

C. S Lewis moment: “And that is where the troughs come in. You must have often wondered why the Enemy does not make more use of His power to be sensibly present to human souls in any degree He chooses and at any moment. But you now see that the Irresistible and the Indisputable are the two weapons which the very nature of His scheme forbids Him to use. Merely to override a human will (as His felt presence in any but the faintest and most mitigated degree would certainly do) would be for Him useless. He cannot ravish. He can only woo”

General Church stuff:

- Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.org
- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone – See www.elevationchurch.org. 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.org
- 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 Tour: October 9–18, 2026 — Lubbock (TX), Dallas (TX), Oklahoma City (OK), Houston (TX), then home. Described as a full worship, preaching, prayer, and breakthrough experience. Details: elevationknights.com.**
- **Elevation College launching! See: <https://www.elevationcollege.com/>**
- **Reflect 2026 at Elevation – see <https://www.elevationchurch.org> › reflect - Sep 25, 2025 — 7:00P M ET. Reflect is a time where women across our church join together to deepen our faith and celebrate the goodness of God.**

Sermon Summary: What do you do when you keep showing up, but nothing seems to be changing? In Joshua 6, the Israelites had to keep marching before the walls ever fell, reminding us that progress doesn't always look or feel like we think it will. If you're frustrated with where you are or focused on where you thought you'd be by now, discover how God can give you the strength to keep going, make adjustments, and trust Him with your next step.

Sermon Highlights

- Just because you're not in it yet doesn't mean God hasn't given it.
- God has a strategy for every situation and a strength for every season.
- Moses made mistakes, but Joshua made adjustments.
- I can do it different.
- All progress doesn't feel like a straight line with God.
- You're always going to be circling something. You're either going to be circling the wilderness or the walls. A wilderness cannot move, but walls can fall.
- **There is no version of your future that is frustration-free. But there can be a stronger you that steps into it.**
- Stop while you're circling and praise the Lord for where you are right now.
- **The miracle is less about the shout when the walls fall, and it's more about showing up when they don't.**

- You don't need God to be more specific. You need to take the next step.
- You may be walking around it, but you are not alone in it.
- Stop waiting to get to the good part. Get to the God part.
- I'm not blowing my trumpet because of a wall. I'm blowing it because of a Word.

Scriptures

Joshua 6:1-20: 6 Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. 2 Then the Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. 3 March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. 4 Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. 5 When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.”

6 So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.” 7 And he ordered the army, “Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord.”

8 When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the Lord went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the Lord’s covenant followed them. 9 The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. 10 But Joshua had commanded the army, “Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!” 11 So he had the ark of the Lord carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there.

12 Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. 13 The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the Lord and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the Lord, while the trumpets kept sounding. 14 So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

15 On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. 16 The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city! 17 The city and all that is in it are to be devoted[a] to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. 18 But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. 19 All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury.”

20 When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. 21 They devoted the city to the Lord and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.

Sermon Discussion

"God has a strategy for every situation and a strength for every season." What do you need most right now: God's strategy for your situation or His strength for your season?

"Moses made mistakes, but Joshua made adjustments." Share an example of an adjustment that you made after a mistake.

"The miracle is less about the shout when the walls fall, and it's more about showing up when they don't." What are some non-negotiables in your life right now that will help you grow stronger as you stay persistent?

"Stop waiting to get to the good part. Get to the God part." Share about a time in your life when you experienced God's presence in the middle of difficulty.

"I can do it different." What's a pattern you've recognized in your life that you don't want to repeat? What could you do differently this time around?

"All progress doesn't feel like a straight line with God." Share a time you felt like you were going backward only to realize later that God was still moving you forward.

"Stop while you're circling and praise the Lord for where you are right now." What can you praise God for right now, even while you might be waiting for something else?

Prayer Prompt from Elevation Church: "We thank You, Lord, that we can trust You in all circumstances. We trust You with the stuff we don't understand. We trust You with the stuff we can't predict. We trust You with the stuff we can't control. We trust You with our struggles, our relationships, and our priorities, because it's so much more productive to trust You than to worry. We're done waiting for the "good part." Please show us the "God part" – Your presence in our current situation. No matter what we're facing today, we will choose to praise You and trust in Your unfailing love. In Jesus' name, amen."

Additional Content: Go Deeper: Bonus Question

Pastor Steven said, "I'm not blowing my trumpet because of a wall. I'm blowing it because of a Word."

Take turns sharing in your eGroup truths from God's Word that you can praise Him for right now, even before your situation changes. If your group needs some ideas, start with these Scriptures:

Psalms 23:6

1 John 1:9

Isaiah 53:5

Jeremiah 31:3

1 Corinthians 10:13

Joshua 1:9

Romans 8:1

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AI Generated recap:

Persistent obedience and God's presence: "This Time Around"

Sep 20, 2026 • 11:06 AM • 1 hour, 1 minute

Overview: Service-wide exhortation to trust and worship God, church updates (including baptisms and a women's event), and a sermon titled "This Time Around" on Joshua 6 emphasizing that God has a strategy for every situation and

strength for every season. The message contrasts spectacle with persistence, warns against the “arrival illusion” (AI), and urges faithful, silent obedience while focusing on God’s presence symbolized by the Ark.

Worship Exhortation and Faith Posture

Call to “find your why” and remember: “You’re not here so God can serve you; you’re here to serve Him.”

- Corporate declarations of trust: trusting God with the unknown, the uncontrollable, loved ones, and life priorities; trusting is more productive than worrying or striving.
- Thanksgiving for a new day and gathered worship: “This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

Church Updates and Celebrations

- Warm welcome across all locations and the Elevation Nashville pop-up.
- Celebration of “hundreds” of baptisms: “500 is a lot of people.” Each has “a name and a story,” and the church will pray for them.
- Gratitude for congregational giving, serving, and faithful presence as answers to prayer.
- Event Announcement: Reflect: Reflect women’s gathering this Friday night with Holly preaching and corporate worship; attendees receive a special gift (“my favorite gift we’ve ever done”—within budget).
- Invitation to bring a friend or watch online; reference to “Reflect36.com” (confirmed on stage; “Ask Chad”).

