

# **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](http://www.elevationchurch.cc)
- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone – See [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://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](http://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?
- No eGroup meeting on Wed. Nov. 26, 2025 (Thanksgiving in USA), Dec. 24, 2025 (Christmas), and Dec 31, 2025 (New Year) – No eGroup meeting on Wed 12/3/2025 due to business travel. Only two eGroup meetings in Dec: 12/9/2025 and 12/17/2025.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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## Genesis 28 - New International Version

28 So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him. Then he commanded him: "Do not marry a Canaanite woman. 2 Go at once to Paddan Aram,[a] to the house of your mother's father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. 3 May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples. 4 May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now reside as a foreigner, the land God gave to Abraham." 5 Then Isaac sent Jacob on his way, and he went to Paddan Aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, who was the mother of Jacob and Esau.

6 Now Esau learned that Isaac had blessed Jacob and had sent him to Paddan Aram to take a wife from there, and that when he blessed him he commanded him, "Do not marry a Canaanite woman," 7 and that Jacob had obeyed his father and mother and had gone to Paddan Aram. 8 Esau then realized how displeasing the Canaanite women were to his father Isaac; 9 so he went to Ishmael and married Mahalath, the sister of Nebaioth and daughter of Ishmael son of Abraham, in addition to the wives he already had.

### Jacob's Dream at Bethel

10 Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. 11 When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. 12 He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 There above it[c] stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. 14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. 15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." 17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

18 Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. 19 He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear 21 so that I return safely to my father's household, then the Lord will be my God 22 and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

Opening Prayer by Pastor Furtick on 11/16/2025: You are awesome in this place. You are worthy of all praise. To you I'll ask praise. Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords. We cherish these moments spent in your presence. We do not take lightly the moments that we have to bless you, to praise you, to worship you, and to glorify you. We're not ashamed to praise you and glorify you. We wouldn't be here if it were not for you. So we give you our praise right now and we say thank you for all the wonderful things that you are, for all the wonderful things that you do. Thank you for all the things that you're going to do. There will never be another one like you. And I praise you. In the name of Jesus. In the name of Jesus. Satan will hide - When we call on that great name Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus - We have the victory The victory in Jesus.

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

# **Part 1: Detailed sermon notes**

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Trust in God and Your Next Messy Step” by Pastor Furtick on Nov 16, 2025

AI enabled sermon summary

1 hour, 3 minutes

## Overview

- The service opened with corporate praise to Jesus Christ, affirming his worthiness and presence.
- The pastor announced this year's year-end offering theme and preached from Genesis 28:10–22, focusing on Jacob's encounter with God and the idea that life and discipleship advance through “your next messy step,” not neat, linear progress. A salvation invitation followed, and key upcoming church events were shared.
- Year-End Offering and Generosity Focus
- The year-end offering is named “Trust in God,” a phrase long sung in the church. Purpose: outreach and expansion to glorify Jesus worldwide.
- Website update: [elevationchurch.org/give](http://elevationchurch.org/give) to be changed from “Year-End Offering” to “Trust in God Offering.”
- **Emphasis: trusting God is demonstrated through surrender and generosity, not lip service. The church's mission remains consistent: “so that people far from God will be raised to life in Christ.”**
- Invitation to the “journey of generosity”: begin trusting God with the tithe today; many will also bring a year-end offering above regular giving.
- Key exhortations: “Some trust in chariots, some trust in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.” God has been faithful in both mountain and valley seasons; he is Jehovah Jireh (provider).
- Scripture: Genesis 28:10–22 (Jacob's Dream at Bethel)
- Context: Jacob, fleeing because he deceived his father Isaac and stole Esau's blessing, stops in a hard, unnamed place and sleeps on a stone.
- Vision: A stairway from earth to heaven with angels “ascending and descending,” and “there above it stood the Lord.”
- God's promises land for Jacob and his descendants; descendants “like the dust of the earth” who will “spread out” in all directions; “All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.” “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go... I will not leave you until I have done what I promised you.”
- Response: Jacob awakens, saying, “Surely the Lord is in this place,” names it Bethel, sets up his stone as a pillar, vows allegiance, and promises a tenth of all he receives.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Trust in God and Your Next Messy Step” by Pastor Furtick on Nov 16, 2025

AI enabled sermon summary

Your Next Messy Step: Core Themes

- **Strategy vs. surrender - We often explain growth as “strategy” in hindsight; in real time, we experience it as surrender. Much of what looks clear later felt uncertain and sacrificial when lived. Examples: leadership, parenting, and ministry outcomes were not the product of tidy steps but continual surrender to God’s leading.**
- **Life is not linear - Discipleship isn’t clean “base-to-base” progress; it looks like zigzags—ups, downs, lefts, rights—and yet God’s grace meets us along the way.**
- **Uncertainty does not mean God is absent; “I am with you” is a present-tense promise.**

Mistake, middle, and move

- **Mistake:** Jacob’s deceit made his place hard. Not all hardship is spiritual attack; sometimes our decisions make life hard. Own the mistake (e.g., chronic lateness, destructive habits) rather than blaming the devil.
- **Middle:** God meets us in the middle of hard and dark places. Though Jacob stopped at sunset, the angels were still moving. God works while we are halted, even asleep.
- **Move:** God’s move precedes ours. He initiates; our role is to trust and take the “next messy step” without waiting for perfect certainty.

Trust in uncertainty - Whatever the next step—supporting a loved one through illness, battling addiction, persevering in mundane faithfulness, or navigating family tensions—take the next step with God’s presence. Not all progress is pretty; a “messy step” in obedience is better than waiting for a flawless plan.

