

## Overflow 2024 Post-Event Message

Main Idea: God is still working in you.

Scripture: Phil 1:1-11

- Overflow was Awesome!!!!
- I can't believe that one really cool thing happened!
- I was surprised by that challenging situation, but we got through and God is faithful.
- Of course I am making this up.
- I'm recording this well before the event happened.
- But in this moment I'm thinking about life after Overflow.
- For me and our team Overflow is a lot of work.
- We begin preparing for Overflow in July.
- Like less than 2 months after the event, we begin to think about what the next year could look like.
- First off, we spend some time reflecting on what our positives were.
  - People really seemed to like the \_\_\_\_\_ (Fill in the blank)
  - I feel like we can never do \_\_\_\_\_ again.
- From there, right around September is when we finalize the theme.
- So this year was masterpiece, next year will be.... I don't know yet.
- We spend some time dreaming, updating our plans, and trying to be creative on what we are going to do.
- Then right around the end of September, we start to choose the worship teams.

- October and November we finalize the rest of our teams. ... admin, hosts, pastors, etc.
- Dec 1 is always the target for our promo of the theme and the graphics.
- That is not very far away.
- Once the event ends, what does that look like for you?
- Like when you get home, whether it is late Saturday or on Sunday, what is the first thing you do.
- For the last couple of years, one of the Overflow Sites has been in London, which is where I live, so as I drive home typically with a full car of stuff from the event I am exhausted.
- I walk into my house, carrying my bags from the event and I just want to put them down and crash in my bed.
- Often my wife will want to have a debrief and talk about what happened.
- Last year was the first year that my daughter went with her group, so naturally we will want to hear about how the event went from her perspective.
- Which makes me reflect on when I was a youth pastor.
- I used to take a group to Overflow and I can always remember the quiet bus ride back to our church.
- But then in the days to come, almost everyone in my life, whether it was other pastors at our church, parents, my family, or others, they would all want to hear about the event.
- Then on the following Thursday night (that's when our youth group met) we would have what we called a Testimony night.

- So we would invite students to share what God did.
- A "Testimony" is a written or spoken record of what God has done in your heart and life.
- Bill Johnson in his book "Strengthen Yourself in the Lord" talks about Testimonies and says, "When we declare what God has done, power is released to make that testimony happen again in the lives of those who hear it."
- There is something incredibly valuable about sharing what God has done.
- Now, we often think that Testimonies have to be this elaborate thing.... Like God healed me of having to breathe oxygen.
- Ok, maybe that is too far... but we tend to feel like we have to have this CRAZY elaborate moment in order to have a testimony, but that simply isn't true.
- Perhaps at Overflow, you felt closer to God.
- TESTIMONY!
- Perhaps you feel like God encouraged you to change a habit or a thought pattern ... as in I'm going to stop believing negative things about myself and begin to believe what God says about me.
- TESTIMONY!
- Or even, I really enjoyed being with my friends and learning about God.
- TESTIMONY!!!
- On our testimony nights, we would invite anyone who wanted to come up and share in front of the whole room.

- I'm not going to make you do that, although your youth pastor might.
- But what I do want you to do is share at least a small testimony with the people around you.
- I'm going to invite you to give a testimony about Overflow using this model.
- Issue --> Lesson -->Response
- ISSUE:
  - Think about something that you have been thinking or doing.
  - What is an issue, question, habit that has been affecting you.
  - Example: I was feeling alone, like nobody cared for me.
- LESSON:
  - Who or what helped you in dealing with the issue.
  - Really quickly on screen you are going to see a helpful sentence for you to complete.
  - Example: because of the way the pastor talked about how we are loved by God I asked a leader to pray with me.
- RESPONSE:
  - Based on what happened I feel, think, believe something
  - Share how others can pray for you.
  - EXAMPLE: When she prayed with me, I felt loved and valued and so I'm going to continue to build relationships with meaningful people around me.
- I have included a more in-depth version of this for your pastor, so if you would like to spend more time on this and maybe even work

on sharing your salvation story, there is a tool available to help with that, just ask your youth pastor.

Discussion:

1. Take a moment to share a brief "testimony" from Overflow.
  - a. ISSUE --> LESSON --> RESPONSE
2. If you weren't at Overflow, think of a recent moment where you felt encouraged in your faith and share about that.
3. What are some common things that God encourages students with in times of worship?