Sermon Text and Theme

- Text: Joshua 6 (focus on 6:7): “Advance, march around the city with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord.”
- Title: “This Time Around” — emphasis on present obedience, not past glories or future fantasies.
- Key Ideas: God’s Strategy and Strength - God has a strategy for every situation and strength for every season.
- Illustrations: Goliath: God’s strategy (a slingshot) fit the battle’s unique constraints. Philip (John 6): Jesus tested him; “he already knew what he was going to do.”
- Applications named: strategy for illness, caring for aging parents, supporting a special needs child, confronting addiction, enduring job loss without letting it define identity; strategy for depression, anxiety, unforeseen circumstances.
- Barrier: Fear and frustration can block hearing and receiving God’s strategy and strength.

Mistakes vs. Adjustments; Doing It Different

- First miracle in Joshua 6: Joshua—“90 years old”—still willing to obey even when it makes little sense.
- Contrast: Moses made mistakes; Joshua made adjustments. Growth requires mistakes plus adjustments.
- Examples of Joshua’s adjustments: Spies: Moses sent 12 (10 negative); Joshua sent 2—“less opinions and more obedience.” Crossings: Red Sea by Moses’ staff vs. Jordan by priests’ feet stepping in—God “doing it different.”
- Practical pivot: “Do it different”—change attitude/approach instead of repeating unhelpful patterns.

“Advance ... Around”: Progress That Feels Circular

- Tension: God’s command sounded like forward motion (“advance”) immediately paired with circling (“around”).
- Reason for silence: To prevent murmuring, gossip, and discouragement from derailing faith.
- **Insight: You will always be circling something—either the wilderness or the walls. Choose the walls; walls can fall. The “Arrival Illusion” (AI) and Contentment Now AI: The myth of a future that is frustration-free (“when I get**

there”). Examples: Friend in his early 30s idealizing his 40s as easier. Pastor at year 10 imagining year 20 as problem-free. “There is no version of your future that is struggle-free; but there can be a stronger you that steps into it.” Implication: Stop neglecting the now by fantasizing about a frictionless later.

- **Persistence Over Spectacle; The Real Miracle:** We love shouting walls down on day seven, but the miracle is showing up on day two (and three, four, five, six) when nothing seems to change. Joshua did not tell the people the seven-day plan or that the walls would fall on day seven; he gave a step, not specifics. Presence in every lap: The Ark (God’s presence, protection, covenant reminders—tablets, manna, Aaron’s rod) went with them every day.
- Reframe: “Stop waiting to get to the good part; get to the God part.” God’s presence is the constant through highs and lows. Historical scope post-Jericho: After the walls fell, they still had to fight; ultimately 31 kings, taking about seven years.

Practical Applications and Calls

- Trust God now with what you don’t understand, can’t predict, or control; trusting is more productive than worrying.
- Make adjustments where past patterns failed; seek fewer opinions and more obedience; take the step God gives instead of demanding full specifics.
- Reject AI (Arrival Illusion); embrace growth amid ongoing challenges.
- Persist in silent, steady obedience; measure faith by daily showing up, not visible results.
- Worship and praise by faith now; praise because of God’s word and presence, not because walls have already moved.
- Closing Exhortation
- “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” Like trumpets played by breath, keep sounding praise “through every heartbreak, through every setback, through every lap.”
- Confidence: “I’ve got God”—whether promoted, fired, sick, sued, or alone; God’s presence empowers endurance “this time around.”

Upcoming Steps / Actions

- Attend Reflect this Friday night; bring a friend; watch online if needed; see “Reflect36.com.”
- Continue celebrating and praying for the hundreds being baptized (“500 is a lot of people”).
- This week: take the next step God has revealed; practice trusting, obeying, and praising before outcomes appear.

AI generated sermon transcript:

- **Opening Prayer:** “Every day I learn something about Him. Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before. Every day with Jesus, I trust Him more and more. I am learning on life's journey to trust Him. Through hard times, I trust Him. Through lean times, I trust Him. times of transition. I thank you, Lord, that I can trust you. Lift your hands. Say, I trust you, Lord. I trust you, Lord. I trust you with the stuff that I don't understand. I trust you with the stuff that I cannot predict. I trust you with the stuff that I cannot control. I trust you with the stuff that I'm struggling with. I trust you with the people that I love. I trust you for the priorities in my life, the things that really matter, that you will provide according to your glorious riches in Christ Jesus. So I just want to worship you today, Lord. Because it is so much more productive to trust you than to worry. It is so much more productive to trust you than it is for me to try in my own strength. It is so much more productive for me to trust you than to think my way into a stomach ulcer. Thank you for giving us another day. Thank you for gathering us together today to worship your great name. You are glorious. You are amazing. You are wonderful and you are worthy of praise. Thank you

for the privilege. Thank you for another day. This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Hear the sounds of your glad, grateful people today, Lord, and say it."

