

THE YEAR OF INTEGRITY

# BULLETIN

VOL. 54 | 14 FEBRUARY 2021

## BUILDING A MIGHTY SPIRIT

WHAT'S THE GOOD  
IN SINGLENESS?

GOD'S PROMISES  
IN THE MIDST OF  
DISAPPOINTMENT

MONTHLY  
PLAYLIST

### *Vision*

To be a "House of Prayer for all nations"  
Isaiah 56 :7b

### *Mission*

A praying and witnessing church who have a close personal relationship with The Lord, to change the world for the glory of the Lord.



Bethany International Church



office@bethanymelb.org.au



@bicmelbourne



www.bethanymelb.org.au



+61396999077

**FOUNDING PASTOR**

Rev Niko Njotoraharjo

**SENIOR PASTOR**

Ps Djohan Handoyo

**PASTOR**

Ps Daniel Prajogo

**Associate Pastor**

Ps Unggul Santika  
Ps Iwan Adinugroho

**Prophetic, Praise & Worship Pastor**

Ps Hemah Demak Panjaitan  
Ps Suzana Tahir

**Next Generation Pastor**

Ps Rudy Nurtanaya

**Teaching Pastor**

Ps Daniel Hardjosuwito

**Mission & Evangelism Pastor**

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**Pastoral Care**

Ps Lily Karto

**Office Manager**

Ps Suzana Tahir



# 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 — Adel, Patricia  
Cana — Bobby  
Philadelphia - Pniel — Dwi, Vero  
Moriah — Elve, Calista  
Ephraim — Sonia, Kendrew  
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 — Sintia, Kevin W.  
Heaven — Pauline



# God's promises in the midst of disappointment

By Kartika Dewi

Disappointment comes in all sizes, doesn't it? Any time our hopes are not realised or our expectations or desires are not fulfilled, we feel disappointed. Disappointment can come from people and circumstances, can be a passing emotion over a temporary loss, or it may strike powerfully when something permanently changes our lives. A major disappointment can remain within us all the time, shadowing our reactions to everything.

## **God uses our disappointment**

Jesus told us that in this world we will have troubles (John 16:33). Sometimes God allows troubles in order to teach us that we are not in control over people's reactions or circumstances, the source of our disappointment. The apostle Paul reveals to us that disappointments help us realize we are dependent on

His love and His gracious enabling. This will cause us to rely more fully on Him. In 2 Corinthians 1:8-9, he said "For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead"

Proverbs 3:5 instructed us to "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." We are experiencing this particular disappointment right now because maybe there's a different plan in store for us. Most of the time, the hard part is trusting in Him, when His plan isn't making much sense to us. We have asked God for the right relationship, job, and many other things, but we

still have not received it.

God promises us that He is in control. We may not understand God's plan, but He is still in control and working everything out for our good and His glory. That is a promise from God's Word. "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28 ESV). It is a promise from God, to those who are committed to Him, that nothing will happen in their lives that is outside God's control.

### **God Gives New Perspectives**

There is a beautiful story experienced by a songwriter when she wrote a song called "Blessings". While she cannot avoid disappointment, God changed her perspective which enabled her to grasp His goodness even in the midst of disappointment.

*We pray for blessings*

*We pray for peace*

*Comfort for family, protection  
while we sleep*

*We pray for healing, for  
prosperity*

*We pray for Your mighty hand  
to ease our suffering*

*All the while, You hear each  
spoken need*

*Yet love is way too much to  
give us lesser things*

*'Cause what if your blessings  
come through raindrops*

*What if Your healing comes  
through tears*

*What if a thousand sleepless  
nights are what it takes to know You're  
near*

*What if trials of this life are  
Your mercies in disguise*

*What if my greatest  
disappointments*

*Or the aching of this life*

*Is the revealing of a greater  
thirst this world can't satisfy*

*What if trials of this life  
The rain, the storms, the hardest  
nights  
Are your mercies in disguise*

In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, God did not take away Paul's thorn in the flesh, but God assured him that His grace is sufficient. This revelation enabled Paul to finally embrace his weakness when he said *"Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*

### **God promises that those who seek Him lack no good thing**

When we are experiencing disappointment, we need to ask ourselves, what is the good thing that we are looking for? Is it truly in our earthly possession, employment or in



a relationship? Or is it in God Himself? Overcoming that disappointment can only come when we take our eyes off of earthly desires and really set our eyes and hearts on Him.

