

# **Welcome to Kev's on-line eGroup**

**The e-Glue that helps with the glitter**

**Part 1: Detailed sermon notes**

**Part 2: eGroup study questions**

### Here Comes Church – “In the know”

- Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc)
- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone – See [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc). The “e” stands for empowerment - because getting the instructions from God without having the empowerment to live them out will frustrate you. These groups are our way of putting some very wonderful people in front of you feed you spiritually.
- Stay out of “isolation silos” - you are an easy target for the enemy – and you don't have the benefit of friends to support you. Embrace the power of numbers.
- Interested in leading an eGroup? See: [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc)
- Don't over-think it – Invite someone to church – “Who do you know that is close to you that is far from God?”
- What are your Gr8ful eight?
- Elevation Nights 2025: Elevation Nights is coming your way soon - Fort Worth - Tulsa Oklahoma - Pennsylvania - Toronto - Detroit - Hartford Connecticut – Newark NJ - Washington DC – The dates are February 25th through March 6th.
- K-Love and Elevation Workshop at Red Rocks in CO in August 2025

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

1 Samuel 21:6-13 — David gets Goliath's sword

21. David went to Nob, to Ahimelek the priest. Ahimelek trembled when he met him, and asked, "Why are you alone? Why is no one with you?" 2 David answered Ahimelek the priest, "The king sent me on a mission and said to me, 'No one is to know anything about the mission I am sending you on.' As for my men, I have told them to meet me at a certain place. 3 Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find." 4 But the priest answered David, "I don't have any ordinary bread on hand; however, there is some consecrated bread here—provided the men have kept themselves from women." 5 David replied, "Indeed women have been kept from us, as usual whenever I set out. The men's bodies are holy even on missions that are not holy. How much more so today!"

**6 So the priest gave him the consecrated bread, since there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the Lord and replaced by hot bread on the day it was taken away. 7 Now one of Saul's servants was there that day, detained before the Lord; he was Doeg the Edomite, Saul's chief shepherd. 8 David asked Ahimelek, "Don't you have a spear or a sword here? I haven't brought my sword or any other weapon, because the king's mission was urgent." 9 The priest replied, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, is here; it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you want it, take it; there is no sword here but that one." David said, "There is none like it; give it to me."**

**David at Gath**

**10 That day David fled from Saul and went to Achish king of Gath. 11 But the servants of Achish said to him, "Isn't this David, the king of the land? Isn't he the one they sing about in their dances: "'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands?'" 12 David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of Achish king of Gath. 13 So he pretended to be insane in their presence; and while he was in their hands he acted like a madman, making marks on the doors of the gate and letting saliva run down his beard.**

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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1 Samuel 17:34-35 — David defends his father's sheep

32 David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

33 Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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Matthew 11:12 — God's people are under attack

7 As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. 9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. 14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. 15 Whoever has ears, let them hear.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

2 Samuel 11:1 — David tries to avoid a battle - David and Bathsheba

11 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. 2 One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, 3 and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." 4 Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. 5 The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant." 6 So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent him to David. 7 When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. 8 Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. 9 But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house. 10 David was told, "Uriah did not go home." So he asked Uriah, "Haven't you just come from a military campaign? Why didn't you go home?" 11 Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents,[a] and my commander Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!" 12 Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 At David's invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home. 14 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. 15 In it he wrote, "Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die." 16 So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. 17 When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died. 18 Joab sent David a full account of the battle. 19 He instructed the messenger: "When you have finished giving the king this account of the battle, 20 the king's anger may flare up, and he may ask you, 'Why did you get so close to the city to fight? Didn't you know they would shoot arrows from the wall? 21 Who killed Abimelek son of Jerub-Besheth[b]? Didn't a woman drop an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you get so close to the wall?' If he asks you this, then say to him, 'Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.'" 22 The messenger set out, and when he arrived he told David everything Joab had sent him to say. 23 The messenger said to David, "The men overpowered us and came out against us in the open, but we drove them back to the entrance of the city gate. 24 Then the archers shot arrows at your servants from the wall, and some of the king's men died. Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead." 25 David told the messenger, "Say this to Joab: 'Don't let this upset you; the sword devours one as well as another. Press the attack against the city and destroy it.' Say this to encourage Joab." 26 When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. 27 After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.

Prayer Prompt: Pastor Stephen said that, “the enemy will attack the potential inside of you.” What potential has God placed inside of you that the enemy would want to keep hidden? Pray that we would be reminded that God has placed purpose and potential within each one, and that they would have the courage to stand firm in the battles we are currently facing.

Good jet fuel: “Now the hand of the Lord has been upon me this evening before” – Ezekiel 33:22 – commentary by Charles Spurgeon: “My graces languish, my corruptions rage, my faith is weak, my devotion is cold; all these are reasons why His healing hand should be laid up on me. His hand can cool the heat of my burning brow and calm the turmoil of my palpitating heart - that glorious hand that molded the world can renew my mind; the unworried hand that bears the earth's huge pillars can sustain my spirits.”