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Illustrations and Applications

- Owning responsibility: “How can grace come until the mistake is acknowledged?” Some problems require repentance and change, not rebuking circumstances (e.g., “You cannot rebuke traffic; the remedy is leaving 10 minutes earlier.”)
- God in the dark: The vision came while Jacob slept on a rock; God often works in hidden, dark moments.
- “Dust and expansion”: God promised descendants “like the dust,” showing he forms and multiplies life out of lowly places. God does significant work in “dust.”
- **Testimony: Lish (Atlanta) - Lish, having opened “several doors to the enemy,” fled abusive situations and moved from safe house to safe house. After a car wreck, she couldn’t walk for six months. She sought a preacher she’d once heard but couldn’t find him for years.**
- One night, a clock radio played a song naming Jesus; she reached to change it, then heard “the most beautiful” music—Elevation Worship’s “More Than Able.” She sensed God’s presence and wept. Later, she found Elevation and was baptized at an Elevation Atlanta pop-up.
- **Point: It was not her finding a preacher; it was God finding her “in the middle.”**
- **John 1:50–51: Jesus tells Nathanael he will see “heaven open” and “the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” Application: Jesus is the true “ladder”—the meeting point between heaven and earth. Our hope is not the perfection of our next step, but the step God has already taken toward us in Christ.**
- Riverside, CA pop-up: over 1,500 in attendance; 100+ baptisms.
- Altar call: Prayer of salvation for those confessing “Jesus is Lord” and believing God raised him from the dead. Attendees raised hands; online participants invited to say, “I just received Jesus,” and connect via chat link for next steps and prayer.

Upcoming Steps and Actions

- Generosity - Begin tithing today; participate in the “Trust in God” year-end offering for outreach and expansion. Visit [elevationchurch.org/give](http://elevationchurch.org/give) (name to update to “Trust in God Offering”).
- Events: Vision Night: December 11 (online), celebrating what God has done; scheduled shortly before the giving weekend on the 14th.
- Pop-ups: New York pop-up announced; additional pop-ups forthcoming—details at [elevationchurch.org](http://elevationchurch.org).
- Tour: Elevation Nights returns in less than 100 days; info at [elevationnights.com](http://elevationnights.com).
- Discipleship - Monday live session at noon to “go deeper” and process the message.

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- **Opening Prayer: You are awesome in this place. I will find the word. You are worthy of all praise. To you I'll ask praise. You are awesome in this place. My name. Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords. We cherish these moments spent in your presence. We do not take lightly the moments that we have to bless you, to praise you, to worship you, and to glorify you. We're not ashamed to praise you and glorify you. We wouldn't be here if it were not for you. So we give you our praise right now and we say thank you for all the wonderful things that you are, for all the wonderful things that you do. Thank you for all the things that you're going to do. There will never be another one like you. And I praise you. Come on, let's clap those hands and lift the name of Jesus. In the name of Jesus. In the name of Jesus. Satan will hide Oh, tell me who can stand before us When we call on that great name Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus We have the victory The victory in Jesus, I'll say of forever.**
- He saw me, he bore me with his living blood. He loved me as I knew him, and all my love is in him. He saw me through victory, beneath the cleansing. I want you to turn around and tell somebody next to you, Jesus is real to me. Praise the Lord. Clap your hands if Jesus is real to you in your life. Hey, let's welcome our entire church family, meeting at 20 area locations in our EFAM around the world. Come on, we can do better than that. I'm excited today. I'm excited to deliver God's word to you. Please remain standing for these moments. I wanted to take just a moment and call your attention to the special season that we're in. And I wanted to tell you what the name of our offering is going to be this year.
- Are you ready? All right. It's not going to be a new thing to you, but it's actually going to be a phrase that we've been singing around here for a couple of years this year for our year end offering for outreach and expansion. to glorify Jesus Christ and his name in all the world. We're calling our offering Trust in God. How many are down for that in this season of your life? Some trust in chariots, some trust in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.
- And this is my first time telling anybody that that's the name of the offering. So you found out when all of the team found out, when all of the campus pastors found out, when the web team found out. So right now they're going to go and change the name of the offering. When you click on [elevationchurch.org/give](http://elevationchurch.org/give), it won't say year end offering. It will say trust in God offering. Just give them about 30 minutes and we'll get that right. Trust in God. Thank you. Because there is nothing more important in my life than learning how to trust him for where he's taking me.
- You know, I don't trust many people. I'm 45. I've seen some people come. I've seen some people go. I don't even really trust myself. I make myself promises. I break them by 8 p.m. But through every season of my life, there has been a friend who has never left my side. His name is Jesus and I trust him. His name is Jehovah Jireh and I trust him. He has provided for you. He has led me. Whether I was in the desert and I didn't have much to drink or whether I was on a mountain singing about a victory, he has been good to me. He's the God of the mountain. He's the God of the valley. And I trust him. I've learned to trust him. I've learned that I can trust him.
- I've learned that he's trustworthy. I've learned that I can believe in him when the world all around me is shaking. I've learned that if your father and mother forsake you, the Lord will take you up. I've learned that he's a father to the fatherless. I've learned that my God can make a way where there seems to be no way. I found him to move mountains in my life. I found that he can bring down giants with a single stone, and I trust him. I trust him.

