

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

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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
- Psalm Sunday – April 13, 2025
- Good Friday Worship Experience – April 18, 2025
- April 20, 2025 – Easter Worship Experience – See: <https://www.elevationchurch.org/easter>
- Digital Invites: <https://cloud.email.elevationchurch.org/Easter-Digital-Invites>
- Elevation Devotionals: https://cdn.elevationchurch.org/files/pdfs/easter/IKnowAName_Devo_V3.pdf

“When God Gets Ready” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 30, 2025

Sermon Highlights

- Callings have commas
- People label through the lens of what they see. God names through the lens of what He gave you.
- Faith will never flourish without a fight
- You might have been getting it wrong, but while you were getting it wrong, God was getting ready.
- Why would you put a period on your purpose where God puts a comma?
- God orchestrated a falling into a new calling
- Sometimes, it takes a heartbreak to hear God
- It's too soon to give up on you
- It ain't nothing until God calls it
- The grace was there before the mistake was ever made.
- Get ready to see what God will reveal

Scriptures

- Galatians 1:11-20 - – Paul tells his story of encountering Jesus
- Acts 9:3-6 - Jesus confronts Saul on the road to Damascus
- Genesis 17:3-5 – God changes Abram's name to Abraham
- Genesis 32:28 - God changes Jacob's name to Israel
- Matthew 16:15-18 – God changes Simon's name to Peter
- Acts 13:9 - Saul was always also Paul

“When God Gets Ready” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 30, 2025

Sermon Discussion

- “Why would you put a period on your purpose where God puts a comma?” Is there an area of your life where you feel like you’ve hit a limit on all you can be? How can you remind yourself this week that God has put more in you?
- “God orchestrated a falling into a new calling.” Share a time you saw God used a mistake or failure in your life for His purpose.
- “People label through the lens of what they see. God names through the lens of what He gave you.” What is something in your life that people (or even you) may have labeled as one thing, but you've seen God use it for something else?
- “Faith will never flourish without a fight.” Share about a time when your faith got stronger as a result of what you went through.

Prayer Prompt from Elevation Church:

Pastor Steven said: “Sometimes, it takes a heartbreak to hear God.” “Have you ever heard God after a heartbreak or disappointment? Or, are you in the middle of one now and wanting to hear His voice? Pray that we will remember that God is with us in the failure, in the falling, and that He isn’t through with us yet. We pray that God would get us ready to see what He will reveal.”

June 4, 2020

Sermon notes from “Be the Bridge - The Sins of Silence and Sins of Apathy - Staying Quiet = Being In Agreement – Speaking to Injustice and the Pain” by Pastor John Gray and Pastor Steven Furtick.

From Elevation eGroup Leadership Guide: "Exposure and understanding are keys to "building bridges. There are real things and emotions that stop us or make us hesitate to expose ourselves - Sometimes the best way to take a stand is to take a seat – and have the conversation."



George Floyd



David Patrick Underwood

Psalm 139: 1 You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. 7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. 13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Romans 12: 9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

John 17: Jesus Prays for His Disciples - 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. 9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

June 4, 2020: Sermon notes from “Be the Bridge - The Sins of Silence and Sins of Apathy - Staying Quiet = Being In Agreement – Speaking to Injustice and the Pain” by Pastor John Gray and Pastor Steven Furtick.

- “Opening prayer by Pastor Furtick: Welcome everybody from all over the world – we come today to praise Jesus – His promises never fail and He never changes – thank you for the blessings of God and thank you for allowing us to see another day – dear Lord we thank you for another opportunity to bow before you – to place all our fears and anxieties and sadness into your hands – Lord it’s been a heavy week and it’s been a heavy year – and it seems like things keep getting darker – and we keep losing the light that we guide by – and sometimes we even lose our hope – and we don’t want to admit that but we do – for today we ask that you shine the light as to who you are – and help us understand all those things that we do not understand. Bless all those that encounter you today – speak to us so that we hear you – oh great god – you meet every need – keeper of every secret – you see our tears – uphold your people Today – you are a keeper and a sustainer and a friend. In Jesus Name. Amen.”

June 4, 2020: Sermon notes from “Be the Bridge - The Sins of Silence and Sins of Apathy - Staying Quiet = Being In Agreement – Speaking to Injustice and the Pain” by Pastor John Gray and Pastor Steven Furtick.

- “Opening comments and by Chandler Moore: Today is a great weekend to be reminded of the promises of the Lord over us – many of us are losing sight, hope, and language based on what is going on all around us - and what is happening in our country and our world – it is best that we put our kingdom in heavenly perspective – and be reminded of what we live by - and how the word of God guides us. He will be with us through everything - and he will neither abandon us nor forsake us – we’ve never seen the righteous forsaken – and we will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living – our confidence is not in earthen vessels – our confidence is in the word of God – and we want to be reminded of these promises – father we thank you for this moment – I think that you are opening hearts - even now – that you are encouraging souls even now – to be reminded of things that you have spoken and things that you have said – and we are encouraged today because we have hope in you – you keep every word that you say – and you stand by everything that you have declared over us – that you have called us favorite and that you have called is chosen – that you called us forgiven - that you’ve called us a royal priesthood a holy nation – that you meant that and you stand by that – so we focus in this – and we hone in on what you say today – Lord posture ourselves.”

