

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?
- K-Love and Elevation Workshop at Red Rocks in CO in August 2025
- Elevation Nights is back: Elevation Nights is hitting the road again and we're coming to a city near you from October 21st through the 30th, 2025 - we're going to be in St. Paul, Omaha, St Louis, Louisville, Duluth, Tampa, Miami, and Orlando.

Isaiah 40:31 - Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he
increases strength.

³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;

³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew
their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like
eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Romans 12:1 - We are a living sacrifice to God

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Exodus 30:35 - We're called to be salted, pure, and sacred

³⁴ The LORD said to Moses, “Take sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum, sweet spices with pure frankincense (of each shall there be an equal part), ³⁵ and make an incense blended as by the perfumer, seasoned with salt, pure and holy. ³⁶ You shall beat some of it very small, and put part of it before the testimony in the tent of meeting where I shall meet with you.

2 Corinthians 2:14 - We are the fragrance of God

¹² When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, ¹³ my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵ For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶ to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷ For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

6/1/2025 Prayer Prompt: Pastor DawnChere ´ reminded us that: “God doesn’t give you rest by grounding you, but by lifting you.” Where are you feeling weary today? We pray that will all find strength in knowing that God renews the weary—that He longs to lift them up to higher ground. Pray that as God lifts us, they will see their trials and challenges from a new perspective.

6/1/2025 Pastor DawnChere ´ Let's pray. God, thank you for this moment. Thank you for this house. Thank you, Lord, for what you are doing in our hearts today. We pause. And Lord, just like we sang, we breathe you in. Have your way in our heart, oh God. For you, and you alone, our souls wait. I pray that I would disappear, and Lord, that our eyes would behold your promise, that our hearts would be filled with hope today. We love you, Jesus. We're here for you. Amen.

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon notes: "While You Were Waiting by DawnChéré Wilkerson on June 1, 2025

Sermon Highlights

- God does some of His best work while we wait.
- Waiting isn't a season; waiting is life. Will we live in the wait?
- We all have a list of what we're waiting for – waiting to step into and to finish.
- God will renew me as I start the journey, in the middle of the journey, and until I see Him face to face.
- What if your walk with God was meant to look more like smoke than a flame?
- Bring what you have to God in the wait and watch as He transforms it.
- It's only when you become a sacrifice that you actually live.
- Good news for you today: You're not the fire. You can get reignited every single moment of the journey.
- We're called to be salted (preserved), pure (complete), and sacred (only for God).
- While you are waiting, there is a fragrance to your faith.

Scriptures

- Isaiah 40:31 - Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength
- Romans 12:1 - We are a living sacrifice to God
- Exodus 30:35 - We're called to be salted, pure, and sacred
- 2 Corinthians 2:14 - We are the fragrance of God

Sermon Discussion

- Using Isaiah 40:31, Pastor DawnChéré shared, "Eagles don't exert their energy using their wings to fly. Instead, they fly high enough to catch the wind." Where have you been depending too much on your own strength as opposed to depending on the "wind" (spirit) of God?
- "Waiting is not a season; waiting is life. Will we live in the wait?" Where could a waiting season be keeping you from being present? What practical steps could help you stay present while still trusting God in the wait?
- "While you are waiting, there is a fragrance to your faith." Who in this eGroup or your life shows a kind of faith that lingers even when they're not around? How has their example shaped your own walk with God?
- "God does some of His best work while we wait." Share a time when you've experienced God's best work during a waiting period. What did He teach you in that season?
- "What if your walk with God was meant to look more like smoke than a flame?" Where in your life do you need the reminder that quiet, steady faith matters—even when it doesn't feel big or bold?

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon notes: "While You Were Waiting" by DawnCheré Wilkerson on June 1, 2025

AI Generated sermon notes:

Summary

Pastor DawnCherie Wilkerson delivers a message at Elevation Church, focusing on the spiritual significance of waiting and surrendering to God. She encourages the congregation to embrace seasons of waiting as opportunities for transformation, renewal, and deeper faith, drawing from personal experiences, biblical examples, and the promise found in Isaiah 40:31.

Key Points

- **Opening Prayer and Worship:** The service begins with a prayer for God's presence, strength, joy, and peace, emphasizing a longing for spiritual renewal rather than material blessings.
- **Honoring Leadership:** Pastor DawnCherie expresses gratitude for Elevation Church and its leaders, Pastor Steven and Holly Furtick, highlighting their global impact and personal inspiration.
- **Personal Testimony:** She shares her background, family story, and the significance of her name, connecting it to a life verse—Isaiah 40:31—given to her at birth.
- **The Reality of Waiting:** Using a humorous list from her youth, she illustrates how life often involves long periods of waiting to see dreams fulfilled. She emphasizes that waiting is not a temporary season but an integral part of life.
- **Biblical Examples:** The story of Moses and the symbolism of the number 40 in scripture are used to show that significant periods of waiting and testing are common in God's plan.
- **Living in the Wait:** Pastor DawnCherie challenges the idea that fulfillment only comes at the end of waiting. She asserts that abundant life is available "right here, right now," and that waiting is an invitation to deeper surrender and worship.
- **Incense as a Metaphor:** She draws parallels between the Old Testament incense offering (Exodus 30:35) and the believer's life, explaining that worship and prayer, like incense, create a lasting spiritual fragrance. The offering must be sacred, pure, and salted—qualities that should characterize a Christian's life.

