

**Audacious Celebration**  
**"Too Good to Not Believe..."**  
**September 19th, 2021**

**Intro:**

- **Wow! What a 40 days it has been!!!**
  - **We're so proud of 100's of you who took this journey together!!!**
  - **It's been awesome to hear your "Faith Conversations!" around the church!**
  
- **Today is all about Celebrating what God has done!**
  
- **As Busy Humans, we aren't good at stopping to celebrate, are we?**
  - **Neither were God's People!!!**

**A. JESUS AND THE LEPERS ILL.**

- **Only 1 returned to Praise Him!!!**

**Luke 17:15-16 "One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan."**

**B. In the OT, God knew that, so He instituted 7 "Feasts" or "Festivals" in O.T.**

- **7 x's a year, He made them stop what they were doing & just come together & celebrate His goodness & His faithfulness to them through the year & through the years to their ancestors!**
  - **He made them "Tell the Stories!"**

**Leviticus 23:1-2 "The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies."**

**C. When God delivered His people from ruin in the time of Esther, this was their response...**

Esther 9:21 "...have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration."

- So today, that's what we're going to do!!!

- Before we RUSH into the "Next..." we are going to STOP & Tell stories & Celebrate & Give God thanks & Praise!!!

PRAY

### 1. There's Power in Testimony.

Revelation 12:11a "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony..." (NKJV)

A. Def: "Overcome" - Greek - *NIKE* - Which means "Victory" & it always implies a Battle of some sort!!!

#### B. Testimonies build our Faith.

- Hearing the story of a battle someone has gone through & come out victorious on the other side builds our faith, doesn't it???

#### C. Testimony builds other's faith.

- When we share the story of the Battles we've been through & how God has brought us out the other side, Others are Encouraged & Strengthened in their faith!!!

#### D. Our Faith was never intended to be Private!

- Our Relationship with God is Private, but our Faith is not!

#### E. Whenever Jesus healed someone they always went & told people!

- Even when He told them not to!!!

- That's how the gospel spreads!!!

**F. It is RIGHT for all of us to be telling others about what God has done for us!!!**

**- Challenge: Who are you telling about Jesus & what He's done for you???**

## **2. There's Power in Celebration.**

**A. Praise & Celebration is a Powerful Spiritual Discipline.**

**- Praise is not just the "Fast Song" at the beginning of our Time together on Sundays!**

**- Praise is stopping to Magnify how Great & Awesome our God is!**

**Psalm 150:6 "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord."**

**Psalm 103:1 "Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name."**

**Psalm 28:7 "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him."**

**Psalm 9:1 "I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."**

**B. Celebrating what God has done for us & for others is powerful!**

**...So let's do this... Let's Pause & Praise our God for some of His answered prayers over these past 40 days!!!**

**TESTIMONIES PORTION: (Keys underneath)**

**1. Augi & Karen - Finding a Church Home! - Email from their son!!!**

**- PICTURE of them serving in Cape Coral???**

**2. Jasmin - Quit her job - NYC - G-ma / New job / \$4K more / Can't wait to tithe**

**- "They were going to give me \$4,000 more a year than what I asked for!!!! I CANNOT WAIT FOR MY 1ST CHECK TO TITHE!!!!"**

**3. Denton - Moved from NH / God provided a Job!**

**- " From unemployed to hired to full time to promoted all in under 40 days. And He's not done yet! Praise the Lord!"**

**4. Kelly Henderson - More Business in 40 days / More in 1 mo than all last yr**

**- "When this 40 day prayer challenge is over, I'm going to start it over again! God is so good!"**

**5. Kristin Davie - \$50K in Debt paid off in 2 years!**

**- "Over \$50K in debt is now gone!"**

### **ELVIN & TIFFANY ON STAGE - 3 MINUTES**

**1. Jennifer & Justin Diaz - 5 Jobs / Refinance for FREE / Marital Healing!**

**- "The financial freedom that has happen has lifted the tension in our marriage and now we can enjoy our days instead of worrying how we were going to make more hours in the day to work."**

**2. Ann - 50 Years of Smoking - Quit / Lost 14 lbs since Aug 15 / Diabetes**

**- " After 50 years of smoking, God took away my obsession and I smoked my last cigarette August 15th."**

**3. Marijuana Addiction - August 15th - No Desire!!!**

**- "I told the Lord you are the only One that is able to remove this stronghold from my life. Since August 15th I have not ONCE had the desire to turn to anything but God when it comes to the worries of this world. If He did it for me, He will do it for you!"**

### **SCOTT JONES - 1 MINUTE - VIDEO TESTIMONY - Revival at his School!!!**

**1. East - God healed a Bunion!**

**- "I actually saw the bunion getting smaller! Its half the size it was before."**

2. **Faye - NC - Parkinson's - Doing Nothing is NOT doing Nothing!**
  - " During this time of 40 days of prayer, I keep seeking God and His direction, and saying to God, "well I can't just do Nothing!" and God continues to say to me, that doing nothing IS doing something!"
  
3. **Atheist Husband / COVID FREE - He is now a Believer!!!**
  - " God SHOWED him the POWER OF PRAYER! HE is now a believer!"
  
4. **Anonymous - Friend getting saved in these 40 days!**
  - "This individual went from not believing, to having a small conversation with another about Jesus. Then to asking questions about the faith, to building up courage to come to church. Then to sitting at the alter praying for salvation! And now asking about next steps."

**Ending:**

**? So where do we go from here?**

### **1. Keep Praying.**

- Just b/c the 40 days are over doesn't mean our concentrated effort of prayer has to end!
- Some of you put some new disciplines in place these last 6 weeks, don't stop them!!!

### **2. Keep Believing.**

- Some of us are still waiting...
  - Will we praise before the breakthrough?
- We don't just praise Him for what He has DONE, but what we believe He will do!

### **3. Keep Telling the Stories & Giving God the Glory!**

**MERGE - TOO GOOD TO NOT BELIEVE SONG**