Psalm 34:10 reminds of this, when it says, *“The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those seek the LORD lack no good thing.”* These promises are for those who are seeking the Lord. When we seek Him, we will lack nothing. I pray that all of us can finally trust God as what David believed in Psalm 16:2 *“I say to the LORD “You are my LORD; I have no good apart from you.”*

### **God has a history of comforting His people**

Many times, the revelation about God’s plan, His goodness and promises to us takes time to understand. In those moments, often we are left with doubts, sadness and confusions. I hope that these following promises, both in the Old and New Testament will strengthen us during the process.

It is God who promises to protect, comfort, strengthen, and guide those who love Him; those with whom He has a personal relationship.

*Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand (Isaiah 41:10)*

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. (John 14:17)*

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. (2 Corinthians 1:3)*



# *What's the Good in Singleness?*

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By Sonia Pranatha

Love is a beautiful thing, isn't it? The feeling of strong emotional attachment and warmth shared affection brings us a sense of joy that no other feeling can bring. It is truly one of the most desired feelings we as human longs for. Just take a look at a baby and you'll see how much she longs for the affection and attention of her mum and dad. Whether young or old, we all yearn for love.

In fact, humans love 'love' so much that they created a specific holiday, Valentine's day, just

to celebrate it. The act of showing affection is shown through the giving of heart-shaped chocolate boxes and gorgeous bouquets of flowers or going to a romantic dinner or sending charming cards to loved ones. But while Valentine's day can be a fun and exhilarating holiday for the lovebirds, for the singles, this holiday can be a painful reminder of another year where their longing for affection and love remains yet unfulfilled.

Like a sailor sailing off his boat without a map, the search for love can be just like that for single Christians who long to be married. We wander off into the big blue ocean aimlessly only to hope to arrive at our destination someday. "Will I get married one day?" "Is there a partner for me that God has prepared?" "What if I remain single and lonely and unhappy?" questions begin to fill our minds as we look around the sea and are unable to see our destination. And sooner or later we start to drown in our own doubts and anxieties of the future.

You are not alone in your frustration. Society has often associated singleness with discontentment and loneliness. When we look back in the Old Testament, singleness was even labeled as a curse by some people of that time. Adam was given a command to 'be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it'" (Genesis 1:22), which the Jews took the command very seriously. Childbearing was a sign of God's blessing (Deuteronomy 7:11–14). Whereas barrenness was a sign of curse (Deuteronomy 28:15–18). To remain single was to disobey this command to be fruitful and to undermine God's blessing.

If singleness is a curse and something that we must avoid, then what about Paul's remark in 1 Corinthians 7:7 Paul said that singleness is a gift from God as much as marriage is, and he went on as far as saying that it is good to those unmarried to remain unmarried in verse 8. What is the good in singleness, then?

## **Christ-Exalting Singleness**

There is truly a lot of misunderstanding when it comes to singleness, and I'm not saying it only happens outside of the churches. In fact, we Christians tend to misunderstand it too, whether we realize it or not. We treat marriage as the ultimate goal and singleness is only an afterthought by God. We don't cherish the season that we are in, and instead, we use it as an excuse to procrastinate in pursuing God. We wait for that partner to come into our lives, to complete us, and only then will we be able to serve God better. After all, two is better than one, right?

But singleness is not second-class or an afterthought by God. When God first created Adam, He gave Adam a task to work in the garden of Eden all by himself. No partner. Nada. He didn't show any weaknesses or stressed about how he didn't have a partner. And yet, Adam was perfectly capable of doing the task God had given him. God purposefully created

Adam first and put him to work all by himself shows us that singleness is not a hindrance or a problem for us in serving the Lord. We don't have to wait to be married to start to be used by God.

In fact, singleness is a God-given gift that we must cherish because it is a season where we can truly serve God freely. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 7:32-34 that when we are unmarried, our concern is the Lord's affairs and how to please the Lord. We can have our full attention devoted to God. And that is something that can only be found in singleness. When we are married, we will have our attention divided to other matters, and our opportunity to serve the Lord will inevitably decrease. Therefore, singleness should not be an excuse to not serve God, but it is a privilege to use it for the glory of God. Let your singleness be Christ-exalting.