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Summary

Pastor DawnCherie Wilkerson delivers a message at Elevation Church, focusing on the spiritual significance of waiting and surrendering to God. She encourages the congregation to embrace seasons of waiting as opportunities for transformation, renewal, and deeper faith, drawing from personal experiences, biblical examples, and the promise found in Isaiah 40:31.

Key Points

- **Transformation Through Surrender:** The act of laying down one's life daily is compared to incense transforming on the altar. God uses what we offer, no matter how small, to create something beautiful and impactful.
- **Slow Burn Faith:** The "slow burn" metaphor illustrates that spiritual growth and fulfillment often occur gradually, not in dramatic moments. God is the sustaining fire; believers are called to bring their offering and trust Him for renewal.
- **Breaking Old Fragrances:** She addresses generational trauma and past labels, declaring that faith in Jesus replaces old "fragrances" with the aroma of Christ—joy, peace, and hope.
- **Miracles in Waiting:** Sharing her eight-year journey through infertility, Pastor DawnCherie testifies to God's faithfulness and the fulfillment of promises beyond her expectations, affirming that God redeems time and works miracles even in prolonged waiting.
- **Soaring Like Eagles:** The message concludes with the image of eagles soaring by catching the wind, symbolizing believers being lifted by the Spirit (Ruach, Pneuma) rather than striving in their own strength.

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- Honoring This House: I wanna take a moment to honor this house. I am grateful for the faith of Elevation Church. I'm grateful for the faith of this house that sent ripple, ripple waves around the globe, and it's reached our house in Miami. Our church is stronger because of your faith, and because of the faith of your leaders, Pastor Steven and Holly Furtick. How many of you love your pastors? Come on, can we put our hands together for them? When I think about Pastor Steven, I think of a pastor to pastors. The way that he has led us, the faith that he's spoken over our lives in so many different seasons. I'm constantly inspired how, when it comes to Pastor Steven's walk with God, there's always more. There's more, there's more hope, there's more faith, there's more creativity, and it inspires me to dig deep and to believe God- ... that there's always more. But I'm also really grateful for Pastor Holly. Come on, do you guys love Pastor Holly?
- She's one of my dearest friends in the world. And when she preaches the word of God, she preaches with power and authority. Chains are broken. But it's not just what she says on the pulpit, it's the way that she leads her life, it's the way that she leads her family. She's taught me what it means to be a great friend, to stand with people on mountaintops and in valleys. And I just believe the best is yet to come for this house. Come on, if you believe that today, would you put your hands together with me?
- I believe it with all... Oh, come on, Elevation. I believe it with all my heart. And before you're seated, I wanna take a moment. Because I'm fully aware that people walked in this room, or are watching online today, and you are hanging on by a thread. And I wanna speak to your soul today. But before we even open up the word of God, if you feel like you are
- stuck in the middle of a wilderness, if you feel like you don't know what to do, where to go, or how to even express the state of your heart today, if you feel like, for the first time in your life, you wonder if this whole thing is real, I wanna remind you today, I wanna tell you today, that God sent me here with a message in my heart, and that He brought you here, because He wants to meet you right where you are.
- If anybody can testify that He did it for you, come on, put your hands together. We serve a faithful God, and He sees you today. Hey, why don't you high five your neighbor, grab your seat, grab your Bibles.
- You can turn with me to Isaiah, chapter 40, verse 31. I bring so much love from Miami, and a little bit of sunshine for you.
- Our church, Vous Church, we started it 10 years ago, and God's been doing miracles. But I believe that what God is doing in 2025 is unlike anything that's ever been seen in history. He's doing a new thing. My husband, Rick, sends his love. I've got four babies that I adore, Wyatt, Wild, Waylan and Wolfgang. Seven, five, three, and six months old.
- Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Big families. We know, there's a big party when you're a part of a big family. You may be wondering, "Where are you actually from, DawnChéré? Because that accent does not sound like Miami."
- I am from Louisiana. I am a ragin' Cajun. And you also may be wondering, "What kinda name is DawnChéré? Like, where did that come from?" Well, the story my parents tell me is that my dad wanted to name me Dawn, my mom wanted to name me Chéré, and so as they were sitting in the hospital room trying to figure out, "Who is this girl?" the day I was born, my mom put the names together, wrote a love letter from me, and tucked it under the pillow where my dad was sleeping on the couch in the hospital.