Opening Prayer by Pastor Steven Furtick on Sunday, 12/8/2024:

“I want to pray for the things in your life that you need to trust God about - I want to pray that the Lord would order your steps in the season to come that he would bring the right people everybody - - that he would bring people who can bless you - and people you can bless across your path - I want to pray that God would give you his wisdom for all of the difficult decisions that you're facing - I want to pray that you would hold on to the gifts that he's given you and not give up too easily - I want to pray that you would let go of the stress that you're not supposed to carry anyway - there's still hope inside of you – It is Christ in us - the hope of glory and let the world know that we're preaching this Gospel of Jesus Christ - that we are not a divided church we are a United Church - we unite under one name the name that can break chains - the name that still makes ways - the name that makes the Gates of Hell Shake - we are the Church of the Living God and Father we give you praise today - in Jesus name amen.”

# **Part 1: Detailed sermon notes**

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

The Battle Made Me by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

Web site: <https://theunionchurch.com/about/>

## Sermon Highlights

- Some battles come looking for me
- Some battles I go looking for
- Running from battles is not an option
- There is a blessing in the battle
- The enemy will attack the potential inside of you
- There is something a battle develops inside of you that you can't get any other way
- The battles you fought in your past are preparing you for the victory ahead of you
- Don't diminish who God called you to be just to avoid a battle
- You are safest running forward in faith

## Scriptures

- 1 Samuel 21:6-13 — David gets Goliath's sword
- 1 Samuel 17:34-35 — David defends his father's sheep
- Matthew 11:12 — God's people are under attack
- 2 Samuel 11:1 — David tries to avoid a battle

## Sermon Discussion

- "There is a blessing in the battle." What's a blessing you're walking in today that you gained on the other side of a battle you've faced?
- "The battles you fought in your past are preparing you for the victory ahead of you." What tools of faith have you learned that you can apply to a current battle in your life?
- "You are safest running forward in faith." What is God calling you to have the courage to face in your life right now?
- "Don't diminish who God called you to be just to avoid a battle." In what ways are you tempted to diminish yourself when you're tempted to avoid a battle? (Examples: get quiet, stop trying)
- "Running from battles is not an option." In what area of your life have you grown tired of fighting? Take a moment and pray over these together.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon notes – “The Battle Made Me” by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- If you know anything about us preachers, we're a little extra and I was thinking about Pastor Stephen and as pastors we have these terms that we use and we kind of delegate them for only a few type of people - but we'll say certain people are generals of the faith like if you ever talk people about talking about like Billy Graham or whatever generals of the faith - and when you think about a general they're the one that gives the orders for the Army to March out - and I don't know if y'all know this - and I probably shouldn't say this from a platform - but there are bootleg elevation churches all over the world following what you guys do here - and it's not copycat it's because God is giving you a general that is setting the pace for the kingdom of God - and we are grateful - and I'm not just saying this pastor Holly is one of my favorite preachers on the planet - when you think about preachers you're like - oh are they funny you know love how they tell stories or break down the word but there's some preachers that when they preach - it's not the stories - it's not the word - it's the fact that you can tell that person has been somewhere with God and they have proven God in their life and it oozes out of everything that she says.
- 1 Samuel 21 - hey turn in your Bible to 1st Samuel chapter 21
- I've got a brand new book coming out in just two weeks called Relationship Road Maps – if you're single - come on can you wave at me - put keep your hand up - up put it in the chat – one of the reasons you're single is because you run right to your car after church - linger in the lobby look around the room - there ain't a better place to get chose than in the house of God.
- Are y'all ready to work today? Not preach - preaching ain't my job - it's our job b- ut God's going to work through this text.
- **It says this in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel chapter 21:6 and let me give you a little context before I preach it this is the period when David was running for his life - Saul had just thrown Spears at his head trying to kill him - Jonathan said let me test out my dad and see if he's serious about these death threats - and Jonathan comes to David and said no he's serious - he's trying to kill you - you've got to run for your life - so David leaves everything - brings no weapons - brings no food - and ah I'm not preaching yet - the first place he runs to is to the house of God - as he is running for his life - this ain't even the message - but let me preach it already - hey if you are running from something don't run to gossip - don't run to friends don't run to confusion - run to the house of God.**
- **It says this in verse six “so the priest gave him holy bread for there was no bread there but the showbread which had been taken from before the Lord in order to put hot bread in its place on the day when it was taken away now a certain man of the Servants of Saul was t here that day detained before the Lord and his name was doe an Edomite the chief of the herdsmen who belonged to Saul who worked for David's enemy and not the message but just know that when you're in the presence of God - the enemy is going to try to whisper to you opposite of what God has promised you - and you've got to develop the discipline of blocking out the thoughts and the whispers of the enemy and being anchored In what God has said over your life**
- Verse eight and David said to him “is there not here on hand a spear or sword for I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me because the king's business required haste” - now he was lying he ain't on no King's business - he's running for his life so the priest said “the sword of Goliath the Philistine whom you killed in the valley of elaw there it is wrapped in a cloth. David said there is none like it - give it me.”

