



Refleksi



Blessed To Be Blessings

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Would it be easy for you to jot down things you are grateful for?

The 2023-2024 academic year is over.

The internship (Praktek Kerja Industri) program and its report have done.

Managed to finish the thesis and passed the thesis defence.

Joined the live-in program and experienced life with a new family for a moment.

Participated in the Table Manners program to experience the art of dining.

Have you ever noticed that even though you are in your fifth semester, it seems like you entered the Program Pengenalan Kampus only yesterday? Or perhaps you feel like you graduated from high school yesterday and are now a STARKI graduate. The process seems dragged out, exhausting, and tearful, but when it's done, thank God! I have the chance to attend college. Have you also ever thought that your involvement in the Student Senate or UKM was just a coincidence? Let's thank God that we are given the capacity and confidence to take charge and be an active team member.

God's Grace is Always Enough

We are able to experience the goodness of God in several ways daily. But because they are common, we frequently take them for granted as God's favor. We believe that everything is OK and doesn't need to be exaggerated. Take the folks that are in our immediate vicinity. For those of us who have lived with our parents up until this point, have we ever expressed our appreciation for not having to constantly hunt meals on our own or even purchase drinks because everything has been provided for us? Another thing is that we also tend to see God's blessings as mere coincidences. For example, meeting a junior high school friend and going to

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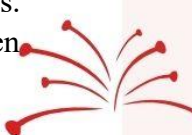
college at the same campus. We were just acquaintances in junior high school, but since then, we have reconnected in college and become close friends. Is there a coincidence here? Relative to us it may appear to be by chance. But relative to God, who directs everything according to His divine plan, nothing occurs by chance (Broussard, n.d.). This companion is a gift from God to us.



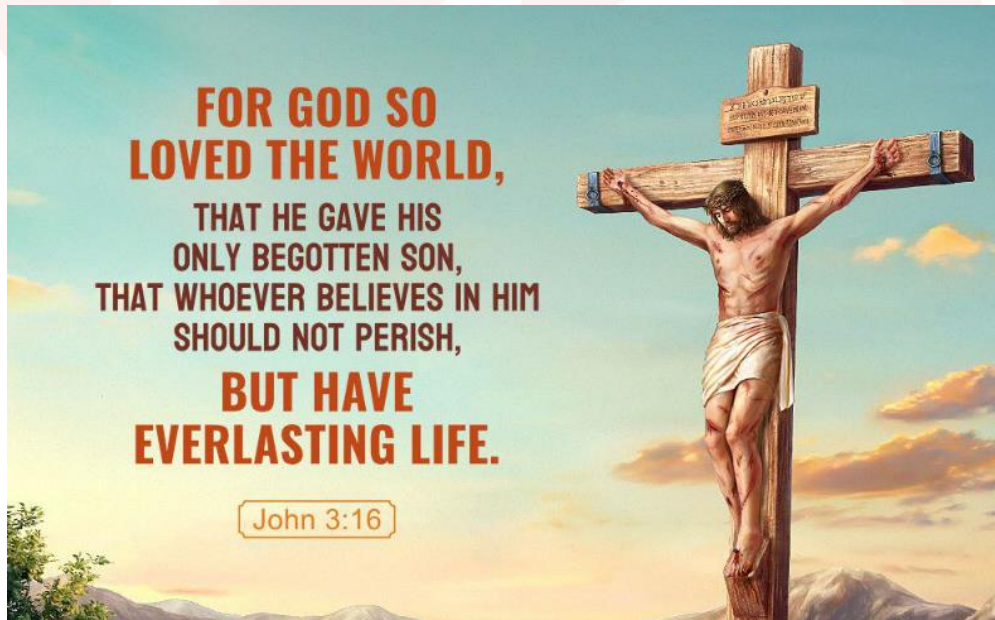
Nevertheless, it is a gift from God that we can still live today, that we have health, a family, the ability to pursue an education, a sufficient income, and the ability to make friends with people we didn't know before. God's grace is enough for us to live our daily lives. God has provided us with all we need, regardless of what we do.

