

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
- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone – See 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
- 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?
- End of year offering on Sunday 12/21/2025
- Christmas at Elevation – Streaming times:
 - 12/23/2025: 6PM
 - 12/24/2025: 3PM, 5PM, and 7PM.

Philippians 3:10-14 - Paul's commitment to press on

“7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. 10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Exodus 13:17-18 - – God takes the Israelites the long way

Crossing the Sea

17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." 18 So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea.[a] The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.

19 Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath. He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place."

20 After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. 21 By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. 22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Exodus 14:15-30 – The Israelites cross the Red Sea

13 Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. 14 The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

15 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. 16 Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. 17 I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. 18 The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.”

19 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, 20 coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, 22 and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

23 The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. 24 During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. 25 He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, “Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.”

26 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.” 27 Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. 28 The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

29 But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. 30 That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. 31 And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Opening Prayer by Pastor Furtick on 12/7/2025: “I call you worthy, worthy you are, worthy you were, worthy you will be forever Yahweh. Father, I thank you so much that you reign and you rule. Not a little God, not a tiny God, not a baby stuck in a manger, but a reigning, present King. There is no other beside you. Every emotional malady fears the name of Jesus. It is the only name that can stand up against the things that bind us. Father, how I thank you for your presence in this place today. Open your hands to the Lord. I pray that you would fill our hands today. Hallelujah. They're not leaving here empty today. Not going into this Christmas season empty. Not going into this Christmas season afraid. Not going into this Christmas season, just dragging, so exhausted. No, God, we are more than conquerors. We have an inheritance. We have a father. We have a wonderful counselor, a mighty God. God, I thank you that today whatever they need, you already know it. They don't have to put it on a list or sit on your lap. You're greater than that. You know the need beneath the need beneath the need beneath the need. So when I ask you to meet their need, I'm not asking you just to do what they want you to do. I'm asking you to do what you need to do. To make them who they're supposed to be. And now God to that end. We ask that you would speak a word into our lives.”

Closing Prayer by Joyce Meyer on 11/2/2025: “How many of you we'll just make a commitment to just try to tighten your belt just a little bit. You're not going to forget it, but at the same time, very profound. Don't say It's just a little bit. No. And don't do it because everybody else is doing it. You're only going to have to answer for yourself. You do what's right if everybody else in the world wants to do it wrong. Amen - Father, we love you so very much, and we're so appreciative that you love us. And I want to thank you for reminding us that we need to pay attention to little things, because it is the little foxes that spoil the vine. So we're all making a fresh commitment today to always be sure that we do what we say we're going to do, Not harbor things like jealousy and petty things and little, hang on to little anger issues- but to just let that stuff go. And help us to appreciate everything you do for us. And God put a watch over our mouth lest we sin against you with our tongue by complaining. And let the words of our mouth and the meditation of our heart be acceptable in your sight. In Jesus' name, amen.”

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “This May be Plan C” by Pastor Furtick on Dec. 7, 2025

“This May Be Plan C” by Pastor Steven Furtick - December 8, 2025

Sermon Highlights

- Sometimes, God will send a problem in answer to a prayer.
- **Relief is easy. Freedom is a process.**
- **Your tears aren't wasted; they are watering something.**
- God is the only one who really knows what's in you and when you're ready.
- Even if it takes longer than you think, you're still going to get there.
- Sometimes the mission doesn't look like the map.
- God took them on a detour because of His mercy.
- **You have to release to receive.**
- **If you keep your hands open, God will never stop meeting your needs.**
- God's got me right where He wants me.
- God leads us to the deep end so we can depend on Him.
- Crying is no substitute for crossing.

Scriptures:

- Philippians 3:10-14 -- Paul's commitment to press on
- Exodus 13:17-18 -- God takes the Israelites the long way
- Exodus 14:15-30 -- The Israelites cross the Red Sea

Discussion Questions

- **“Sometimes, God will send a problem in answer to a prayer.” What have you been seeing as a problem that could be an answer to a prayer?**
- “You have to release to receive.” As we head into next week's Trust In God Offering, where do you feel God prompting you to open your hands and trust Him?
- “God took them on a detour because of His mercy.” Where can you see God's mercy as you look back on the detours of your life?
- “Crying is no substitute for crossing.” Where have you been crying out to God, but He's calling you to step forward?
- “Even if it takes longer than you think, you're still going to get there.” In what area of your life are you speaking this promise over?

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “This May be Plan C” by Pastor Furtick on Dec. 7, 2025

AI enabled sermon summary

Plan C Faith, Detours, and the Red Sea Crossing

Dec 7, 2025 • 59 minutes

Overview: The speaker leads worship and prayer, then preaches on embracing “Plan C” — God’s unexpected route — to know Christ and move forward despite detours, delays, and problems that may be God’s answers to prayer. Using Philippians 3:10–16 and Exodus 13–14, he frames the journey in three stages: crying (calling on God), crossing (moving forward through difficulty), and covering (God’s protection). He exhorts listeners to let go of the past, open their hands to receive, and trust that though the path is longer or circular, “you’re still going to get there.”

Scripture foundations and contrasts

- Philippians 3:10–16 (written from prison): “I want to know Christ,” including “the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings.” Paul hasn’t “arrived,” but “presses on,” “forgetting what is behind” and “straining toward what is ahead” for the “prize” in Christ Jesus.
- Exodus 13:17–18; 14:15–31: God avoids the shorter Philistine route lest Israel “face war” and return to Egypt, instead leading them by the desert to the Red Sea. At the sea, God parts the waters; Israel crosses on dry ground; the Egyptians pursue and are drowned. “The Egyptians you see today, you will see them no more.” God gains glory through Pharaoh’s defeat.
- Key contrast: Israel exiting captivity vs. Paul still in captivity; in both, God’s presence and purpose prevail.