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon notes – “The Battle Made Me” by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- Somebody shout “give it to me” - when David arose and fled that day from before Saul and went to Akish the King of Gath and the Servants of Akish said to him “is this not David the king of the land - did they not sing of him to one another in dances saying Saul has slain his thousand and David his 10 thousands. – And David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of Akish – King of Gath.
- Before we pray, can you give your neighbor my sermon title “The Battle Made Me”
- Opening Prayer: “Father God we're grateful - we're thankful for this moment - we say that we trust in you God - you're here to heal to deliver to transform – to open eyes - to move supernaturally - God do what only you can do and God will be ever so careful to give you all the glory honor and praise in Jesus name amen.
- **I'm not going to lie to you I feel a little bit uncomfortable coming with a message about David and uh don't judge me but I feel like David particularly David and Goliath is like Elementary preaching - I feel like when you get your trial sermon and it's like - this is my first time preaching and you don't know what to preach - David and Goliath is what you go for - why because you can't mess up David and Goliath - you get up there - the little guy was against the big guy - he took a stone - God helped him - Giants will fall in your life amen – and you fold up your Bible - you step down - you successfully accomplished your first message - but for some reason I get stuck on these Biblical characters - and in this season I'm just stuck on David because you see as the Bible walks through his life - the hand of God and God's favor on his life every single step of the journey and it is impossible to see how God's hand is on David's life and not also recognize how God's hand has been on your life every single step of the journey.**
- When we are introduced to David we find him in the backside of a Wilderness - taking care of sheep - that was a servant's responsibility - but yet his father relegated him to something that honestly was beneath him - the priest showed up and said God has anointed a new king - and it's none of these Sons - is there not another son - we see God plucking David out of his family - that is not a called family - bringing him out of a place of wilderness to use him in a great way.
- And it doesn't take much to look at your story and realize that God plucked you out of your family and anointed you for a particular reason - here on Earth, can somebody testify that the part of the country I come from - My town - my community - my family - it does not actually produce what God is producing through my life - but the favor of God we've got a church in Maryland - I get ever irritated every time I tell people my church is in Maryland - So Baltimore is it like the wire? No but what they're saying is almost like Nazareth - can anything good come out of Baltimore? No except for the hand of God plucking somebody out of a place that God is ready to do something.
- **As we walk through David's story, not only do we see God pluck him out of a family but we see God pour oil on his head to anoint David - and we see David get results out of his life that are not equal to the effort that he puts in - just in case you were wondering what anointing is anointing is when you put in human efforts and you get back Supernatural results - when you look at the results you get back and you realize it is not equal to the effort I put in - this was none other than the hand of God - and if you would be honest - and I'll be honest with you - ain't a lot of honest people in church - you cannot take credit for everything that has happened in your life. I know you are educated - I know you worked hard - I know you put that effort in - but the results you are seeing in your life are not comparable to the effort that you've put in - it is none other than the hand of God on your life.**

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon notes – “The Battle Made Me” by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- Be careful being jealous of what somebody else has because you have no idea they didn't get it based on their effort - they got it based on the favor - you we're family - y'all said it so you going to get the family irritated when you run into certain people and they begin to take credit for things that they should not take credit for - you run into a married couple - I'm talking about real married couples not like 5 years or 10 years I'm talking about 35 years 37 years 40 years - come on - you run into some folks that have been married for three four decades - wow - how do I build a Godly marriage like you - and they've got the nerve to give you an answer - well you know you just got to be longsuffering you got to keep no record of wrong - you got to make sure that you forgive - and make sure that you come - I'm sure you communicated I'm sure you forgave but homicide was on your mind - at least one night you made it 35 years.
- Because of the favor and grace and mercy of God when you look at David you see him plucked out of his family you see the anointing of God you also see the outrageous victories that David won - and God just had a way of making David win in front of his haters - it wasn't just a victory in the backside of nowhere - but the exact brothers that said how dare you leave those sheep - what are you doing here? Who do you think you are? They had to watch David defeat Goliath – they had to watch David be celebrated.
- If you would look back over your life you would see victories that God brought because of his hand of favor - somebody shout Amen - in this place the problem with David's story - y'all know preachers - all that was a setup - you don't just see God pluck David out of obscurity - you don't just see David anointed for the supernatural - you don't just see massive victories in David's life - the Bible also shows us the battles that David had to fight - that David wish he never had to fight - it doesn't just tell us about the anointing - it tells us about the lion that jumped on him that he had to fight for – the sheep - and fight for his life - and it tells us about the bear - it tells us about Goliath - it tells us about the time that he was in battle against his own son.
- **As you look over the life of David you see the favor of God - but you see battles that David wish he had never fought - and if you look back over your own life you can see the favor of God - but we all see battles that we wish we never had to fight - maybe it was battles with depression - maybe it was battles with sickness - maybe it was battles with confusion - or relational battles - but we all have battles in our stories that we would not wish on our worst enemy - and we sometimes ask God why did I have to go through this - and here's what I've discovered - that you can waste a lot of time commiserating over all the battles that you've been through - that you can actually forget all of the blessings scenes and favor and open doors of what God has done.**
- **It is hard to find somebody that has something good to say about 2024 - man so glad that year was over - oh believing God has more for me in a new year - and yes you may have had some rough things in 2024 - but I'm telling you – you had some Miracles - and you had some favor - and you had some open doors - it is all based on what you choose to obsess over - and I'd like to submit to you that whether you realize it or not the battles that you wish you could have avoided - there is a blessing in those battles - because for some reason God uses battles to make us - you are not just who you are because of the parents who raised you - you are not just who you are because of the effort that you put in - you're not just who you are because how you educated yourself - there are some things that were developed through the battles that you had to fight.**