- Turn around and give a few hugs and say, I'm really glad that God allowed us to be together today. All the places you could have been. To all of our locations, we welcome you as well into the presence of the Lord. We welcome our pop-up at Elevation Nashville today. That's right. And I'm trying to come to Elevation National next week. There won't be one, but this week there is one. And I'm so glad that you're here today. Touch your neighbor and say, Pastor Stephen is glad you're here today.
- And he wants to welcome you warmly into the presence of the Lord. And he hopes that today you are encouraged and blessed and strengthened in your faith. We're celebrating all the hundreds of people who are being baptized today in Jesus' name. 500 is a lot of people. It's a lot of people. What if I told you you had to talk to 500 people before you left today? It's a lot of people. Every single one of those people has a name and a story. And somebody will pray for them.
- So thank you, church. Thank you for being the answer to somebody's prayer. Thank you for the way that you give and serve and show up faithfully. What an honor it is. What a privilege it is to see what God is doing. In this generation. In this moment. In time. I have a word for you today.
- Holly Comes to the stage: Before I tell you what it is, I wanna bring somebody to the stage because this week will be a special week in the life of our church. I am already picking out my outfit for Friday night. For Sunday mornings, I don't really think about it, but Friday night, I am going to be in this room with this beautiful woman and thousands of women and me Reflect. Tell them about Reflect. Reflect is going to be amazing. It's going to be so good. I'm excited about the word that God has given me. I'm excited about the worship that we're going to have together. I have to tell you, how many of you have been to more than one Reflect? Okay, all of our locations. Okay, so you know that we give a gift every year. Everyone comes, gets a gift. It's more than a party favorite. It's just a gift. And I think this is my favorite gift that we've ever done. Sounds expensive. We had a budget. So if for any reason other than that, come and get your gift. Come to Elevation. Come to Reflect. Bring a friend. Do not come alone. And it's going to be amazing. You don't even have to bribe them, babe. The word God is going to give you is what you're coming for. I have been working really hard. I have been working really hard. Every year that you preach Reflect, I think the same thing. Why doesn't she preach more? Thank you. It's going to be amazing. We'll see you Friday.
- Go to Reflect26. Is that right?.com Yeah. Ask Chad. Give it up for Holly, everybody. Online, too. Online, too. Invite a friend. Watch together. It's going to be great. It's going to be great. Give a sign to David. There you go. Pass the baton. Boy, you're a poor substitute for Holly, David. I'll tell you that right now. I like that. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. She's trying to get a bigger budget out of me. Did you see how she hissed at me? Are you ready for the word of the Lord?
- All right, everybody, stand on your feet. Stand on your feet, please. I'm going to read you one verse. Joshua chapter 6, verse 7. Then I'll seat you and read you 20 more. Fair warning. Last week I preached a message called, Do not skip this. Tell your neighbor you can skip this. Trying to get you to see that some of the dumb stuff that we deal with is not the devil. It's a decision. And so wouldn't it be great if we saved our strength to fight the devil when he's really attacking us? And don't self-sabotage by having a bad attitude. That was kind of where the message ended up.
- You know, sometimes I just, I don't think that my message was good. literally right after I preached it my family group chat went off and Graham said did you hear dad we can skip family Christmas pictures to which I let him know real quick we can't skip the pictures but we can skip the part where y'all fight about the pictures come on and make me want to cut you out of my will and put you up for adoption so you don't get to choose Sometimes you can change the attitude.

- Because I find myself wishing that life was like YouTube, and you could skip ad, right? Ad stands for adversity, not advertisement. Like, skip ad. Sometimes I'm even talking to somebody, and I'm looking for the fast-forward button. Trying to hold down the side of the screen that'll make it go two times as fast, you know? Or a season of my life.
- This week, a relevant scripture that I touched on last week that I want to explore a little bit more with you is from Joshua chapter 6. Now, this will make no sense out of context, but we'll put it in context in the next three and a half hours that I preach. Would you really be excited about that? I'm not going to do it. You're going to have to watch some sermons from the archive.
- I'll be brief, but I just want to share with you from Joshua chapter 6 verse 7. And he ordered the army advance, march around the city with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord. And he ordered the army advance, march around the city with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord. Now, that's the seed of my message today. The title of this message, I'm calling it this time around. This time. I'm talking about last time.
- I'm talking about five years ago. I'm not talking about when you were the high school quarterback and you stared on the team. You're 48 now. I'm talking about this time around. I'm talking about when you could bench press when you were 16. I'm talking about this time around. I'm talking about next time around either when you get it all together.
- I'm talking about this time around. Father, thank you for your word. Thank you for your presence. Thank you for your power. Do your thing. I give you the credit and the glory in advance. In Jesus' name, everybody said it together. Amen? Amen.
- You may be seated.
- Joshua chapter 6 is the famous story where Joshua led the people of Israel around the walls of Jericho and they fell with a great crash. We love this story. In case you are new to church, this is one of our greatest hits. We love this story. We like it because it's a story about a shout, and you'll see that in just a moment. Now that you're seated and comfortable and relaxed, let me do the work for you and just read you the story as it occurs in Joshua chapter 6.
- The story of how Joshua, the new leader of the people of Israel, took them on a journey around the walls of a city that was on the edge of the promised land called Jericho, and the walls fell with a great attraction. I want you to pay attention to the details as I read. The scripture will be on the screen. If you're ready, say yes. Yes. If you're not, here we go. Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went in or no one went out and no one came in. Then the Lord said to Joshua, see, I have delivered Jericho into your hands along with its king and fighting men. God said, I've given it to you. I have given it to you. I know it doesn't look like it, but I've given it to you. I know it's locked up. And you can't get in, but I've given it to you.
- **Just because you're not in it yet doesn't mean God hasn't given it.**
- Write that down, please. That's not in my notes. It ought to be in yours. Just because you're not in it yet doesn't mean God hasn't given it. God has promised you some things. And the Lord said, I've given it to you.
- "And then the instruction, verse 3. March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams and horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times with the priests blowing the trumpets. And when you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout. Then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up. Everyone straight in. That's a good part right there. God's talking to Joshua. Now Joshua has to relay a message to them that God gave to him. So Joshua, son of Nun, called the priest and said to them, take up the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of you. And he ordered the army, advance, I just read you this verse, march around the city with an armed guard going ahead of the Ark of the Lord. When Joshua had spoken to the people, The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the Lord went forward, blowing their trumpets and the ark of the Lord's covenant followed them. Reminds me of surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life. The Lord's ark followed them. The Lord's ark followed them. When they stepped, God stepped. When they moved, God moved and the ark of the Lord's covenant followed them. The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew

the trumpets and the rear guard followed the ark. So they're following God. God is following them. He's got you covered from every side. I thought you would shout about that. He's got you covered from every side. So anything trying to sneak up behind you and get you, you can't surprise attack God because he sovereignly got you covered from every side. And anything that's in front of you that you're worried about, God's got you covered on every side. More about that in a moment. But Joshua had commanded, verse 10, the army, do not give a war cry. Do not raise your voices. Do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout. So he had the ark of the Lord carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there. Joshua got up early the next morning, and the priest took up the ark of the Lord. The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the Lord and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them, and the rear guard followed the ark of the Lord while the trumpets kept sounding. So on the second day, they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days. Here comes the good part, verse 15. On the seventh day. They got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day, they circled the city seven times. The seventh time around, when the priest sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, Shout, for the Lord has given you the city. Yeah, that's all right, too. Shout, for the Lord has given you the city. And drop down to verse 28. When the trumpet sounded, the army shouted. And at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall came down. So everyone charged straight in and they took the city.