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- And DawnCheré's been my name ever since. That same day that they named me is the day that they gave me a life promise, and that's the scripture that I wanna read to you today. Isaiah 40:31, "They that wait upon the Lord-" Somebody say, "Wait". "... they shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."
- I wanna talk to you for the next few minutes from this thought "While You Were Waiting."
- Let's pray. God, thank you for this moment. Thank you for this house. Thank you, Lord, for what you are doing in our hearts today. We pause. And Lord, just like we sang, we breathe you in. Have your way in our heart, oh God. For you, and you alone, our souls wait. I pray that I would disappear, and Lord, that our eyes would behold your promise, that our hearts would be filled with hope today. We love you, Jesus. We're here for you. Amen.
- Well, earlier this year, in, in Miami, my husband had his birthday. He turned 41. And we had a family dinner, as you do. We came back to the house after dinner and we set out on our back dock in that humid Miami heat, swatting the mosquitoes, just trying to have a calm conversation. And on his birthday, we usually have a tradition to start telling memories from over the years, and we started sitting on that back deck, and we started early in the night, and we went late into the night telling memories. And somewhere in that conversation, it dawned on me, "Rich, I think that we celebrated your birthday together 20 years ago. We were in Cambridge, Cambridge University. We were studying together, and I- I actually think I have a journal to prove it." And I ran inside my house, and sure enough, I- I went through all my bookcases, and I found it. And I came running back out on the deck, almost near midnight. I said, "I found it." And we started to open it up, and I had so many different memories.
- DawnChere' share some thoughts of what her lofty goals were when she was 20.
- **Like everyone's story, mine has involved years and years of waiting. I know that you have your lists too. We all have our lists of what we are waiting to step into. Waiting, not just to step into, but what we're waiting to finish. And when we look at the story of God, we see that God uses large spans of time, not just a single summer, to accomplish His will in His people, and in your very life today.**
- Come on, if you believe it today, why don't you put your hands together? We serve a God that is faithful every step of the way. And Isaiah prophesies, "They- they that wait for the Lord, they that wait for the Lord, shall renew their strength." This is not a birth verse. This is a life verse. Because I need the promise that as I wait upon the Lord, He will renew me, not just to start the journey, but right there in the middle of the journey, and until I see him face to face. And I don't know about you, but I'm right there in the middle. I turned 40 this year. You know, scripturally, uh, 40 represents trials and testing. Oh, praise God, what a great word to speak over my life this year. That's exactly what I was going for. But you look throughout scripture and you see 40 represent trials and testing. You can look at the life of Moses. You know, Moses spent 40 years in Egypt. Then he spent 40 years in the wilderness, and you may think he was at the end, but he has a burning bush experience that then catapults him into the most important 40 years of his life as he leads God's people.
- You may be like Moses thinking, "Oh, I'm at the end. The great things of God are behind me," when you have no idea, you're just about to step into the very calling and purpose of God that He ordained for you before your life began. You have no idea what He's prepared for you. He prepared it for you.

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- Or maybe you know good and well that you're in the middle. You know that you are right there in the middle of the story, and friends, you are miserable.
- **Can I tell you today that I operated with this perspective for many seasons in my life? Moving to a city where I didn't know anyone, walking through eight years of infertility, starting a church. There've been many seasons of waiting that I just wanted to fast-forward through, that I just wanted to get to the other side. Though I may not have admitted it, or even been able to articulate it, until God got ahold of my heart with a game changer. Waiting is not a season. Waiting is life.**
- **So the question you and I have before us is this: will we live in the wait? Because there is life and life abundantly. Not at the finish line, not 10 years from now, but right here, right now. If you believe it today, somebody give God praise in this house. We can live while we wait. Waiting isn't a curse. Waiting is an invitation. It's an invitation from the throne room of heaven. Charles Swindoll once put it like this: "We don't like waiting, but that's when God does some of His best work on our souls." Some of his best work?**
- Uh, hold up. Wait. Are you serious? God does some of His best work while we wait? Well, if that's the truth today, then how do we actually wait? How do we live in the wait? How do we embrace the wait? And if waiting is truly life, then how do we live right here, right now?
- Back in Louisiana, I grew up with bonfires. Now, I've had to explain this to the people in Miami because bonfires are illegal in Miami, but I have hope in you today. I believe you know exactly what I'm talking about when I say, "A bonfire." This is my favorite Friday night pastime. We would pull the trucks up, we would pull the chairs out. You get a lotta wood, you light that thing on fire, and that bonfire is the center of attention. Everyone is facing the fire. And as it burns, you make memories and you don't want the night to end 'cause you've been looking forward to Friday night all week long.
- **So the question you and I have before us is this: will we live in the wait? Because there is life and life abundantly. Not at the finish line, not 10 years from now, but right here, right now. If you believe it today, somebody give God praise in this house. We can live while we wait. Waiting isn't a curse. Waiting is an invitation. It's an invitation from the throne room of heaven. Charles Swindoll once put it like this: "We don't like waiting, but that's when God does some of His best work on our souls." Some of his best work?**
- But friends, what if your walk with God was purposed to look more like smoke than a flame? Because you see, I grew up with bonfires. I love bonfires, but my husband, when I met him when we were 17, he loves to burn incense. For the last 23 years, we've been burning incense in our house. People walk into my home to this day, and the first thing they say, they don't notice the furniture, they don't notice the decor, they say, "What is that smell?" It's not what they see. It's what they sense.