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon notes – “The Battle Made Me” by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- There are parts of your personality that you built based on the fights that you had to fight and I'm telling you it is the battle that God allowed you to walk through that made you.
- Three quick thoughts three quick thoughts about the battles that we Face - the first one is this - some battles come looking for me - some battles come looking for me. Pastor Stephen preached a few weeks ago about how trying to avoid drama or battles is not a way to live - in life it doesn't matter how safe you try to live – some battles will find you - now I wish I had a great story about how I grew up - I used to fight and all this other kind of stuff but the reality is I'm not a fighter I uh I'm a pastor's kid okay and not only am I a pastor's kid but I was homeschooled so the only people to fight at school were my siblings - so I don't have any like I got in a fist fights growing up – However, I've got one story it's the only story I have about a fight ever actually what happened.
- Recall the story of a kid came to my house and he rang the doorbell and insulted his Mom.
- Some fights come and find you - no matter if you do everything you possibly can in life to avoid drama. The Bible says in 1st Samuel 17 - but David said to Saul - your servant used to keep his father's sheep and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock - I went out after it and struck it and delivered the lamb from its mouth and when it arose against me - I caught it by its beard and killed it - they were asking David why do you think you have what it takes to feat this 9-foot giant and David said because this fight ain't my first fight - I didn't go looking for a fight - but a lion came and found me - and that lion bit off more than he could chew - and a bear came and found me and because I fought the lion and because I fought the bear - I am now prepared to fight this giant in front of me - hear me - some come and find you - by the way - be careful judging people for what they're battling - do you really think they picked that fight? They didn't pick that fight - that fight picked them - they didn't pick addiction - addiction picked them - they didn't pick mental torment - mental torment picked them - and hear me – just because the fight picks you does not mean - you get to surrender - you have almighty God on the inside of you - you've got to fight the fight that comes your way - but not all fights we pick - some of them pick us - and here's what was wild - David got in a fight with a lion and a bear - and it wasn't even his sheep - he was taking care of his father's flock and got in a drama with an enemy because he was protecting something that does not belong to him.
- **Some of you have been fighting for your life and you've believed the LIE of the enemy that you did something wrong - that maybe I messed up some way - and that's why I'm battling the way that I'm battling or maybe because of the fight that you're facing - you're like - has God forgotten about me? Has he abandoned me? Has he left me? You're not fighting because you did something wrong - you are fighting because your father's Kingdom and purpose is on the inside of you - and the enemy is attacking the potential that God has placed on the inside of you - the fight has found you because there's Destiny on your life - and by the way the size of your fight is an indication of the size of the call of God on your life.**
- You're wondering why does it seems like I am fighting for my life because of the potential that God has placed on the inside of you - the enemy said let me take you out before you even realize who God has called you to be - as you track through scripture, the enemy did it all the time - when he knew the deliverer was coming - he tried to have all the Hebrew boys executed - why because he will always attack in infancy what he does not want to deal with in maturity - but somebody elbow your neighbor say - but he failed - he failed - he should have taken me out when he got a chance - he should have taken me out when I did not know God - and was not in my right mind.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon notes – “The Battle Made Me” by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- But I made it a church today - I made it into the house of God today - I made it into an atmosphere that is telling me who I am – and the fight did not take me up - you've got I kind of get dramatic.
- **I think sometimes we don't realize that that part of being a Christian means you're going to take some shots yeah – and it's not because of who you are - it's because of who your daddy is - we are not living in a demilitarized zone we are at War and there is an enemy and he is trying to take out the kingdom of God - and you've got to stand 10 toes down saying I've got an assignment.**
- I know who my dad is and I'm going to fight for what is His.
- One of the problems is we think what we're fighting over belongs to us - so I'm confused - why I've got to battle so much over this marriage - because this is my marriage - can I put you on notice - that this ain't your marriage - that marriage belongs to God - marriage is a husband loving a wife and a wife loving a husband - as an example to the world of God's love - his church and his bride - and as you guys love each other and build the family that God has called you to build - it is example to unbelievers of the hope and love and joy of God you're not just fighting for love you are fighting for the kingdom - I get in trouble because I tell these stories about my family then y'all started thinking my family was ratchet and we were but we were educated and we love God too.
- Recall the story of how he stood in a parking space while is Mom was driving to the spot.
- I need some Believers that know what God has promised them - and you are going to stand 10 toes down on the healing on the Hope on the purpose on the joy - devil you can give it your best shot - but I know what my God has promised me - and I am not moving on off of this - you might not have picked the fight - the fight picked you - but you do not have the option of backing down.
- See now there is a blessing in the battle - do you realize that there are some things that you learned about yourself in the fight that you would have never learned about yourself if it had not been in that fight?
- You learned that you have more faith than you thought you did - you learn that you have more fortitude than you thought you had - you learned that you have more creativity - who takes a stone and a sling against a somebody who has their back against the wall.
- Man the worst fight of my life was when my mom was battling cancer for 13 years and ended up passing away after 13 years - and by the way you can't tell me my God is not a healer because the doctor gave her three months to live - There ain't nothing we could do with you - go home - make your peace with God - and God extended her life 13 years - but hear me - walking through that battle - watching her battle - the faith that it built in me – I still preach about healing and hope and purpose.
- There is something that battles develop on the inside of you that nothing else can - some battles will find me - but some battles I go looking for - here's what it says in 1st Samuel 17:32 – “David said to Saul let no man's heart fail because of him your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.”

