

Worth Celebrating // Part 2

Introduction:
This week Chance continues a new series called '**Worth Celebrating**' with the message for **Week 2.** There are areas of our lives worth celebrating even in the midst of tough circumstances. The joy that we find is not of ourselves or in our circumstances, but in Jesus and the grace He has given us.

How can you tap into that joy on a regular basis, especially when you are facing tough days and circumstances are pulling you down? Do you ever celebrate God's faithfulness? How could that alter your perspective & restore your joy?

Questions:

1. Why was it important for Solomon to begin with submission and loyalty to the Lord? How was surrender a critical step before celebrating? Does your life demonstrate submission and that you are loyal to God? Are you able to surrender everything to God? Is there anything you're holding that you shouldn't be holding? **1 Kings 8:54-55**

2. Do you praise the Lord for providing you rest? How can praising God for His faithfulness alter your perspective, even in your present circumstances? Do you pray that the Lord will incline your heart with the desire to do His will, knowing that not one of His wonderful promises has failed? **1 Kings 8:56-58**

3. What does it mean to remain loyal to God in spite of your circumstances? What reason does Solomon give Israel for them to be completely faithful to the Lord

and to obey His decrees and commands? **1 Kings 8:59-61**

4. What do you think of when you hear the word 'sacrifice' or 'offering'? How does that compare to the example of Solomon and Israel from the text in 1 Kings 8? Are you ready to give everything over to God? What needs to change for you to offer all that you are and all that you have to the Lord? **1 Kings 8:62-64**

5. Do you ever experience God-centered communal joy? Can that help you to overcome any technical anxieties that you may be feeling because of the circumstances of your life? **1 Kings 8:65-66**

6. How do you begin each day? Can you start each day by following Solomon's example of thanking God for His faithfulness, and worshipping Him before you do or say anything else?
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7. How do you pray? Do you pray with intention? When you pray, do you pray with confidence knowing that God has what's best for you yet to come? How can changing your prayer life help you to celebrate with joy no matter what the circumstance of your life may be?

<u>Key takeaway</u>*: One thing that we easily fall out of rhythm on is thanking God for His faithfulness. We know it's so important to do so but the circumstances of life can distract us from being joyful. Solomon shows us, in the midst of this celebration, that we can look and see God's faithfulness in our lives…and that is worth celebrating!*

<u>Summary:</u>

- Start with submission and loyalty to the Lord
- Praising God for His faithfulness helps give you a perspective shift
- Remain loyal to God for He alone is God, there is no other
- Offering all that we have and all the we are to Him
- God-centered communal joy overrides technical anxieties
- Start each day by thanking God for His faithfulness
- Pray with intention and declare that the best is yet to come