

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.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Matthew 5:1-10 - Jesus talks about joy

The Sermon on the Mount

5 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

The Beatitudes

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons[a] of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Salt and Light

13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that[b] they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Genesis 1:28 - - God blesses humanity

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 So God created man in his own image,

in the image of God he created him;

male and female he created them.

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Ephesians 6:11-15 - Put on the armor of God

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. **11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.**

Opening Prayer by Pastor Furtick on Sunday, May 4, 2025:

“Father, thank you for this moment - a holy moment, a sanctified moment, a set-apart moment, a special moment, a moment that we'll never see again. Thank you for this day. Thank you for the sunrise. Thank you for that breath. I ask for the person that's on my right and on my left today that you would give them the kind of confidence that comes from knowing they will never take a step that you haven't already gone before them. I thank you that you are the God who goes before us. When we feel like falling, I thank you that you are the God who catches us, a firm foundation beneath our feet. And when we sometimes forget how big you are, I want to thank you that you are the God who is above us. Your ways are higher than our ways. Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts. As the rain falls from the heaven and waters the earth and doesn't return to it without accomplishing that which it was sent to do, so shall your word be that comes forth from your mouth today. It will not return unto you void. It never does. It can't. It must accomplish what you sent it to do. You're worthy of it. We worship you because you're worthy. Amen.”

Elevation Church Prayer Prompt on 5/25/2025: Thank God for the fullness of joy that is found in His presence. We pray for each person to recognize their need for His joy. We ask God to be present in those times and spaces. We pray for each person to be transformed by His presence, even when it's challenging.

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon notes: "Allow Joy To Reintroduce Himself" by Tauren Wells on May 25, 2025

Sermon Highlights

- Your happiness matters to God.
- In God's presence is the fullness of joy.
- Happiness doesn't flow from your plans or the season of life you're in — it flows from the character of Jesus being formed in your heart.
- God is uniquely invested in your happiness.
- God's first interaction with humanity was to bless them.
- Asking "What's next?" will destroy your contentment. Instead ask, "What's here?"
- Jesus chose a desolate, isolated place to teach about joy.
- Joy is not a feeling, it's a person.
- Maybe the reason why we can't experience joy is because we are looking AROUND Jesus, not at Him.
- Joy is amplified when Jesus is the center and the seal.
- God is in the simple.
- You can have joy in a posture of rest.

Scriptures

- Matthew 5:1-10 - Jesus talks about joy
- Genesis 1:28 - - God blesses humanity

Sermon Discussion

- "Asking 'What's next?' will destroy your contentment. Instead ask, 'What's here?'" Where have you been stuck on "what's next"? How can you start finding joy in "what's here" instead?
- "God is in the simple." Where can you pause to delight in God's joy through the simple this week?
- Jesus chose a desolate, isolated place to teach about joy. Share about a time you found joy, even in a desolate and isolated place? What did that moment teach you about finding joy that's stuck with you?
- Maybe the reason why we can't experience joy is because we are looking AROUND Jesus, not at Him. Where have you been tempted to look "around" Jesus, instead of at Him, to find joy? (e.g., accomplishments, relationships, plans)

Prayer Prompt: Thank God for the fullness of joy that is found in His presence. We pray for each person to recognize their need for His joy. We ask God to be present in those times and spaces. We pray for each person to be transformed by His presence, even when it's challenging.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon notes: "Allow Joy To Reintroduce Himself" by Tauren Wells on May 25, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

Bio of Tauren Wells: See: <https://www.taurenwells.com/about/> - he has garnered 10 GRAMMY® Award nominations and eight GMA Dove Awards - Austin, TX house of worship he co-founded with his wife—Church of Whitestone.

"Allow Joy to Reintroduce Himself" - A Message on Happiness and Jesus

May 25, 2025 55:40 minutes

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llwzTILdaBY>

Summary

- Pastor and musician Tauren Wells opens with worship and gratitude, expressing excitement to be with the congregation and sharing humorous anecdotes about family and church life.
- He celebrates Elevation Rhythm's achievements and acknowledges the generosity of the church and its leaders, highlighting the impact on his own church in Austin, including baptisms and new believers.

