

THE YEAR OF INTEGRITY

BULLETIN

VOL. 55 | 21 FEBRUARY 2021

BUILDING A MIGHTY SPIRIT

THRIVING
IN MARRIAGE

ARE YOU A FAN
OR FOLLOWER
OF JESUS?

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.



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PASTOR

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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

Ps Gideon Gunawan

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



“Thriving in Marriage”

By Natalia Wijaya

“What did you expect in marriage life?”

I take a trip down memory lane when I was asked this question, usually from the singles and younger couples, recalling what was my expectation more than ten years ago when I said “I Do” to my husband.

I guess I expected I would not be alone, nor lonely anymore, because now I would live together in the same house and be with my husband “24/7”. I’ve heard the saying “Marriage is not always about rainbow and butterflies”, and yes, I’d prepared myself for that, thinking “together we can face the problems out *there*”.

Fast forward many years later, from my personal experience and stories of people close to me, it is possible for loneliness to creep in even when our spouse is physically with us. Usually, this happens when we feel

our spouse doesn’t understand our feelings, emotions, and expectations, and “no change from him/her” despite our efforts to communicate it either directly or indirectly in order to work out the marriage for the better.

And when we fail one another, “suddenly” your problems are not “out there” – they’re in the house, living together with you, and we may not realize it without the gift of humility, that the problem is actually inside us (*a sinner loves another sinner*).

Raised in a broken family background where unfaithfulness and silent treatments were apparent, I witnessed how my parents only maintained to stay in the marriage (because divorce was a taboo in our family culture). Like a plant just aiming to survive, unknowingly that it was supposed to grow taller and bloom beautiful flowers, their marriage did not thrive (grow vigorously), and we,

the children, could tell they did not enjoy the companion of one another. After I myself got married, by God's grace, His Holy Spirit began to reveal His heart and what He wanted in my marriage life.

When God said in Genesis 2:18, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him", He truly has a beautiful plan along with these words.

God gave the first-ever newly-wed couple purpose and mission (to be fruitful and multiply). Regardless of Adam and Eve have differences, *their differences were not divisive*. They needed one another to complete the tasks given to them by God, two becoming one. Until SIN entered, slicing through their relationship, they became quick to blame one another, they act as enemies. *God's purpose was gone, replaced by self-centered*

wants and needs.

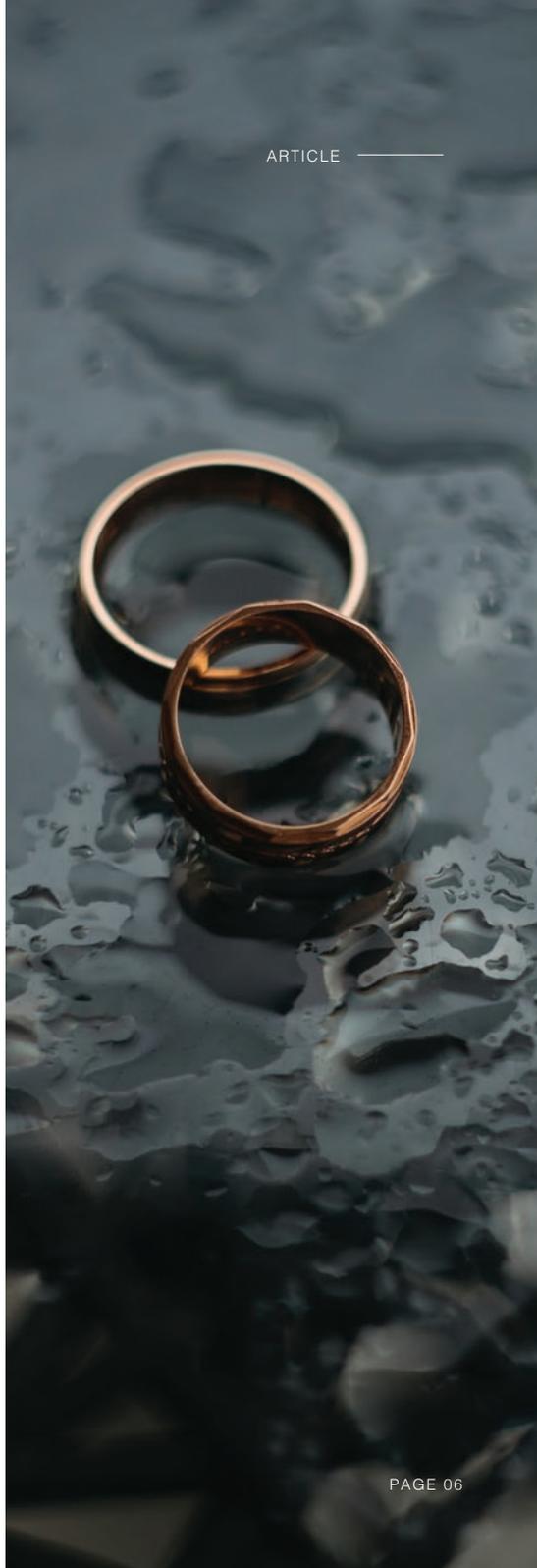
However, there is always HOPE for believers married and unified in Christ. The Gospel doesn't only apply for the salvation of our eternal life, but also for our present life on earth! Just as Christ has healed our relationship with God by redeeming our sins at the cross, He is also able to heal our marriage life. We don't give away what we first don't have – we, believers, have been freely given that unconditional love and forgiveness firstly from Christ. We just need to accept and give it away freely too to our spouse.