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- So just be aware that during this... tangible to just say that we trust God with our mouth only means so much if we don't back it up by really placing in his hands all that we are and all that we have then we're just doing lip service to God this church was not built on people who said that they loved the Lord this church was built on people like who gave like they trusted the Lord and that's the truth that are on the horizon, but really the mission has stayed the same all these many years at our church so that people far from God will be raised to life in Christ.
- And God has been doing that for a long time through this ministry. I invite you to join on the journey of generosity. Those of you who are not yet trusting God with your tithe, begin to do that. Begin today. The best time to trust God is today, while it's still called today, so that your heart doesn't become hardened. And then many will be bringing an offering like we've been doing for 20 years now for the building and expansion beyond just our normal needs. I'm so excited about it. But don't worry, because today my sermon is not about giving.
- But if it were, wouldn't you be excited about that too? I do want to share with you something very powerful from the word of God. And I've been anticipating your arrival. verse 10 through 22 please and remain standing for the reading of God's Word shout out to our pop-up today in Riverside California over 1,500 people should be joining us over a hundred people baptized in Riverside God is on the move all around us I don't feel like they were ready for me when I got up here feels a little sleepy slap your neighbor say wake up here comes the Word of God Hope you didn't take that literally when I said slap them. We don't have that kind of insurance coverage at the church. What a privilege it is to share God's word with you today.
- I haven't preached on this passage of scripture since 2018. Wow. And it's one of my absolute favorites. The Lord will surely meet us here. Look at Genesis chapter 28, verse 10 through 22. had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord. I like that. I like that God is above whatever I'm going through.
- That's just a good reminder, a refresher for my faith and encourages my heart today. There above it stood the Lord. And he said, I am the Lord, the God of your father, Abraham, and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. And listen to this promise and let it get in your heart for a moment today. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go. and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I promised you."

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- When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it. He was afraid and said, how awesome is this place. This is none other than the house of God. This is the gate of heaven. Early the next morning, Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel. though the city used to be called Luz. Then Jacob made a vow saying, if God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's household, then the Lord will be my God. And this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house. And of all that you give me, I will give you a tent.
- Say amen for the word of God. Go back to verse 14 for a moment. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth and you will spread out. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth and you will spread out. So we've got dust and expansion in the same sentence. And what I want to talk to you about today is your next. confusion or fear. I want to talk to you about your next messy step, your next messy step. Father, we roll up our sleeves today to dig into your word, to see what you might say to each and every one of us. I ask now that you would use me. I am nothing without you, but if you breathe through me, speak through me.
- This could be monumental. In these moments, God, we stand before a person in a passage of Scripture who lived hundreds of years ago, but he faced the same things that we face. provision from you and so do we. So we ask now God that you would speak to us no less than you spoke to Jacob. Remind us what you're doing. Reveal to us who you are. Have your way and give us the courage to respond to what you say. In Jesus name, amen. You may be seated. Your next messy step. I wrote that phrase down today to use as a title, your next messy step. And I want to talk for a moment about what it's like for me as a pastor when we go down the memory lane of different things that have happened in this church and talk about all the things that God has done.
- See, when we're showing a highlight video like we showed earlier of all the amazing things that God did in this church, there's a part of me that celebrates and I can clap for it now. But a lot of the things that I can clap about now, I cried through then. A lot of times I'm hesitant to teach leadership to other pastors, not because I don't care for them, but because it's a lot different to explain something than it was to experience it. And I never just want to be one of these hypocrites. here and hides the humanity of the struggle of the steps that I've taken in my life in order to just accentuate and elevate the heavenly parts of our journey where God moved.
- The truth of the matter is every time God has greatly moved in our ministry and in my life, it was messy. I don't remember one time that God really moved where there wasn't a real mess. I don't remember one thing that God did in this ministry that was significant, that was not sacrificial. I don't remember one time when I did something for God and my hands weren't shaking before I came out and steadied myself behind this pulpit and announced it. I don't remember many times when I opened my mouth to preach to you that I didn't feel like I wanted to throw up and swallow it back down before I did.

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- That is true to this day. And y'all don't like that kind of stuff when I talk about throwing up this early in my If you just want the message, you don't want the mess. But the fact of the matter is there is no message where there is no mess. It's true of your life. You know, the ways that we ask God to use us in the ways that we ask God to bless us, we kind of want the blessing without the mess and Jacob's life in Genesis chapter 28, you could say it was the best of times. because he just met God. You could say it was the worst of times because he met him on the run. It was the blessed of times. It was the messed of times. Jacob has made a mess of his family situation. When I read the context of the passage only to refer to the blessing, I left out the mess so that we could talk about it together right now. I told you that Jacob set out for a place called I didn't tell you that he ran to Iran. He ran to Iran, not because he was going on vacation there.
- He ran there because his brother Esau wanted to kill him. His brother Esau wanted to kill him because Jacob stole his blessing from their father Isaac, who was going blind. Genesis 28 starts out with Jacob. because he had no other options. Jacob is in a place of vulnerability. He has come to the end of himself and he has to relocate in the middle of his life to a place he's never been before. This is the context of the blessing of God on the life of Jacob. And now looking back on Jacob's life, we know that he became a great nation called Israel. The 12 tribes of Israel were born from the 12 sons that would be born to him in the place where he was going.
- When he got where he was going, he would meet his wife Leah and his wife Rachel. Don't do that. Those were different times. And the Bible says that after they had birthed all of those babies in the messy sibling rivalry of two sons, were more loved than the other a nation set out and Jacob became that nation 20 years later I'm telling you all of this because we can see now the strategy of God and how he birthed the nation through Jacob but as I've already told you at the beginning of my sermon what is explained as strategic is often experienced as surrender and the reason I don't really like to growth or leadership or strategic objectives is because I can explain it as the steps that we took to get where we are.
- But at the time, I was not experiencing it as steps, not in the strategic sense. I was experiencing it as surrender. What I'm trying to say to you is most everything I've ever done right in my life was me doing what I thought God was telling me because I didn't have anything else to do because everything else I had tried to do didn't work. So I finally had to give up and do it God's way. So I can explain it to you strategically. You know, how do you start a worship ministry like elevation worship? I can tell you strategically about a record label. I can tell you strategically about DSPs and streaming services, and I can tell you strategically about anthems that are written for the church and touring strategies, and I can tell you strategically about putting together a team.
- And I can tell you strategically about bands and sounds and system of taste systems and systems and strategies and all of that, but the real secret to all of it was surrender. that at the beginning of starting our ministry, I said, Lord, I believe you want us to have a worship ministry that will touch the world. And that's where it started with surrender, because I knew I didn't have the skills to do it by myself. So God sent others. I knew I wasn't smart enough to do it by myself. So God gave wisdom. I knew that I could not figure it out on my own. So God, by faith, did what I could not do by flesh. And so you explain things as strategic, but you experience them as surrender.