He Chooses to Love You, and You Can't Make Him Stop Loving You

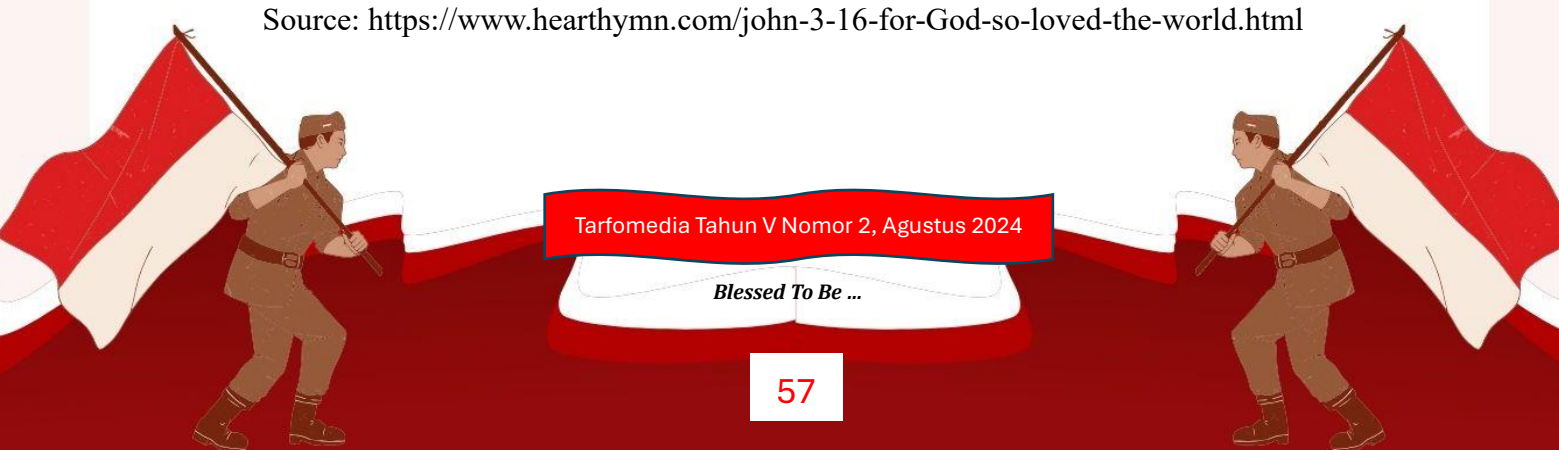
Everybody has experienced anxiety, fear, hurt, pain, and despair at some point in their lives. But try to remember that God's grace is always there to help us through difficult and even painful times so that we can ultimately feel loved by God. Blessings from God are abundant.



In 2 Corinthians 12:9 it says that 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness'. God is with us and keeps us safe even at our darkest moments, till we realize that it's a process we have to go through. God intends to lead us down a better path. The good news is that these difficult experiences make us stronger, wiser, and more equipped to handle future challenges.



Source: <https://www.hearthymn.com/john-3-16-for-God-so-loved-the-world.html>



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We are all extremely familiar with the above passage from the Gospel of John. This verse makes it obvious that God loves us unconditionally and with great love. This verse's essential message is that God loves us because of who He is and what He has done, not because of who we are or what we have done. God created us. He loves us. Period! God will not stop loving us even when we make mistakes. Even if the mistakes are repeated. God has already committed to loving us. Unconditionally! No matter what!



It is truly amazing how God's grace never fails or is late. It's not by chance that God has provided us with all the resources we need for life. He has given us numerous opportunities to grow and learn, as well as abilities, skills, and talents. Do we still have the right to be insecure and to worry a lot after realizing all of that? Do we really deserve to only think about our own interests and be afraid of running out of time to serve God and others?