Look, I truly know and understand that this is easier said than done, it is so painful to die to our flesh. It would be impossible to count how many times I have found it fundamental to humble myself in marriage life. Sometimes I knew I was the one in

the wrong. But many times, **I need to choose to humble myself** while still convinced my husband was the one guilty. It was extremely hard; *“Why do I need to say sorry first, it’s not my fault!”*, *“He needs to change first, surely it can’t always be me!”*, but I would like to also testify, that it is so worth it when we die to our own ego and **choose to please God.**

Does it hurt to be ignored or mistreated? Of course! But **if we say we love Jesus, we are called to love and forgive not because the other person deserves it, but because Jesus tells us to love and forgive!** We love out of our commitment to Him.

I remember how it was so hard to “swallow my pride” and be the first to settle the matters between me and my husband especially before I join any prayer meetings or go to Sunday service. Not because my flesh and



ego eagerly wanted to, but I needed to choose, commit, and sometimes force myself to **do my part in obeying God.**

How could I enter God's presence and be intimate with Him when unforgiveness and resentment still rooted in my heart? **Bitterness and God's grace cannot go hand in hand** (Hebrew 12:15). My intimacy and obedience to God are much more precious than my own pride. And when our marriage thrives, WE are the one who benefits and are blessed from our obedience!

For me, this is one of the examples a God-centered marriage looks like. It is tested not when we happily sing praise songs in church, serving God together without any hindrance, or in a lovey-dovey mood, BUT especially when love and forgiveness needed to be put in practice more than ever. It is no longer again what I desire (self-centered), but what GOD wants in our marriage.

The "dying to self" is not an instant, it is a gradual, a lifetime process, and it is alright to take some time to calm ourselves, rather than speaking words