Three-part framework: crying, crossing, covering

- **Crying (calling on God):** God hears and responds to cries (Exodus 3:7). He often puts something in our path in response to prayer. Sometimes God sends a problem as an answer to a prior prayer; the answer may not resemble the request at first.
- **Crossing (moving forward in faith):** “Crying is no substitute for crossing.” God tells Moses, “Tell the Israelites to move on.” Faith acts. God led them to water because they were too weak for war; He chooses the strategic route, not always the short one.
- **Covering (God’s protection and strategy):** Cloud and fire move behind Israel, separating them from Egypt; God jams chariot wheels and drowns the enemy. What was meant to destroy them becomes an instrument for God’s glory and their deliverance.

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Plan C: definition and meaning

- Plan A: straight line from Egypt to the promise; Plan B: go back to Egypt; Plan C: God's unexpected, sometimes circular route via the “sea.”
- “Not every circle is a sin.” Before Israel's 40-year wandering for unbelief, God's initial detour was mercy.
- “Sometimes the mission doesn't look like the map.” Even so, “you're still going to get there.”
- Problems as answers and the question of readiness
- God knows when we are truly ready; despite appearing “ready for battle,” Israel might turn back if they faced war immediately (Exodus 13:17–18).
- God may lead to a Red Sea—an impossible problem—precisely to answer prayer and destroy pursuing enemies for good.
- Release to receive: open-hands object lesson - Illustration: a volunteer tightly grips money; to receive more, she must loosen her grip. “You have to release to receive.”
- **“God can't fill your fists.” Open hands/heart/mind/faith enable God's continued provision.**
- Paul's anchor: “I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me” — God already has us.

Exhortations and key lines

- “I want to know Christ” over having life look perfect; better to suffer and know Him than succeed and forget Him.
- **“You're still going to get there” despite detours, delays, wounds, or changed companions.**
- Let go of the past; don't carry “chariots” (old bondages) into the promise.
- **Move forward when God says “go”; trust His route when it isn't short or straight.**
- Year-end offering: commemorative day next week; give now or after; online at elevationchurch.org/giving or [/give](http://elevationchurch.org/give). Celebration of givers who sacrifice and serve.
- Upcoming: Christmas experiences planned; speaker is trying to have Holly preach again this year.
- Call to faith in Christ - Invitation to confess Jesus as Lord and believe God raised Him from the dead to be saved; corporate prayer offered for those giving their lives to Christ; hands raised in response.

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Next steps / actions

- Release what you're gripping (past, plans, limited expectations) and open your hands to receive what God gives next.
- Move forward in faith (“crossing”); don't let tears or fear replace action when God says “go.”
- Trust Plan C: accept detours as God's strategy and mercy; watch for problems that may be answers to prior prayers.
- Focus on “I want to know Christ” above outcomes; press on, forget what's behind, and strain toward what's ahead.
- Participate in the year-end offering as an act of love and worship; engage in the church's upcoming Christmas experiences.

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- **Opening Prayer: “I call you worthy, worthy you are, worthy you were, worthy you will be forever Yahweh. Worthy you were, worthy you are, worthy you will be forever Yahweh. For you alone. are worthy for you alone. Are worthy for you alone. Oh He is Lord of creation. He is Lord in this place. Father, I thank you so much that you reign and you rule. Not a little God, not a tiny God, not a baby stuck in a manger, but a reigning, present King. There is no other beside you. Every disease fears the name of Jesus. Every emotional malady fears the name of Jesus. It is the only name that can stand up against the things that bind us and command them, loose that child and let them go. Father, how I thank you for your presence in this place today. Each and every person that you brought, each person that's online, each person at every campus. Father, it is my privilege and my honor to pray for them now. As they open their hands to you, do it just like this, wherever you are. Open your hands to the Lord. I pray that you would fill them today. Hallelujah. They're not leaving here empty today. No, heck no. Not going into this Christmas season empty. Not going into this Christmas season afraid. Not going into this Christmas season, oh, just dragging, so exhausted. No, God, we are more than conquerors. We have an inheritance. We have a father. We have a wonderful counselor, a mighty God. God, I thank you that today whatever they need, you already know it. They don't have to put it on a list or sit on your lap. You're greater than that. You know the need beneath the need beneath the need beneath the need. You know the thing beneath the thing beneath the thing beneath the thing. So when I ask you to meet their need, I'm not asking you just to do what they want you to do. I'm asking you to do what you need to do. To make them who they're supposed to be. And now God to that end. We ask that you would speak a word into our lives.”**
- Somebody shout speak Lord. I'm listening. Now clap those hands if you receive what God has to give you today. In the name of Jesus. Wave that hand if you're happy that the Lord lets us see another day. Come on wiggle all five fingers. Wiggle those toes down in your shoes. Just to let the devil know that everything he tried to take you out, it didn't work. You're standing flat footed in the house of God saying goodbye yesterday.
- Come on Jesus, fill this place with more. Well, I'll tell you what, for one time I was praying that the Lord would fill the church with His glory. I said, fill it up, Lord. And the Lord said in my heart, I will if they will. I said, what do you mean? He said, if they'll fill it with praise, I'll fill it with presence. That changed my life. Did you know you can welcome the presence of God? You can call His name. Every time I call His name. Praise the Lord.
- Our scripture for today is Philippians chapter 3, verses 10 through 16. And we're going to have a two scripture day. I got two ribbons in my Bible. So I marked our first scripture with this red ribbon and my second one with the other. Please be in prayer concerning our year-end offering. Next week will be a commemorative day. Of course, you can give now, you can give after. I'm praying that everybody would get in on this.
- I want to celebrate the givers in this church. I want to celebrate the people who make it happen. I want to celebrate the people who sacrifice, celebrate the people who serve, celebrate the people who have made a place. We love, let me just get out of my preacher voice for a minute. We love God. Love gives. So we give to God because we love God. That's just how it is. I will cut everybody else out of my Christmas before I'll cut God out of this offering. I will. I will wrap the presents from last year and put them back under the tree before I would not give to God in this offering. He's been too good to me. He's been too faithful to me. He's done too much for me. what I'm supposed to have God make a way for me and then never worship him, you can't stop me from giving to God.

