


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

A sunset over a rocky landscape with a cross silhouette. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and red, with some clouds. The foreground is dark, showing the silhouette of a cross on a rocky outcrop. The entire image is framed by a green border that forms a large 'X' shape.

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



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Hidup Dalam Kuasa Roh Kudus

*“Pergilah dan beritakanlah: Kerajaan Sorga sudah dekat.
Sembuhkanlah orang sakit; bangkitkanlah orang mati;
tahirkanlah orang kusta; usirlah setan-setan.
Kamu telah memperolehnya dengan cuma-cuma,
karena itu berikanlah pula dengan cuma-cuma.”*

Matius 10:7-8

Ketika Yesus mengutus murid-murid-Nya, ia memberikan beberapa perintah yang merupakan tugas pelayanan yang harus dilakukan oleh kedua belas murid-Nya. Dari kedua ayat di atas, ada 5 isi perintah yang harus dilakukan, yaitu:

1. Beritakan injil
2. Sembuhkan yang sakit
3. Bangkitkan orang mati
4. Tahirkan orang kusta
5. Usir setan-setan

Ia memberikan perintah itu karena Ia sendiri telah memberikan teladan terlebih dahulu. Pada waktu Sang Putera yakni Yesus Kristus berinkarnasi sebagai manusia maka segala atribut keilahian-Nya telah ditanggalkan-Nya, sehingga Ia benar-benar menjadi sama dengan manusia. Tidak ada bedanya, tidak ada lebihnya.

“yang walaupun dalam rupa Allah, tidak menganggap kesetaraan dengan Allah itu sebagai milik yang harus dipertahankan, melainkan telah mengosongkan diri-Nya sendiri, dan mengambil rupa seorang hamba, dan menjadi sama dengan manusia.” **Fil 2:6-7**

Ketika menjadi manusia, Yesus benar-benar 100% manusia. Tetapi mengapa dalam sepanjang pelayanan-Nya di muka bumi ini Ia bisa dengan luar biasa melakukan kelima hal tersebut di atas? Belum terbilang mujizat-mujizat lain yang dilakukannya, seperti berjalan di atas air, merubah air jadi anggur, dan

lain sebagainya, bukankah sepertinya semua itu hanya bisa dilakukan oleh orang yang bukan sembarangan, haruslah manusia yang super spesial. Yesus bukan Superman yang pura-pura menjadi manusia. Dia adalah manusia biasa, sama seperti kita.

“yaitu tentang Yesus dari Nazaret: bagaimana Allah mengurapi Dia dengan Roh Kudus dan kuat kuasa, Dia, yang berjalan berkeliling sambil berbuat baik dan menyembuhkan semua orang yang dikuasai Iblis, sebab Allah menyertai Dia.” Kis 10:38

Rahasiannya ialah karena manusia Yesus ini sepenuhnya dipenuhi oleh Roh Kudus! Roh Kudus yang adalah Allah sendiri, Dialah yang bekerja dengan kuasa yang tak terbatas di dalam dan melalui diri Yesus!

Kabar baiknya ialah, ketika kita lahir baru, maka kita menerima Roh Kudus yang sama itu, dan Dia (Allah Roh Kudus) tinggal di dalam kita. Lalu ketika kita dibaptis oleh Roh Kudus, maka Dia memperlengkapi kita dengan Kuasa dan Pengurapan-Nya. Sehingga dengan demikian kita semestinya punya potensi yang sama untuk berjalan dan hidup; sama seperti ketika Yesus hidup dan melayani di muka bumi ini.

Dengan dipenuhi Roh Kudus, kita ditentukan untuk berjalan dalam kuasa dan pengurapan yang supranatural. Yesus sudah melakukan dan mempraktekkannya ketika Ia datang sebagai manusia. Itulah janji-Nya. *“Aku berkata kepadamu: Sesungguhnya barangsiapa percaya kepada-Ku, ia akan melakukan juga pekerjaan-pekerjaan yang Aku lakukan, bahkan pekerjaan-pekerjaan yang lebih besar dari pada itu. Sebab Aku pergi kepada Bapa;” Yoh 14:12.* Kalau kita percaya bahwa Alkitab adalah Firman Allah, dan Yesus telah berfirman demikian, maka firman ini adalah Kebenaran yang mengatasi segala fakta dan keraguan kita. Sesungguhnya, kita bisa berjalan dalam kuasa dan pengurapan Roh Kudus yang dahsyat itu, sebab Tuhan sendiri yang memerintahkannya.