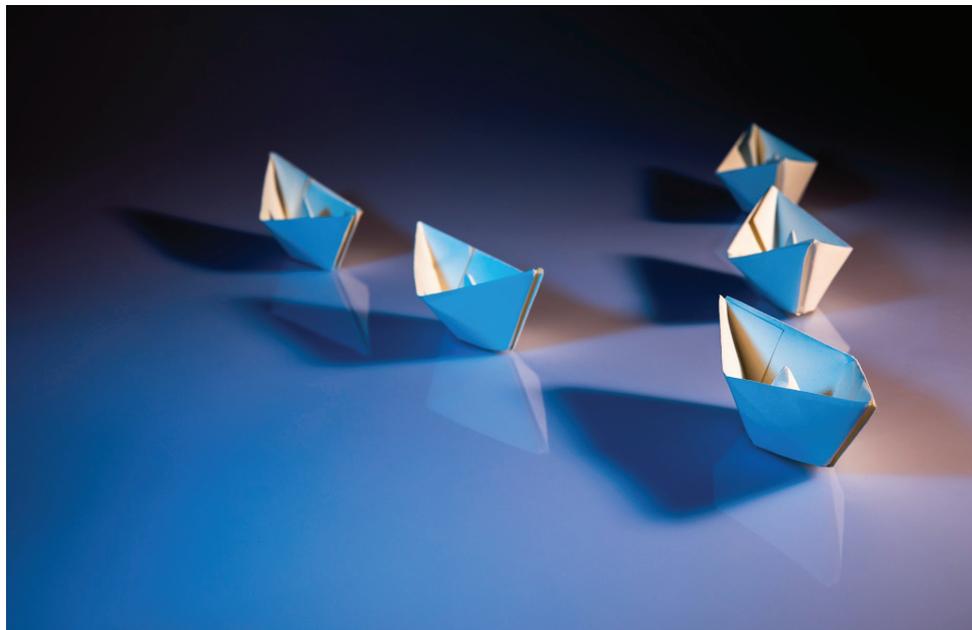
that we will regret. Take the time off to pray and seek wisdom from the Lord. Communicate openly and in love with our spouse. Let go of our pride and surrender our marriage at the feet of Jesus. This marriage is His, and to thrive we need to be centered in Him and His wills.

Last but not least, I often testify to others saying ***“Jesus is not only the Savior of my soul but also the Savior of my marriage”***. If it wasn't by God's grace, I and my husband wouldn't be still together and enjoying

our marriage to the most now. **The best legacy we can pass on to our children is not really about wealth and earthly inheritance; but a God-centered, God-pleasing, solid marriage.**

Marriage may not be what we thought it was when we first walk down that aisle. But because Christ loved us first, we can overflow with the extravagant love of Christ for our spouse. And truly, “love covers over a multitude of sins”(1 Peter 4:8).





Are you a fan or follower of Jesus?

By Valerie Setiono

I've been a Christian all my life. I was born in a Christian family, went to a Christian school, I've gone to church and minister at church since I was young. Up until today, I've never missed a Sunday without church and I can proudly say that I am a believer of Christ. But am I truly a follower of Christ? I've always thought I am — until I stumbled upon this book called “not a fan.” by Kyle Idleman which makes me wonder, am I really a follower, or am I just a fan of Jesus?

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines a fan

as 'an enthusiastic devotee' or 'an ardent admirer'. In John Chapter 6, a crowd of more than five thousand people followed Jesus because they have been hearing about the miraculous healing and inspirational teaching of Jesus. After a full day of teaching, the crowd became hungry and Jesus performed another miracle where He fed the entire crowd with just 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish; and there was still plenty of leftover food. Even after that, the crowd stayed overnight so they could be with Jesus the next day, only to find that Jesus was not there and had crossed over to the other side of the lake. They followed Jesus and caught up to Him, hoping to get their fill — to get another 'all you can eat' buffet from Jesus. But, He is no longer doing that for them. In verse 26, Jesus said, *"very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill."* Jesus clearly knows what is in their hearts, that they are not going

through all that trouble because they are following Him, but because they want some free food. Then Jesus offered Himself in verse 35, *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."* All of a sudden, Jesus is the only thing on the menu. The crowd must decide whether Jesus is enough to satisfy them or they want something more. At the end of the chapter, in verse 66, *"many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him."* These are all fans of Jesus, who turned their back from Jesus because they stop getting what they want.

After reading this passage, as a Christian, I can easily say *"no, I am not like them. I am not 'the crowd'. I follow Jesus for who Jesus is!"* But what makes us so sure? How do we define our relationship with Jesus? We often compare our commitment level to others and feel like our relationship with Jesus is much closer than the other people. Or we

measure our relationship with Jesus by religious rules and rituals, or the extent of our biblical knowledge. But the real question is how does Jesus define what it means to follow him?

1. A decision or a commitment?

Following Jesus means He will interfere with our life. Following Jesus will cost us something. If we say we are a follower of Jesus but nothing in our life changes, we might have to rethink our relationship with Him. This is not about some minor changes, but more than that, **Jesus wants to turn our lives upside down.** This is not just about getting inspired by Jesus, but He wants a complete makeover.

