

AUDACIOUS

EXTREMELY BOLD OR DARING;
RECKLESSLY BRAVE; FEARLESS

PSALM 112:7

AUDACIOUS JOY (PATH, PROCESS, AND PROMISE)

And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them. Nehemiah 8:12

A. PATH

1. REVELATION - God's Word Exposed

- SALVATION IN CHRIST ALONE (JOHN 14:6; 1 PET 1:8-9)

B. PROCESS

1. REPENTANCE - Response to God's Word

- THE HEART OF GOD (2 Peter 3:9)
- THE APPLAUSE OF HEAVEN (Luke 15:8-10)

2. RENEWAL - God's Consistency

- STRENGTH (Isaiah 40:31; Nehemiah 8:10)
- HOPE (Proverbs 10:28a; 1 Peter 4:12-13)
- PEACE (Isaiah 55:12)

C. PROMISE → RESPONSIBILITY

1. PROMISE (John 14:15-17)

2. SPIRITUAL GIFTS (Galatians 5:22a)

Discussion Questions

1. Read 1 Peter 1:8-9. Does your relationship with Jesus lead to "joy that is inexpressible"? Discuss.
2. Read 2 Peter 3:9 and Luke 5:8-10. What do these verses tell us about the heart of God and heaven's response to a person: 1) repenting, and 2) getting redeemed? Discuss.
3. Rest John 14:15-17. What promise did Jesus make in these verses? How does the Spirit's fruit perfect us? (See Gal. 5:22)
4. Pray for God to give you audacious contagious joy for Him and his word, each other, and the people God puts in your path this week.

Nehemiah 8 And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel. ² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³ And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. ⁴ And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiyah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. ⁶ And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁷ Also . . . the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. ⁸ They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." ¹¹ So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved." ¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

¹³ On the second day the heads of fathers' houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to Ezra the scribe in order to study the words of the Law. ¹⁴ And they found it written in the Law that the Lord had commanded by Moses that the people of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month, ¹⁵ and that they should proclaim it and publish it in all their towns and in Jerusalem, "Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written." ¹⁶ So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves, each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim. ¹⁷ And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in the booths, for from the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing. ¹⁸ And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he (Ezra) read from the Book of the Law of God. They kept the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the rule.

A. PATH

1. REVELATION - God's Word Exposed (John 14:6; 1 Peter 1:8,9)

■ SALVATION IN CHRIST JESUS ALONE

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

1 Peter 1:8-9 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

B. PROCESS

1. REPENTANCE - Response to God's Word

■ THE HEART OF GOD

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

■ THE APPLAUSE OF HEAVEN

Luke 15:8-10 Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

2. RENEWAL - God's Consistency

■ STRENGTH (Isaiah 40:31; Nehemiah 8:10)

Isaiah 40:31 . . . they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

■ HOPE (Proverbs 10:28a; 1 Peter 4:12-13)

Proverbs 10:28 The hope of the righteous brings joy, . . .

1 Peter 4:12-13 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

■ PEACE (Isaiah 55:12)

Isaiah 55:12 For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

C. PROMISE

1. PROMISE (John 14:15-17)

John 14:15-17 If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

2. SPIRITUAL GIFTS (Gal. 5:22a)

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, . . .