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

What does the New Testament say about racism as quoted from two sources: A sermon by Billy Graham in 1993 called "Footprints of Conscience" and a press release from New Spring Church – see: <https://newspring.cc/articles/is-racism-a-sin>

- **Mathew 22:39:** "Love your neighbor as yourself"
- **Luke 10: 25-37:** Jesus' response to the question "Who is my neighbor?" He responded with a parable about a good Samaritan, a member of a despised race.
- **John 4: 1-26:** Once the Pharisees began their political posturing, Jesus had to go to Samaria – to convert a Samaritan woman.
- **Rev. 5:9:** God created a diverse world "From every tribe and language and people and nation" – additional comments by Billy Graham in 1993: Racism is a sin precisely because it keeps us from obeying God's command to love our neighbor, and because it has its roots in pride and arrogance. Christians who harbor racism in their attitudes or actions are not following their Lord at this point, for Christ came to bring reconciliation—reconciliation between us and God, and reconciliation between each other.
- **Romans 10:12:** "There is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him"
- **Eph. 2:14-15:** "has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility ... through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility"
- **Acts 8:26-40:** Philip - leader of the church, helps an Ethiopian eunuch understand part of the Bible and begins following Jesus.
- **Deuteronomy 10:17-19:** God cares about people regardless of their ethnicity, nationality, and social status.
- **Acts 10:34-35:** "God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right."
- **1 Corinthians 12:13:** "We were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."
- James 2:9: "If you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers."
- **Revelation 7:9-10:** About the age to come, we see a heavenly picture: "a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."
- **Ephesians 2:14-18:** Jesus removes hostility and introduces harmony.
- Galatians 3:28: God isn't about separation, but inclusion and unity. Jesus made it possible for anyone to be included in the people and promises of God."
- **Ephesians 2:13:** The Gospel doesn't just mean that we're brought near to God. It also means we're brought near to the people we once considered so different from ourselves.
- **2 Corinthians 5:18-20:** If we belong to Jesus, we are part of His movement to bring more reconciliation between people and God."

Sermon notes from “Be the Bridge - The Sins of Silence and Sins of Apathy - Staying Quiet = Being In Agreement – Speaking to Injustice and the Pain” by Pastor John Gray and Pastor Steven Furtick.

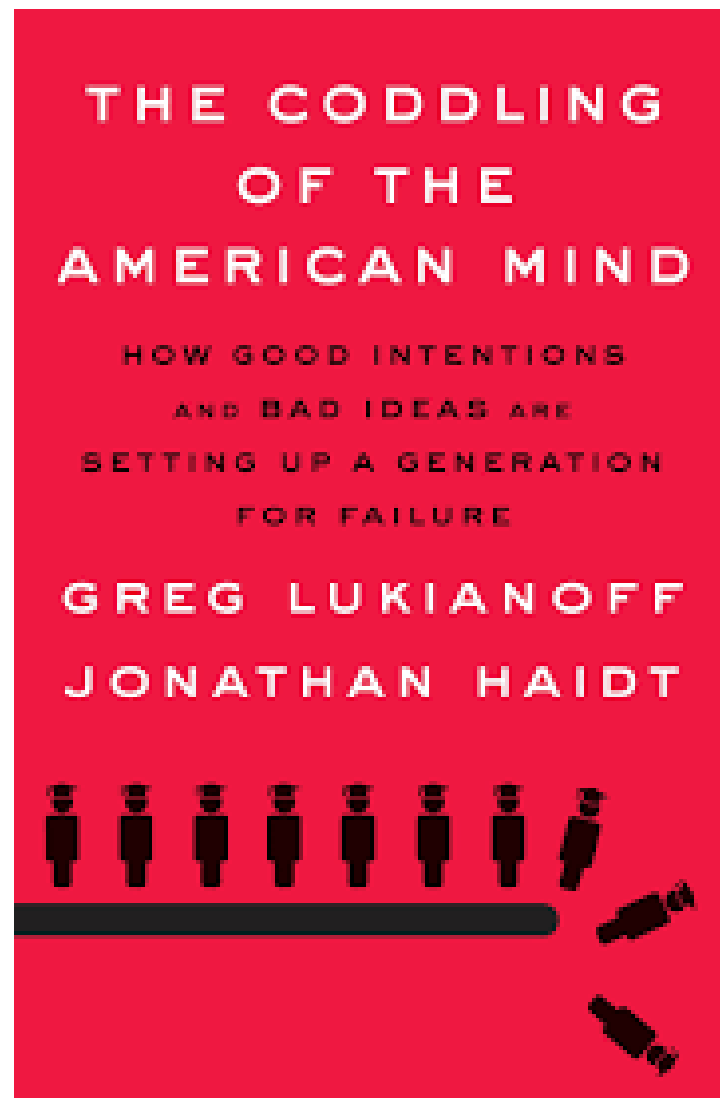
- **“Pastor Furtick: when our consciousness is pierced, this gives us a window – my issue is that we have reduced Jesus and Christianity on the only the comfortable things - and shocking events like this put us in a state of despair – and despair is just as deadly as denial. And we have to be careful as to live in denial and accept and tolerate it because we lack the tools to fix it at a regional or global level – and give up on the possibility to change it – and we have replaced the art of conversation with clicks and short comments – and so we don’t talk and therefore we don’t empathize – and we don’t take the time to understand people that come from different perspectives – and we just surround ourselves with people that merely confirm our biases – and we never challenge ourselves to seek something beyond our own perspective – keeping us in states of spiritual immaturity – or even regressive states – because we’ve never stressed ourselves to better understand other people’s experiences.”**

