

Celebrate

Once you've successfully wrapped up your giving campaign, you might be raring to go on to your next fundraising effort. With scarce resources and lengthy to-do lists, immediately getting started on your next effort without pausing to reflect or rejoice may seem like the right idea. After all, there's always work to be done in the ministry.

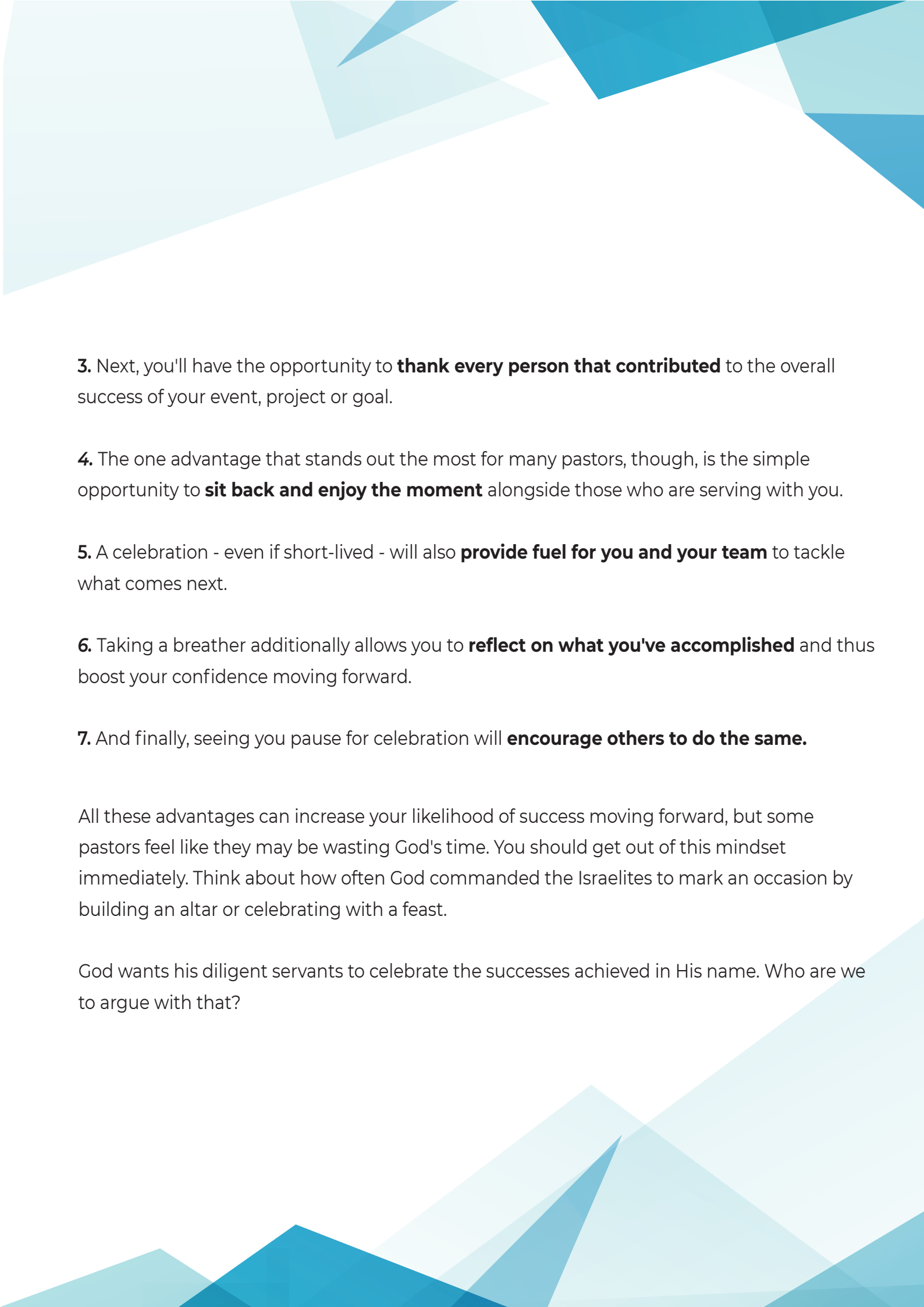
Take a moment, though, and think back to the last event your church hosted. What about the last major project completed - such as a building remodel or completion of a volunteer training class? In any of these instances, did you mark the occasion with a celebration or just move on to other tasks?

The fact is that pausing to celebrate - even if only for a moment - is integral to your church's success.

Advantages of Celebration

We're not the only ones who think this. The BeliefNet website makes a strong case supporting an endless circle of celebration by citing the Book of John, but there's more than just a biblical rationale behind this practice. The best benefits are spiritual, physical, motivational and even psychological. We'll focus on seven of these benefits for the purposes of this video.

1. First, celebrating allows you to **reflect on what God has done** through you, and this in turn increases your faith and sets your ministry up for further successes.
2. Secondly, it gives you time and an appropriate reminder to **praise God collectively** for all that He's done.

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3. Next, you'll have the opportunity to **thank every person that contributed** to the overall success of your event, project or goal.
 4. The one advantage that stands out the most for many pastors, though, is the simple opportunity to **sit back and enjoy the moment** alongside those who are serving with you.
 5. A celebration - even if short-lived - will also **provide fuel for you and your team** to tackle what comes next.
 6. Taking a breather additionally allows you to **reflect on what you've accomplished** and thus boost your confidence moving forward.
 7. And finally, seeing you pause for celebration will **encourage others to do the same.**

All these advantages can increase your likelihood of success moving forward, but some pastors feel like they may be wasting God's time. You should get out of this mindset immediately. Think about how often God commanded the Israelites to mark an occasion by building an altar or celebrating with a feast.

God wants his diligent servants to celebrate the successes achieved in His name. Who are we to argue with that?

Specifics of Celebration

Now if you're still on the fence about a celebration, just remember that these don't have to be huge events. After all, even if you enjoy fishing, you don't throw a parade every time you reel in a catch. Celebrations can be effective even if they're celebrating smaller successes. It's merely necessary to have these moments so we don't overlook their importance.

You might now be wondering what you should celebrate. First, start with your **people**. One of the main focuses of celebrating is building community, so why wouldn't you make people a priority? There are many ways we can accomplish this. Sending a "thank you" text message, publicly mentioning a volunteer, hosting a banquet for staff members or simply adding a note in a church-wide email can go a long way.

We should also be celebrating **progress** and **potential**. Progress can be commemorated with events once certain benchmarks are hit. You can also celebrate potential by encouraging individuals who have shown special promise or by reminding everyone of what your finished project will accomplish. There are many ways you can celebrate all three of these important elements. Make sure to check out the additional ideas provided in the full D.O.N.O.R. Framework.

Next Steps

And speaking of celebration, a little personal excitement might be in order. You're almost finished! We've included an optional module you can review to get a better handle on celebrating successes. Take a moment to review it if you have time.