Scripture Focus

The message centers on Matthew 5:1-12, the Beatitudes, emphasizing Jesus' inaugural sermon and the significance of his first word: "blessed," which means "happy" in the original language. The speaker challenges the belief that God is indifferent to our happiness, arguing instead that joy and happiness are central to God's character and intentions for humanity.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church sermon notes - Allow Joy To Reintroduce Himself" by Tauren Wells on May 25, 2025

Key Points

- Joy and happiness are not just emotions but are deeply rooted in the character of God and accessible through Jesus.
- **Jesus' teaching on the Beatitudes reorients the understanding of happiness, shifting it from external achievements or circumstances to internal transformation through Christ.**
- **Common misconceptions in church culture often separate happiness from holiness, but scripture reveals that joy is found in God's presence.**
- **Jesus chose an ordinary, desolate place (Aramis) to deliver his message on joy, illustrating that joy is available in the mundane and difficult moments of life, not just on spiritual mountaintops.**
- The pursuit of "what's next" can rob us of present joy; instead, we should focus on "what's here" and find contentment in our current season.
- **True joy is spiritual happiness, which amplifies fulfillment in all other areas of life and is only fully realized through a relationship with Jesus.**
- **Google AI 8 components of happiness:** Relationships: Nurturing and enjoying relationships with family and friends. Gratitude: Being comfortable expressing gratitude and acknowledging the positive. Kindness: Easily offering help and assistance to others; practicing compassion. Optimism: Practicing optimism and savoring pleasures. Physical Activity: Being physically active. Purpose: Commitment to personal goals and values. Resilience: Responding resiliently to stressors and challenges. Present Moment Awareness: Engaging in the present.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church sermon notes - Allow Joy To Reintroduce Himself" by Tauren Wells on May 25, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

Personal Reflections and Application

The speaker shares personal stories about family trips and the elusive search for happiness in external experiences, drawing parallels to the broader human tendency to seek joy in future milestones.

- He encourages embracing vulnerability and emotional honesty, noting that Jesus himself experienced mourning and wept, giving believers permission to feel and process emotions in God's presence.
- **Joy is not something to be worked for but received through rest and relationship with God, delighting in His love rather than striving for achievement.**
- Invitation and Prayer - The message concludes with an invitation to receive the joy of the Lord through faith in Jesus. The congregation is led in a prayer for salvation, emphasizing that true happiness and transformation come from a relationship with Christ. The speaker expresses love and gratitude for the church and encourages all to embrace the joy available in Jesus.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church sermon notes - Allow Joy To Reintroduce Himself" by Tauren Wells on May 25, 2025

Tauren Wells, the Grammy-nominated recording artist and pastor, has released his debut book, "Joy Bomb: Unleash Jesus's Explosive Joy for an Extraordinary Life" on May 20, 2025.

The book's central theme revolves around challenging conventional, surface-level ideas of happiness and guiding readers toward a deeper, more enduring, and biblically rooted understanding of joy. Wells asserts that God desires not only our holiness but also our happiness, and that true joy is not dependent on circumstances or emotions.

"Joy Bomb" is largely anchored in a fresh interpretation of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount, specifically focusing on the Beatitudes. Wells highlights Jesus's repeated use of the word "happy" in his first recorded sermon, emphasizing its significance to God's heart. He presents the Beatitudes as "codes" to unlock a divine, eternal joy that originates from God's unchanging character and love.

The book aims to:

- * Reorient readers' lives toward a genuine experience of joy.
- * Explain why joy is not tied to emotional states or external circumstances.
- * Identify attitudes and behaviors that hinder one from experiencing God's joy.
- * Encourage greater freedom in worship, life, and one's relationship with God.
- * Show how Jesus's teachings lead to deep, transformative joy, not just fleeting "warm fuzzies."