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Elevation Sermon Notes – “This May be Plan C” by Pastor Furtick on Dec. 7, 2025

- I love to give to God. And I'm excited for thousands of us to do it. And of course, we'll be doing it online. You can go to elevationchurch.org/giving right now or give. I don't know if it's giving or give. But you'll get there. Type enough stuff in, it'll put you right here on the right page. That's not the only thing that's happening in our church. We've got some amazing Christmas experience that's planned for you. And I'm excited about it. I'm trying to talk Holly into preaching one more time before the year's over. We'll see. How many of you would enjoy that? Yeah. People have spoken out. I think they're all going to. I think they're all going to transfer their memberships if you don't give us one more sermon. I was looking back on the sermons that I preached to you this year, just really trying to put in context what the Lord has spoken and remember some of the things that he's shared with us. And it was just powerful for me to remember the times that we've shared together in his presence. I did a series called Cold. I did a series called That's What I Thought.
- I did a series called Same Lies, New Lures. Thank you. I already forgot that one. And yeah, that's what you think about that, huh? That it, I've done it out in D. That means the Lord wanted to send you a score update to let you know that no matter how far down you are in the fourth quarter of 2025, somebody didn't say, I feel a comeback, come on, this is the last quarter of the year, but God can do anything. Look at your neighbor and say, da-da-da-da-da-da-da. Sometimes you've got to tell the devil, da-da-da-da-da-da. Philippians chapter 3, verse 10. Thank you to all of our campus pastors who preach so beautifully. Thank you for leading. Thank you for sharing. Thank you for caring. Thank you for God. Making sure you're still standing. It's good for your circulation. Philippians chapter 3, verse 10. I, I can't speak for you, but I want to know Christ. I do. I want to know Christ.
- Yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. And so somehow, love that word. It means I'm more focused on the person than the plan. I want to know Christ so that somehow, however he chooses to do it. That's what we're going to talk about today by the way. So somehow I can attain to the resurrection from the dead. Now this part's important. Not that I've already obtained all this. Or have already arrived at my goal. Warn your neighbor. I'm not there yet. I'm not there yet. Tell them I might cuss you out leaving the parking lot today. If the Lord doesn't know where it is. I'm not there yet. I don't want to, but it's possible. If the traffic's real bad, if you drive stupid, focus, I should read the whole verse again. I messed it up. Not that I have already paid all this or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Beautiful brothers and sisters.

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- I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do for getting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Give the Lord praise for his word. Now Exodus chapter number 13. For our Old Testament demonstration, Exodus chapter 13, verse 17. says this when Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, if they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt. So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle. Now, I want you to sit down in this order, okay? If you are at one of our physical locations today, play along, if you're online, just raise your hand in the chat or something like that. If everything went the way you planned it this year, and you were exactly where you intended to be in every area of your life at the end of this year, when you started the year, you planned it, and right now, you possess it, you may be seated. Because we wanna look at who the, hired to be our therapist or our coach or pray for because you're a liar. But everybody else that had a plan A. And then a plan B. I want you to look at your neighbor and tell him my title because I think the whole church is still standing. Tell him. This must be my plan C. This must be my plan C.
- Very good. This must be my plan C. That's what I'm calling the message. This must be my plan. See, we'll talk a little bit about what that means in just a moment. There was an apocalyptic fog in the air as we drove to church today. Abby and I were driving into church and I looked at her and said, this is kind of freaky. She said, I know, but it's kind of cool. We were listening to a song that we just recorded. You don't have it yet, you will soon. It's called So Be It. And as I was saying this to her, the voice of the lead vocalist on our song called So Be It said, like a thief in the night, he'll return for his bride. Even so, Jesus come, Jesus come, split the skies. So be it, God. And I looked at that and said, wouldn't it be wild? While we're listening to that, Jesus just came back.
- It's like six in the morning. She's rolling her eyes at me and stuff. I looked at her. I'm just messing with her. I said, would you be ready? She said, not really. I've got some work to do. Just keep it on. I'm just like, I wouldn't want him to come exactly right now. I don't know what's going on in young Abby's life that she needs to repent of. Y'all pray for her as well. When the Israelites left Egypt, the Bible uses an interesting phrase, and I call your attention to it once again, as we bring these two amazing, amazing scriptures together today. One is located out of 400 years of slavery, where God set his people free, and one is located in a prison cell, where an apostle is being held captive for his obedience to God. Let me set this up, okay? The richness of it is, the second scripture I read you, they're coming out, Of captivity. And the first scripture I read you.
- He is still in captivity. But I think there is a thread. That will help us evaluate. Where we are. Where we wanted to be. The plan we had. And what God actually did. While we were making our plans. Which was laugh. The Egyptians had held God's people captive. To the point. That they cried out to God. And I want to speak this sermon in three different stages today. One, I want to talk about crying. Crying. And then I want to talk about the crossing. The crossing. Why aren't you writing down the points? What if there's a pop quiz on this? What if the devil tries to beat you up next week and you need to go back and refer to this? Write it down. The crying. The crossing. And then the covering. Those three things that I want to talk to you about. day, they cried out to God. It says in Exodus chapter three, verse seven, this is not for the screen. Just listen to it real quick. When the Lord appeared to Moses, he said, I've come down because I'm concerned about my people.

