

(SLIDE 1) Overflow 2021

Week 2: Taste & See

Recap, Empty Me Week from the Overflow book. Any testimonies?

I messaged my friend Jason Branson from back home in Georgia and asked him if he could sum up week 1 for me and here is what he said, *“The emptying of me is the key. It’s the only part that God is waiting on me. He can’t, He won’t, mingle His glory with my corruption. When I’m empty of me, then I can experience His fullness.”*

Which Day was the hardest for you personally?

Topics from Week 1:

1. Worldliness
2. Distractions
3. Deceptions
4. Selfishness
5. Pride
6. Offense
7. Unforgiveness

For me, I will have to say it was around Day 5, offense. Especially when I turned went to check a certain news site I visit to get caught up on my daily dose of crazy in the world and found that on that particular day the world seemed unusually crazy.

Let’s take a minute and pray for our nation before I get started this morning. (Ask Kris K to pray)

If you haven’t look ahead to week two, get ready because it is going to be awesome!

(SLIDE 2) Have you ever had a moment in life where you discovered how good something was?

Shortly after our family moved to Montana, I was told of a pretty interesting restaurant a

couple hours north of here in Eureka that featured a burger called the “Huckleberry Burger”.

Now this burger wasn’t a normal burger, in fact it featured a scoop of huckleberry ice cream on it.

Like you just had if you haven’t tasted or seen it, my first thought was, eeee...

Honestly it didn’t sound tasty at all. But I was bound and determine to try it. The time came, our kids sports schedule took us to Eureka!

(SLIDE 3) I ordered the burger, and when it landed before me it didn’t look very good at all, I mean who puts ice cream on a burger?!

The moment came, my taste buds were of the charts questioning my decision to eat what I was about too. I took a bite...

Boom! It was one of the most delicious things (outside of tacos) that I’ve ever put in my mouth!

It was weird, yes, it was uncomfortable the build up, yes, to other people it sounded crazy! But in that moment, I was able to Taste & See that the Burger was awesome!

Why am I sharing this story on week 2 of a fast?

(SLIDE 4) Here’s what I know about living in the overflow, it sounds weird to go after God in the ways we’ve dedicated ourselves to do it over this 21-day period but it’s completely worth it! To some, it sounds crazy! Why would you do that to yourself?

Can I say that just like that burger, it wasn’t until I tasted & seen for myself just how amazing God can and will be in your life during this season of Overflow!

(SLIDE 5) In the book of Psalms, we find David writing about an experience he had with the

king of the Amalekites. It's a moment where David was running for his life from the pursuit of Saul.

It's a moment David felt safer with his arch enemy than with King Saul.

You can take a journey back to 2 Samuel and find where David acts insane before the king. So much so, that the king dismisses David due to his inanity.

(SLIDE 6) Think about that, David, the anointed king, a man after God's own heart, seeking asylum with the Philistines. Anybody remember who David killed as a shepherd boy? Goliath.

David actually entered into his enemy's gates carrying the sword of Goliath when he was shown to the king.

(SLIDE 7) Read what he writes as he expresses himself in Psalms 34:8, "Taste and See that the Lord is Good, oh the Joys of those who take refuge in him."

How many of you are thankful for the Refuge we find in the shadow of the almighty? Amen!

David acting like a madman, in the courts of an enemy finds refuge in Tasting and Seeing how awesome God is!

No matter who you are, or where you're at in this life, you could be on the run like David, or you could be living the life of the prodigal son partying it up in a distant land, yet God still has a plan, he still has a purpose for you! He has an abundance of Overflow readily available to you! Why? Because he loves you!

(SLIDE 8) What I've found to be a scary truth in life is that Although God has an abundance of overflow available & waiting for us, most people look at the overflow with a certain fear of the unknown...

(SLIDE 9) What if I speak in tongues?

What if I lift my hands and get lost in my worship?

What if I have to share my faith with my co-workers?

What if I'm convicted of something I don't want to give up?

(SLIDE 10) Fear of the unknown has a way of paralyzing the believer and preventing them to experience all that God has for them...

Take a minute and let's look back at that burger for a minute.

(SLIDE 11) It wasn't until I took a risk, it wasn't until I tasted and seen that it was awesome that I believed it for myself.

(SLIDE 12) Distractions, unrealistic expectations, bitterness, offense, and above all the fear of going all in brings us to a place of compromise...

Settling for the good enough, and not the more than enough.

Overflow is available to every believer, but you've got to be willing to push past the excuses and fears the enemy has set forth in front of you.

Let's focus on the meat of this scripture one more time, "Taste and See that the Lord is Good."

(SLIDE 13) Tasting is an action word. In fact, get ready for this, Webster defines the root word Taste as; "to become acquainted with by experience"

Experience! All it takes is one experience with God to change everything!

(SLIDE 14) Here is a crazy thought, what if we stopped coming on Sundays for the sake of gathering and started coming on Sundays with

the expectation of experiencing God in an amazing way!