Di pertengahan abad ke 20 ada seorang Hamba Tuhan dari Inggris bernama Smith Wigglesworth. Dia orang biasa dan sederhana, profesinya hanyalah seorang tukang ledeng. Ketika ia dibaptis dan dipenuhi oleh Roh Kudus, kuasa Allah bekerja sungguh luar biasa melalui dirinya. Tercatat ada 14 orang mati yang pernah ia bangkitkan. Belum lagi mujizat dan kesembuhan yang begitu banyak terjadi dalam pelayanan hamba Tuhan ini. Semua itu karena pekerjaan Roh Kudus, demikian pengakuan Smith. Dia sungguh telah menggenapi **Yoh 14:12** tadi, sebab Yesus sendiri dalam pelayanan-Nya yang hanya 3 tahun lebih itu, pernah membangkitkan 3 orang mati.

Yang jadi pertanyaan sekarang, *“Mengapa seringkali kita ragu bahkan tidak mau memperhatikan baik-baik ayat firman Tuhan yang seperti itu?”*

EMPAT ALASAN MENGAPA KITA TIDAK MEMPERHATIKAN AYAT FIRMAN TUHAN

1. Takut

Penyebab utama ialah karena takut. Takut gagal untuk mencoba sesuatu. Karena rasa takut itu, seringkali kita beranggapan jika tidak terjadi sesuatu maka nanti orang akan mempermalukan diri kita. Atau karena takut maka kita tidak berani untuk mendoakan seseorang karena takut ditolak, padahal kita belum mencobanya.

2. Kurang Percaya

Di luar sana ada begitu banyak orang Kristen yang berjalan dalam keraguan akan terjadinya kuasa Tuhan dalam hidupnya. Dan mereka selalu bersembunyi dalam berbagai macam alasan untuk mengkompromikan ketidakpercayaan mereka. Dan lebih buruk lagi, orang-orang yang tidak percaya itu biasanya menularkan ketakutan dan ketidakpercayaan itu kepada orang Kristen lainnya. Apakah kita familiar dengan kalimat-kalimat seperti ini: *"Jangan memaksa Tuhan. Mungkin memang kehendak Tuhan orang tersebut mengalami sakit penyakit."*

"Itu semua memang diijinkan oleh yang Mahakuasa. Tidak ada yang salah dengan sakit penyakit, itu semua Tuhan pakai untuk berbicara dan mendewasakan orang tersebut." Itu adalah alasan-alasan yang dibuat orang-orang yang mungkin memang pernah mendoakan orang sakit tetapi ketika pertama kali mereka mendoakan, mereka tidak melihat mukjizat terjadi, sehingga muncullah ketidakpercayaan. Padahal yang perlu kita lakukan adalah kita harus terus mencobanya lagi, dengan penuh iman dan keberanian. Pasti mukjizat terjadi.

3. Terintimidasi oleh Diri Sendiri

Kita seringkali menjadi tidak yakin bahwa kuasa Tuhan pasti terjadi karena kita sendiri merasa tidak layak dan merasa tidak pantas untuk mengalaminya. Penyebabnya tentu karena dosa dan kesalahan yang kita lakukan di hadapan Tuhan yang belum kita bereskan. Karena itulah maka hati nurani kita kemudian menuduh kita. Iblis menggunakan waktu-waktu ini untuk mengintimidasi kita.

Itu sebabnya, mari kita buang dan tanggalkan setiap beban dan dosa yang begitu merintanginya kita (**Ibrani 12:1**). Bereskan setiap hal yang dapat membuat iblis mengintimidasi kita dengan tuduhan-tuduhannya yang membuat kita merasa tidak layak. Hiduplah dalam kekudusan dan kebenaran. Percayalah akan anugerah Tuhan yang sempurna dalam hidup kita.