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon notes – “The Battle Made Me” by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- So in one passage we find David fighting a lion and a bear that he did not want to fight - in just a few passages later we find David running towards a battle that nobody else wanted to fight - what happened? Well happened was when you make it through a few battles and you realize that the victory Belongs to the Lord - it brings a confidence on the inside of you that all of a sudden you're like - I'm not intimidated by a fight - matter of fact I'm looking for a fight - and instead of running from the enemy - I start running towards the enemy - I start a fight - I start looking for places to push back the forces of Darkness.
- The Bible says in Matthew 11:12 “that since the days of John the Baptist the kingdom of God has suffered violence but the violent take it by force - I believe this year a supernatural violence is going to begin to rise up in the people of God and we begin to realize I'm no longer going to be on the defense against the enemy but I'm going on the offense.
- **Why did David run after Goliath? Because Goliath dared to defy who God was - here's the battles you need to start picking in your life - anything that defies the promise that God has made over your life - you've got to stop allowing the enemy to occupy territory that does not belong to him - and begin to declare this is what God has promised me and - I'm taking my joy back - I'm taking my peace back - I'm taking my prosperity back - I will not lack - I will not have not enough - I'm taking my health back - as matter of fact I'm taking back every unbelieving family member in my family - as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord - devil get your hands off my teenager - get your hands off of my spouse - addiction is broken in my family in the name of Jesus - divorce is cancelled in my family in the name of Jesus - you've got start attacking what God has promised you.**
- **Here's the problem what happens when you're fighting - sometimes you don't know how to calm down and I see this a lot- can I just be ignorant on social media - people fighting fights that they ain't got no business fighting - as you are running after the fights that God has for you make sure you're not picking fights that don't stand between you and the destiny that God has for you - because one of the things the enemy want is to get you occupied in a fight that ain't got nothing to do with what God.**
- Has called you to do it? It happened to David - he's fighting a lion - he's fighting a bear - he's fighting Goliath - he don't know who in Saul's Army he can trust - and next thing you know - him and his army they're marching and they go ask a man - hey we have no food? Can you feed us? The man said I don't know who you are - y'all could be Thieves y'all could be enemies - I'm not going to feed you - you know what David said? We are going to kill him - and it took somebody talking David down of David - this ain't your fight - leave that alone - some of us – man - people talk to you the wrong way – or say something – and then we say let me give you a piece of my mind!!!
- First of all you don't have much mind left - you can't be handing pieces out all willy-nilly – okay? You need to keep all the mind that you've got - keep your mind - you've just got to make a decision - I'm not going to fight a fight that has the ability to block me from all that God has for me.
- The Bible says this in chapter 21 verse 8 when David is in the temple it says he needs a weapon.
- You've got to understand as pastors our brains are like Rubik's cubes and we write messages and then the message writes itself even as I'm reading - this I'm reminded when Jesus told his disciples when they went out - don't bother to take anything with you - because when you get to the place it is going to give you the resources that you need to accomplish what you need to accomplish.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon notes – “The Battle Made Me” by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- The priest said “the sword of Goliath the Philistine whom you killed - watch this – What David had in a past battle is now available in David’s moment of need “wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod - if you will take that take it for there is no other except that one here and David said there is none like it - give it to me.
- Come on where's my Bible scholars at? You've already preached this to yourself - if I'm David and I'm fighting Goliath the only thing I am thinking about is don't die - I ain't worried about being King - I'm not worried about the rest of the Philistines - I'm not worried about who is talking about me - I'm just worried about - don't die - I'm trying to take Goliath out - now while I'm trying to take Goliath out - God ain't even thinking about the battle that I'm in right now - He's already 2 three years ahead in in my future – and knowing Goliath's a big battle - and you're going to need to win - but make sure David you snatch his sword at the end of this battle - because this battle is not about this battle this battle is about equipping you for a battle that is coming from your future - hear me.
- **Some of you are so consumed in the situation that you're in right now you can't see 2 three years down the road and not realize that this may be a battle to the enemy - but it's only training ground to God - this is a season where he is preparing you for what he is getting ready to take you.**