Life's are restored!

Families are renewed!

Hearts are mended!

Marriages are reconciled!

Cancer is healed!

With just one experience entire families are changed for generations!

Just one touch!

(SLIDE 15) To experience overflow you must set yourself up for a tasting experience with the presence of God!

Listen to this, He desires to have communion with you, not just in an intimate moment with some juice and a wafer, but on a daily basis with you where he is walking with you and talking with you... in other words he desires to fellowship with you!

Doesn't sound like a God who is mad at you, but a God who is madly in Love with you!

One touch, one experience, overflow!

(SLIDE 16) No matter how weird, unconventional, irresponsible, impossible, it may seem, it's time to take a step towards experiencing him in a real, life changing, powerful way!

(SLIDE 17) When was the last time you allowed doubt to stand in the way of breakthrough?

Experience the Overflow, by setting yourself up to Taste it no matter the cost! Because not going there is costing you more than you know!

I want to Taste revival! In our homes, families, church, and community!

(SLIDE 18) But wait, there's more, how about the Seeing?!

(SLIDE 19) Webster has a few definitions for the root word, See. Here are a few:

1. To imagine as a possibility
2. To come to know or discover
3. Finally, to have an experience!

(SLIDE 20) Ever heard the phrase "seeing is believing"?

If you study the New Testament, you'll find a guy the church world has given a bad wrap too. His name was Thomas.

(SLIDE 21) Known by most of the church world as "doubting Thomas".

(SLIDE 22-23) Here is the story in John 20: 24-29

⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ **So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"**

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

(SLIDE 24) (SEEING IS BELIEVING) It's hard to see the benefits of the Overflow when we look around and see all the negative things that are happening in our world today isn't it.

Thomas was facing a negative situation in his life if you think about it, Jesus had been crucified, word had gotten around that the grave was empty. It looked like things were falling apart in his life.

Thomas makes this declaration to the other disciples out of what I believe was desperation.

Why would you not want to believe that JESUS had NOT risen from the grave. Especially after you had seen the miracles...

(Slide 25-27) Then this happens...

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, **“Peace be with you!”** ²⁷ **Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”**

28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

You have to understand that in this moment Thomas is confronted with Jesus and Jesus says that those who believe without seeing are blessed, but does that mean people who chase proof aren't blessed either? No.

Cause if that were the case Thomas would have quit right there, thrown in the towel, walked away, but look what happens in Thomas life... It's believed that the Apostle Thomas traveled to India, China, Mongolia, and throughout Asia preaching the gospel.

(SLIDE 28) It is believed that Thomas ultimately gave his life up as a Martyr preaching the gospel.

Thomas had an encounter.

(SLIDE 29) Thomas had a moment of doubt that led to a pivotal point in his life and calling so we can't allow doubt to stop us from seeing...

Here is what I know, it's okay to question the overflow, some will jump right in and that is okay, some however, need to taste and see how amazing God is before they dive in.

It's when you really see for the first time that you really get it!

(SLIDE 30) One moment of sight led Thomas to not give up but dive in the overflow! Willing to give it all for the sake of the gospel. What will happen when you chose to dive in?

Sometimes our doubt can cloud our sight, but if you handle it right your doubt can lead you on a journey to sight.

(SLIDE 31) Here is what I know: Doubt can either create a barrier or it can create a path.

As a student pastor for the past 20 years, I have challenged students who were swimming in doubt to look at the evidence and prove me wrong.

In 20 years, I have not had one student come back with proof, do you know why?

(SLIDE 32) The Overflow is Genuine, it's Real, and its Relevant, because it's based in the abundant Love Jesus has for you!

(CLOSING)

(SLIDE 33) So, as I close this morning, I want to ask you a question, are you fearful of where the overflow will take you? Or maybe you are here today, and you come in this place with Doubts?

If your answer is Yes to either of these two questions, I challenge you to journey with us on this 21-day kick-off to the greatest journey of your life.

21 Days that will help you dive into the abundance of the love that Jesus has waiting just for you.

(SLIDE 34) When you move out of the way and give God his proper place, when you decide to Taste and See that He Is Good, that is where the Overflow begins, and that is where breakthrough will happen!

As I have challenged my students for the past several years in youth ministry, I look to you, the adults, the parents, and I say, if you don't believe it, prove me wrong.

Set up and work through the spiritual disciplines that Pastor Bonnie shared with you last week.

Spend 21 minutes a day Praying, Reading the Bible, turn the secular music off and turn up the worship music in your car, or what you put in your ears.

It's hard to get a curse out of a blessing isn't it? So, why would a God who is intimately in Love with us set us up to fail?

God used David who was acting insane on the run, and a Man who people still call doubting Thomas to experience Overflow, they were not defined by those moments, so just think what he can and will do through you when you Taste and See!

Imagine the breakthrough, the impact you will have on this valley when you dive in and go after Jesus with a reckless abandonment!

(PRAY)