4. Tidak Mau Melayani Tuhan

Satu hal yang pasti ialah bahwa kuasa Allah itu dinyatakan justru untuk memermuliakan diri-Nya. Ketika umat Tuhan mau dipakai untuk kemuliaan-Nya, barulah kuasa-Nya dinyatakan. Jadi kuasa Allah itu hanya bekerja ketika kita sedang melayani Dia dan Kerajaan-Nya. Kita tidak akan pernah melihat kuasa-Nya dinyatakan kalau kita hanya berdiam diri saja, hanya puas menjadi jemaat yang setia, dan hanya jadi penonton dalam pertandingan iman.

Kita harus turun ke gelanggang pertandingan ini. Kita harus jadi '*pemain-pemain*' yang mau dipimpin oleh Tuhan dan Roh-Nya yang kudus. Maka dengan sendirinya kita akan membuktikan janji Firman-Nya bahwa Dia akan meneguhkan dengan tanda-tanda heran dan mukjizat.

Akhirnya marilah kita pergi; memberitakan Injil dan melakukan mukjizat!! Kita ada di musim yang terakhir, di era Pentakosta Ketiga, dimana Tuhan berjanji akan mencurahkan kuasa Roh-Nya dengan dahsyat. Mari kita buktikan janji Tuhan itu. Amin (MK)

21

APR

Washed Clean

Read

Jeremiah 2:13,
20–22

Bible in a Year

2 Samuel 12–13;
Luke 16

*The blood of
Jesus, [God's]
Son, purifies us
from all sin.*

1 John 1:7

By Lisa M. Samra

I couldn't believe it. A blue gel pen had hidden itself in the folds of my white towels and survived the washing machine, only to explode in the dryer. Ugly blue stains were everywhere. My white towels were ruined. No amount of bleach would be able to remove the dark stains.

As I reluctantly consigned the towels to the rag pile, I was reminded of the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah's lament describing the damaging effects of sin. By rejecting God and turning to idols (Jeremiah 2:13), Jeremiah declared that the people of Israel had caused a permanent stain in their relationship with God: "'Although you wash yourself with soap and use an abundance of cleansing powder, the stain of your guilt is still before me,' declares the Sovereign Lord" (v. 22). They were powerless to undo the damage they'd done.

On our own, it is impossible to remove the stain of our sin. But Jesus has done what we could not. Through the power of His death and resurrection, He "purifies [believers] from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Even when it's hard to believe, cling to this beautiful truth: there's no damage from sin that Jesus can't totally remove. God is willing and ready to wash away the effects of sin for anyone willing to return to Him (v. 9). Through Christ, we can live each day in freedom and hope.

Where do you go with your guilt? How might you live differently today knowing that Jesus's death has the power to completely remove the guilt and "stain" of your sin?

Second-Wind Strength

At the age of fifty-four I entered the Milwaukee marathon with two goals—to finish the race and to do it under five hours. My time would have been amazing if the second 13.1 miles went as well as the first. But the race was grueling, and the second-wind strength I’d hoped for never came. By the time I made it to the finish line, my steady stride had morphed into a painful walk.

Footraces aren’t the only things that require second-wind strength—life’s race does too. To endure, tired, weary people need God’s help. Isaiah 40:27–31 beautifully weds poetry and prophecy to comfort and motivate people who need strength to keep going. Timeless words remind fatigued and discouraged people that the Lord isn’t detached or uncaring (v. 27), that our plight doesn’t escape His notice. These words breathe comfort and assurance, and remind us of God’s limitless power and bottomless knowledge (v. 28).

The second-wind strength described in verses 29–31 is just right for us—whether we’re in the throes of raising and providing for our families, struggling through life under the weight of physical or financial burdens, or discouraged by relational tensions or spiritual challenges. Such is the strength that awaits those who—through meditating on the Scriptures and prayer—wait upon the Lord.