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- You look back and you say, well, here's how we raised our kids. See, when they were five, we taught them about the man. When they were seven, we moved them on to the blank. And the nine, we taught them about the nine. And when they were 11, we taught them about the uh. And in stage one, you're more like a coach. And in stage two, you're more like a consultant. And then in stage three, you're more like a confidant. And here are the stages and the steps for raising godly kids. And there's really only one. Dear God. One step to raising godly kids. Dear God. They're yours. Parenting can be explained strategically. I mean, you can write a book about it all you want. But the truth is, you really know that if God didn't give you what it took to raise those kids, you would have lost your mind a long time ago. So I'm trying to get you to see that in this, as strategy we experience as surrender. Why is that important for our lesson today? In case you don't know what God is calling you to do next, and you think that because you don't know the next step, that means that God is not in it, that's not true. Everything God is ever in feels uncertain.
- Look at Genesis 28 verse 10. The Bible says that Jacob set out for Haram. Verse 11 says when he reached a certain place, everybody say a certain place. Now, isn't that ironic that the Bible calls it a certain place and Jacob's life has never been more uncertain. How many of you feel like I'm in an uncertain place right now in my life? Come on. I'm uncertain about who to talk to. I'm uncertain about who to trust. I'm uncertain if I'm in the right job. I'm uncertain if I'm at the right school. I'm uncertain if I have what it takes. Tell you're in God's will when the enemy attacks. But I'm not so sure if it's an attack from the enemy or if it's actually a bad decision I made that I need to go back and remake. I'm uncertain. Raise your hand again.
- I'm in an uncertain place. Now tell your neighbor, don't feel bad. I don't know either. When we started the church, one of the books they told us to read was pretty good. It was about building your church with strategy. And they gave me the book, and I like most of it, but there was one part, Matt, I couldn't stand this part, and I did not adhere to it. It said that when you bring people into discipleship in your church, it's like taking them around the bases at a baseball game. And when you go to the base one, it looks like this, and this is what discipleship looks like with first base.
- And then you take them to the second, and then this is what the second stage looks like in the third base and the home plate. And then you get them all home, and they're all disciples. I read that and I wanted that. And I would like that because that would be cool. If it was that clear, not only for me as a pastor, but for me as a person, see your, your walk with God goes like this. You do this and then you do that. And then you do that.
- And then your home, but home is called heaven and you have to die to go there. So now, as long as we're on this earth, I found that life is more like dirt and less like a diamond on a baseball. dirt less diamond because my spiritual journey I don't know about yours has not looked like home. My spiritual journey, if I'm really telling you the truth, I can explain it that way. I took step one. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I took step two. I was baptized in his name. I took step three. I began to share my faith with others. I took step four. And now I am a wonderful, beautiful child of God with absolutely no blemish and no flaw.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Trust in God and Your Next Messy Step” by Pastor Furtick on Nov 16, 2025

- But the fact of the matter is that God formed me and I'm flawed. That I am following Jesus. Flawed. And so it has not looked like this. Hmm, hmm, hmm, hmm. And there have not always been base coaches telling me it's safe to come. It has looked more like, I should draw this for you, but you get the picture. All the base path people, teach me how you know so clearly what to do next. What God is calling you to do right now. Because most of my discipleship has been through making the wrong decision, repenting, learning, trusting, and growing. Most of my discipleship has looked like I'm doing everything that I think I'm supposed to do and I'm all over the place and I'm all over the map and God, I'm going to do this and that and that and finally just this. Okay, God. Isn't it true? Everybody over 50, back your man up today. It looks like this. I'm up, I'm growing, I'm down, I feel like I'm dying. I wanna die, I'm back up, I'm back down, I'm left, I'm right, I dated him, God said he was the one, but that wasn't God talking, that was my loneliness, back down to singleness, back up, here's another chance. Took that job, looked like a good job, thought I'd get a promotion, got a new manager, wanted to walk out. Stayed for three years. Wondered if I stayed 36 months too long. Don't even know right now what I'm doing.
- Thought I was gonna retire, made an investment in crypto, still learning how to do it. It's like this. Look at your neighbor and make some swiggles and some scribbles and some zigs and some zags and say it's like this, it's like this. It's like that, but everywhere I've gone, I ran head on into grace. Everywhere I've been, I ran right into God. Whether I went to the right or to the left, somehow I heard a voice saying no, this is the way, walk in it. This is the way. This is the way. I'm singing and I'm sagging, and I'm up and I'm down and I'm back and I'm forward. I don't know if this is third base or second base or the outfield. Sometimes I feel like I'm just in the dugout. I'm about to put me in coach. I'm ready to play. Sometimes I feel like I'm eating a hot dog in the cheap seats. But I'm here for it. And I'm in the game. And God is with me.
- That's what God told Jacob in verse 15. Show them. He said, I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go. You're not always gonna go like this and like that. You're not always gonna even know where home plate is. Every umpire is not going to agree with your opinion of a strike and a ball. You're gonna miss some stuff. You're gonna slide into some stuff. But the promise is this, I will be with you, right? I will be with you. He didn't say I will be with you, he said, I am with you. Which one would you rather have? A God who will be with you or a God who already is? So when it comes to your next step that God has given you to take, and I don't know if that's walking someone that you love through a difficult medical procedure, that may be your next step. I don't know if that is working through this addiction issue that's really, really got you by the throat.
- I don't know whether that's just you continuing to be faithful in something that feels kind of boring and mundane. I don't know if that's you getting together with all of those people in a couple of weeks for a meal without cursing any of them out. Whatever your next step is. I want to talk to you about it. And I want to let you know what God told Jacob. See, Jacob. a good man are ordered by the lord too because for Jacob to steal Esau's blessing and his name literally to mean trick it means he was messy he is at this point in his life grown enough to know better and he should be mature but we see three things in the passage that may be going on in your life too one is a mistake One is a middle and the other is a move. A mistake, a middle, and a move.