- Give God grace that he can do stuff like that. You see why we like to preach about it? Because it reminds us for the struggles that we face. It reminds us that God has a strategy for every situation you face. God has a strategy for every situation that you face. Put that in the comments.
- God has a strategy. Tell it to your neighbor.
- God has a strategy. Just because I can't see it doesn't mean he doesn't have it. God has a strategy. God has a strategy for how I'm going to get through this illness. God has a strategy how I'm going to care for my aging parent. God has a strategy how I'm going to get this special needs child the help that they need because he loves them more than I do. God has a strategy how I'm going to confront my friend about their drug addiction. God has a strategy for how I'm going to endure this season of job loss and not let it get into my identity. God has a strategy.
- I'm trying to slow down and preach this real slow, but I actually want to shout right here. But like the thing said, don't shout till the time is right. And I don't think it's time to shout yet because I just need to lay this foundation that God has a strategy for every situation that face.
- If you don't believe that God has a strategy, ask Goliath. If God had a strategy for his nine foot tall self with his advanced armor, his advanced under armor technology. with his absolutely defiant attitude toward the army of the living God. God had a slingshot that served as a strategy, because the thing that the rock could do that the sword couldn't do was to hit Goliath from a distance, because Goliath was so big that he was blind. And God had a strategy to give David the exact tool that he needed to knock Goliath out.
- And what seemed to diminish David in the eyes of the Israelites actually qualified him in the eyes of God, because God had a strategy. If don't believe that God has a strategy. Ask Philip, who said, I don't know where we're going to get enough bread and fish to feed all these people, Jesus. You're the one who was preaching so long they got hungry until they almost fainted. Don't ask me. You should have given us advance notice and we could have called in catering.
- And Jesus, being a little bit sneaky, sneaky Jesus, said to Philip, I don't know. Where shall we buy bread? And the Bible says in John chapter six that he asked him only to test him because he already knew what he was going to do. God has a strategy. I said God has a strategy.
- **For the thing that snuck up on you did not sneak up on God. God has a strategy for that.**

- Tell the person next to you, there's a strategy for that. There's a strategy for the depression. There's a strategy for the anxiety. There's a strategy for the unforeseen circumstance. There's a strategy for that. We love stories like trumpets tearing down walls. Because it makes me... God has a strategy for every situation that you face. Another reason we love it is because it reminds us that God has strength for every season that I live.
- There's a strength for every season. There's a strength for the season in your life when you're inexperienced. There's a strength for the season of your life when you are fatigued. There's a strength for the season of your life when you're busy. There's a strength for the season of your life when you're bored. There are seasons in your life when everybody else is saying how busy they are. And you yourself, you're trying to make up things to be busy with. But the truth of the matter is, your screen time number this week is not something you really want to share with anybody. Because, you know, while you say I'm busy, I'm really kind of bored. I'm bored being busy.
- Well, there's a strategy for it. every situation and there is a strength for every season. So the season that you're in is that there's just so much coming at you. You can't get it all done. God will give you a strength for those seasons. He'll go around and make things easier. That should be hard. He, he will fix stuff while you're in church that you couldn't fix. If you spent all week at home working on them yourself.
- You believe that? God can go to your house right now and fix something that you could spend the next 10 years making worse without him, because God has a strategy for every situation. Now this is just my introduction, so stop saying amen, because I need to move past this. But we love this story because it reminds us that God has a strategy for every situation and he has a strength for every season. God has a strategy for every situation and a strength for every season.
- **And just like he told Joshua about Jericho, He wants to give it to you. He has peace that he wants to give to you. God wants to give it to you. God wants to give you wisdom. God wants to give you guidance. God wants to give you direction. God wants to give you endurance. God wants to give you strength and strategy. Because for every situation, God has a strategy. And for every season, God has strength. And he wants to give it to you. But the enemy wants to keep you so filled with fear and frustration that you can't receive it.**
- Because God has a strategy for this situation. And God has a strength for this season. And he wants to give it to you. But the enemy knows if he can keep you filled with enough fear and frustration. You will not hear what God speaks or receive what God says. You cannot hear what God is speaking to give you the strategy. And you cannot receive what God is doing to give you strength. If your heart is filled with fear and frustration.
- So the first miracle in this passage, Joshua chapter 6. Is not that Joshua blew a trumpet and a wall fell down. First of all, the priest blew a trumpet, he didn't blow. But secondly, the first... miracle in the passage is that he is 90 years old and still willing to do what God says. Even if it doesn't make sense, especially after all the years that he spent in the wilderness. You gotta remember, this is the same Joshua who has wandered with the Israelites for 40 years in the wilderness. And after 40 years of wandering around in the wilderness, Moses dies, Joshua is the new leader of the Israelites.
- **He's not like Moses. And this is what I love. See, Moses made mistakes, but Joshua made adjustments. This is the cycle of growth, right? I heard somebody say one time, the only way to grow in life is to make mistakes. That's not true. That's not true at all. You can make a lot of mistakes and not grow. Only way to grow is to make mistakes, then make adjustments, and then you grow.**
- So it's not how many mistakes you can make that would help you to grow. If that's the case, right now, let's just all cuss somebody out in church. Let's make a mistake, and then we can grow. No. After the mistake is made, the adjustment must be made. And I was admiring Joshua for all of the adjustments that he made based on Moses' mistakes. I believe I'm preaching to a generation today in this student session that is going to make some adjustments in their generation. Because they don't want to make the same mistakes. That their parents made.