Both singleness and marriage are good gifts and are callings that

God gives for His people. Whether we are called to singleness for only a season or a lifetime, we should continue to serve God and pursue God wholeheartedly regardless of our status. Our main focus should be on the Giver, not the gift itself. And that leads me to the next point.

### **Finding Love in the Right Place**

The devil loves to play a trick on us. After all, his greatest joy is when he succeeds to draw God's children away from Him. That's why the devil loves to go after the singles. I'm not saying that the singles are in any way weaker than others, as we know that Satan goes after everyone. But there are dangers in singleness, especially unwanted singleness, that Satan can use against us, to deceive and discourage single people in the church and derail our devotion to God.

Satan would want us to think that we can find joy and contentment if we

just find the right person. That's what romantic movies and books want you to believe, that with the perfect man or woman, your life will become instantly problem-free. Get married and live happily ever after. But if this is really the surefire way for us to find happiness, then why are there unhappy married people? Why does the divorce rate keep increasing each year? That's because we've been looking for love in all the wrong places.

We try to find love in this world because it is the easiest and most achievable way. It would be better to find love from someone that we can see rather than one we cannot see. Yes, we love Jesus, and Jesus loves us, but we can't really see Him and He doesn't really buy us a heart-shaped chocolate box on Valentine's day, does He? But the thing is, as much as we want to believe that the love we find on earth will bring us joy, it will never be, because only God's love can bring us contentment that

we really desire.

God's love is perfect and complete. His love comes from Himself and is not something that we can win over by our merit and good deeds. And it may seem scary to think of a love that comes freely, that we don't need to earn. It is so different from the love we know here on earth. It sounds too good to be true, and that is because it is. He loves us that He sent His own Son to redeem us from the chain of sin that binds us. It shows how unconditional God's love is. And no other love can compare to the love that we have received from Him.

Our situation may not change, we may still have to go through our single season for some more years. Uncertainty may still fill our future. The longing for companionship is still there in our hearts. But contentment will not if we keep looking at our singleness and its uncertainty of the future. Neither will we be happy if we keep filling that void with a cheap

thrill from worldly love. But when anxieties creep in, fix your eyes to the wonderful certainty of the steadfast love that we have freely received from our God and allow His grace and mercy to sustain us throughout your single season.

Let me close off with a quote from an article I read, "if you are not content being single, you will not be content being married". This is a stern warning for all of us. Don't rush into relationships and marriage because you think it will be the cure for your loneliness. It won't be, because that is not what God created marriage for. Instead I pray that all of us who are still single, will embrace the season that we are all in now, and to use it to find contentment and a sense of completeness that only God alone can give to us.

# ***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  
Cultivated Podcast — Ravello Satria  
Youth — Rio Susanto





THE ULTIMATE LIST OF

# LOVE SONGS

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#1

*First Love*

KARI JOBE

#2

*Who You Say I Am*

HILLSONG WORSHIP

#3

*Love Won't Give Up*

ELEVATION WORSHIP

#4

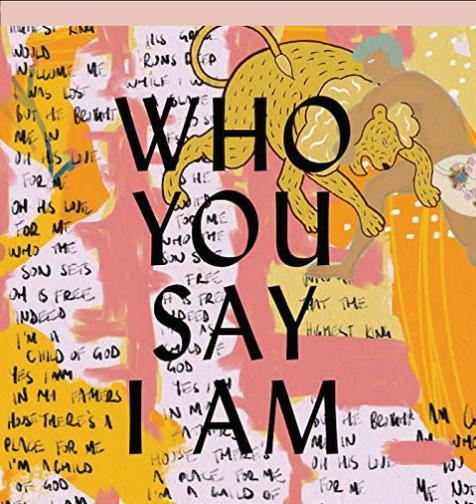
*Extravagant*

BETHEL MUSIC

#5

*Tak Terukur KasihMu Yesus*

SYMPHONY WORSHIP



You can find the complete playlist in Spotify



*Spiritual delight in God arises  
chiefly from His beauty and  
perfection, not from the blessings  
He give us*

JONATHAN EDWARDS