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- All in one passage. All happening in the life of one man. You may say it wasn't a mistake for him to steal Esau's blessing because God is sovereign. And the book of Romans says, Jacob have I loved and Esau have I hated and it was predestined by God. Yet be that as it may, the way he went about it wasn't right. He lied to get this blessing. He's blessed, but it's messy. He's successful, but it's messy. He is increasing, but he's isolated. That's a crazy place to be where you find yourself in a certain place because of a mistake.
- You know, as we talk about God, we say things like where God guides, he provides. Right? But in this specific situation of Jacob's life, we get an indication that even if it wasn't God guiding you there, he will provide for you there if you will turn to him and trust him. I don't know who this is for, but you need to go ahead and own the mistake that you made. Don't even blame the devil for it. The devil didn't make Jacob dress up and take his brother's blessing. He decided to do it. And it was his mom's idea. He was 71 years old when he did it. It's too late to blame your mom when you are 71 years old. So sometimes you got to come to the place and say, God, I'm in this place because of my mistake. Not all four jobs that you lost in the last eight years were the result of the devil attacking you. If it was one job in eight years, maybe it was the devil. If it was four jobs in eight years, maybe there are some decisions, not just devils.
- They don't like me today, not one bit in the world today. How can the grace come until the mistake is acknowledged and accepted? So I'm in this mess, God. I'm in this mess. I don't know what to do about this mess. God, it was my sin. I think it's so great when we preach about Jonah, you know, because he's an example of somebody who made his own mess. But so is Jacob. In fact, Jacob literally made his bed and had to lie in it. I don't know if you notice this or not, but it said that when he got there to the place in verse 12, in the certain place that wasn't so certain. He had a dream on which he saw a stairway resting on the earth with its top reach. The dream it says he reached a certain place stopped for the night because the Sun had set and taking one of the stones there he put it under his head and lay down to sleep he is literally in a hard place and it's not it's not hard because of God it's hard because of him this is not in my notes so bear with me and be patient sometimes it's not him making it hard Sometimes it's us and our decisions making it hard.
- Sometimes it's our being paralyzed in the past that's making it so hard. Sometimes it's our grabbing after things that God told us to give up that makes it hard. And the problem with preaching is that people will clap for the clips that we put on the internet that say that if life is hard for you right now, it's because God has something great for you. But sometimes we need to also say, if life is hard for you right now, it might be because God is trying to change you. It can be both. It can be both. Waking up with a hangover every morning is not God testing you or the devil attacking you. Getting yourself excluded from each opportunity because you are never on time is not the devil attacking you. The devil is not in the traffic. You cannot rebuke traffic.

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- The remedy for traffic is not rebuke. The remedy for traffic is 10 minutes earlier. Now. Y'all want me to move on? Clap a little louder and I'll think about it. I'm not playing with y'all no more. I'm not playing with y'all no more because you have to admit I am why I'm here. I am why I'm here. You know, God sent some opportunities for me to have some friends, but I wasn't friendly. He said rejection is God's protection. Maybe, maybe it's a, maybe it's a bad personality. Maybe you need to be nicer. Maybe you need to ask other people how are they doing.
- They rejected me, that was God redirecting me. No, they rejected you because you're mean, because you're drama, because you're messy. And before you just go sin and move your mess around to the next person who hasn't figured you out yet. Take some time to say, hey God, is there a reason why I don't have the same friends at the end of every year? Hey God, is there a reason why I continue to fly off the handle with my temper and think about how others made me lose it? the middle of Jacob's mistake. Well, that really blessed me because you would think that if you got yourself here, you have to get yourself out of this.
- Or I would at least think that if Jacob wanted God to visit him, he would have to pray and ask him to come. Show me in Genesis 28 where Jacob prayed. It's not there. Show me in Genesis 28 where Jacob repented. It's not there. Show me in Genesis 28 where Jacob took seven steps to get his life together. I was like people aren't coming to church because they're in a baseball game They're coming to church because they're in a battle It is a battlefield and it looks like this and it looks like that and it looks like this and it looks like that And get this little league Christianity out of your mind God will meet me in the middle right on the mound. God will set up and throw me another pitch no matter how these see in Genesis 28 the Bible says in verse 11 that with Jacob's pillow being a rock this is horrible for your posture and the Sun being set because not only does God come into the middle of hard places he comes into the middle of dark places God does some of the best stuff in the dark and Jacob stops in a place he doesn't even know the name of I'm gonna tell my story about that in a minute Look at this story said he took one of the stones put it under his head laid down to sleep and verse 12 He had a dream.
- Ah in which he saw a stairway David resting on the earth with this top reaching to heaven and the angels We're going up and down on it That's what he saw with his eyes closed That's what he saw laying on the rock to decide which set of stairs to come over to. This one feels right today. It's the right one. It went up and down. The angels now, the angels are moving. Jacob isn't. Jacob has stopped because the sun has set. But just because the sunset stopped you doesn't mean it stopped God. Ooh, I love to make the Bible come alive for people. Can you see it? by God and the angels moving up and down and up and down because life ain't always like this it's up and down so the angels are doing what life does ascending descending the angels are doing what your bank account does The angels are doing what your mood does.