- How many would praise God if your kid would make some adjustments. Based on your mistakes. And in that regard. That's why I was preaching last week. You can skip this. You can skip this. Because some dumb stuff that we did. You don't have to do. And some years that we wasted not worshipping God, you can invest in wisely worshipping God.
- And you can get ahead. You know how sometimes you see a kid and their mom has red hair, but they don't have red hair. But then you say, it skips a generation. I wonder if we could say over some of these kids that addiction is going to skip a generation. Huh? That suicidal ideations are going to skip. A generation. Because you're going to live and not die. And declare the work of the Lord.
- And so where Moses made a mistake. Joshua made adjustments. Just say this out loud boldly.
- Say I can do it different. That's the most powerful thing you ever realize. Is that I don't have to keep repeating this thing that I saw. I don't have to keep repeating this. That's what the power of Christ does, right? The power of Christ comes in our life not just to cover our sin. Not just to hide our sin. But to help us so that the next time I come up on this situation, I do it a little different. I tweak it a little bit. I don't say it quite the same. I don't step in the same stuff over and over again and blame the dog for dropping it. Huh? I can walk around that. I can move around. Y'all missed that. That was really funny. That was really funny. I don't give enough credit for my stand up here. See, I only get to preach once these days. I used to preach three times. And when I would preach three times, I could fix the message. I could do it different every time. But this time, I just got to do it once.
- So when I say something funny like, you don't have to step in this twice, I need you to shout to thank God that you don't have to go through the same crap forever. And move on from it. Joshua said, we're doing this different. Say, I'm doing this different. Come on, say, I'm doing this different. I'm doing this different. I'm not just going to wander in the wilderness and keep getting water from a rock. I mean, water from a rock is nice, and I thank you God for it, but why would I keep drinking water from a rock when you promised me a land of milk and honey?
- I want to do it different. Yeah, I can get by with this, but I want God to break through in my life. And I don't want to just survive something that I can skip. And that's a powerful, powerful principle. That's a powerful principle. That God gives you the grace to make adjustments in your life. I wonder if he's calling you to make one right now. Like I'll give you an example from Joshua. I don't know if you've ever noticed this. But when he sent the spies to check out the promised land, he sent them.
- Moses said 12. And 10 of the 12 that Moses said said we can't do it. Moses made mistakes. Joshua made adjustments. So where Moses said 12, Joshua said 2. Joshua said we need less opinions and more obedience. Are you going to keep listening to the same friends whose advice got you in this situation to begin with? Not even because they don't like you, but just because they don't know.
- God has a strategy for every situation. And so Joshua sent to not only that, but Moses took the people across the Red Sea. Remember, he stretched his staff. Well, when Joshua led them across the Jordan, God said, I want to do it different. I'm not going to use the staff to do it. I'm not going to use the rod. But when the priest's feet touch the water, the waters will part because God is doing it different. And the craziest thing that we do is stand over something, stretch a staff, and God told us to take a step.
- Tell your neighbor, do it different. Why aren't you talking to your neighbor? Don't you like him? You chose to sit there. I didn't assign your seat. Tell him, do it different. I'm going to do it different. I'm going to do it different. I'm going to do it different. I'm going to do it different. And so, let's get into the moment.
- Let's get into the moment. We love this story not only because of what it shows us about God, but it's just a good story. It's just dramatic. It's just amazing. God calls John to do something. Here's what I'm going to do. All right, here's what I'm going to do. Get seven and get seven and blow through it. And then walk around for seven days. And when you walk around seven days, you walk around seven times. Just one time every day. So seven days, seven days, seven times. And when you walk around seven times, you shout. You don't knock, you shout until and tell them to shout, and tell them to shout. Blow drums the whole time, but tell them to shout. Because if they start shouting, to

order, they might start talking when they get back to camp at night. If they start talking, get back to camp at night, they might do what the generation under Moses did, and they start murmuring, and gossiping, and they start gossiping, and then they feel like grasshoppers because they gossiped the way they feel like grasshoppers when really they're giving them the power to defeat giants, and the enemy will start to frustrate them. So tell them not to say anything, but just to march around.

- They're going to come down so you can go over them. They're going to come down. It's not just going to be normal rubble. I'm actually going to flatten the walls so that they can get over. I'm actually going to do something amazing in this situation. And this is the moment. Do you understand they've been circumcised so that they are reminded of the covenant? Do you understand that they've been through the Jordan so that there's no going back to the wilderness? Do you understand that Joshua has consecrated them and appointed leaders?
- And this is it. This is, we're there, man. We are there. We're gonna do it different. What that generation couldn't do, we are gonna do. God's gonna do for us. We're gonna do this. there they don't this time around we're gonna fight this is somebody it's gonna be different so Joshua son of man called the priest and said the technical argument the Lord and seven priests carry trumpets in front of them verse 7 and he ordered the army now this must have been music to their ears they wandered around and around for 40 years and Joshua says the word they've been waiting for for some Advance. How good would that feel if you've been stuck in something for four decades?
- You can get out of this. It's yours. God is giving it to you. Go forward. Advance. To hear this direction from Joshua. They have waited a long time to go forward. They have waited years and years for God to give them the next direction. Because although he sustained them in the wilderness, they were not meant to permanently live there. I keep bringing you back to that because there are moments in your life where God will say, move forward. Go forward. Move on.
- Move on. With a broken heart. Move on. With a lot of questions. Move on. with unpaid bills, move on with that credit, move on with the tendency still, move on. So when Joshua gathered the people and said this, I bet they were ready to tear down the goalposts on Jericho because they've been waiting for this. But here's what got my attention and why I read you that one verse at the beginning because I was very strategic when I read you because I want to read you this.
- I will remind you that these people have just spent 40 years walking around the wilderness. So now they've come to the moment, and this is it. He's going to bring us in. This is it, milk and honey. This is it, giant's fall. This is it. And Joshua says, advance. And no sooner can they high-five than Joshua says the next word. The one word they didn't want to hear. Around. Hold up, I don't know if I heard you right. Joshua. You said advance, right? Mm-hmm.
- Because I met with God and he told me he gave us the land. Okay, but then Joshua, it sounded like you said around. The city. Mm-hmm. Because I met with God and that's what he told us to do. So we're going to go around. So which one is it? Captain Joshua. Are we advancing or are we rounding?
- I made the word rounding up, but you know exactly what I mean by rounding, don't you? When you circle the same situation over and over again, when you circle the same problem over and over again, and you think that you're making progress on something, only to end up exactly where you started. Come on, to think that you have forgiven an offense and only to feel the bitterness come back with a vengeance when they post their new car that their new husband bought them on Facebook is to say, now, wait a minute, God.
- I thought we were moving on, but you said around because if the enemy can't use Peter to keep you from going or if he can't use frustration. He'll use your future. I will explain. The enemy wants to use your future as a tool to get you to neglect the now. That's it, that's it right there. To neglect the now. I had two pastoral conversations in the last few weeks and both of them were remarkable.
- One of them was with a young man who's in his 30s and he said something strange to me, he said, I'm really looking forward to my 40s. I said, oh? He said, yeah. I think my 40s are going to be wonderful. I think my 40s are going to be

amazing. Now, remember, he's in his early 30s. It's not like he's 39 and having a birthday next week. He's still got a few years to go before 40. He said, I cannot wait for my 40s. I said, what's going to be different in your 40s? He said, financially more stable. My kids will need less from me. He started describing something to me. And the funny thing is, I'm listening to him from these magical 40s. From these fantastic 40s. And I'm going like, bro, like, have you ever had somebody show you something on their phone, and you look at it and you go, I'm sorry to tell you this, but that's not real.

