

**A Journey with John | “Giving Testimony” | Pastor Doug Brown |
Sunday, April 28th, 2024**

Worship Greeter: Natani Contreras prayerfully encouraged everyone by reading Ps. 27:4-6~
You are worthy, You deserve praise regardless of the season of life we experience.

Worship Leader: Mike Escalera

Worship song #1: “*Great Are You Lord*” sang “You give life, You are Love, You restore brokenhearts, it’s Your breath in our lungs. We pour out our praise to You only. *Great Are You Lord.*”

Worship song #2: “*We Give the Highest Praise*” sang “Jesus our Hope and Strength, You made a way to break our chains. You deserve it all! Jesus has overcome, We Give You the Highest Praise. Day and night, night and day, let incense arise. *We Give You the Highest Praise.*”

Pastor Christian followed worship to encourage and pray that God is worthy of it all! He shared *1 Corinthians 10:31*, encouraging everyone to do everything to the glory of God. God wants to be present in everything we do.

Christy Eskes led announcements. She introduced video announcements that were led by Caleb and Samuel. They shared these upcoming events:
May 4 Mother’s Day Brunch, May 11 Men’s Breakfast, May 18 Youth Adults softball game. Additionally on May 11 the Saturday Outreach will focus on praying for people and teaming up with the city of Pomona for street cleaning. Lastly, May 25, BBQ and Prayer.

Along with the video, Christy also shared the May 24 Youth Prayer Night at 6:30 pm. There was video of the kids giving testimonials for the upcoming Kingz Kidz Skillz Camp June 24-27. They shared testimonials about their favorite experiences and learning new skills.

Christy encouraged tithes and offerings which honor God as our gift offerings. She read from *Matthew 22:11* which teaches about tithes being gifts out of our abundance of thankfulness.

There are many components in today’s sermon. It is highly recommended to watch Pastor Doug’s sermon video for his detailed presentation. There are several slides that focus on God’s Word to spend time reading and meditating upon. As well, there are sermon segments that highlight the roles of Jesus giving testimony to the Father, and a powerful video from two church members that experienced healing from prayer.

1. Pastor Doug opened today's service sharing and announcing a Slide for the upcoming May 2 National Day of Prayer event. Join us as we pray and intercede over our nation and city.

Today's sermon is entitled ***Giving Testimony*** as part of our ongoing series in the book of John.

The series is entitled **A Journey with John.**

Pastor Doug prayed that 'the Lord would give us everything that please You. Do with us what You wish as long as it pleases You. Amen'

There were several Slides that opened *John 5:31-47*.

The opening verses 31-40 focused on Jesus' *testimony*. Pastor Doug shared testimony examples from court transcripts between attorneys and witnesses. There are several humorous examples found in the sermon video.

Pastor Doug noted that in Jesus' day, it was required to have 2 witnesses giving *testimony*.

In today's verses we see Jesus giving *testimony* about Himself and His Deity. His audience in the testimonial teaching are the Jewish leaders. He refers to His Father and the works He was doing as proof of His Deity v 36.

In v 37 Jesus gives testimony that *His Father* testified on His behalf in the Old Testament however the Jewish leaders didn't accept this testimony.

In v 35 Jesus testifies that John the Baptist was a light pointing to Him as Messiah. This was John's testimony. Jesus' ministry was greater than John the Baptists' ministry.

Jesus was 100% human, and 100% God.

Share what your reaction was at first when learning that Jesus was both 100% human and 100% Deity. How do you share this with people who may have never been taught the principle?

2. Pastor Doug shared that in v 39 Jesus gave *testimony* that God's Word testified about Him as Messiah.

In v 40 Jesus states that the Jewish leaders believed the Scriptures using their special interpretative approach. They did not believe or accept that Jesus fulfilled the role of Messiah.

Pastor Doug shared a Slide that included six **Scriptural** references to the *testimonies* of Jesus:

1. **The Testimony of Christ's Deity. vv 31-47**
2. **The Testimony of John the Baptist. John 5:33**
3. **The Testimony of the works of Jesus. John 5:36**
4. **The Testimony of the Father. John 5:37**
5. **The Testimony of the Scriptures. John 5:39**
6. **The Testimony of Moses in particular. John 5:45**

Pastor Doug also shared a Slide of the MCU image better known as Marvel Cinematic Universe or Marvel Comics. The superhero was aware of people's struggles.

Pastor Doug pointed out that Jesus was 100% human and 100% God, yet He knew from experience about people's struggles.