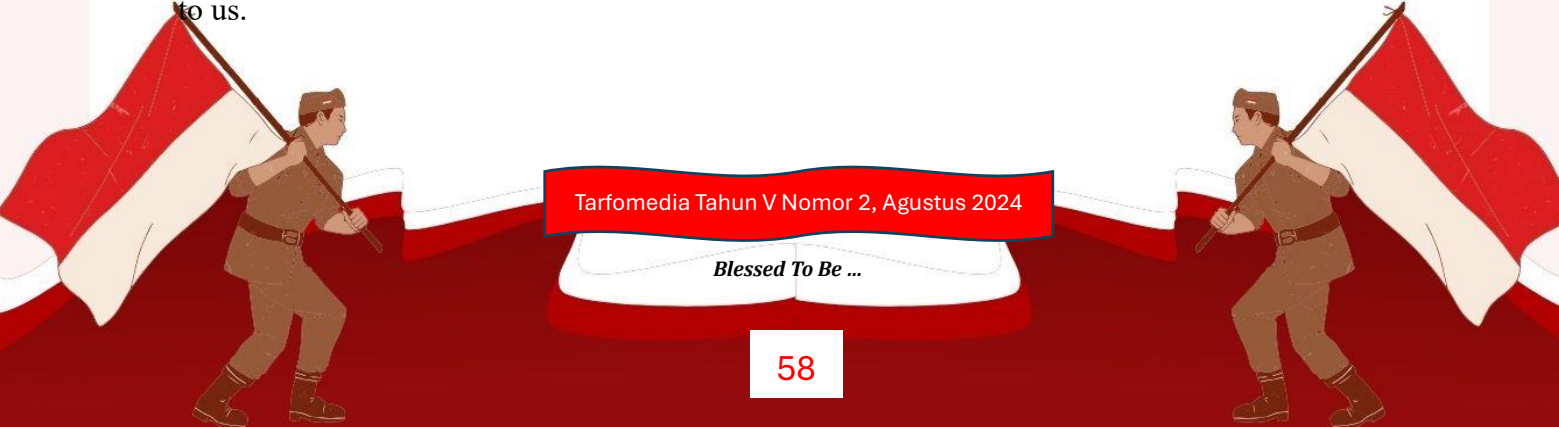
Your Talent is God's Give to You. What You Do with It is Your Gift Back to God

The gifts of God in life are incredibly varied. Among these is the blessing of talent, an innate ability that distinguishes us apart from most others. As an example, I chose to start taking guitar lessons when I was fifteen years old. I felt that my friend, who began learning with me, had truly flexible hands after a few months of learning. He could play a guitar to accompany someone who was singing. As for me, I frequently forget where my fingers should be and still have to replicate the chords even in easy songs. Despite having started and progressed together, our guitar-playing abilities are different. Another illustration is the existence of persons who provide delicious meals and receive validation from those who enjoy them. Those people don't have to put in a lot of effort to learn how to cook or to study special education in the culinary arts, but they can still make a lot of delicious food. Here's what I want to say: because God has given us gifts, let's give them back to Him in respect for His grace.



God Doesn't Give You Blessings So You Can Keep What You Already Have. He blesses you so you can bless others!

God created us because He needs us. When God created us, He put a mission in our lives. God created us so that we can contribute to life together with others, with other people whom He also loves. God needs us to contribute to His work of salvation. God needs us to bring joy to His creations. It is written in the Ecclesiastical Document Series No. 84 that building the Church for the salvation of the world is the task of all believers, both priests, monks and laypeople (Departemen Dokumentasi dan Penerangan Konferensi Waligereja Indonesia, 2015). Thus, the capacity to serve others is a gift given to every one of us. When we begin serving, our service can be specific because each of us has talents, abilities, skills, uniqueness that God has entrusted to us.



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Source: <https://images.app.goo.gl/6QookBYazeyBcK3P7>

Let's look at the puzzle picture. Each puzzle piece has a different shape, size, image and color. No single puzzle piece is the same, but all are important to complete the picture. Likewise with our roles wherever we are, the role as a child/brother/sister in the family, as a student, as a member/manager of an organization, as a member of a community. No one is an expert in everything who can take care of everything. You need me and I need you. No one can live alone. We need each other to complement each other, because each of us has gifts, talents, abilities, uniqueness, which are entrusted by God. What positive impact can I make on my community with the gifts that God has given me? Adapting to my personality, what can I provide? Considering my background and experience, what knowledge can I offer to the community?

In summary, remember that God loves us and that His grace is sufficient for everyday living. He wants us to use the resources, skills, talents, and gifts he has given us to serve others. As a token of our appreciation for all the blessings God has bestowed upon us and as a contribution to His work of salvation, let us continue to bless others.

Bibliography

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