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- I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out. I have devices all over my house and listen to me. I know they listen to me because I talk about a restaurant and it shows up on my phone without being typed in. I'm thankful that the Lord listens to me as well and that he puts things in my path in response to the prayers that I pray. Have you ever noticed that God will put something in your path in response to the prayer that you pray? God won't always pick you up and carry you where you need to go, but he'll put something in your path. I believe for somebody right now, God put this message in your algorithm because he's putting something in your path. You almost tripped over this video, didn't you? You didn't even wanna see a 45 year old middle aged man in a black hoodie with a Bible open. You were looking for something much more entertaining.
- God put something in your path because he knows about the things that you're going through and he wanted you to accidentally trip over this video. It's not the algorithm, it's the anointing of the God who loves you so much and called you from an early age. that he would put this message in your path at this time. Always find an accident. Don't switch it off. Don't mute it. Don't scroll past it. Don't fast forward until I really start going good. I'm going right now to tell you. Often, God will answer your prayer by putting something in your path. And we praise him when he does. We praise him when he does. We praise him when he does. No, it's not luck. It was the Lord. The Lord put that in my path. It wasn't happenstance. It wasn't coincidence.
- Stop blaming coincidence for God's work. You see what I'm saying? When you call it coincidence, you diminish the divine. It was God. God puts things in our path in response to our prayers. And if we are not aware of the things that he puts in our path and answer to our prayers, we will trip right over what he put in front of us, trying to get to what we think we want. I said, you can trip right in front of what God put. I said that wrong. You can trip over what God put right in front of you, trying to get where you think you need to be, or trying to get to what you think you want. Paul said, I wanna know Christ. I'm clear about the outcome. I wanna draw closer to him. If I have to suffer to get to know him, I would rather suffer and know him than succeed and forget him. I would rather go through something hard and have him than to be far from him and everybody else think my life is wonderful.
- I would rather have Christ, I would rather have him away and it's so important that you understand whatever you're going through in your life, that God hears your products. What do we mean when we say that? Well, let me break it down for you. And I can't exactly explain this to you, but when I describe it, the Holy spirit will help you to know what I'm talking about. Sometimes God answers your prayer by putting something in your path. That looks like what you prayed for that happens. But today I want to talk with you for a little bit about when God sends a problem in answer to a prayer. Sometimes God will send a problem in answer to a prayer.
- The example that I'm thinking about in my life right now is too personal to share. But. I just recently prayed about something and then a problem arose and I didn't see the connection between the two at the time. But the Lord then later showed me, you know, that problem that you are now praying for me to remove from your life, that problem that you're praying for me to remove. I sent to answer the last prayer you pray. I don't know if this is clear enough. It's like, I asked God to do something in my life and then something happened that did not resemble what I asked God to do. And so I'm like, oh God, I got to get rid of this problem. So you can answer this prayer, right? I'm praying about this. Here comes the problem.

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Elevation Sermon Notes – “This May be Plan C” by Pastor Furtick on Dec. 7, 2025

- I'm like, oh God, take this problem out and answer the prayer. And the Lord's like, I just did, but I did it different. I did it different. And so now the answer doesn't resemble the prayer. So you are too blind to see that the thing that you're continuing to pray for me to take away is the thing that I sent to answer the prayer that you were praying to begin with. I know it's not very clear. Let me try to make it clear from the Bible in Exodus chapter 13. God's people are coming out of Egyptian slavery. God answered their prayer. He sent Moses to get them out of slavery. But they're not just concerned with coming out of Egypt, because where will they go from Egypt? I have to have somewhere to live. I have to have some type of soil to cultivate. I have to have some type of agriculture by which I can partner with the earth so that our babies can eat. I have to have some kind of formation.
- I have to have some sort of government. And God is always taking you out of something, bringing you into something, taking you out of something, bringing you into something, taking you out of something and bringing you into something. And the Bible says something very powerful in Exodus chapter 13, verse 17, when Pharaoh let the people go. What's interesting about that? God knew that although Pharaoh had let his people go with just 10 plagues, his people had still not let Pharaoh go. Isn't it amazing that it only took God 10 plagues? I know that's a lot, but it's only 10. It only took God 10 plagues to get Pharaoh to let his people go. Now, Pharaoh didn't let them go quickly. The enemy will never let you go quickly. Not if you're gifted. Why would he?
- Why would he let you go quickly? Why would he release his grip on you? Why would he allow you to forgive without feeling bitterness? Why would he give up your services? Why would he let you go easily? He knows what you're capable of if you ever get liberated. Why would he let you go? Come on, somebody in New York, shout. The reason the devil is squeezing you is because there's something he sees in you that if you ever get free, if you ever get loose, if you ever shake this off of you, if you ever get out of here. If I ever get out of this place, if I ever get out of this mindset, I'm going to do something for God. Somebody shout, God has something for me. God's got something for you. That's what the attack means.
- That's what the enemy is fighting you over. God's got something for you. And isn't it amazing that although it only took 10 plagues for God to get Pharaoh to let his people go. It took 40 years of wilderness wandering for God to get his people to let Pharaoh go. Relief is easy. Freedom is a process. I feel anointed to teach today. Let's don't worry about all three points. Let's just talk about crying real quick. What if you are crying about something that God is using, that God is trying to use? What if you are crying about something right now? And the Lord is saying those who sow in tears will reap with joy. See, you think those tears are wasted. They're not wasted. They're water. They are watering the harvest that you can't see right now. So some of you, God, put something in your life. It's a great challenge. It's a terrible situation. It's a horrible situation. It's about as bad as being at a Red Sea. Look at this scripture. The Bible says God could have taken them a short way. But he didn't. And this is really the challenge, right? And God's good, but he doesn't. Look at the scripture again. He led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt, ready for battle. So now I'm confused.
- Work with me. If they were ready for battle, verse 18, then why in verse 17 say, Does God say if they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt? God is the only one who really knows when you're ready. God is the only one who really knows what's in there. So God is the only one who can fully determine what to take you through and when, because he's the only one who knows what's really in there. There is a powerful thing that happens when I begin to decide in my life. that God has me where he wants me.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “This May be Plan C” by Pastor Furtick on Dec. 7, 2025