- I wouldn't want to go through that fight again - but I learned some things in that fight - that I'm telling you baby - I'm using right now - I'm not happy that they walked out on me - and stabbed me in my back - but I picked up discernment in that moment and ain't going to get me twice - I can see it coming of my somebody - shout - prove it - prove it there was this passage in this Bible when the prophet came to this Widow it was just her and her son - there was a famine - you probably know the story - and they had nothing to eat - the prophet said can you make me a cake - she said bro I ain't got nothing - we going to make a cake for me and my son then we're going to die - and that's it he said great do that - but first make me a cake - she had enough Faith to obey the word of God even though it made no common sense - she made a cake for the prophet and then for her and it said that the flour and the oil sustained her through the famine.
- Somebody say they survived the battle - the Holy Spirit showed me something in that passage that blew my mind - years later here's what it says it says after they survived that famine - later on her son died – Wow! What's bigger a deal hunger or death - but when her son died - it was not her first battle - yeah - and she knew who her God was - and she said I wonder if the same God who can multiply flour and oil can breathe life back into my dead boy. Let me take him to the same place where God did the last miracle – and during the whole time it was never about the famine - never about the flour - never about the oil – it was all about building that Faith muscle for when she actually needed it- she knew how to use it - hear me - the battles that you fought in your past were only preparing you for the victory that God has ahead of you - you may have called it a battle - but I'm telling you it was a blessing because you were ready when the next battle came to you.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon notes – “The Battle Made Me” by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- Third Point: Some battles come find me - some battles I go looking for - last thing is running from battles is not an option – it says in verse 11 at the end of that story - David ate the bread - he has the sword - and it says the Servants said to him “is this not David the king of the land - by the way y'all he was anointed king but he wasn't operating as a King - here was the enemy calling David by his future - yeah even though nothing about his current situation - looked like the future that God had promised him they said is this not David the king of the land - did they not sing of him to one another and dances saying Saul has slain his thousands and David his 10 thousands - now David took these words to heart and was - watch this - very much afraid - you would think if people are reading your resume that your chest would go out - yeah that's me killing Philistines - but it said fear came over David and it says - watch - this so he changed his behavior and pretended Madness – his hands scratched on the doors of the gate and he let his saliva fall down on his beard.
- Here's David in the face of a new enemy with a resume of Victory and instead of standing 10 toes down and saying the God who brought victory in every season of my life he will do it again - David started to pretend to be less than who God called him to be - because he didn't want to fight another battle.
- Elevation hear me - there will be opportunities in your future - if you do not have the right perspective - to diminish who God has called you to be just to avoid another fight - oh man - when I get around these people and I talk about all that God's going to do through my life - they get angry - so I'm just gonna stop talking - come on - when I walk in boldness - and I'm actually moving – and I get Flack - I get attacked - so let there going to be temptations of let me just shrink - let me just stop dreaming - let me just stop pushing - let me just stop pressing - and if you're not careful you can look at the blessings that God has done in your life up to this point - and you can say this is good enough - the heat that I've had to take to get this far - I don't want to fight anymore - a lot of times - people say - Pastor man that message was just for me - and sometimes I'm transparent - sometimes I'm not - but in this moment I will be - and I tell you this message ain't for you - this is for me - because I'm walking out of a season where I just said God I don't want to fight anymore - this this stinks - I'm tired - I'm exhausted – our church has been outrageously blessed and God has moved it forward with Leaps and Bounds and every time it's moved forward - there has been an insane attack prior - and I'm like - God if this is what building your kingdom is like count me out - and I'm not talking about like stupid attacks like people talking about you - that how many people know people talking about you ain't got nothing to do with nothing - but attacks on your children our church went through this season - where we grew exponentially - and right before we grew exponentially - we sit down in the doctor's office - and doctor tells me my seven-year-old is losing her hearing and she'll never be able to hear - let's begin to start this process of figuring out how she's going to live without hearing - and I'm like God - I need sign - this church grew on the other side God supernaturally he healed her no healing problems.
- Whatsoever another season like that comes, Church grows exponentially - me and my wife are traveling at some conf or whatever it may be we get a phone call our 2-year-old broke her femur and is in the hospital and we're in another city - I said God if this if this is the fight - count me out - cuz last year she's running around healthy - healed - perfect good.