- Hi there,
- I trust that was meaningful for you.
- Today, I wanted to share with you from the Book of Philippians
- Philippians is a letter written by a man named Paul to a church in the city of Phillipi.
- Phillipi is a city in Greece, it is now called Filippi.
- You can actually go there and visit it.
- Around 51AD, the Apostle Paul travelled there on a missionary journey and established the church, which is believed to be a small house of prayer.
- He visited Phillipi a few more times.
- About 10 years after starting the church, Paul writes a letter to the church that he had started...
- He wrote this letter for a few reasons.
  - He wanted to thank them for their gift. The church had sent money and gifts to support his missionary travels

- He wanted to encourage them to stay true to the Gospel and avoid some of the heresies that were going around.
- Lastly, his main purpose is to tell them that true joy is not a result of circumstances around you, but instead it comes from a real relationship with Jesus.
- So basically, Paul has a history with the people he is writing this letter to... but it is not recent.
- It is believed he set up the church and then visited it twice before this letter, so he has been there and knows these people.
- The reason I point that out is that it is significant to know that he is writing to people that he knows.
- He has a passion for these people and for their faith.
- He loves them and cares very deeply for them.

## Philippians 1:

- Grab your Bibles and turn with me to Philippians 1.
  - **1** This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus.
  - I am writing to all of God's holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the church leaders<sup>□</sup> and deacons.
  - **2** May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.
  - **3** Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. **4** Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, **5** for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. **6** And I am certain that God, who began the good work

within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

○ <sup>7</sup> So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. <sup>8</sup> God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus.

○ <sup>9</sup> I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. <sup>10</sup> For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. <sup>11</sup> May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

➤ So this is our text for Today and I have 3 things I want to point out:

### **1. GOD BEGAN:**

Verse 6: "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you..."

➤ The first thing that I think we need to understand is that GOD is the one who is doing great stuff in our lives.

➤ He is working.

- So as you shared your testimony it isn't about how great Colin one of our worship leaders is or how Pastor Nick in Brampton is just the best pastor ever.
- I really isn't that Wayne is the rock star of Overflow.
- Because if you came to Overflow for me... you would definitely be disappointed!
- Instead, we hold to the truth that God is working.
- We believe that God has an undeniable purpose for each and every one of you.
- That you are HIS MASTERPIECE and as such he is working in you.
- I once watched a documentary on an artist who was painting a picture of the queen of England.
- Obviously it was a few years ago.
- As he began painting, I was blown away by the process.
- I'm not an artist by any definition.
- He didn't just draw an outline and fill it in.
- He layered every thing .... Over and over again.
- He had at least 3 different sittings with the queen.
- He even had the palace send over the dress she was wearing at a later time so that he could perfectly match the colour.
- The whole process took months.
- And at the end, was this fantastic painting.

## **HE WILL CONTINUE:**

2. Verse 6b "...will continue his work until it is finally finished..."
- God is not done.



- You have to know that it was God who began, but God will finish it!
- When you trust in God, He will continue His work in you.
  - He isn't done with you yet.
  - God has some pretty great things He wants to do in your life.
  - Think about it; some day you will graduate high school.
  - Most youth groups end after Grade 12; but there is life after youth group.
  - Not one of your pastors or leaders serves week in and week out so that you can have a good group while you are in high school, but doesn't care about what happens to you after you graduate.
  - God's plan doesn't stop here.... It isn't like, ok, I'm at the end of grade 12, I guess I've learned everything I can!
  - God is like, shoot, we didn't quite finish with them, but I guess we are out of time.... NOT!
- Just like He isn't done when you are in grade 12, He isn't done just because Overflow is done for a year.
- Listen, 7 years ago, people were devastated that Pastor Blair left.
- The person who understood the most, better than anyone, including me was Pastor Blair.
- HE declared that whatever was to come was going to be better, because the students weren't in his hands, they were in God's.
- Now, you grew up here with me as your pastor and now it is simply time to do it again!
- I've seen you move, you move the mountains, and I believe I'll see you do it again!!!!

- I want to encourage you to make nights of testimonies a regular thing in your life.
- It doesn't have to be planned by your Youth Pastor
- We simply need to take the opportunity to give testimony, bear witness to what has happened.
- You can do this with your family, with your friends.
- Simply gather to share a testimony.
- When you give a testimony, you are declaring what God has done in your life.
- That's why the good testimonies are never,
- "Well, on Saturday we had Pizza for LUNCH and it was THE BEST PIZZA OF MY LIFE!!!!!"
- That can happen, but really the best testimonies are actually when people talk about what God did in their lives.
- But there is another meaning to the word testimony.
- The Hebrew word for testimony means "Do Again."
- So when we have testimonies, we are actually declaring that God can do it again.
- Why can He do it again?
- Because HE IS at work, and will continue until the work in your life is finished.
- This is why we love the stories of miracles in the Bible; because they show us what God can do, which encourages us to believe that He can do it again in our circumstances.
- Let's take a moment and chat about this.
- In your groups, again just gather with 3 or 4 and discuss:

1. If you could experience any miracle or situation where God did something in someone's life from the Bible, which would it be?
  - a. Example: Samson's strength, finding fish with money in its mouth,
2. What are some things that have happened to people in your life that could encourage others in their faith?
  - a. Example, healing, note from a friend that was encouraging, etc.
3. Who are some people whose faith you admire that are outside of high school?