- Even if it was caused by an attack of the enemy, God has me where he wants me. Now, what would it look like if at the end of this year, because I'm trying to help you as you reflect and as you expect and as you accept all the things that we have to do at this time of the year, what would it look like for you to have the kind of empathy for yourself and trust in God to realize that even if it's taking you a little longer than you expected it to take you, watch this, you're still going to get there. Tell your neighbor, you're still going to get there.
- Maybe that's what we'll call the message when we put it online. Because I know you're running a little late. I know you got a little bit of a lip. I know you're not looking as fresh as you were when you started out the journey. I know it's not exactly the right time. But you're still going to get there. Tell them again and say it with faith. You're still going to get there. You're still going to get there. And it might have some detours along the way. And it might have some disappointments along the way. And you might not get there with who you thought was going to be. Not everybody that started on the road trip is going to be in the car when you pull up.
- But you're still going to get there. You understand what I'm saying? You might not get through it all unscathed and unscarred. You might have to show a few of your wounds and your scars along the way to encourage somebody else. But you're still going to get there. The tears will not stop you. The trials will not stop you. The trauma will not stop you. The traffic will not stop you. It will not stop you. Your boss will not stop you. The economy will not stop you. The weather will not stop you. That's why I like a day where the fog is out. Because there was somebody who got up and saw the weather was bad in Charlotte, but said, I still gotta get there.
- And I'm looking for a few rough riders in the house today who say, come hell or high water, come rain, come storm, come setback, come difficulty, come depression, now show up your neighbor and testify, say, I'm still gonna get there. I'm still gonna get there. Don't cancel my reservation. I'm still going to get there. Don't give my ticket away. I'm still going to get there. Don't give away my seat at the table. I'm still going to get there. I'm not going to be on the fast bus, but I'm still going to get there. I'm not the valedictorian, but I intend to graduate. I'm still going to get there. I might not do it like she did it, but I'm still going to get there. I might not have the right shoes on, but I'm still going to get there. I might have a story to tell, but I'll tell my story. Wipe your tears and cry. Wipe your tears and walk. Wipe your tears and lift your hands. I'm still going to get there. I'm going to despair. Had I not believed that I would see what's there. The goodness of the Lord. So Moses, why are we going this way? Can't we go the straight way? And see, there's a difference between the straight way and the right way. This is plan A. This is plan A. And this is plan B. This is plan C. This tell your neighbor, this might be your plan.

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- See plan C plan C is like this. Okay. Here's where they were Egypt, right? Here's where they were going. That's plan a and then plan B is go back. That's what B stands for. We're going back to Egypt. This is plan C plan. C doesn't make any sense. Plan C is wait a minute, we're going around in a circle. Why are you taking us this way? Moses, Moses must be bad with a map. Sometimes the mission doesn't look like the map. This is so true for your life. I need you to know that you're still gonna get there. Say, I'm still gonna get there. I'm still gonna get there. Graham came to me this week and he said, something horrible happened. We had this speaker lined up to speak Sunday night at the living room and they can't speak now. And so what do I do? I said, oh, it's time for plan C. Plan C. to the Lord and then cram and then cram the message as fast as you can. Cause this is plan C. I know it's nice when you get the prepare Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, but this is Friday and you got to speak Sunday. So this is plan. This is when you thought you were going to have a week off, but this is when you thought you were going to retire at age 62, but you got to retire now, this is plan. See, I'm preaching to somebody and setting somebody up for you just to see this, this plan. See, this is when it could have happened that fast and you wanted to go back, but God won't let you go back. But you can't go forward and God's taking you on. Plan C. Back in rehab. Plan C. Back in recovery. Plan C. Sending the children to their mother's house on the weekends. You didn't plan that getting married. This is plan C. This is plan. C.
- This is, I didn't want to lose my virginity, but I did. And now I'm asking God, can he help me move past this in a new way? This is plan C. And it doesn't mean that God left me. It just means he's leading me differently. This is plan. I feel the testimonies coming back to me, even as I preach the word. This is going to be one of those words where the reapers overtake the sowers. By the time I can even release this word into your heart, you are going to see what God is saying to you. He said that you thought you were going here, and then you wanted to go back. And it's not plan A, and it's not plan B. It's going to be plan C. See because there is something that God knows about me that he finds it necessary For this stage of my life to take me not like this and not like this But like this and I'm still gonna get there, but I'm gonna get there in a circular route I write this down. Not every circle is a sin Not every circle is a sin and The Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness because they would not believe. But before they spent 40 years because of their unbelief, God took them on a two week detour because of his mercy.
- He knew something I need to do. I'm just trying to see. Will you let go of plan a and will you refuse plan B so you can see. What God wants to do in their life. I could go home right now, but we can keep going if you want to. Let's talk about the crossing. We talked about the crying. Let's talk about the crossing. Who should I use for this illustration? Volunteer yourself if you dare. Somebody that, now, you don't have to do this, so put your hand down, and I'm going to ask you this question. Somebody do it if you want to do it, if you feel called to do it, if you feel led to do it. You do not have to expose yourself, I wouldn't. But just... If Christmas is going to be tight for you this year, and you want to do this as a volunteer, and you want me to do this here, we're going to do this, you're committed. You don't know what I'm going to do. So... Whatever I want to do for this illustration, you'll do it. Yeah. You have to do exactly what I say. Nothing more, nothing less. You committed to the illustration.

