

HOLY FOR A GODLY GROWTH

"Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow."(Colossians 2: 18-19, NIV)

Last April we celebrated Easter, where we pondered about the One who rose from the dead and overcame death. Thank God for giving us victory by Jesus Christ, our Lord (1 Corinthians 15:57). Based on our topic for this year, let us continue to be sanctified and perfected continuing to grow into members of the Body of Christ that gets stronger spiritually. We have pondered a lot and explored together about how we can be sanctified and perfected by God, both through sermons that have been delivered from the beginning of the year to the present day and through discussions on sub-topics in the cellgroups that we have done together every week. We must indeed become an increasingly holy and perfect church at the end of this age, especially in the face of covid-19 which has spread almost all over the world. If we have been saved because of His grace, we are challenged to go ahead and be sanctified to continue to grow divinely in preparing ourselves to welcome the Lord's second coming.

Our guideline for this May (Colossians 2: 18-19) reminds us not to let the victory that God has bestowed upon us be thwarted by anyone or anything. At the end of this age many spiritual leaders boast of their greatness and exaggerate themselves with worldly thoughts as happened in Colosse at that time, but in fact they did not hold fast to the Lord Jesus as the Head who led His entire body. We need to be sanctified by God (1 Corinthians 1:30) and receive godly growth in the face of this difficult situation. There is a virus that is actually more dangerous than covid-19, which is fear. Fear does not only weaken our immune system, but can inhibit our spiritual growth. Even fearful people are called candidates who share in hell (Revelation 21: 8). Therefore let us be saints and be a generation of conquerors, even more than conquerors (Romans 8:37).

In May as his church we commemorate two historic events. First, the anniversary of Jesus' ascension to heaven (Christi Himmelfahrt), which took place after 40 days of commemoration of His resurrection from His death. Second, the commemoration of the day of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit or Pentecost (Pfingsten), which occurred 10 days later after the anniversary of His ascension day. These events remind us of the historic events in Acts where the early church was born and developed so rapidly because many of disciples' lives of the early church were sanctified and received godly growth because of the work of the Holy Spirit. The principles of life as members of God's family that are filled with the Holy Spirit and who grow godly are what we will ponder together throughout this May.

The Holy Spirit had been the driving dynamo of the revival of the early church, so that each member in the fellowship of the body of Christ could grow godly and practiced their gifts for the building up of the body of Christ. Let the Pentecostal experience that occurred in the life of the early church also occur in the life of the Indonesian Missionary Church (GMI) in each city. Congratulations to commemorate the ascension of the Lord Jesus and the day of Pentecost 2020. Amen!

By Silwanus Obadja M.Th.