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- Am I not preaching this thing? I haven't preached it since 2018, so I've been waiting. and in the middle of the night, and in the middle of sleep, so that you and I know that it is not when we get there that God shows up. It is not when we accomplish that that he shows up. It is not when we reach the place of our goal that we meet God. God meets me in the middle. And this is the part of my sermon where you touch five people and say, he met me in the middle. And you don't have to say any more than that. You don't have to say what it was the middle of. If it was the middle of a divorce, if it was the middle of a diagnosis, if it was the middle of a battle with sickness, if it was the middle of a season of depression, if it was the middle of you losing your mind, if it was the middle of a nervous breakdown, if it was in the middle of the street where you sit there and say, God, I don't know which way to go.
- I'm too young to be old. I'm too old to be young. God met me in the middle. I'm too happy to be sad, too sad to be happy. And he met me in the middle. I can't quite name this place yet, but God met Jacob in the middle. And Jacob did not even know the name of the place where he was, but he didn't have to know the name of the place because God knew his name. There is a woman who brought me a letter in Atlanta, Georgia. Her name is Lish. She's watching online right now from Atlanta. Everybody say, hey, Lish. I want to show you her picture so you can see who we're talking about. This is Lish getting baptized just recently at one of our pop-ups at Elevation Atlanta pop-up. Did y'all know our church has pop-ups? Did you know we have pop-ups?
- We go to different cities. We popped up in Riverside, California today. We're having a pop-up. You can take the picture down right now. Why do we have pop-up church? Because we have a pop-up God. Because the devil is a pop-up devil. And the devil will just pop up at times you don't expect him. So we just take church wherever people are. And God will pop up in the middle of a place. In the middle of a panic attack. Have you ever had God just pop up for you. Like boom. Sam. There it is. Popped up. Looked like it was over. Looked like it was done. Felt like it was over. Felt like it was done. And God popped up. He turned a grave into a garden. They were weeping for Lazarus.
- But Jesus popped up. And Lazarus popped up. When he said his name. So. Listen what she told me. She said, I had opened several doors to the enemy through the course of my life. And because of that, I ended up on the run from many abusive situations and one in particular, she didn't tell me what those situations were. But some of us do it emotionally from place. Come on to place. I'm going to preach so everybody in this church will admit that it's this and it's that. It's this and it's that. It's this and it's that.
- So she wrote me this letter and she gave it to me and she said it got so bad at one point that I had to go live with a friend. And my friend would always play Christian TV. And it really spoke to my situation and it spoke so straight to me. I felt like I didn't even know what to call it because I wasn't yet a Christian, but I felt something. I didn't know what it was called. I just felt something. She said, I had to leave there suddenly and I didn't get to ask my friend what was the name of that preacher that we watched. She said, for three years, I would think about it while I kept making the wrong decisions. For three years – Due to a car wreck I was unable to walk for six months after. She said during the six months, I would try to watch the Christian TV anywhere I was, but I couldn't find that preacher again. And the other stuff was good. She said, but there was just, she said, I wish I could say that it got better from there, but it didn't get better from there.

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- As I went from safe house to safe house, at one point it got so bad that I thought, I don't even know if I want to go on living anymore. What is my life worth when I'm just going from place to place to place? She said, one night at the safe house, I just decided to turn on the old clock radio. It was the only thing in the room. And I turned it on. I wanted to hear some music. And some music started playing, and it was very beautiful, but I didn't know what it was. And then they started saying the name of Jesus on the song. She said, and I reached to grab for the dial because I was not trying to listen to Christian music. She said, but before I touched the dial, the most beautiful thing that I've heard, She said, the most beautiful music that I've heard came on the radio.
- And she said, the presence of God, looking back, I didn't know what to call it, but the presence of God met me in that room. And I began to cry and I began to weep. And she said, I honestly feel that God came into my life. when that song was playing. And it said, I've come a long way, I've seen how you work. There's so much goodness and grace, much more than I deserve. And I know who I am, but I can't stay where I'm at. We've come this far by faith, and I just can't turn back because you're not done with me yet. comes on after the song, he says, that was elevation worship with more than able. And she said, I thought to myself, what is an elevation worship? That's literally what she wrote me in the note. She said, I thought to myself, this is her note.
- She said, I literally thought to myself, what is an elevation worship? I borrowed a computer from the counselor the next morning and Googled what is an elevation worship? I found you, but I want to say something. Don't clap for that. It's not after years of looking for me, she found me. It's not about finding me at all. It's after years of running, God found her. I messed up by showing you the first picture before I read you the letter, because you would have just thought like this and like this. Now she's home. But she told me that it was like this and like this and like this and like this and like this. And then with a clock radio, the Lord found her. She said she's doing good now. She said the Lord is working in her life. Not like this, but like this and like this and like this and like this and like this. I came to find somebody today who has been doing all of this and this and this and this and this and this and this and this and this and this. And I came with an announcement, the Lord is in this place. And it's messy, I know it is. But we're celebrating a holiday called Christmas in a few weeks. And it kind of proves that the greatest miracles start in the messiest situations. After all, why will millions of people sing all around the world of a baby who was born in a manger, who was really the King of Kings, and you may say, what does that have to do with me? Because I see you trying to make your next step. I saw it when I was praying about this message, I saw people like Jacob back to where I came from. I can't really figure out where I'm supposed to go.
- What is my next step? And the Lord said, it is going to be your next messy step. And what messy means is you're not going to know if it's the right one. Oh, you'll look back and you'll say, this was my path. But what is explained as a path later was really experienced as a problem in real time. Everything that God ever did for me that later I could be like, and then God directed my path. It was really this and this and this and this and this. I don't know what kind of day you're having today. You might be doing like this and you're like, that's wonderful for that lady. But what does it mean for me? I'll tell you what it means for you. It means that you cannot forget the God who brought you this far when you remember that you started at rock bottom. You can't come all this way and say, look what I did. No, if it had not been for the Lord, come on. If it had not been for the Lord on my side, I would be dead. I would be down. I would be over. But God is able.