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Elevation Sermon Notes – “This May be Plan C” by Pastor Furtick on Dec. 7, 2025

- Thank you. Put your hand out. Yeah. Open like that. Can we see this on the cameras? Everybody let's get our optimal camera angle. So this illustration, put them a little higher, a little higher, a little higher. Yeah, right there. Now, I'm afraid about whether to do this. You know what I'm about to do? Anybody else want to volunteer? I'm going to just show this real quick. It's going to be very simple. If I give you this and it says king and you take it and then you squeeze it. I'm going to ball it up and squeeze it. Squeeze the other end too. Just breathe in. Squeeze the thumb in there. Now, with the thumb ring, you can get to it, for the sake of the illustration. And she squeezes it so tight. Squeezes it so tight, it hurts. And then I have one of these, and I say, okay, now I would like to give you this too. And no, no, no, no, no. But what you instinctively did is what you would have to do you would have to release to receive. Now, all in all, this is what we do.
- This is what we do. We get real tight when God gives us something, right? I wanna go mountain. But what if God wants to give you something else? You're like, I knew he was a prosperity preacher. It's a metaphor! It's an analogy! This is my own personal money, I'm giving it away. I'm not asking her for money. I'm trying to give her something. But if I'm trying to give her something, and her grip on what I just gave her is tootight, I can try to give her something. No, no, no, no, no. You're creative! Don't mess up my illustration. Now you can receive when you release. Release. Ball it up. Ball it up. Ball it up till when you hand it to somebody, they wonder what has she been through? What? Ball it up. But if you hold it too tight, there may be more that God wants to give you, but he can't.
- Oh, oh, I hear, I hear like this. God said, I can't fill your fists. Hmm. Hmm. Good stuff. Good stuff. You want one? You want one? Come on, do it real quick. I got plenty of this. As long as you've got open hands. Oh, now it's getting really good, y'all. It's getting better and better and better. But if she wants to hold on to what that was, she can't get what this is. And this is what she did because she has learned by now that this person standing in front of me is a giver, not a taker. When you learn that about God, it's just absolutely amazing. Because God's like, if you open up your heart to God, you're going to be able to do it. open and keep your mind open and keep your spirit open and keep your faith high and keep your hope up i will never stop meeting your needs He sees me empty-handed. He sees me brokenhearted. He sees me crying at night. He sees me. And he holds me. Did you notice? Now listen, we've got to get through this off the bridge just next morning.
- Did you notice that Paul said, I'm striving to take hold of that for which Jesus already took hold of me. That means that I don't have to grab it because God grabbed me. Amen. Y'all give her a hand. Everybody have a good day. Everybody in that section, I'm gonna give you a hug too. Hey, thank you for helping me preach. Thank you for helping me show that the secret in the season of your life this. It's serious. Because you raised your hand, God filled it. I love it. I love the Lord. He heard my cry. He pitied every groan. Not only did he lead them through the desert, but he led them through the water. That's the cross. The cross. Why is God taking me through this? Why is God letting it be like this? Why is God allowing this season in my life? It's the cross. It's the cross.
- Because God knew they were too weak for war. So he led them to water. He knew they were too weak for war. So he led them to walk. God knew that even though Pharaoh had temporarily let them go, he was coming back to get them for the Bible says that no sooner had they got to that place at the Red Sea and the chariots of Pharaoh begin to click clap behind them. And as those chariots begin to make their sound in the engines of the enemy, began to rev the Bible says in Exodus 14:15, that they cried out to the Lord. And to Moses.

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- Why did you bring us out here to die? No, we're going across this water. We're going across this water because what is against you is more than what's with you. And if you fight this enemy hand in hand, you will die. But God knew something very strategic. Now watch this. This is another reason that I love God, is because for God, This is the strategic route, even if it's not the short route. And so they're standing in a red sea and this is where it all comes together. For me, the red sea is a problem, but they are praying a prayer. So God leads them to a problem in answer. to a prayer, is this the best sermon I've preached all year or am I just caffeinated? So I'd be like, God, take me around this. What am I gonna do with the sea? And God says, oh, you'll see.
- Because I didn't bring you out here because I'm done with you. I brought you out here to deal with your enemies and to drown them in this Sea, this is my plan. See, and the Egyptians you see today, you will see them no more, but you've got to let go. Now you've got to let go of what you were holding on to. Paul said, I didn't forget about Paul. Forgetting what is behind me and reaching toward what's ahead. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. And Paul wrote about the prize from prison, which goes to show me God's got me right where he wants me. And I'm still going to get there. Will y'all use up all your shout or you will be shouting about this Red Sea in front of you. You will be shouting about your problem if you knew the nature of your God. It's that he leads us to impossible situations. He leads us to the deep end so that we might learn to depend on him. He leads us to the water because he knows we're not ready for war.
- So God sees what you're fighting against. God sees what you're up against. God sees you're outnumbered for it. God sees you're too young to do it. God sees you're too old to carry it. God sees you're too small to do it. God sees you're not smart enough to know it. And he says, I have a seed to deal with that. If you will move forward in faith. The presence of the Lord is in this place. The presence of the Lord is in this place. The spirit of God is in this place. And it's the most amazing thing. And if you never read the story, the Bible says that they crossed through on dry ground. And their enemies didn't. There's going to be some things you look back on at the end of this year that tried to kill you. But what you didn't understand about what you were going through in your situation, that wasn't your plan A. And it wasn't plan B. It was plan C. It was a crossroads.
- After all, none of the disciples signed up to follow Jesus to death. None of them signed up for a cross, but he did. He said, if there's any other way, plan B, take this cup from me. But he went to the cross and he died. Why? It was his plan C. Paul said, I want to know Christ. That's my plan C. Hey, all y'all that are praying about stuff you can't control. Time to go to plan C. God, I can't control this. You can. I want to know you. I want to know you. I want to know you more than I want to get her number. I want to know you more than I want them to follow me back. I want to know you more than I want to like on this post. I want to know you. What good is knowing what college to go to if you don't take Christ with you when you get there? I want to know you. God brought you to this water. Devil can't drown you in a crossing that God brought you to. Paul said, even if I have to suffer, even if I have to stay in this cell, this is not where I'm meant to be. And one thing the text shows us is that whether you are in captivity or whether you're headed toward freedom, God is with you on this plan C.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “This May be Plan C” by Pastor Furtick on Dec. 7, 2025