- Those 75 Asian kids all playing Stairway to Heaven and Perfect Synchronization, that is not real. That's AI. That's AI. And I wanted to look at him and be like, bro, I hear what you're describing is like this future version of your, this version of your future that is frustration free.
- I hear what you're describing. that's not real that's AI AI stands for a rival illusion that's that's the myth of when I get there Because he's struggling so much in his 30s. I mean, life has got him by the throat in his 30s. And he goes, if I could just turn 40. And somebody's 40 like, if I could just be 30. So you're looking for fast forward. I'm looking for a wife. And neither one is real. That's funny. Touch somebody's ass, I'm real. That's not even real. When we get there, we're going to walk up and the people are going to bow down to us and they're going to give us the promised land. Just because God gave us the promised land doesn't mean we won't fight for it.
- We've got to fight for this. Advance around. Advance around. Advance around. Advance. All progress doesn't feel like a straight line with God. Advance around. I'm not going to get dizzy doing this illustration, but just soak it in real quick. I mean, I'll quit. Advance around. Advance around. The same week that my friend in his 30s said that to me, one of my friends who's a pastor said to me, you know, year 10 of pastoring is really rough. I said, is it? Tell me about that. He says, really rough.
- Don't have all the resources. Got all this debt we're having to take on. He said, I just look forward to year 20. And it just so happens that I can send him a postcard from year 20. Because everything that he's imagining about year 20, I'm living in. And it is amazing. And it is great. Now, you've had people do this to you, too. There is somebody who has looked at your life and they see it as frustration-free. And you just want to scream back at them what it actually cost you to be you. So let me make an announcement. It's not real. It's not real.
- **Let me help you with this. It's not, it's AI. It's a rival illusion. It's like the Israelites, when we get there, we're going to get there. We're there. We're going in. Ah, not yet. We're going around. But we just went around. Yeah, but you're going to keep going around. Because you're always going to be circling something. Yeah. You're going to either be circling the wilderness or the walls. Yes. I'm going to say that again. I guess my mic cut out because you didn't say anything when I said that. You're either gonna be circling the wilderness or the walls.**
- Somebody shout, give me the walls. I'll take the walls. I'll take the walls. See, because the difference between the wilderness and the walls is that a wilderness, no matter how much you walk around in it, a wilderness cannot move, but walls can move. Fall. Walls can fall.
- And we love this passage because it reminds us that walls can fall. You can come out of debt. You can come out of depression. You can come out of defeat. You can come out of... You can survive a divorce and love again. You can deal with a diagnosis and not lose your mind even if the enemy attacks your body. Walls can fall. But the interesting thing about the passage to me is not the shout, it's the silence.
- **The interesting thing to me is not the seventh day that they shouted, that's the good part, right? Like that's the preachable part. That's the part that we put in a song. My praise is the waters my enemies drown in. My praise is the shout that brings Jericho town. But I see this passage as being about persistence more than grace. I don't see this passage as being so much about the day that they shouted and the wall fell. I think faith is about the days you show up and they don't. There is no version of your future that is frustration free. There is no advance without a round. There is no moment in your life, and I know how we get, we get AI, we get arrival illusion.**

- Is that good? 54 years old. I can't wait to get to my 60s. I can't wait to get to my 70s. I mean, how long are you going to wait for God to do something for you? The enemy can't make you fearful about what you're facing. If he can't make you frustrated about what you're facing, he'll just make you look forward to the future. He just gives AI this arrival illusion that's an illusion. So now you are standing in the future that you imagined, and you are waiting on the one that isn't real. You see what I'm saying? There is no version of your future that is frustration free. But there can be a stronger you that steps into it. There is no version of your future or my future.
- There is no version of your life that is frustration free. If you are broke and you get the money to pay off your bills, you will now have the frustration of having enough money to pay off bills, which means people are going to want to borrow. So you're going to go from the frustration of broke to the frustration of people wanting to borrow. There is no version of your future that is frustration free. There is no advance without a round. There is no moment in your life, and I know how we get, we get AI, we get arrival illusion, like, I just want to wait for the day that I'm going to get my temper under control.
- You may never have your temper under control. You may need the Holy Spirit all the time to help you with what you can't control. Because, yeah, you may get a little older, you may not want to rage as much anymore, you may just not even have the strength to yell about stuff. So it may change a little bit. That anger. This is what I said to my friend who's in his 30s who wants to get this work. This is what I said to my friend who wants to get to year 20. I said, there is no version of your future that is struggle-free. But what you do now determines which you walks into that future. Very good. So, this, are you with me?
- Are you with me? Are you with me? I got just a little bit more. I got to get you there. Somebody shout, we're there. That's what they thought. We're there. It's the promised land. It's Jericho. And Joshua confirms it. He goes, advance. Yeah. Advance. Let's go. Advance. March around, around. We've got around down. We want to go ahead. I got struggled down. I want to get to my 40s. And my 40s is going to be paid off. And it's going to be peaceful. And it's going to be amazing. Right? Right? Lie to me. Tell me it is. I have to believe it. I'm going to get you to that expression for you. But there can be a stronger you that steps into it. So now I know why God told him to walk around. because he needed to teach them to follow more than he needed to teach them how to fight. Very good. I hit me when I saw it. Watch, this is the part I saw, because essentially what my friends are saying, I wanna get to the good part. How many have felt that way?
- I wanna get to the good part, like the easy part of life, like the good part of relationship. I'm with you. I pray that for you. I want goodness and mercy to follow you all the days of your life. But the idea that this good part is coming, it's the myth of when I get there. And I'll prove it to you. You know this, but maybe you just need me to point it out, but you already know. After the walls fell, they still had to fight.
- And after they fought that battle, they still had to defeat 31 kings. So we shout over seven days in the walls, well, that's awesome. But guess how long it took them to take the land? Seven years. You're always going to be circling something. That's why you've got to stop by your circle and just praise the Lord for where I am right now. Huh? Huh? You've been trying to get to the good part. Get to the part where you're strong. Get to the part where you've got this. You've got to manage now. You've got to tighten up. You've got to right now. You lost the weight now. You gained the muscle now. You lost the fat. You gained the muscle. You did this stuff. You did it all. I'm going to get there. And when I get there, it's the myth of when I get there.
- But the miracle of Joshua chapter 6 is not the seventh day when they shouted. It's the second day when they showed up. I said the real miracle of Joshua chapter six is not the seventh day when they shouted, it's the second day when they showed up. And they showed up the second day, the third day. Let's imagine this, since we've got great imaginations and we can imagine the future, let's imagine the passage, right? Advance around the city and don't say anything because I can't have you talking about how stupid this feels to go around. Now, on the first day, you're fired up. In the Holy Ghost. Now we're getting fired up. In the Holy Ghost. Now, I don't know why we're

walking around, but something good's about to happen. We're about to go in. Only to find out when you get home that night and take off your armor, you've got to explain to your wife that you went for a walk today. It's right out of, don't stop at six. How'd you go today? Did we take Jericho?