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- It's not anything that they notice with their physical eyes, but it's a fragrance that is intoxicating. They can't even find out where it is or where it's burning, but they notice it from the moment they walk through the door. You know, the word incense comes from the Latin word incendare, and it simply means to burn. Do you know that incense is found throughout the scriptures? That in the very beginning, that God speaks to Moses in the Books of Exodus, and He tells Moses, He says, "I want you to set up an incense altar in my house. And every morning and every evening, I want Aaron, the priest, to bring an incense offering." So every morning, there would be an altar... .. in the holy place. And in the holy place, Aaron the priest would bring the incense, and he would pour the incense on the altar. And as he poured the incense on the altar, on the heat source that is the altar, an amazing thing would happen. A fragrance would begin to rise. Smoke would begin to rise. And Jewish tradition tells us that this smoke didn't just fill the holy place, but it filled the entire surrounding area up to a quarter of a mile. The smoke was so thick that every single person who came to worship God, as they worshiped God, the fragrance would soak into their clothes, and they would go about their daily duties carrying the fragrance of God. The smoke represents the worship and the prayers of God ascending to heaven every morning and every evening.
- **That as you lay down your little, what you think doesn't have any worth, what you think isn't a bonfire blazing with the glory of God... I've got news for you today. All He asks for you to do is release what is in your hand, and it becomes a fragrant sacrifice that permeates the air, touching everything in its midst. You have the ability today, in he wait- ... to bring your little.**
- And you can watch it rise. The priests would set their incense on the fire, and when they did, it would release an aroma, and the smoke would lift high towards heaven. Scripture tells us that our life is like a vapor. It's a vapor. It's here today. It's gone tomorrow. A lot like the smoke of incense.
- **Here's the invitation. Bring what you have to God in the wait- ... and watch as He transforms it. Because the powerful thing is, that incense, it is not the fire. But when it's placed on the heat source, the very chemical components of what is laid down transforms into completely different thing. You are looking at your little in the wait going, "This is all I'll ever have." God is going, "Would you release it to me and watch what I can do with it?" Because they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles.**
- Romans reminds us, "Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your body as living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. This is your true and proper worship."
- You're a living sacrifice. You wanna know how to live in the wait? You gotta lay your life down as a sacrifice, because it's only when you become a sacrifice that you actually live. You see, we want the fire, but God says, "I want the surrender." We wanna receive but God says, "First, you've gotta lay it all down." We wanna see the end of the story, but God says, "Will you see what I wanna do right here, right now, in and through you?" Come on, if anybody's got a praise in the house, why don't you lift up a shout of honor to God?
- He's here right now. He's here in the wait. He's here in the wait.
- I wanna speak faith to your heart today. Your life, your faith, your perseverance, your trials, your wilderness is not the end game. You are burning towards an expected outcome. God has already authored the end of this story, and you don't have to wonder if He's gonna carry it through because He comes through every single time.

