke 13:23–35

*God said,
“Let the
water teem
with living
creatures.”*

Genesis 1:20

By Xochitl Dixon

Celebrating Creativity

A rarely seen jellyfish waltzed with the currents, four thousand feet deep in the ocean near Baja, California. Its body shone with fluorescent shades of blue, purple, and pink, bright against the backdrop of black water. Elegant tentacles waved gracefully with each pulsing of its bell-shaped hood.

As I watched the amazing footage of the *Halitrephes maasi* jellyfish on the National Geographic video, I reflected on how God chose the specific design of this beautiful, gelatinous creature. He also fashioned the other 2,000 types of jellyfish that scientists have identified as of October 2017.

Though we acknowledge God as Creator, do we slow down long enough to truly consider the profound truth revealed in the first chapter of the Bible? Our amazing God brought forth light and life into the creatively diverse world He crafted with the power of His word. He designed “the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems” (Genesis 1:21). Scientists have discovered only a fraction of the wondrous creatures the Lord created in the beginning.

God also intentionally sculpted each person in the world, giving purpose to every day of our lives before we drew our first breaths (Psalm 139:13–16). As we celebrate the Lord’s creativity, we can also rejoice over the many ways He helps us imagine and create with Him and for His glory.

What creative gifts has God given to you? How might you use them for His glory?

Flourishing Like a Flower

17
APR

My youngest grandson is only two months old, yet every time I see him I notice little changes. Recently, as I cooed to him, he looked up at me and smiled! And suddenly I began crying. Perhaps it was joy mixed with remembering my own children’s first smiles, which I witnessed so long ago, and yet it feels like just yesterday. Some moments are like that—inexplicable.

In Psalm 103, David penned a poetic song that praised God while also reflecting on how quickly the joyful moments of our lives pass by: “The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone” (vv. 15–16).

But despite acknowledging the brevity of life, David describes the flower as flourishing, or thriving. Although each individual flower blossoms and blooms swiftly, its fragrance and color and beauty bring great joy in the moment. And even though an individual flower can be quickly forgotten—“its place remembers it no more” (v. 16)—by contrast we have the assurance that “from everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with those who fear him” (v. 17).

We, like flowers, can rejoice and flourish in the moment; but we can also celebrate the truth that the moments of our lives are never truly forgotten. God holds every detail of our lives, and His everlasting love is with His children forever!

In what way can you flourish in this moment? How can you bring joy to another?

Read

Psalm 103:13–22

Bible in a Year

2 Samuel 1–2;

Luke 14:1–24

*The life of
mortals is like
grass, they
flourish like a
flower of the
field.*

Psalm 103:15

By Alyson Kieda

18

APR

In the Moment

Read

Luke 23:32–46

Bible in a Year

2 Samuel 3–5;
Luke 14:25–35

*The reason my
Father loves
me is that I lay
down my life . .
. . No one takes
it from me, but
I lay it down of
my own accord.*
John 10:17–18

By Tim Gustafson

The ambulance door was about to close—with me on the inside. Outside, my son was on the phone to my wife. From my concussed fog, I called his name. As he recalls the moment, I slowly said, “Tell your mom I love her very much.”

Apparently I thought this might be goodbye, and I wanted those to be my parting words. In the moment, that’s what mattered most to me.

As Jesus endured His darkest moment, He didn’t merely tell us He loved us; He showed it in specific ways. He showed it to the mocking soldiers who had just nailed Him to a cross: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34). He gave hope to a criminal crucified with Him: “Today you will be with me in paradise” (v. 43).

Nearing the end, He looked at His mother. “Here is your son,” He said to her, and to His close friend John He said, “Here is your mother” (John 19:26–27). Then, as His life slipped from Him, Jesus’s last act of love was to trust His Father: “Into your hands I commit my spirit” (Luke 23:46).

Jesus purposefully chose the cross in order to show His obedience to His Father—and the depth of His love for us. To the very end, He showed us His relentless love.

What matters most to you? How do love and obedience fit together?