- Did we take him? Did we take him? Did we take him, the big, strong warrior? He's like, yeah, well, about that, man. It was kind of interesting today because he said advance. But then he said around. So we were like, fire it up. Here we go. Fire it up. But we fired up. But then we got frustrated because all we did was walk.
- And we're right back where we started. I mean, it was kind of nice to have some trumpets and stuff. It was peaceful, you know, epic sounding. Sounded like something about to happen. Trumpets. Whoa. Sounded like, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, doo, doo, ta, doo, doo, doo. But then, there we are back home. I told you last week, Jericho isn't big. It only took about 10, 15 minutes. So I got to explain to her, why are you back home and it's 8.30 in the morning? I thought you had a job. I thought you had a fight. You feel me? Why am I dramatizing this? Because I think you feel like that some days. Huh? I think you feel like that a lot of times when you're trying to have a conversation with your parents, but they never listen to you. And you're like, why can't we get any, why can't we make any progress?
- We just go round. Around and around and around. I took my wife on a date night, and guess what it ended in? A fight. Around and around. I even got her flowers. I got her flowers. And she said they look kind of dead. Said the reason I took her on the date night is so we could end up somewhere different But here we are still both on opposite sides of the bed, just round and round and round. Now, I got to move through this point. But who am I preaching to today? That in an area of your life, you are like, I am sick of circling this. I am sick of dealing with this. I am sick of going through this. I am sick of having, I walked around enough in the wilderness, I thought I was there. This is supposed to be my 40s. I'm supposed to be, why do you see this gray hair?
- How come I still don't know what I'm doing with my life? And I've got gray hair. I was supposed to be there by now. I know you've been feeling that. I know you've been feeling that. You want to get to the good part. Come on, God. Bring the walls down. Come on, God. Bring the giant down. Come on, God. Split the Jordan. Split the sea. Do the thing. Do it, God. Do it for me. Do it for them.
- Do it for them. Do it for life. Do it for most. Do it for me. Do it for Joshua. I'll shout, God. I'll shout. Hallelujah. I'll shout. Thank you, Jesus. The miracle is less about the shout. Because you don't need God to be more specific. You need to take the next step. I need you to be more specific, God. Notice what Joshua did not tell the people. He didn't tell them anything about the seven days. Find it. Find it and I'll retire on the spot. I'll turn in my preaching microphone and my badge and my gun, and I'll never put you in. You'll be fine. Where Joshua told the people, all right, y'all, it's going to be kind of weird, but we're going to walk around.
- But it's going to be good because we're going to have trumpets. It's going to intimidate the enemy. And on the seventh day, we're going to take seven laps. We're going to really turn it up. On the seventh day, we're going to shout. The walls are going to fall down. Find me where Joshua told them what was going to happen on the seventh day. He didn't tell them any of that. Instead of giving them the specifics, he gave them a step. When Joshua, thank you Lord, thank you Lord for what you showed me, had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the Lord went forward. blowing their trumpets so they're going forward, but they're going around so they're obeying God, but nothing is changing, and not a brick is falling from the wall, and not a sign is coming from the sky, and not a single evidence that God has spoken is presenting and manifesting itself in physical form, but they went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the Lord's covenant followed them. Stay with me, verse 9.
- The armed guard marched ahead of the priest who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time, all this time, the trumpets were sounding, but Joshua had commanded the army, Don't give a cry. Don't raise your voice. Don't say a word. It's not in your mouth. It's in your march. Don't say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout. So he had the ark of the Lord. So he had the ark of the Lord. ark of the Lord represented the

presence and the protection and the power of God it's where the Ten Commandments live it's where the manna live it's where Aaron's rod live it's where what they went through in the wilderness was commemorated for them to take forward into their future so we had the ark of the Lord carried around the city around the city so they're walking around but they are not alone I came to preach to somebody today You may be walking around it, but you are not alone in it. The ark of God is with you. The ark of God is with you. The ark of God is with you. The presence of God is with you. He said they took the ark and they carried it around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there. Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up. ark of the Lord. The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the Lord and blowing the trumpets.

- The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the Lord while the trumpets kept sounding. So on the second day, they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. day. That's the good part, right? That's the part you want to get to, right? That's the part you want to skip to, right? That's the part you want God to bring to. That's when you're going to be grateful. That's when you're going to feel good. That's when you're going to have an assurance. That's when you're going to be kinder. That's when you're going to forgive. That's when you're going to move on. On the seventh day, they did this for six days, and on the seventh day, that's the good part. But I want to tell you, stop waiting to get to the good part. Get to the God part. Because the one thing that they had on the first day, and the second day, and the third day, and the fourth day, and the fifth day, and the sixth day, and the seventh day, that was the same, was the ark. And so on every day that they marched, they had the ark. Even when no bricks moved, they had the ark. Even when there was no visible sign of progress, They had the ark. On the second day when they felt stupid going around the walls, they had the ark. On the third day when they were starting to question, is anything ever going to happen? Because Joshua never told them on the seventh day it's coming down. They just had to do it this time around. This time around. Not so focused on the seventh time that you missed this.
- **I've got the ark this time. And my life started changing when I stopped looking for the good part and started looking for the God part, because I found out that in the highs of my life, there's a God part, but in the lows of my life, there's a God part too. I've got the ark. Then in the seasons where people are surrounding me, there's a God part, but in the seasons where I'm all alone, crying myself to sleep and nobody texting to check on me. I've got the ark. And the reason that I can survive as I circle this issue in my life is not because I'm watching balls fall. And it's not because I have proof. It's because I have His presence.**
- And I came to remind somebody today, you've got the art. You've got the presence of God. You've got the spirit that raised Jesus from the dead. Not when you get there, but right here. Right now. You've got God. And if you've got God. I can circle this as long as it takes.
- Because I've got God. And I'm not waiting for a wall to begin to crumble. For me to have faith. Because I've got God on every circle that I make. So if somebody's cussing me out, I've got God. If they fire me, I've got God. If they promote me, I've got God. If nobody else will help me, I've got God. If my father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up. If the doctors can't help me, I've got God. If they sue me, I've got God. If they slay me, I've got God.
- **Closing Prayer: Tell every devil, I'm not praising because I watch, I'm praising because I've got God. That's how I'm walking around these walls. Because I've got God. You can't make me doubt Him. He lives inside of me. I know too much about him. So I go around and around. And all this time the trumpets were sounding. All this time the trumpets were sounding. Day one the trumpets were sounding. Day two the trumpets were sounding. Day three the trumpets were sounding. Day four the trumpets were sounding. But nothing was happening with the wall. That's all right. I'm not blowing my trumpet because of a wall. I'm blowing it because of a Word. And if I walk in his word, if I walk, I got God. He said, I got God. He said, be with me. I got God. He said, he never failed me nor forsake me. I got God. I got God. Your neighbor is confused. Why are you praising God? You've got cancer. Yeah,**