Sermon notes from “Be the Bridge - The Sins of Silence and Sins of Apathy - Staying Quiet = Being In Agreement – Speaking to Injustice and the Pain” by Pastor John Gray and Pastor Steven Furtick.

- **“Pastor Furtick: Guilt is not a strategy – perhaps we don’t know the difference between guilt and repentance – making someone feel bad doesn’t change anything – repentance means to change direction in the Old Testament and repentance means to change your mind in the New Testament. We change direction and we do things differently – and we need to do things differently now – and the only way to break the cycle is to repent – sitting here singing “bridge over troubled waters” is not going to solve anything – this is nothing more than an anesthetic – however repentance is real change – where we ask ourselves how we can change our minds so that we see things the way God sees things – allowing my heart to see beyond the corners of my own darkness – where I no longer cosign intolerance by the nature of my silence – this is repentance. Repentance is moving differently, thinking differently, getting up and walking in a different direction – and refusing to assume a posture of indifference.”**

Disconnected moral matrices?

“By the 2010s, most Americans were using social media sites like Facebook and Twitter, which make it easy to encase oneself within an echo chamber. And then there’s the “filter bubble,” in which search engines and YouTube algorithms are designed to give you more of what you seem to be interested in, leading conservatives and progressives into disconnected moral matrices backed up by mutually contradictory informational worlds. Both the physical and the electronic isolation from people we disagree with allow the forces of confirmation bias . . . to push us still further apart.”



Closing Prayer by John Gray on 5/31/2020

*“Thank you for Elevation Church that is breaking the back of the devil that existed in this region of the country for hundreds of years. And for all of the black bodies that have been accumulating due to injustices – and a lack of human empathy – and I’m grateful this moment has begun – and I pray that the church will not avoid this conversation. May the church be a voice to the voiceless – and may you feel something – ask the Holy Spirit to give you a heart of flesh – have the heart of Jesus become active in you – that we will live in community and fight for the unity of the Spirit and the bonds of peace – to pursue peace with all men – I pray that the pain is now so severe as to effectuate change – and change starts in our hearts – by the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus - allow us to have this initial conversation – and reconcile this issue through the church – **may we celebrate our differences while attacking at its root the systems of oppression and injustice. Lord, change our hearts so that we see everyone is equally valuable – God give us hope – give us peace – give us strength – Show us the pathway – This is my prayer – in Jesus’ name – Amen”***

Back up slides

Sermon notes from “Be the Bridge - The Sins of Silence and Sins of Apathy - Staying Quiet = Being In Agreement – Speaking to Injustice and the Pain” by Pastor John Gray and Pastor Steven Furtick.

- “Pastor John Gray: I want this conversation to be a tipping point for the church – to foster true reconciliation – as it states in John 17, we need to have a presence of God in our conversation – and in our minds - and our hearts, otherwise empathy and activism will not matter. I want this to be the start of dialogue that we need to have with each other – and then we need to have real world application in real time – where we call out regional and national systemic injustice – and everybody mobilize and move in that same direction. Also see <https://johngrayministries.com/partner-1>. There are many people that don't know what is going on – It is one thing to be angry and prejudicial – another thing to be apathetic because you don't know – and let's have these conversations.

Sermon notes from “Be the Bridge - The Sins of Silence and Sins of Apathy - Staying Quiet = Being In Agreement – Speaking to Injustice and the Pain” by Pastor John Gray and Pastor Steven Furtick.

- “Pastor Furtick: Thank you today for your wisdom and your perspective – I have never had a friend more brilliant than you – not so brilliant that you forget how to make us feel – I think that we become so numb that we do not feel anything anymore – please pray for those of us to feel overwhelmed – those of us that feel that we can’t do anything therefore we won’t do anything – and also please pray for the people that are blind to this and allow God to open our eyes.”