- You feel like that? I'm gonna stop my sermon for a minute. If you feel like that, watch what Moses did. Because he thought the Lord was just gonna do something. This is so funny. In the Bible, sometimes there's little jokes that you just, you think the Bible's boring so you don't get them. Moses gives a speech to the people you need only to be still. Then the Lord said to Moses, why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Crying is no substitute for crossing. You can stand there and cry and get killed. Or you can move forward in this. said, why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand. So the Lord says that the key to this is going to be what Paul said in Philippians chapter 3. That I'm letting go of what's behind me and letting God deal with that. And I'm reaching toward what's ahead of me. And if you will do this, God will do that.
- And the Bible says that they had to go through some raging waters and you have to. You know, let's just rejoice for a moment in our hearts. You don't have to clap or shout or nothing like that. Just in your own heart. Kind of tell the Lord, like, I know it's amazing what you brought me through. See, because nobody else really knows what it cost you to get here. Nobody knows what it cost you. Nobody knows what you cried. Nobody really knows how. how much you're having to let go of. Look, there are people in this room today who are having to unlearn their entire upbringing to follow Christ. They were not raised in a Christian family. They were not shown how to read the Bible. They were not taught about Jesus. And God has brought you this far.
- So as we thank God for that and what you've been through, I mean, if you really just would think about it for one split second of your life, the fear of what's next would look much smaller. In the context of all you've been through already. I mean the devil missed his window to take you out. Because there have been some things that you have been through. That were much bigger than this. And as they walk through the waters. I love to get a picture of it man. Because at this point. They've basically already given up faith in their leader. Because he's taken them the long way. But God was leading them through it. And they have no idea what's going to happen next. Only that this man is holding up a stick in front of the sea. So if you feel like that today, I need you to know that God has you. The Bible says in verse 16, raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea.
- Divide the water so that the Israelites can go through on dry ground. I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory. Through Pharaoh and his army. Through his chariots and his horsemen. Did you notice that everything that was going to kill them. Was an instrument in the hands of God. For a greater glory. I prophesy it over your life. What the enemy meant for evil. Help me through. Then somebody shout now. Then the angel of God who had been traveling in front of Israel's army withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night, the cloud brought darkness to the one side, light to the other side.

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- So neither went near the other all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. All that night, the Lord drove the sea back. You see it? Moses is doing this, and God is doing this. And Moses is doing this, and God is doing this. And Moses is, and God has you covered in the season of your life. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on the right and on the left. The Egyptians pursued them. All Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night, the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud of the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians, the enemies, the forces that came to conspire against the people of God said, Let's get away from the Israelites.
- The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt. Then the Lord said to Moses, watch this, stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and at daybreak, the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it and the Lord swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and the horsemen. The entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. Hallelujah. But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground. Notice how many times it says sea. Because this is plan C. The Israelites went through the sea. They were covered.
- The Egyptians drowned in the sea. It covered them. God is working all things together for your good. God is working all things together for his glory. God is working all things together for a purpose. God is working all things together for a plan. Jesus, keep doing this. Verse 30 in Alpha Thessalonica. That day, the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians. And all Israel suffered. and the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. So I have to see it to believe it because I know that God is with me. And I've been praying about some things in my life like you've been praying about some things in your life. And I've had some things in my life that didn't quite match up at this point. And honestly, I'm going to get real specific with you.
- There's not that many things about my life that I can complain about. But sometimes there's some things about me that I thought would be better by now. Y'all just leaving me up here like I'm the only dumb young one. Doing like this sometimes. But the Lord will bring you to the water. To the waters that you're not ready for. I want to challenge you. Y'all, we've got life. few weeks left and we'll be saying goodbye yesterday. I'm telling you, if you take the chariots with you into the promised land, you won't be there long.
- There are some things that God wants to deal with in your life. God might have sent a problem to answer a prayer. What was Paul's prayer? I want to know Christ. So God put him in a prison and said, you'll get to know me here. So Paul said, I have a prize in the prison. So do you. A prize in the prison. Do you hear that? A prize in the prison. Father, these are your people. I didn't make them. I didn't create them. I can't lead them through deep waters. You can. Now, God, we're holding on to so much. I mean, we've got our fists balled up so tight on a \$10 blessing. We've got our fist balled up so tight on the way we think about us on the way that we think about others, we've got our fist balled up so tight on our planet. Some of us are thinking about going back.