## **Part 2: eGroup study questions**

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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Sermon Discussion: "The Battle Made Me" by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

Define anointing?

Sermon Discussion: "The Battle Made Me" by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

As we walk through David's story, not only do we see God pluck him out of a family but we see God pour oil on his head to anoint David - and we see David get results out of his life that are not equal to the effort that he puts in - **just in case you were wondering what anointing is - anointing is when you put in human efforts and you get back Supernatural results - when you look at the results you get back and you realize it is not equal to the effort I put in - this was none other than the hand of God - and if you would be honest - and I'll be honest with you - ain't a lot of honest people in church - you cannot take credit for everything that has happened in your life.** I know you are educated - I know you worked hard - I know you put that effort in - but the results you are seeing in your life are not comparable to the effort that you've put in - it is none other than the hand of God on your life.

Sermon Discussion: "The Battle Made Me" by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

**As you look over the life of David you see the favor of God - but you see battles that David wish he had never fought - and if you look back over your own life you can see the favor of God - but we all see battles that we wish we never had to fight - maybe it was battles with depression - maybe it was battles with sickness - maybe it was battles with confusion - or relational battles - but we all have battles in our stories that we would not wish on our worst enemy - and we sometimes ask God why did I have to go through this - and here's what I've discovered - that you can waste a lot of time commiserating over all the battles that you've been through - that you can actually forget all of the blessings scenes and favor and open doors of what God has done.**

Sermon Discussion: "The Battle Made Me" by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

“Some of you have been fighting for your life and you've believed the LIE of the enemy that you did something wrong - that maybe I messed up some way - and that's why I'm battling the way that I'm battling or maybe because of the fight that you're facing - you're like - has God forgotten about me? Has he abandoned me? Has he left me? **You're not fighting because you did something wrong - you are fighting because your father's Kingdom and purpose is on the inside of you - and the enemy is attacking the potential that God has placed on the inside of you - the fight has found you because there's Destiny on your life - and by the way the size of your fight is an indication of the size of the call of God on your life.**”

**Some of you are so consumed in the situation that you're in right now you can't see 2 three years down the road and not realize that this may be a battle to the enemy - but it's only training ground to God - this is a season where he is preparing you for what he is getting ready to take you.**

Sermon Discussion: "The Battle Made Me" by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

1 Samuel 7:12: "Until now, the Lord has helped us" - commentary by Charles Spurgeon: "In the same way, look down the long aisles of your years at the green branches of mercy overhead and the strong pillars of loving kindness and faithfulness that supported your joys. And we have more distance to go - more trials, more joys, more temptations, more triumphs, more prayers, more answers, more toils, more fights, and more victories. Be of good courage, believer with grateful confidence - for he who has helped thee hitherto, will help thee all the journey through. When read in the light of heaven, how glorious a prospect will the "until now" provides!"

Sermon Discussion: "The Battle Made Me" by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

Daily devotional Spurgeon quote from 12/26/2024

“The reed is spongy and hollow - there is no substance in it. The reed lives in water and owes its very existence to the moisture. Let the water drain away, and the reed withers - do I only serve God when I am in good company - when faith is profitable and respectful? Do I love the Lord only when I am enjoying comforts from His hands? The reed cannot grow without water - but the Lord's plants can and do flourish, even when there's a drought - A godly man (and woman) often grows best when his/her circumstances are daunting - Lord - let me find my life in you and not in the shifting sands of this world's favor or gain.”

Sermon Discussion: "The Battle Made Me" by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

On what grounds do you fight?

Sermon Discussion: "The Battle Made Me" by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

On what grounds do you fight?

**“Why did David run after Goliath? Because Goliath dared to defy who God was - here's the battles you need to start picking in your life - anything that defies the promise that God has made over your life - you've got to stop allowing the enemy to occupy territory that does not belong to him - and begin to declare this is what God has promised me and - I'm taking my joy back - I'm taking my peace back - I'm taking my prosperity back - I will not lack - I will not have not enough - I'm taking my health back - as matter of fact I'm taking back every unbelieving family member in my family - as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord - devil get your hands off my teenager - get your hands off of my spouse - addiction is broken in my family in the name of Jesus - divorce is cancelled in my family in the name of Jesus - you've got start attacking what God has promised you.”**

Sermon Discussion: "The Battle Made Me" by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

So what are fights to avoid?

Sermon Discussion: "The Battle Made Me" by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

So what are fights to avoid?

“Here's the problem what happens when you're fighting - sometimes you don't know how to calm down and I see this a lot - can I just be ignorant on social media - people fighting fights that they ain't got no business fighting - as you are running after the fights that God has for you make sure you're not picking fights that don't stand between you and the destiny that God has for you - because one of the things the enemy want is to get you occupied in a fight that ain't got nothing to do with what God.”

“You can't be handing pieces of your mind out all willy-nilly – okay? You need to keep all the mind that you've got - keep your mind - you've just got to make a decision - I'm not going to fight a fight that has the ability to block me from all that God has for me.”