I've got cancer, but I've got God. I've got an ark. I don't even have to wait to shout because my walls already fell Not because of Joshua But because of Jesus Shout now! So what are you waiting for? What life are you waiting for? What level are you waiting for? My bible says let everything Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord. . The last time I checked, the trumpet was an instrument that you play with your breath. And all of this time, the trumpet was sounding through every heartbreak, through every setback, through every lap, this time around. Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord!

Sermon notes from 2017 – Work Your Window Part 2– “The power of Pre” by Pastor Steven:

- **Recap Work Your Window week 1 – The Power of Precision**
 - View the victory – You have to see it before you can seize it.
 - Focus on the fight – where does God want you to win?
 - A lot of us aren't winning anywhere because we try to win everywhere.
 - It is the power of pre-cision – I have aimed in the direction of completion. I will not stop until it comes to pass. Take aim and then take action.
 - Often the battle is decided by your attitude – before the battle starts.
 - This inspiration is from the deep tracks of the bible – 2 King 13 - Elijah does not give the King chicken soup for the kingly soul. But rather Elisha gives the King some marching orders.
 - Have a preview of Heaven's agenda for your life.
 - Point your expectations in the direction of my destiny.

Understanding your why (your reason for living) helps during trips in the wilderness and tiresome circles around a wall:

Dr. Tim Keller in is sermon “A reason for Living: “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.”

Text of the Charles Spurgeon sermon called “The Peculiar sleep of the beloved”

The Peculiar Sleep of the Beloved

By Rev. C. H. Spurgeon

The sermon is titled "The Peculiar Sleep of the Beloved" (Sermon No. 12, preached on Sunday morning, March 4, 1855, at Exeter Hall, Strand). It is based on Psalm 127:2: *“For so He giveth His beloved sleep.”*

Opening: The Common Mercy of Physical Sleep

"The sleep of the body is the gift of God. Not a man would close his eyes, did not God put His fingers on his eyelids; did not the Almighty send a soft and balmy influence over his frame which lulled his thoughts into quiescence, making him enter into that blissful state of rest which we call sleep.

It is God who steeps the mind in lethe, and bids us slumber, that our bodies may be refreshed, so that for tomorrow's toil we may rise recruited and strengthened. O my friends, how thankful should we be for sleep! Sleep is the best physician that I know of. Sleep hath healed more pains of wearied bones than the most eminent physicians upon earth. It is the best medicine; the choicest thing of all the names which are written in all the lists of pharmacy. There is nothing like to sleep!

What a mercy it is that it belongs alike to all! God does not make sleep the boon of the rich man, nor give it merely to the noble, but He bestows it upon all. Yea, the sleep of the labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much. While luxurious effeminacy tosses from side to side upon a bed of down, the hard-working labourer throws himself upon his hard couch and sleeps; and waking, thanks God that he has been refreshed."

The Four Dimensions of the "Sleep of the Beloved"

Spurgeon explains that beyond natural bodily rest, there are four special senses in which God grants deep, peaceful sleep to His people:

1. A Quiet Conscience

A quiet conscience is the sweetest music that can lull the soul to sleep. The demon of restlessness does not come to that man's bed who has a quiet conscience—a conscience washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, right with God, and at peace with all mankind. When the Christian lays his head upon his pillow, he can say:

*With the world, myself, and Thee,
I, ere I sleep, at peace shall be.'*

He knows his sins are blotted out; he knows his debt is paid; he knows his soul is accepted in the Beloved. He rests in perfect peace."

2. Contentment and Freedom from Anxious Care

"The beloved of the Lord sleep the sleep of contentment. The worldling rises early, sits up late, and eats the bread of sorrows, fretting over his investments, his barns, and his worldly prospects. But the believer leaves tomorrow with God. He knows that his Heavenly Father feeds the ravens and clothes the lilies of the field.

*What may be my future lot,
High or low concerns me not;
This doth set my heart at rest,
What my God appoints is best.'*

He casts all his care upon the Lord, for He careth for him. Thus, God giveth His beloved sleep in the midst of life's heaviest storms."

3. Confidence in God's Sovereign Protection

"The child of God sleeps securely under the shadow of the Almighty. He knows that the Keeper of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. Whether sickness comes, or danger threatens, or the midnight alarm sounds, he is safe in the everlasting arms.

*He that hath made his refuge God,
Shall find a most secure abode;
Shall walk all day beneath His shade,
And there at night shall rest his head.'*

The Christian can lie down in peace and sleep, for the Lord alone maketh him dwell in safety."

4. The Peaceful Slumber of Death

"Lastly, there is the sleep of the grave—the last, sweet sleep that God gives to His beloved when life's race is done. To the Christian, death is not destruction, nor a dark leap into nothingness; it is called falling asleep in Jesus.

The body is merely laid to rest in its earthly bed, awaiting the glorious morning of the resurrection. The soul enters into everlasting rest, while the weary body sleeps until the trumpet shall sound. Blessed sleep! Where no pain can enter, no sorrow can vex, and no tears can flow. *'So He giveth His beloved sleep.'*"