Wells is said to weave biblical truth with personal insights, even delving into vulnerable topics like therapy and the courage to be fully known. He emphasizes that the journey to joy isn't always tidy or effortless but is often "raw, hard-won, and deeply transformative." "Joy Bomb" is positioned as a guide to confront pain, face truths, and find purpose through an unshakable, God-given joy.

Part 2: eGroup study questions

Sermon Discussion: "Allow Joy To Reintroduce Himself" by Tauren Wells on May 25, 2025

"Common misconceptions in church culture often separate happiness from holiness, but scripture reveals that joy is found in God's presence."

Unpack this statement.



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.**

Sermon Discussion: "Allow Joy To Reintroduce Himself" by Tauren Wells on May 25, 2025

Recap of book Joy Bomb:

"Wells is said to weave biblical truth with personal insights - He emphasizes that the journey to joy isn't always tidy or effortless but is often "raw, hard-won, and deeply transformative."

"Joy Bomb" is positioned as a guide to confront pain, face truths, and find purpose through an unshakable, God-given joy."

Sermon Discussion: "Allow Joy To Reintroduce Himself" by Tauren Wells on May 25, 2025

Believers Bible commentary by William McDonald:

- Matthew chapter 5 opens up with beatitudes or blessings – mapping out the ideal citizen of Christ kingdom.
- “Poor in spirit” = those that acknowledge their own helplessness, and rely on God’s omnipotence, they sense their spiritual need and find it supplied by the Lord.
- “those who mourn are blessed” – translation: this is not refer to morning because of life experiences – there’s a sorrow which one experiences because of fellowship with the Lord Jesus is an active sharing of the world hurt and sin with Jesus.
- “those who hunger, and search for righteousness” – translation - these are people who have a passion for righteousness - they Long to see honesty, integrity, and justice in society. They look for practical holiness in the church.”

Sermon Discussion: "Allow Joy To Reintroduce Himself" by Tauren Wells on May 25, 2025

Believers Bible commentary by William McDonald:

- “the merciful are blessed” – translation – “to be merciful means to be actively compassionate. In one sense, it means to withhold punishment from offenders who deserve it. In another sense it means to help others in need who can’t help themselves.”
- “the peacemakers will be blessed” – translation – “the Lord is not talking about people with a peaceful disposition of those that love peace – He is referring to those who actively intervene to make peace. The natural approach is to watch strife from the sidelines. The divine approach is to take positive action towards creating peace.”
- “those who are persecuted will be blessed” – translation - the kingdom of heaven is promised those believers who suffer for doing right. Integrity condemns the ungodly world and brings out its hostility. People hate the righteous life because it exposes their own unrighteousness.

Sermon Discussion: "Allow Joy To Reintroduce Himself" by Tauren Wells on May 25, 2025

"True joy is spiritual happiness, which amplifies fulfillment in all other areas of life and is only fully realized through a relationship with Jesus."

How does this play out in your own mind?

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon Discussion: "Allow Joy To Reintroduce Himself" by Tauren Wells on May 25, 2025



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.

Back up slides

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon Discussion: "All Those Times You Didn't See" - Pastor Steven Furtick - April 27, 2025

"But what about all those times when Hannah went to the temple year after year - with her rival in one ear and God in the other - and her rival saying "Why do you keep serving a God who won't even bless you with a baby - look how blessed I am." I can't preach about Samuel without preaching about Hannah – here's my whole message in a sentence she wept but she went up anyway - listen to me - this might be the word to snatch you out of despondency - this might be the word to shake you out of lethargy - Hannah wept but she went up - God did not silence her enemy but she went up anyway – and this went on year after year - so I see a picture of a woman who was willing to keep coming back - even if I don't see the thing (requested) - I'm going back not by sight but by faith - and I see a picture of every person who is in this church right now feeling unrecognized - feeling insignificant - feeling like life is not cutting grass - and you are sewing seed - and you are not seeing anything right now I want to remind you that you can go up weeping - you can go up hurting - you can go up confused - go back." And you can have all your fancy definitions of faith that you want - but I think sometimes real faith is going back. Go back and love them again – go back and serve again - go back and pray again - you go back and thank him again."

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.”

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.”

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

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

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

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

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