Sermon Discussion: "The Battle Made Me" by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

If you look at the life of David - there's one thing that you might miss that the only times David nearly died was when he was in the palace not when he was at on the battlefield - the safe place for David was out fighting the battles that God called him to fight - it was in the palace that Saul tried to kill him - it was in the palace that Absalom created that coup and tried to take him out - it was in the palace that he saw Bathsheba and ruined his legacy - David was safest when he was on the offense going after all that God had called him to go after - but when David allowed the intimidation of the enemy to keep him blocked up - in what he thought was a safe place is when he was not safe at all - hear me you are safest not when you're playing it safe but when you are running forward in faith towards all that God has for you.

# Back up material

Sermon Discussion: "God Gave It To Me" by Pastor Steven Furtick on Nov. 17, 2024

Closing Prayer on 11/17/2024: "I want to pray over those things in your life right now, whether they are gifts or glitches. I want you to see them as in the same hands, the hands of God. There's something significant God is trying to get you to take responsibility for today. As you take responsibility for that thing, he is calling you to reframe it and refocus it. The starting place is not the problem; the starting place is God. So now, God, we worship you because you're great. We thank you for all of the battles you've won for your people. We thank you for all of the times that all we had was a donkey's jawbone, but you did it. He's the one who cleansed you. He's the one who set you free. God, we're not going to get to this place in our lives and think we have to do it by ourselves. We have a really good record of what you've done."

**Outstanding theology Here – I really lean in when Pastor Furtick talks about Gideon in Judges 6:**

“When God Goes In” by Pastor Steven Furtick – March 27, 2023

“Make Peace With Your Strength” by Pastor Steven Furtick – April 2, 2023

“Breaking The Bondage Of Wrong Belief” by Pastor Steven Furtick on 8/11/2024

Power quote from Pastor Furtick on 8/11/2024: *“They have come into a land whose customs have become their captivity. They have come into a land that God gave them, and the customs of that land have become their captivity. The Lord says, “Gideon, I want to use you to lead a revolt and a revolution. I’m going to enable you, strengthen you, supply you, and give the enemy into your hand, and you will strike them all down.” Gideon said, “Me? I’m the least in my family. My clan is the least in the nation. Why me?” God said, “Why you? Because me.” God turns 2s into 10s instantly. Only God can do that. The beauty of this is God doesn't say, “Gideon, I’m going to put you through a preparation process. This is going to take three years to get it done.” He has actually been preparing Gideon while Gideon has been hidden. Do you know God has been preparing you while you have been hidden too? Do you know God has been giving you tools, resources, lessons, words, and confirmations while you have been in the cave of what you perceive to be your abandonment and wasted season?”*

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon notes – “The Gift Of Grief” by Lisa Harper – on July 7, 2024

Awesome prayer by Lisa Harper on 7/7/2024 – in the sanctuary, most of the congregation is standing – those in grief are sitting – remarkable moment:

- Closing Prayer: “I'm near to those whose lives feel crushed today - this low point in your life - if you bring it to the Lord – He will lead you to a place of intimacy - a place of personal revival - that you probably haven't had the faith to carry – lower your pretense in this family of God - For those of you who are grieving - if the Holy Spirit confirms - would you be audacious enough to even right now say thank you God I'm going to choose to be grateful for this grief? - I can't see around the corner of my circumstances - yet I really do believe You will answer and I really do believe you're enough - and I really do believe you're close to the brokenhearted - and so I'm going to choose right now - I'm going to say thank you - I don't feel it yet - but I'm going to say thank you for this grief because somehow - some way you're going to use even this dead-dog of a season to make me more dependent on you - to make me lean into my brothers and sisters more closely - you're going to build in me a heart of flesh instead of allowing me to hide my heart of stone - King Jesus come and bring Revival - King Jesus come and bring healing - Thank you God.”

Have a good navigational beacon in 2022:

“Life and Leadership at the Highest” A quote from an unknown author and requoted by Pastor Tim Keller in his sermon “This is Jesus” part 4 “Two Grieving Sisters Encounter Jesus” at Oxford University in 2016: “The accounts of Him in the New Testament speak for themselves – He combines qualities that no one has ever seen – despite his incredible claims, we never see him pompous, offended, or standing on his own dignity. Despite being absolutely approachable to the weakest and most broken people, he is completely fearless before the powerful and the corrupt. Despite being weary and lonely, we find him remarkably human - filled with joy, fear, love, and anger. Yet, we never see him Moody. We never see him being inconsistent. We never see Him strong when He should be tender and we never see Him tender when He should be strong. Most interesting of all – Of all his encounters with people - we are continuously surprised – shocking us - but never disappointing us – it is difficult for us to imagine words that Jesus ought to have said or deeds that he ought to have done. Nothing he has done ever falls short - in fact He is always surprising us - because He is incomparably better than what we could imagine for ourselves. Why? These are the surprises of perfection – He has tenderness without weakness – He has strength without harshness – humility without the slightest lack of confidence – unhesitating authority without the slightest sense of self-absorption – Holy and unbending convictions without the slightest lack of approachability – power without insensitivity – passion without prejudice – there is never a false step – there’s never a jarring no – this is life at the highest.”