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- **But maybe today- ... you're tiptoeing forward and it's not with expectation- ... it's with a heart- ... that has become disappointed in the wait. Have you ever wondered if your faith was still ignited? Have you ever wondered if you actually have what it takes to get through the wilderness of the wait- ... to get through the slow burn when life seems to be crawling and all you wanna do is accelerate and move forward? I've got good news for you today. You may feel burned out. You may feel like you don't have what it takes. You may be asking yourself today, "Is my faith still lit?" Good news for you today is you're not the fire. And you can get reignited every single moment of the journey. All you gotta do is get back to that altar and lay your life down once again. And the ignition is on! The fire starts to blaze! The faith starts to rise!**
- Today, God says, "I wanna light the fire within you every moment of the slow burn." Come on, give Him praise in this house. He's with you. He's with you. He's with you. You don't wanna be the fire. Then the pressure is on you to sustain it. No, we're not the fire. He's the fire. He's the all-consuming fire. We just bring our little every morning, throughout the day and every evening, and we watch as He transforms it. They that wait again and again and again and again, as you find yourself surrendering to Him, you will renew your strength.
- But what is this offering that we bring? I think it's interesting what God tells Moses to bring. Exodus 30:35 speaks very specifically of what our offering should be. The fragrant sacrifice of incense was to be three things, salted and pure and sacred. Friends, if God said the offering should be salted, pure, and sacred in Exodus, I think it's pretty incredible that today that's what our very lives should also be.
- That our very lives, our offering is sacred, friends. There is only one blend that was allowed in God's house. You couldn't burn it anywhere else. If you were burning it in your house, you got cut off. But I know when it comes to my offering for God, there's a piece of my heart that only belongs to Him. He is the central focus of my life. That sacred space is reserved for Him and Him only. And in the wait, I keep Him front and center. It's not just sacred, it's pure. See, our offering to God, it isn't a supplement in the slow burn. It's not just a piece of encouragement or a crutch. No, friends. This is pure and complete surrender to God. This is not Jesus plus self-help, Jesus plus horoscopes, Jesus plus this or Jesus plus that.
- **It's Jesus and only Jesus that breaks the chains, that creates the community of life, that frees me from my bondage. It's a pure sacrifice. But it's not just sacred and it's not just pure, it's salted. Somebody say salted. Salt is actually the ingredient that allows it to keep on burning. Salt is a preserver. The salt keeps it as a steady slow burn that lasts and elongates the fragrance impact. God says that we're the salt of the earth. Maybe today in the slow burn you go, "I don't know, I feel like I've lost my saltiness." Do you know how long salt lasts? In fact, let me ask you, when does salt expire? Have you ever Googled it? I did. Never. Salt never expires.**
- You think you're past your prime? You're just getting started. You're gonna be fresh at 20, fresh at 30, fresh at 40, fresh at 50, fresh at 60. Every season of your life, your offering is gonna bring a freshness to the world. You were created to last because your very life is a preserver. And as you lay it on the altar, the fragrance is released. Friends, I came to encourage you in the slow burn of life, while you are waiting, right here, right now, there is a fragrance-to your faith.

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- His name is Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. There's just something about that name. You're my Master, my Savior, Jesus. Like the fragrance after the rain. Oh, Jesus, He's my Jesus, He's your Jesus.
- Let all Heaven and Earth proclaim. Kings and kingdoms shall all pass away, but there's something about that name.
- You see, I don't think it's gonna be what you wear that people say, "There's something about her." I don't think it's gonna be your house or the car you drive or the label that goes in front of your name. I think people are gonna look at you and say, "There's something about her. There's something about him. I can't see it, but I sense it, and I gotta know what it is because you carry the fragrance of the hope of the risen Savior. And without a word, you are drawing people to the very life that you have found."
- Oh, give Him praise in this house. There's something about that name. There's something about that name. Today, you can make an exchange. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. When you lay it down, you rise. When you lay it down, you rise. I'm reminded that he says like an eagle. Why does God say like an eagle? The regal king of the skies. Well, when you study eagles, it's really interesting that they've got one of the largest wingspans out of all the birds, but they don't use those wings to keep themselves up in the air for five to eight hours without touching down. Yeah. The littler birds can just beat their wings trying to stay aflight, but the eagle catches wind. The eagle soars, and, uh, you will rarely see an eagle beat its wings because it utilizes the wind to carry it. I'm talking about the breath of God, the wind of God, the Ruach, the Pneuma. I'm talking about the wind that visited the upper room 2,000 years ago and ignited the local church that fills you and I today that we don't have to strive.
- **We don't have to work our way into the power and the authority of God, but we can catch wind. Come on, give Him praise in this house. Are you weary? Are you heavy laden? He says, "I will give you rest, but I'm not giving you rest by grounding you. I'm giving you rest by lifting you." "I've got a wind that is about to sweep into your spirit and lift you up to a higher ground for a higher view. So you're not looking up at your mountains any longer. You don't feel like a grasshopper looking up at the big, big boulders of life, but rather you're looking down, going the things that used to be big and intimidate my life, oh, now they're small because I can see the land, and the land is mine. You promised it, I'm gonna take it." Oh, come on, if you'd say, "I'm taking it," why don't you give a wave in this house? He's gonna lift you. He's gonna lift you. They that wait upon the Lord, wait upon the Lord. In my waiting, eight years of infertility, in the middle of my waiting, someone spoke a word over me. They said this to me, they said... I was in, I was in an atmosphere of faith just like this. I was seated in one of the rows, and a woman I'd never met sat next to me. And in a moment of prayer, she grabbed my hand and she whispered in my ear. She said, "You are gonna travel the world preaching the Gospel with a baby in one hand and a Bible in the other."**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon notes: "While You Were Waiting by DawnCheré Wilkerson on June 1, 2025