*When have life circumstances taken the wind out of you?
In what particular area do you need God’s strength today?*

22 APR

Read

Isaiah 40:27–
31

Bible in a Year

2 Samuel 14–15;
Luke 17:1–19

*Come to me,
all you who
are weary and
burdened, and
I will give you
rest.*

Matthew 11:28

By Arthur Jackson

23

APR

Seeing the Light

On the streets of Los Angeles, a homeless man struggling with addictions stepped into The Midnight Mission and asked for help. Thus began Brian's long road to recovery.

In the process Brian rediscovered his love for music. Eventually he joined Street Symphony—a group of music professionals with a heart for the homeless. They asked Brian to perform a solo from Handel's Messiah known as "The People That Walked in Darkness." In words written by the prophet Isaiah during a dark period of Israel's history, he sang, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined" (Isaiah 9:2 kjv). A music critic for The New Yorker magazine wrote that Brian "made the text sound as though it had been taken from his own life."

The gospel writer Matthew quoted that same passage. Called by Jesus from a life of cheating his fellow Israelites, Matthew describes how Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy by taking His salvation "beyond the Jordan" to "Galilee of the Gentiles" (Matthew 4:13–15).

Who would have believed one of Caesar's tax collector thugs (see Matthew 9:9), a street addict like Brian, or people like us would get a chance to show the difference between light and darkness in our own lives?

How has the light of Christ affected you? In what ways are you reflecting it to others?

Read
Matthew 4:12–25

Bible in a Year
2 Samuel 16–18;
Luke 17:20–37

*On those
living in the
land of deep
darkness
a light has
dawned.*
Isaiah 9:2

By Mart DeHaan

Serving the Smallest

24
APR

The video showed a man kneeling beside a busy freeway during an out-of-control brush fire. He was clapping his hands and pleading with something to come. What was it? A dog? Moments later a bunny hopped into the picture. The man scooped up the scared rabbit and sprinted to safety.

How did the rescue of such a small thing make national news? That's why. There's something endearing about compassion shown to the least of these. It takes a big heart to make room for the smallest creature.

Jesus said the kingdom of God is like a man who gave a banquet and made room for everyone who was willing to come. Not just the movers and shakers but also “the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame” (Luke 14:21). I'm thankful that God targets the weak and the seemingly insignificant, because otherwise I'd have no shot. Paul said, “God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things . . . so that no one may boast before him” (1 Corinthians 1:27–29).

How big must God's heart be to save a small person like me! In response, how large has my heart grown to be? I can easily tell, not by how I please the “important people,” but by how I serve the ones society might deem the least important.

What types of people do you have a hard time valuing? In what ways might God want you to change that?

Read

Luke 14:15–23

Bible in a Year

2 Samuel 19–20;

Luke 18:1–23

God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things.

1 Corinthians

1:28

By Mike Wittmer

25

APR

Not Like Yesterday

When our grandson Jay was a child his parents gave him a new T-shirt for his birthday. He put it on right away and proudly wore it all day.

When he appeared the next morning in the shirt, his dad asked him, “Jay, does that shirt make you happy?” “Not as much as yesterday,” Jay replied.

That’s the problem with material acquisition: Even the good things of life can’t give us the deep, lasting happiness we so strongly desire. Though we may have many possessions, we may still be unhappy. The world offers happiness through material accumulation: new clothes, a new automobile, an update to our phone or watch. But no material acquisition can make us as happy as it did yesterday. That’s because we were made for God and nothing less will do.

One day, when Jesus was fasting and faint with hunger, Satan approached Him and tempted Him to satisfy His hunger by creating bread. Jesus countered by quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

Jesus didn’t mean that we should live only on bread. He’s rather stating a fact: We’re spiritual beings and thus we can’t exist on material goods alone.

True satisfaction is found in God and His riches.

Why do material acquisitions not provide long-term happiness? What have you learned from past expectations?