The Torn Veil

19
APR

It was a dark and somber day in the outskirts of Jerusalem. On a hill just outside the city walls, a Man who'd been attracting crowds of eager followers for the past three years hung in disgrace and pain on a rough wooden cross.

Mourners wept and wailed in sorrow. The light of the sun no longer brightened the afternoon sky. And the intense suffering of the Man on the cross ended when He cried out in a loud voice, "It is finished" (Matthew 27:50; John 19:30).

At that very moment, another sound came from the great temple across town—the sound of ripping fabric. Miraculously, without human intervention, the huge, thick veil that separated the outer temple from the holy of holies tore in two from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51).

That torn curtain symbolized the reality of the cross: a new way was now open to God! Jesus, the Man on the cross, had shed His blood as the last sacrifice—the one true and sufficient sacrifice (Hebrews 10:10)—which allows all who believe in Him to enjoy forgiveness and enter into a relationship with God (Romans 5:6–11).

Amidst the darkness of that original Good Friday, we received the best news ever—Jesus opened a way for us to be saved from our sins and to experience fellowship with God forever (Hebrews 10:19–22). Thank God for the message of the torn veil!

How has the reality of what happened on Good Friday brought you from darkness to light? What does it mean for you to experience a relationship with God?

Read

Hebrews 10:10–23

Bible in a Year

2 Samuel 6–8;

Luke 15:1–10

We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body.

Hebrews 10:19–20

By Dave Branon

20 APR

Read

2 Samuel 12:1–14

Bible in a Year

2 Samuel 9–11;

Luke 15:11–32

*David said
to Nathan, “I
have sinned
against the
Lord.” Nathan
replied, “The
Lord has taken
away your
sin.”*

2 Samuel 12:13

By Jennifer Benson Schuldt

Who Is That?

When a man installed a security camera outside his house, he checked the video feature to ensure that the system was working. He was alarmed to see a broad-shouldered figure in dark clothing wandering around his yard. He watched intently to see what the man would do. The interloper seemed familiar, however. Finally he realized he wasn't watching a stranger roam his property, but a recording of himself in his own backyard!

What might we see if we could step out of our skin and observe ourselves in certain situations? When David's heart was hardened and he needed an outside perspective—a godly perspective—on his involvement with Bathsheba, God sent Nathan to the rescue (2 Samuel 12).

Nathan told David a story about a rich man who robbed a poor man of his only lamb. Though the rich man owned herds of animals, he slaughtered the poor man's lone sheep and made it into a meal. When Nathan revealed that the story illustrated David's actions, David saw how he had harmed Uriah. Nathan explained the consequences, but more important he assured David, “The Lord has taken away your sin” (v. 13).

If God reveals sin in our lives, His ultimate purpose isn't to condemn us, but to restore us and to help us reconcile with those we've hurt. Repentance clears the way for renewed closeness with God through the power of His forgiveness and grace.

*What sin(s) do you need to bring to God today in repentance?
How does His grace encourage you to come before Him in
honesty?*

Pray for Nation INDONESIA



Capital: *Jakarta*

Population: *269.5 million people*

Religion: *Majority Muslim*



1. God gives the ability for KPU and BAWASLU as an independence institution to oversee the process of this election. Likewise the courage and firmness to enforce existing rules without showing the favoritism.

2. Pray for each polling station that spreads from Sabang to Merauke, all in a state of secure control, no chaos and fraud. All ballot boxes and ballots can be sent to remote areas and all Indonesian people can vote well.

3. The party of democracy that runs every five years will go well and the elected president, vice president and representatives of the people are God's chosen people. Indonesia will enter its prosperity, become a big country and have a wide impact on the world. Amen.

4. Praying that a computer system on vote counting of KPU can run well, kept away from virus attacks that can interfere and disrupt the accuracy of the calculations.

5. Indonesia you will be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord will name (Isa. 62: 2 b). Amen.



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

Woman of Impact Community

Tuesday, 10.30 AM, BIC

EVENTS

Workers' Prayer Meeting

Saturday, 13 April, 10-12PM

Pemilu

Saturday, 13 April, 10-12PM

Good Friday

Friday, 19 April, 3PM & 6PM

Shepherd Meeting

Thursday, 25 April



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