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- But today you told us that plan C is for us to trust you, give the situation to you, follow you forward. And I believe God. Yeah, dude, I believe that you're going to bring them across. This Red Sea that they're going through. I'm not saying that as a cute metaphor, God. I have faith for them. Even if they don't believe right now. Would you just give them the strength to let go? Such a strange thing to pray for. We think it's so strong to hold on. But the strength to let go. And to go forward. It's time for plan C. It's time for you to see what God can do. when you trust him with your life. Heads bowed, eyes closed. There's someone here today, and the assignment on my life for this message with you is to give you the opportunity to give your life to Jesus Christ.
- Like to really give him your life. Not just to say I'm religious, not just to say, yeah, I'm gonna pray to God, make my life better, no. To really give him your life. Is that you? God has brought you to this moment. This is a threshold. You are here today because God has been drawing you and leading you and calling you out of your sin, out of your shame, and into his love. The Bible says that if you'll confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. I believe that this day, God wants to save you. Right now, I'm going to pray a prayer. for the benefit of those who are coming to God. And listen, if this is you, and you feel it in your heart, and you're ready to repent of your sin and trust in God and give Him your life, I want you to know that the work has already been done. Jesus already died the death we should have died. He lived the life we could not live. He paid a debt He did not owe so that you could be saved. The only thing for you to do is to believe. So right now, You're ready for that, to give your life to Christ. I want you to repeat this prayer after me. Church family, we're praying it out loud together for all those who are coming to God. Repeat after me. Heavenly Father, I am a sinner in need of a Savior. And I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. Today, I make Jesus the Lord of my life. I believe he died, that I would be forgiven. He rose again to give me life. I receive this new life. This is my new beginning. I am a child of God. On the count of three, raise your hand if you prayed that. One, two, three. Hands went up before I even said three. That's awesome.”

Part 2: eGroup study questions

Explain this as best you can: “Relief is easy. Freedom is a process.”

“God can’t fill your fists.” Open hands/heart/mind/faith enable God’s continued provision.”

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “This May be Plan C” by Pastor Furtick on Dec. 7, 2025

Quote of the day: “Your tears aren’t wasted; they are watering something.”

“Sometimes, God will send a problem in answer to a prayer.” What have you been seeing as a problem that could be an answer to a prayer?

“Three-part framework: crying, crossing, covering

Crying (calling on God): God hears and responds to cries (Exodus 3:7). He often puts something in our path in response to prayer. Sometimes God sends a problem as an answer to a prior prayer; the answer may not resemble the request at first.

Crossing (moving forward in faith): “Crying is no substitute for crossing.” God tells Moses, “Tell the Israelites to move on.” Faith acts. God led them to water because they were too weak for war; He chooses the strategic route, not always the short one.

Covering (God's protection and strategy): Cloud and fire move behind Israel, separating them from Egypt; God jams chariot wheels and drowns the enemy. What was meant to destroy them becomes an instrument for God's glory and their deliverance.

Next steps / actions

- Release what you're gripping (past, plans, limited expectations) and open your hands to receive what God gives next.
- Move forward in faith (“crossing”); don't let tears or fear replace action when God says “go.”
- Trust Plan C: accept detours as God's strategy and mercy; watch for problems that may be answers to prior prayers.
- Focus on “I want to know Christ” above outcomes; press on, forget what's behind, and strain toward what's ahead.

Back up slides

Sermon Discussion – “Not As Long As My Song” - Pastor Furtick – August 10, 2025

In August 2017, Pastor Furtick led a study of David called “Bars and Battles.” I think Pastor Furtick’s sermon this weekend “Not as Long as My Song” builds of this prior series. On August 13, 2017, Pastor Furtick said this while unpacking Psalm 142 and 1 Sam 22 – where Saul is trying to kill David: “We have to learn to trust God and keep our hand on the harp. This means that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (fleshy or bodily), they are mighty through God for the pulling down of strong-holds – so it might not look like much – but our worship is our weapon. If you humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, and trust him – no matter what is coming at your head, no matter what is coming at your life – if you trust him and duck – and trust him and pray – the hand of God is on your life. Therefore, if you can win the battle here (your heart) – if you can get down low enough to say God I need you – and realize that the real battle is not with Saul – it is with self. Before David become a king and before God calls us to do what we are supposed to do, we need to learn to do the hardest thing to do – to depend. The easiest thing for David to do was to fight – this came naturally to him – the hardest thing for David to do was to be humble and depend – where David has to depend on the hand of God for the spear to miss him.” Kev note: Dang that is good!



July 18 – Daily Devotional:

“There is nothing miraculous about the things that we can explain. We command what we are able to explain, consequently it is natural to seek to explain. It is not natural to obey; nor is necessarily sinful to disobey. If one man says to another – You must and you shall, he brakes the human spirit and unfits it for God. Many a soul begins to come to God when he flings off being religious, because, there is only one master of the human heart, and that is not religion but Jesus Christ. But woe be to me if when I see Him I say – I will not. He will never insist that I do, but I have begun to sign the death warrant of the Son of God in my soul. When I stand face to face with Jesus Chris and say – I will not, **He will never insist, but I am backing away form the re-creating power of His redemption.**



Dr. Timothy Keller

total freedom = lack of meaning and significance

What if we found the reason for life? Why we were created? Why we were designed? And conformed to that and then honored that?

If there is a design, there is a designer. And if there is a designer, the logos has come. Not some abstract philosophical principle. **It is a person.**

The designer has punched a hole into the world and he has descended. And you were built not to just honor some philosophical principle. But you were built to know and love this divine person. When you know him and when you serve him and you find out what he built you for, when you comply with it and submit yourself to him, you find out who you are. And you are now able to reach your potential.

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.”