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- But God is able. So you have Jacob lying on the ground and you have God speaking to Jacob and you have both things happening simultaneously. You have the nation of Israel in this man who is lying on the ground with no one, with nothing. God is speaking of his descendants and he doesn't even have one child. God is speaking of his future and he doesn't even have a single friend. God is speaking to you about things your life but notice what verse 14 says it says that there was a ladder that started on the earth and went to heaven and a voice from the lord who stood over it and he said your descendants will be like the dust god does stuff in dust god does stuff in dust Yall, I'm having a moment right now where I know I'm preaching to a Lish. I am preaching to somebody who is going to write me a year from now and say, I was in the dust.
- Well, that's how your whole life got started. Did you ever read the book of Genesis? We talk about destiny. I'm talking about dust to me. Huh? I'm talking about God knows the plans he has for you, plans to give you a hope and a future. I'm talking about God speaks to the you that he formed from the dust and he breathed the breath of life into him and he formed you from the dust. And now you are following the God who formed you from the dust. and we're down and we're here and we're there and it's working and it's not and Hosanna and crucify him and get it and we don't and we understand and we're confused and that's okay because God leads people through messy next steps. Just the messy next step. It doesn't have to be a beautiful next step.
- You don't have to have a choreographed next step. into your future you can just absolutely okay God I'm gonna do it I'm gonna call the Christian counselor I don't even know if this is the right one if they're weird I'll fire him and get another one there's a whole lot of counselors and chatGPT doesn't count as a counselor so I'm gonna get a real human being a real human being cuz I'm gonna take that messy step while you're sleeping than you can do while you're striving. It is not you figuring this out. It is you following Jesus into the mess. disciples. He called one disciple named Nathaniel and Nathaniel was confused. He was like, how do you know me? How do you see me under the fig tree? How did you know who I was? And in John chapter one, verse 50, Jesus said to Nathaniel, you are amazed and believe because I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that. Watch this Skinner verse 51. He said, very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven open.
- And you will see the angels of God. Watch this. Flashback. Genesis 28. He said you will see the angels of God ascending and descending. Not on Jacob's ladder, but Jesus said, you will see the angels ascending, boom, a versa, boys, and descending on the Son of Man. Who's the Son of Man? Jesus. Who is the ladder that appeared to Jacob in the wilderness? Jesus. Who is the one who is calling to you in this season of your life, saying, we can do this, we can move forward in this? And I came to declare to you that it is not your next step that matters. It is the step that God has already made toward you. It's a mistake. It's a middle and it's a move. But it wasn't Jacob's move that saved him. It was God's move. God is moving in your situation, man.

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- You say, I can't see him. That's because he puts you to sleep to do it. You say, I can't see it. That's because it's covered in dust. But whether it's Genesis or whether it's Jesus who bent down in the dirt when a woman who committed adultery was about to be stoned. God has already done the real work now you will know what it is today that the Lord is speaking to you about how could I now God you will know the place in your life where it is felt like I feel like I'm speaking to somebody though who you thought you had arrived and now you've been in a setback and you're surprised by it a little bit nobody moving to leave at this moment. Where did the Lord find you today? Was it like Lish where you're like, yo, man, I don't even see a way forward? Or was it like Jacob who should have been at the top of his life, but was empty inside?
- This is a moment for you to decide. Is he your God? And do you trust him? In verse 15, he told Jacob, I am with you, and I will be with you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. You know, the Lord didn't say he was going to do everything that we prayed for. He said he would do everything that he promised. Who is that for? And you think for you to take the next step, God has to answer your last prayer. No, he's already done enough. Father, I've administered your word with the grace and conviction with which you ministered it to me. Now put it in your hands. These are your children. These people, they're precious to you. You see where they're running to, you see what they're running from, and you know where you're leading them. I believe that your hand is on each and every one of them, none too dusty, none too dirty, none too messy, none too far gone.
- I believe there are some people, God, who have accomplished a lot in earthly standards. There is a spiritual vacuum and they're starting to feel it right about now. Lord, would you meet that person in that place? And there's somebody listening to me, God, at a point in between like, I just don't feel like I know what God has called me to do next. I pray that the heavens would be open over them. Even if it's just for 30 seconds while I'm praying this prayer. And they would know that angels are coming. up and down for the high times, for the low times that this staircase, this, this step did not start with them. It started with you. And now father, we commit our lives to your grace. Like Jacob said, I will make you my God. I will follow you forward. I thank you Lord for what you know about them, that they don't know about them. I thank you for what you see in them, that they've lost sight of. and give that situation to the Lord. Surrender it. You know what it is. I want you to have a strategy. I want you to have a plan, but I want you to have his presence so you could just surrender it to him. Every time in the church I didn't know what to do, I did this. And God did something. Every time with my kids, when I don't know what to do, I do this and I trust God to do something.
- Every time in my life, when I don't know what to do, I do this. Because it's not strategy. Father, you see all these hands lifted to you right now? Everything they're carrying, every burden that they bear, we place it on Jesus. We see angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man, Jesus, the burden bearer, the shame remover, the way maker, the God who is always with us. Put your hands down for a moment. With your heads bowed and your eyes closed, is there one here today, even just one, who God brought you here and met you here because you need to give your life to Jesus Christ. Maybe you've been running from God or maybe you've never really even stopped to consider it. But I believe that God brought you to this moment so that you could give him your heart.