So, have you decided to believe in Jesus or have you committed to Jesus? There shouldn't be any difference, but many have decided to believe in Jesus without committing to follow Him. When we decide to believe in something but make no decision to commit, we become nothing more than just fans. In the

four Gospels, Jesus says "*Believe in me*" about five times, while He said "*Follow me*" about twenty times. Both believing and following are firmly connected. If we try to separate the message to follow from the message of belief, belief will die in the process. Following is part of believing, and to truly believe is to follow.

2. Knowledge about him or intimacy with him?

Fans have given their minds to study about God, to gain knowledge about the Bible, and take pride in it. But they never surrendered their hearts to God. They know about God, but they didn't really know God. This is the difference between knowledge and intimacy. Just like the Pharisee, Jesus describes them in Matthew 15:8, "*These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.*"

It is easy to confuse our knowledge with intimacy. We can have knowledge without having intimacy,

while when there is an intimacy there will be growing knowledge. God wants to be known by us as He already knows us.

“O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I’m far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord” (Psalm 139:1-4 NLT)

Isn’t it amazing? Instead of identifying ourselves as a follower because we know about Jesus, we can say that **we are followers of Jesus because we know Jesus.**

3. One of many or your one and only? In Luke 14, Jesus was teaching in a large crowd about the cost of being His follower. *“If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers*

and sisters...” (Luke 14:26 NLT). Here, the NLT version uses the word ‘hate’, while the CEV version uses the word “love me more.” The most accurate understanding of what Jesus requires of His follower is a combination of these two translations. It’s about loving Jesus more, and ‘hate’ captures the degree to which we love Jesus more. It’s not about Jesus coming in first place in the race of who do we love more in our life, but more accurately, Jesus is the only one in the race. Jesus not only wants to be the first place in our life, but He doesn’t even want there to be a second place. He wants to be our one and only.

Now, when you’re hurt, where do you go for comfort? Do you turn to Jesus; or something or someone else gives you comfort? What disappoints or frustrates you the most? What gets you really excited? The things that disappoint us or excite us might point to something or someone that competes with Jesus to be in the first

place in our heart.

So, **when Jesus says to follow Him, it means to follow Him and Him alone.** It may seem that God is being possessive or jealous, but He isn't just saying how much He wants to be loved by us, but He is showing how He loves us. He doesn't want to share our affection proves that He loves us so much.

Following Jesus will cost us a lot of things. Being a Christian will cost us everything in this life. But I hope I—and all of us can say like what Paul said: *“Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake, I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ” (Philippians 3:8 NLT).*

If following Jesus cost you everything, would it still be worth it?