- I didn't go home and take a pregnancy test and find out I was pregnant. I carried that word in my heart- ... for years. I tucked it away. I didn't know what to do with it. Said, "God, I'm gonna keep trusting you." For years, I walked through the wait, wondering, "God, is this going to happen?" And eight years in, eight years in, God did a miracle. God gave me my first son, Wyatt Wesley Wilkerson. But He didn't stop there because then God gave me a second son. Then God gave me a daughter, Waylon Wesley, the joy of my heart. Hey, buddy. And this year, at the age of 40, friends- ... I got the shock of my life. Because we serve a God that redeems time. We serve a God that is not confined by time. It's a tool that He uses. He created it. It's His. He can do anything that He wants any moment that He wants. And let me tell you, as you wait upon the Lord, He's still doing miracles. He's still healing. He's still restoring. He's still bringing new life. I have to stay true to my testimony. I came here to declare to you-... that God has not forsaken you. He has not left you. He has not forgotten you.
- **His eye is always on you. While you were waiting, He's been working. While you were waiting, He's been lifting you to see a higher view, not just your own life, but to see the story that He is telling throughout history. And little boy, this is your testimony already. They that wait upon the Lord... It's my life verse, passed down from Isaiah, and now I pass it to you. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint." Come on, if that's the promise for your life, will you give God praise? The truth is today that some of you in this room, you're going, "DawnCheré, but that, that miracle hasn't come to pass for me." Well, I wanna tell you-I didn't have the revelation of living in the wait once I held my son for the first time, but He met me right in the eight years of waiting, and He showed me what living looks like. He showed me that I have a testimony far before I hold my baby in my arms. But just like the matriarchs and the patriarchs of our faith, that they greeted their inheritance from afar, that they died while still believing, that they did not hold in their hands what was promised, but rather, they saw through the lens of eternity, and they greeted their inheritance from afar. I read that in The Wait, and the words leapt off the page, and I got a picture for my wait. Oh, yeah, my arms were empty. I didn't have a baby. But those arms that are empty, they make great hands of worship to wave through the lens of faith and say, "You've lifted me high enough, not just to see this life, but to see eternity that awaits, where there will be no pain, there will be no tears, there will be no sorrow, and there will be no unmet longing in my life." Because while you were waiting, He was renewing you, and while you were waiting, every step of the way towards eternity, you were being lifted on the wings of eagles. While you were waiting, you would run and not grow weary. While you were waiting, you would walk and not faint.**
- Today, the Spirit of God says to you, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness. You bring your little to Me, and you watch Me transform you, right here, right now." Somebody give God a praise in this house.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon notes: "While You Were Waiting by DawnChéré Wilkerson on June 1, 2025

- **He's faithful. He's able. Would you just stand to your feet in this room and bow your heads? Close your eyes. Surrender to Renew Your Strength - There are people in this room that would say, " DawnChéré, I'm in the wait." You're watching online today. " DawnChéré, I'm in the wait, and it feels like I'm in exile. It feels like I'm in a wilderness. I'm barely holding on. I don't think I have the strength." You're right, you don't. But he does. And he has brought you to this moment because he adores you. Before your life began, he ordained you to be filled with the wind of his spirit, to be lifted to a higher view above your obstacles and impossibilities. And to know that as his child, he will faithfully lead you every step of the way until you are face to face. Today, I wanna pray, first of all, for people in this room who it's, you're just weary. You're watching online and you are exhausted with life. You've been beating your wings. You've been giving it all you got. But today, you're gonna catch wind. If that's you, I wanna pray for you. Would you just lift your hand if you'd say, "I need the renewal of the Spirit of God"? Right there in your car, in your home, in your workplace, just acknowledge God's presence that is there with you right now.**
- If that's you, just lift up both of your hands. Lord, today we surrender our lives. Lord, thank You that every day, every moment, morning and evening, and throughout our days, we can come to You, the all-consuming fire. And God, when we feel like we are at our end, Lord, I thank You, God, that You don't snuff us out but Lord, You light us once again with Your faithfulness. You fill us with the power that conquered the grave, the power of Your Spirit, the power of of God.
- Lord, I thank You that right now, as people have their hands raised, Lord, You're meeting them right where they are. Lord, You're renewing their dreams. You're renewing their heart. God, You're giving them a higher vision of the situation and the season of life they are in. And Lord, through the lens of faith, we wave to our inheritance from afar. Lord, we know that we will see You face to face, but while we've been waiting, You're shaping us. You're forming us. Lord, You're transforming us by Your grace. Also, I'd love to give an opportunity for people that don't know Jesus.
- If you're watching, you've never made Jesus your Lord and Savior, you're in this room and you have some other things that have first priority in your life but you say, "Today, I'm making Jesus my King," on the count of three, I'd love for you to raise your hand. One, this is between you and Jesus. Two, don't put off a decision for tomorrow that, God, He brought you to this moment today to make. Three, would you lift your hand? You say, "I'm choosing Jesus. I'm choosing Jesus." I see your hands. I see your hands. Wherever you are, as you acknowledge that, God sees your heart. But you know what? All of us are gonna come around you. We're gon- we're gonna lift our hands together in surrender. Would you pray this prayer with me? Say, "Dear Jesus." Today, I choose-" "... to throw my life-" "... into Your hands." "I'm celebrating-" "... Your rescue." "I believe-" "... You died for me-" "... that You rose again." "Forgive me of my sin." "Wash me clean." "I wanna walk with You." "I wanna talk with You." "I love You, Lord." "In Jesus' name." Come on. And everybody said? Amen.