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- Right now, in the stillness of this moment, I want to lead you in a prayer. And if you are ready to give your life to Jesus Christ, I want you to repeat this prayer after me. Now, the prayer is not magical. The prayer does not save you. God saves you. The Bible says that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. So right now, this is your day and God is calling you home. I want you to repeat after me. We're going to pray it out loud as a church family for the benefit of those who are coming to God. Repeat after me. Heavenly Father, I am a sinner in need of a Savior. And I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. And today I make Jesus the Lord of my life. I believe he died that I would be forgiven and rose again to give me life. I receive this new life. This is my new beginning. I am a child of God. On the count of three, shoot your hand up high in the air if you prayed that. One, two, three. I want to celebrate with you. Praise the Lord. That's awesome. Let's go. Come on, let's go. That's amazing. I see you up there in the back. Yeah. Online. You can say it in the chat. I just received Jesus. Come on, let's clap our hands all over the church. We should have a Bible coming around your way. Your campus pastor is going to come right now, give you some instructions. Nobody is going to leave because we hear from God together. I love that so much. If you made that decision to follow Jesus, we are celebrating with you today. And you probably raised your hand wherever you're at. And you're probably wondering, what now? I made this decision.
- Okay, what is next? We want to give you a next step. Even if it's messy wherever you're at, you can go ahead and click the link that is in the chat. Our team wants to connect with you. We want to pray with you. We want to celebrate with you. We want to give you next steps wherever that might be. Maybe you find yourself in the middle of something. We want to also let you know that you don't have to walk through this journey alone. So make sure before we go today that you click the link that is in the chat, that you visit [elevationchurch.cc](http://elevationchurch.cc), and you let us know of that next step that you took today. What a powerful word that I think speaks to all of us.

## **Part 2: eGroup study questions**

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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Elevation Sermon Notes – “Trust in God and Your Next Messy Step” by Pastor Furtick on Nov 16, 2025

“Emphasis: trusting God is demonstrated through surrender and generosity, not lip service. The church’s mission remains consistent: “so that people far from God will be raised to life in Christ.”

“Strategy vs. surrender - We often explain growth as “strategy” in hindsight; in real time, we experience it as surrender. Much of what looks clear later felt uncertain and sacrificial when lived. Examples: leadership, parenting, and ministry outcomes were not the product of tidy steps but continual surrender to God’s leading.

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“Life is not linear - Discipleship isn't clean “base-to-base” progress; it looks like zigzags—ups, downs, lefts, rights—and yet God's grace meets us along the way.”

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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Elevation Sermon Notes – “Trust in God and Your Next Messy Step” by Pastor Furtick on Nov 16, 2025

What did you think of the testimony from Lish in Atlanta?

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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- Testimony: Lish (Atlanta) - Lish, having opened “several doors to the enemy,” fled abusive situations and moved from safe house to safe house. After a car wreck, she couldn't walk for six months. She sought a preacher she'd once heard but couldn't find him for years.
- One night, a clock radio played a song naming Jesus; she reached to change it, then heard “the most beautiful” music—Elevation Worship's “More Than Able.” She sensed God's presence and wept. Later, she found Elevation and was baptized at an Elevation Atlanta pop-up.
- Point: It was not her finding a preacher; it was God finding her “in the middle.”

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Trust in God and Your Next Messy Step” by Pastor Furtick on Nov 16, 2025

“John 1:50–51: Jesus tells Nathanael he will see “heaven open” and “the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” Application: Jesus is the true “ladder” — the meeting point between heaven and earth. Our hope is not the perfection of our next step, but the step God has already taken toward us in Christ.”

## Ephesians 4:29-31

### New International Version (NIV)

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Back up slides

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

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



## July 18 – Daily Devotional:

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



Dr. Timothy Keller

total freedom = lack of meaning and significance

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

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

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

Have a good navigational beacon in 2022:

“Life and Leadership at the Highest” A quote from an unknown author and requoted by Pastor Tim Keller in his sermon “This is Jesus” part 4 “Two Grieving Sisters Encounter Jesus” at Oxford University in 2016: “The accounts of Him in the New Testament speak for themselves – He combines qualities that no one has ever seen – despite his incredible claims, we never see him pompous, offended, or standing on his own dignity. Despite being absolutely approachable to the weakest and most broken people, he is completely fearless before the powerful and the corrupt. Despite being weary and lonely, we find him remarkably human - filled with joy, fear, love, and anger. Yet, we never see him Moody. We never see him being inconsistent. We never see Him strong when He should be tender and we never see Him tender when He should be strong. Most interesting of all – Of all his encounters with people - we are continuously surprised – shocking us - but never disappointing us – it is difficult for us to imagine words that Jesus ought to have said or deeds that he ought to have done. Nothing he has done ever falls short - in fact He is always surprising us - because He is incomparably better than what we could imagine for ourselves. Why? These are the surprises of perfection – He has tenderness without weakness – He has strength without harshness – humility without the slightest lack of confidence – unhesitating authority without the slightest sense of self-absorption – Holy and unbending convictions without the slightest lack of approachability – power without insensitivity – passion without prejudice – there is never a false step – there’s never a jarring no – this is life at the highest.”