<<PAUSE>>

- Seriously! I would have loved to listen in on those conversations.
- Did anyone say they wish they had the strength of Samson? I see that hand.... 😊
- In our final segment, I want to jump down to verse 11.
- We have said that Paul told us that
  - GOD Began: It was God who began the work in your life.
  - He will continue: His not done with you yet.
- And then when we look at verse 11, I think we see where this is going.

### **BE FILLED WITH THE FRUIT OF YOUR SALVATION:**

- Verse 11: "May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ..."

- SO here is the thing... God began something in your life and He wants to continue it.
- Our prayer for you is that you will always be filled with the fruit.
- If I were to give you a simple biology lesson, fruit comes from a plant.
- If you have an apple tree, the tree under the right circumstances will produce apples.
- Now, if something happens to that tree that causes it to be deformed or unhealthy, it might not produce very good apples.
- But in the right conditions, where it gets sunlight, nutrients from the ground, water in the amount that it needs, it will grow and produce healthy apples.
- You don't get oranges from an apple tree.
- You don't get grapes from... well you don't get grapes from any kind of tree... they grow on a vine.
- But the point is the same... you will produce fruit in your life based on what kind of person you are.
- If you are constantly acting selfish and care only about yourself, the fruit or the result will reflect that.
- If you are generous or kind, you will reflect that.
- This verse tells us that we want to see the fruit that is produced in you from your salvation.
- When you surrender your life to Jesus, it doesn't make it perfect, but it does produce fruit.
- We want to see your salvation produce fruit.

- Don't be like the tree that withers and dies.... Continue to produce fruit.
- This is Paul's prayer for a group of people who mean a lot to him... and this is my prayer for you.
- That you would grow in your spiritual lives and produce fruit.
- The Bible talks to us about what it calls Fruit of the Spirit.
- That is to say, fruit that is indicative of what being close to God produces in our lives.
- In a letter to a different group of churches, Paul writes:
- But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!
- Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)
- Over centuries we have seen that God produces
  - LOVE
  - JOY
  - PEACE
  - PATIENCE
  - KINDNESS
  - GOODNESS
  - FAITHFULNESS
  - GENTLENESS
  - And SELF-CONTROL
- In the lives of those who follow after Him.
- I don't think I need to convince you that your family, your school, your church, your town or city, our province, country and world

- Desperately need more of these things.
- I believe that God's purpose is to grow them in you.
- Before I go, I'd love to have the opportunity to pray for you.
- Specifically, I'd like to pray the words of Paul from verses 9-11 over you.
- So I'm going to read it for you again and then we will pray.



○ <sup>9</sup> I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. <sup>10</sup> For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. <sup>11</sup> May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

➤ Pray:

- I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.
  - God, I pray for love and growth in the students, leaders and pastors who are watching this video.
  - I pray that this event would be like a catalyst, something that launches them forward in their growth journey with you.
  - I pray that Overflow would not just be another weekend, another thing we did, but that Your Spirit would continue to work in them.

○ For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return.

- I pray for their futures in you. I pray for the leading, prompting and guiding of the Holy Spirit to encourage each one towards the purposes that you have for them.

○ <sup>11</sup> May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

- Thank you for your work in our lives.
- We thank you for what you have done, are doing and will do.
- Be with us; in Jesus' name, Amen.

- I just want to say, thanks for being a part of Overflow 2024.
- It has been an honour and a privilege to come alongside you on this part of your journey with Christ.
- God bless.



➤ And so that is what we are going to do now...

➤ I'm going to invite the band to come... As Nathan begins to play.

➤ I want to give you an opportunity to worship and connect with God... we are going to have a deep night where we take time to connect with Him.

➤ But first if you are here and you need to start that growth... similar to planting a seed in your life. I want to walk you through that today.



➤ <<BOW YOUR HEADS AND CLOSE YOUR EYES>>

➤ Jesus cares for you. He died on the cross for you and wants to have a relationship with you.

➤ If you are here and you have never asked Him to come into your life and have a relationship with you, a relationship where He offers forgiveness, where He comes and helps you discover His plans and purposes... a relationship where he Begins a work in you and sees it finished then I'm going to ask you to pray with me.