Part 2: eGroup study questions

June 20, 2015 - A Father's Day Message "It's In Your Hands" by Pastor Steven at Elevation Church – just after a mass murder event at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC by 21 year old - Dylann Roof

- **Scripture: Math 7:7-15**
- **God: Heal our wounded heart and anguish.**
- **God: We know that there is no sorrow that God cannot heal.**
- **Many issues have roots and we have a part to play to remove systemic racism.**
- **The essence of the gospel is acceptance and good news. The operative word is come as you are.**
- **What is not healed gets handed down.**
- **If we do not seize this as an opportunity for change, we are not a church; we are merely a pep rally.**
- **Every deed from the devil left un-checked remains in our heart.**
- **My Dad started to tear down what he was handed down.**
- **We can light candles. However, the thing that we need to have is fire is in our hearts. It starts in our families and the moves to a larger conversation.**
- **Check what is in your heart? What are you handing down?**
- **God: Help in our examination of ourselves this week.**

Sermon Discussion: "While You Were Waiting by DawnChéré Wilkerson on June 1, 2025

"Using Isaiah 40:31, Pastor DawnChéré shared, "Eagles don't exert their energy using their wings to fly. Instead, they fly high enough to catch the wind." Where have you been depending too much on your own strength as opposed to depending on the "wind" (spirit) of God?"

Sermon Discussion: "While You Were Waiting by DawnChéré Wilkerson on June 1, 2025

"Can I tell you today that I operated with this perspective for many seasons in my life? Moving to a city where I didn't know anyone, walking through eight years of infertility, starting a church. There've been many seasons of waiting that I just wanted to fast-forward through, that I just wanted to get to the other side. Though I may not have admitted it, or even been able to articulate it, until God got ahold of my heart with a game changer. Waiting is not a season. Waiting is life."

How does this play out in your mind?

Sermon Discussion: "While You Were Waiting by DawnChéré Wilkerson on June 1, 2025

"So the question you and I have before us is this: will we live in the wait? Because there is life and life abundantly. Not at the finish line, not 10 years from now, but right here, right now. If you believe it today, somebody give God praise in this house. We can live while we wait. Waiting isn't a curse. Waiting is an invitation. It's an invitation from the throne room of heaven. Charles Swindoll once put it like this: "We don't like waiting, but that's when God does some of His best work on our souls." Some of his best work?"

Sermon Discussion: "While You Were Waiting by DawnChéré Wilkerson on June 1, 2025

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Sermon Discussion: "While You Were Waiting by DawnChéré Wilkerson on June 1, 2025

"Here's the invitation. Bring what you have to God in the wait- ... and watch as He transforms it. Because the powerful thing is, that incense, it is not the fire. But when it's placed on the heat source, the very chemical components of what is laid down transforms into completely different thing. You are looking at your little in the wait going, "This is all I'll ever have." God is going, "Would you release it to me and watch what I can do with it?" Because they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles."

"Your life, your faith, your perseverance, your trials, your wilderness is not the end game."

Sermon Discussion: "While You Were Waiting by DawnChéré Wilkerson on June 1, 2025

"But maybe today- ... you're tiptoeing forward and it's not with expectation- ... it's with a heart - that has become disappointed in the wait. Have you ever wondered if your faith was still ignited? Have you ever wondered if you actually have what it takes to get through the wilderness of the wait- to get through the slow burn when life seems to be crawling and all you wanna do is accelerate and move forward?

I've got good news for you today. You may feel burned out. You may feel like you don't have what it takes. You may be asking yourself today, "Is my faith still lit?" Good news for you today is you're not the fire. And you can get reignited every single moment of the journey. All you gotta do is get back to that altar and lay your life down once again. And the ignition is on! The fire starts to blaze! The faith starts to rise!

Sermon Discussion: "While You Were Waiting by DawnChéré Wilkerson on June 1, 2025

Closing prayer #1

"And today, all of us, we can look at our own life, and we carry the fragrance of generational trauma, of labels that people have placed on us, on pain and circumstances that were far beyond our control, and that person isn't even in our life anymore, but the fragrance- ... the fragrance remains.

But I'm so grateful today that we too can say, like Paul, "Thanks be to God, who always leads us to triumph, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ everywhere."