Pastor Doug reflectively asked and invited everyone to *allow God's Word to find room in their hearts and lives*. This was supported by a Slide that included Six examples of **Opposition** from the Jewish leaders toward *Jesus' testimony*:

1. **They refused the Word. v 38**
2. **They wouldn't come to Him. v 40**
3. **They had no love for God. v 42**
4. **They would not receive Him. v 43**
5. **They sought honor from men and not from God. v 44**
6. **They would not listen to His Word. v 47**

Share how you would explain the compassion Jesus displayed to the needs of people. How did this impact the people He was in fellowship with?

3. Pastor Doug shared that *Self Talk* is an example of frequent opposition to finding room for God in our lives. Often the Self Talk is *self judgmental and self critical*. He reflectively asked each person *what about your personal Self Talk?*

Pastor Doug shared a Slide that offered self reflection: ***“You cannot afford to think anything about yourself that God does not think.”***

We are called to push against depression and despair and instead embrace praise of God *testimony*. Pastor Doug reminded everyone he wasn't referring to systems of thinking like the power of suggestion. More importantly, he was referring to *speaking scriptural truth about God's view of you*.

Self Talk done intentionally daily using Scripture changes lives. He shared a Slide that included *Isaiah 55:11* that teaches the impact of speaking aloud words of Identity from God's view.

Also, *Proverbs 18:21* that teaches the power of the tongue that has the power of life or death.

Share how you intentionally use God's view in your Self Talk. Is your routine of saying it aloud done daily? If you have taken our Identity class, what's your go to Power Prayer when doing the Self Talk?

4. Pastor Doug shared a Slide that included several ***Making Declaration self affirmation statements*** that emphasized God's view of our lives. We all read the declarations **aloud**. A couple of examples: ***“I believe Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” Or, “The Truth will set me free.”*** The full list is included in the sermon video.

Another Slide included *John 2:24-25*. This emphasized that Jesus was *discerning* who He trusted. Also, a Slide with *Acts 4:10* which focused on Jesus changing everything.

Pastor Doug shared a Slide that highlighted the image of Chris Pratt who gave testimony of his life on Maui and how Jesus changed his life.

Pastor Doug reflectively asked **what's important to you?** *Is it people's praise or God's view of your Identity*. He shared a Slide that included *John 7:18* which teaches Jesus giving testimony about His Father. *John 8:54* is Jesus teaching the Jewish leaders that His Father glorifies Him which is found in the Word.

Pastor Doug shared that the Jewish leaders' hard hearts dismissed Jesus' points referencing the Old Testament confirming Him as Messiah. Jesus refers to the Old Testament in vv 46-47 teaching the Jewish leaders that they didn't believe what Moses wrote about Him, so they would be challenged to believe what He taught.

How do the statements in the Making Declaration list assist your Identity? Will you incorporate them into your daily Self Talk routine?

5. Pastor Doug shared two Slides of *testimonials* that pointed to the power of God to heal. The first is Jeff Belleview who received prayer recently for neck pains. The second was Alejandra Vachon who experienced neck pain and received healing and restoration. Both video testimonials are part of the sermon video.

Next Pastor Doug invited anyone in the sanctuary with one of the nine physical pains or challenges to receive prayer from those nearby:

1. **High blood pressure and dizziness.**
2. **Left shoulder rotator cup pain.**
3. **Left foot or toe injury pain.**
4. **Bronchitis breathing issues.**
5. **Beginning of glaucoma.**
6. **Cessation of smoking.**
7. **Twisted intestines-stomach issues.**
8. **Rheumatism joint pain.**
9. **Right wrist pain from past surgery.**

Pastor Doug then prayed that the spirit of injury and affliction would be broken. Those nearby the individuals in the 9 groups gathered next to them and prayed for the specific healing requested.

He invited hands to raise if someone had 80% or better improvement then allowed for additional prayer with those with less than 80%.

Closing worship sang: *"You are my champion, giants fall when You stand. You're undefeated in every battle. You crown me with confidence. I am seated in the heavenly places with the One who conquered it all."*

Pastor Doug shared and prayed to close today's service that *Jesus' burden is light.*

He invited reflection in the week ahead for everyone to *ask what God is doing in your life.* If you experience negative *Self Talk*, to invite God to replace it with *Self Talk* of God's view of you, do it daily and intentionally.

Our Identity class offers tools for the resources to focus on *Self Talk.*

There is healing in God's Hands. Amen.