

David and Jenna Daniels

A little over 2 years ago Jenna and I started attending Gulf Coast. Right away we knew that this church was different than any other church we'd ever been a part of. The preaching was rich with the gospel, full of truth and conviction. The Lord has used Gulf Coast to display the love and grace He has for us through the teaching of God's Word and the community of believers here.

We would like to share a few of the evidences of God's grace we have noticed so you can see how faithful and loving God is to His people. Jenna and I are so grateful that when God looks at us, He sees the righteousness of Christ, not the sin that permeates our marriage. One of our goals as a couple is to glorify God in the way that Eph 5 speaks of...husbands love your wives as Christ loves the church, wives submit to your husbands as unto to the Lord, because we believe that marriage is to imitate Christ's relationship with His church. If not for the young married couples ministry and the relationships that we have formed through that ministry, and resources such as the book "When sinners say I do", we believe that we would be failing at Eph 5 at a much higher rate than we do right now, and all the praise belongs to God for any of the small victories we have in that area. His faithfulness does not stop there. The Lord has continually provided for us, especially during some difficult financial times while I was either out of work or had a job that didn't pay that much. On those tough days for us, we knew we could count on the prayers and actual assistance from those in our care group. Also, we were thankful to hear other testimonies in the church how God had been faithful in another believers lives, and being reminded in song and sermon that as tough as this life may be, it's only temporary, and we are to look to Christ as our supreme example of suffering.

One of the most difficult times in our marriage has involved children and drums. Let me explain. Back in Oct 2008, God answered a big prayer of Jenna's...that her stubborn and selfish husband's heart would change. When we got married, we knew we wanted kids, and Jenna would have been fine with having one right away but I was completely against it. I wanted to live our life and do what we wanted, and then have a baby when I felt that we were ready. I know, very selfish. After many prayers and conversations together, I believe the Lord opened up my heart. He reminded me that this life is not about me. Out of the blue, I told Jenna that I thought it was time to have a baby. However after making this decision, God walked us through time of not being able to conceive for two years. This time of waiting was very hard for both of us, but extremely difficult for Jenna. Thankfully, we were at a church that understood what the Bible said about suffering. That it's not because we did something wrong, or don't have enough faith, or that we made God mad. But that God is sovereign, and He has our best interest at heart, and that our end all goal is to bring glory to God through the power of the Holy Spirit and that He has a plan to produce character and hope in us like Romans 5:3-5 says.

During this time, I joined a band and it had become my full time job. And to those that know me best, they know I love playing the drums and that being in a band was a dream of mine. In a very short time, the band experienced some decent size success and had gained some publicity and a following in town. We just had one of our biggest shows

and were on the verge of signing with a management company based out of L.A. Seemed like my musical dreams were coming true. Right about this time, that we found out that Jenna was pregnant. I was truly excited about this news and the answer to prayer. In that moment God began to change my heart about the band, and I had to make the decision to do what was best for my family, not what was best just for me. Through sermons and talking to friends at church, God exposed some ungodly desires in my heart. He showed me that I was running after success, instead of running after Him. That I was being lured by the security of money instead Him. Once I realized this, I decided to quit the band and get a real job to support my family. As my buddy Scott put it, this change of heart is truly a miracle of God.

In the short time that we've been at Gulf Coast, God has used so many people, sermons, and testimonies to point us to the cross over and over again. We are so grateful for a community of believers that not only share the gospel with others but live it out in their daily lives.