Read

Matthew 4:1–11

Bible in a Year

2 Samuel 21–22;

Luke 18:24–43

*Man does
not live on
bread alone
but on every
word that
comes from
the mouth
of the Lord.*

Deuteronomy

8:3

By David H. Roper

What God Sees

26

APR

Early in the morning, I quietly pad past a family-room window overlooking a wilderness area behind our house. Often, I notice a hawk or owl perched in a tree, keeping watch over the area. One morning I was surprised to find a bald eagle boldly balanced on a high branch, surveying the terrain as if the entire expanse belonged to him. Likely he was watching for “breakfast.” His all-inclusive gaze seemed regal.

In 2 Chronicles 16, Hanani the seer (God’s prophet) informed a king that his actions were under a royal gaze. He told Asa, king of Judah, “You relied on the king of Aram and not on the Lord your God” (v. 7). Then Hanani explained, “The eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him” (v. 9). Because of Asa’s misplaced dependence, he would always be at war. Reading these words, we might get the false sense that God watches our every move so He can pounce on us like a bird of prey. But Hanani’s words focus on the positive. His point is that our God continually watches and waits for us to call on Him when we’re in need.

Like my backyard bald eagle, how might God’s eyes be roaming our world—even now—looking to find faithfulness in you and me? How might He provide the hope and help we need?

Why is it vital for you to regularly look to God for direction and guidance? How does it encourage you to know that God awaits your calls for help?

Read

2 Chronicles
16:7–9

Bible in a Year

2 Samuel 23–24;
Luke 19:1–27

*The eyes of
the Lord range
throughout
the earth to
strengthen
those whose
hearts are fully
committed to
him.*

2 Chronicles
16:9

By Elisa Morgan

27 APR

Enjoying Beauty

The painting caught my eye like a beacon. Displayed along a long hallway in a big city hospital, its deep pastel hues and Navajo Native American figures were so arresting I stopped to marvel and stare. “Look at that,” I said to my husband, Dan.

He was walking ahead but I hesitated, bypassing other paintings on the wall to gaze only at that one. “Beautiful,” I whispered.

Many things in life are beautiful indeed. Master paintings. Scenic vistas. Inspired crafts. But so is a child’s smile. A friend’s hello. A robin’s blue egg. A seashell’s strong ridges. To relieve the burdens life can bring, “[God] has made everything beautiful in its time” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). In such beauty, Bible scholars explain, we get a glimpse of the perfection of God’s creation—including the glory of His perfect rule to come.

We can only imagine such perfection, so God grants us a foretaste through life’s beauty. In this way, God “has also set eternity in the human heart” (v. 11). Some days life looks drab and futile. But God mercifully provides moments of beauty to ponder.

The artist of the painting I admired, Gerard Curtis Delano, understood that. “God [gave] me a talent to create beauty,” he once said, “and this is what He wanted me to do.” Seeing such beauty, how can we respond? We can thank God for eternity to come while pausing to enjoy the glory we already see.

How do you respond to the beauty God has placed in this world? How does beauty reflect Him?

Read

Ecclesiastes
3:9–13

Bible in a Year

1 Kings 1–2;
Luke 19:28–48

*He has made
everything
beautiful in its
time.*

Ecclesiastes
3:11

By Patricia Raybon

Pray for Nation

GERMANY



Capital: *Berlin*

Population: *82,3 million people*

Religion: *Christianity*



1. Pray for the second reformation in this country, so that the Church will return back to true teaching of the word of God.

2. God rise up many new reformers in this country, who would bring great changes to the life of Christianity in Germany. The dead and sleeping church will rise up again, the lukewarm will receive the first love again and those who are spiritually poor will be enriched in Christ.

3. Pray for the young people in Germany, because the majority of those under the age of 25 do not believe in any religion. Let them experience the touch of God personally through God's word that is preached on social media and television, even personal encounters with God himself.

4. Pray also for the immigrants especially from the Middle East in this country, so that the government through the local Church begins to pray and reach them for the kingdom of God.



NOTES



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

180

<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

Woman of Impact Community
Tuesday, 10.30 AM, BIC

EVENTS

Shepherd Meeting
Thursday, 25 April



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