THE ULTIMATE LIST OF

LOVE SONGS

#1

You are Holy

HILLSONG WORSHIP

#2

Your Love is Extravagant

CASTING CROWNS

#3

I Love You Lord

CITIPONTE WORSHIP

#4

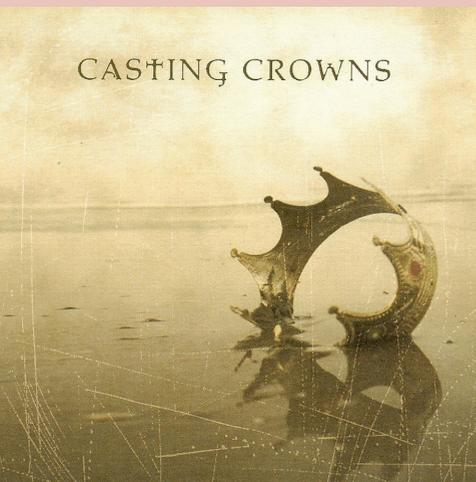
Extravagant

BETHEL MUSIC

#5

Tak Terukur KasihMu Yesus

SYMPHONY WORSHIP



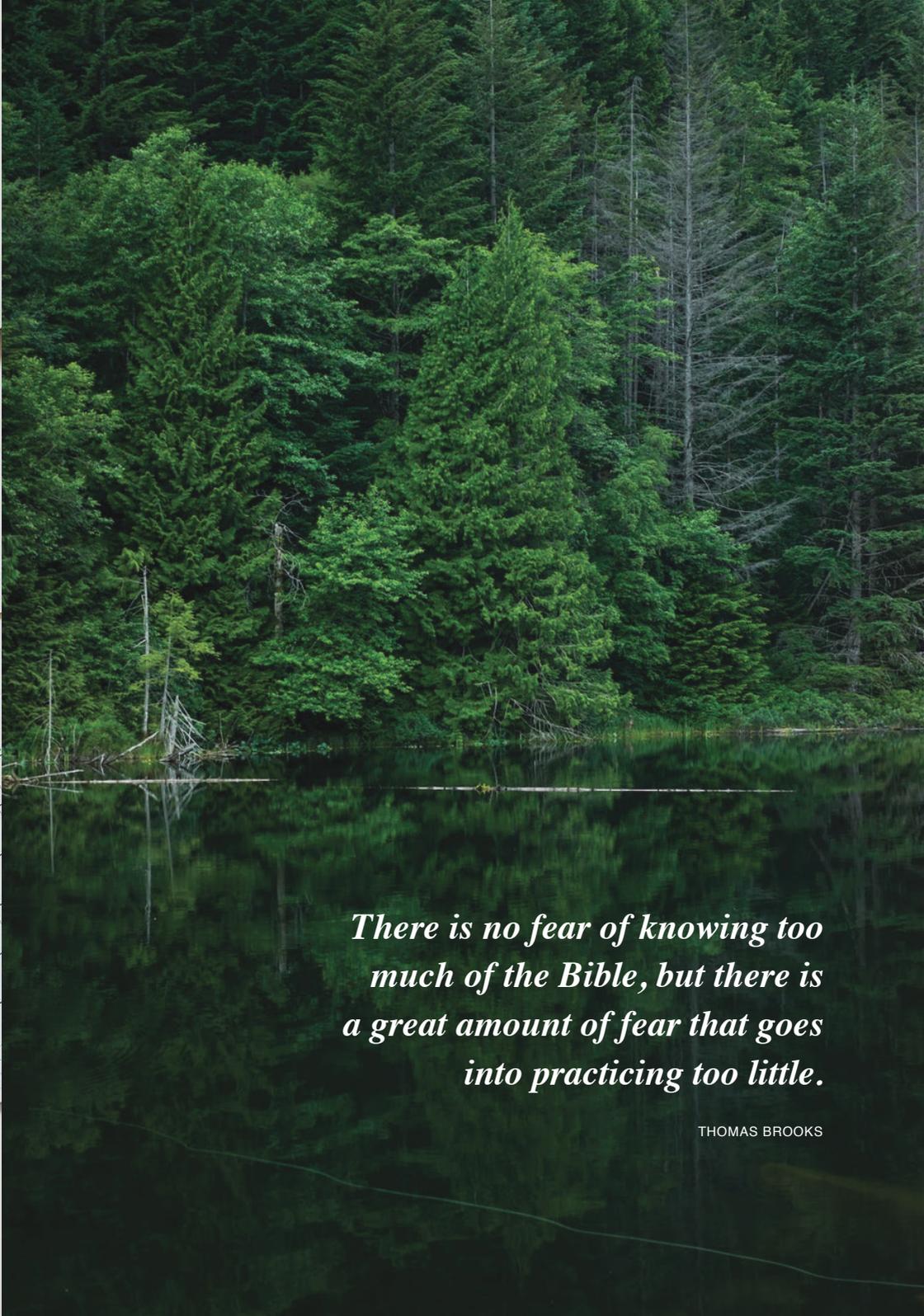
You can find the complete playlist in Spotify



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



A photograph of a dense forest of evergreen trees, likely spruce or fir, reflected in a calm body of water. The water is very still, creating a clear mirror image of the trees above. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of green, from deep forest greens to lighter, vibrant greens. The lighting appears to be natural, possibly during the day, given the clarity of the reflections.

*There is no fear of knowing too
much of the Bible, but there is
a great amount of fear that goes
into practicing too little.*

THOMAS BROOKS