Because it's at the name of Jesus that old things pass away. Let me say it this way. Old fragrances pass away. Old labels pass away. Old generational curses pass away. And at the name of Jesus, you now bear a fragrance of faith, of joy, of peace, of forgiveness. In the slow burn, you've got a sweet fragrance of the strength of Almighty God.

Sermon Discussion: "While You Were Waiting by DawnChéré Wilkerson on June 1, 2025

Closing Prayer #2: "His eye is always on you. While you were waiting, He's been working. While you were waiting, He's been lifting you to see a higher view, not just your own life, but to see the story that He is telling throughout history. They that wait upon the Lord... It's my life verse, passed down from Isaiah, and now I pass it to you. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint." The truth is today that some of you in this room, you're going, "DawnChéré, but that, that miracle hasn't come to pass for me." Well, I wanna tell you-I didn't have the revelation of living in the wait once I held my son for the first time, but He met me right in the eight years of waiting, and He showed me what living looks like. He showed me that I have a testimony far before I hold my baby in my arms. Oh, yeah, my arms were empty. I didn't have a baby. But those arms that are empty, they make great hands of worship to wave through the lens of faith and say, "You've lifted me high enough, not just to see this life, but to see eternity that awaits, where there will be no pain, there will be no tears, there will be no sorrow, and there will be no unmet longing in my life." Because while you were waiting, He was renewing you, and while you were waiting, every step of the way towards eternity, you were being lifted on the wings of eagles. While you were waiting, you would run and not grow weary. While you were waiting, you would walk and not faint."

Sermon Discussion: "While You Were Waiting by DawnChéré Wilkerson on June 1, 2025

Closing Prayer #3: "He's faithful. He's able. Close your eyes. Surrender to Renew Your Strength - There are people in this room that would say, I'm in the wait." and it feels like I'm in exile. It feels like I'm in a wilderness. I'm barely holding on. I don't think I have the strength." You're right, you don't. But he does. And he has brought you to this moment because he adores you. Before your life began, he ordained you to be filled with the wind of his spirit, to be lifted to a higher view above your obstacles and impossibilities. And to know that as his child, he will faithfully lead you every step of the way until you are face to face. I wanna pray, first of all, for people in this room who it's, you're just weary. You're watching online and you are exhausted with life. You've been beating your wings. You've been giving it all you got. But today, you're gonna catch wind. If that's you, I wanna pray for you. Would you just lift your hand if you'd say, "I need the renewal of the Spirit of God. Just acknowledge God's presence that is there with you right now."

Back up slides



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.”

Great opening comment by Pastor Furtick:

"The prophetic word I've been assigned to preach to you today may come across, on the surface, as very simple, but it is really the deepest belief you could ever hold, and it is this: "The Lord Will Lighten Your Load." I know you had a lot on your mind even coming in today, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know sometimes people take advantage of you because you're available to them, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know you've done some bad things in your life, and you feel kind of guilty about them, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know you're trying to make a plan right now, and stuff keeps moving, and stuff keeps shifting, and people keep moving, and people keep shifting, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know you're stubborn and you don't like to ask for a lot of help, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know your shoulders are tense. Lord will lighten your load."

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon Discussion: "The Prayer That Repairs" by Pastor Steven Furtick on February 16, 2025

"The prayer that re-pairs. See how me and Holly are standing together like this? We're a pair. That's a visual illustration for you and Jesus. You keep thinking you are paired with people, so when people leave, you think it's over. You are a joint heir with Jesus. See Hebrews 7:25: ""Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." There is the prayer that prevents, there is the prayer that prepares, but I have a feeling I'm speaking to a few people online today, and even a few in the room, who's prayer didn't prevent it. Prayer didn't prepare. Like Simon, Simon, you are going through something right now, or you've been through something, where you need the prayer that re-pairs. The prayer that re-pairs is this: "Lord, if everything else goes away, if everything else is sifted, don't let this trial take my faith." Because if my faith doesn't fail, I can make it. If my faith doesn't fail, I can come back from this. If my faith doesn't fail, I can get resourceful. If my faith doesn't fail, I can reach out. If my faith doesn't fail, I can pivot. So, just like the Savior prayed for Peter, we want to right now pray for you, those of you who are "Simon, Simon." Don't let the pressure get the best of me." This is the prayer that brings you back to God."

And from his fullness, we have all received” - John chapter 1, verse 16: additional commentary by Charles Spurgeon: “There is a fullness of blessings of every sort and shape; a fullness of grace to pardon, of grace to regenerate, of grace to sanctify, of grace to preserve, and of grace to perfect. There is a fullness at all times; a fullness of comfort and affliction, a fullness of guidance and prosperity. Come believer, and get all of your needs supplied; ask largely in your receive largely, for this fullness is exhaustible and is treasured up where all the needy may reach it, even in Jesus - Emmanuel God is with us.

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

Daily devotional Spurgeon quote from 12/26/2024

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