

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?

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Luke 1: The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

5 In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. 6 Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. 7 But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

8 Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, 9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. 13 But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. 16 He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

18 Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Luke 1:

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called[b] the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail."

38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

Opening Prayer by Pastor Furtick on 12/7/2025: "I call you worthy, worthy you are, worthy you were, worthy you will be forever Yahweh. Father, I thank you so much that you reign and you rule. Not a little God, not a tiny God, not a baby stuck in a manger, but a reigning, present King. There is no other beside you. Every emotional malady fears the name of Jesus. It is the only name that can stand up against the things that bind us. Father, how I thank you for your presence in this place today. Open your hands to the Lord. I pray that you would fill our hands today. Hallelujah. They're not leaving here empty today. Not going into this Christmas season empty. Not going into this Christmas season afraid. Not going into this Christmas season, just dragging, so exhausted. No, God, we are more than conquerors. We have an inheritance. We have a father. We have a wonderful counselor, a mighty God. God, I thank you that today whatever they need, you already know it. They don't have to put it on a list or sit on your lap. You're greater than that. You know the need beneath the need beneath the need beneath the need. So when I ask you to meet their need, I'm not asking you just to do what they want you to do. I'm asking you to do what you need to do. To make them who they're supposed to be. And now God to that end. We ask that you would speak a word into our lives."

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 – from Pastor Holly Furtick on 12/22/2025 and Pastor Matt Drew on 1/4/2026

Elevation Church sermon recap – “Blessed Because You Believe”

December 22, 2025

Pastor Holly Furtick:

Sermon Summary: We live in a time when it's getting harder and harder to believe things. But it's so important to remember that in a world full of illusion and deception, God is still true. Pastor Holly Furtick shares from Mary's perspective some truths about God we can believe as we cling to faith this Christmas.

Sermon Highlights

- Believing God is so much more about who He is than what I think He should do.
- **We don't grow out of our belief in God — we grow into it.**
- 3 truths we can believe this Christmas: God believes in me, God leads me, and God hears me.
- God believed in you before you believed in Him.
- **The only thing that disqualifies you from being used by God is believing the lie that He can't use you.**
- Sometimes what's next is what you already know but haven't done yet.
- Belief is not knowing how God will do it; it's trusting He will.
- **When plans don't go my way, I hold onto the promise that He has good plans for me.**
- **You don't have to know the plan. Just stay close to the One who does.**
- God often does the biggest work in the ordinary parts of my life.
- **Prayer is mostly about coming into God's presence and bringing Him into your situation.**
- **Praise is a reset that helps you take your eyes off your situation and put them on your Savior.**

Scriptures:

- Luke 1:8-13 - (NLT) – An angel appears to Zechariah
- Luke 1:34-45 - (NLT) – An angel appears to Mary

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Sermon Discussion

- “Belief is not knowing how God will do it; it’s trusting He will.” Share about a time when God came through for you in a different time or way than you expected.
- “3 truths we can believe this Christmas: God believes in me, God leads me, and God hears me.” Which truth do you need to hold onto right now, and why?
- “You don’t have to know the plan. Just stay close to the One who does.” What’s one way you can stay close to Jesus over the next couple of weeks?
- “Prayer is mostly about coming into God’s presence and bringing Him into your situation.” As you spend time in God’s presence this week, what situation do you need to bring God into?
- “Praise is a reset that helps you take your eyes off your situation and put them on your Savior.” Let’s have a praise reset. Share something you can praise God for right now.

Prayer Prompt: Lord, I pray that you will help us to be like Mary and believe you before we even see the plan come to pass. Help us to hold onto the truths that You believe in us, You lead us, and You hear us. Remind each of us that when we struggle to trust You with the plan, praise is the reset we need to get our eyes back on You. Amen.

AI generated sermon recap:

Sermon title: “Blessed Because You Believed” in the Christmas narrative

Dec 21, 2025 • 53 minutes, 48 seconds

Overview: A Christmas worship service culminates in Holly’s final 2025 sermon, “Blessed Because You Believed,” rooted in Luke 1:34–45. The message emphasizes three truths drawn from Mary’s story: God believes in you, God leads you, and God hears you. It integrates personal anecdotes, church history, biblical examples (Mary, Elizabeth, Zechariah, shepherds, Simeon, Anna), and a testimony from an eFam (online family) member to show how belief shapes blessing, guidance comes step-by-step, and prayers are heard—even when answers are delayed.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – from Pastor Holly Furtick on 12/22/2025 and Pastor Matt Drew on 1/4/2026

Opening worship and communal prayer

- Corporate praise for surviving 2025 “by the grace of God,” gratitude for healings, daily strength, protection over children, mental resilience, and Jesus’ cleansing blood.
- Proclamation of freedom in Christ (“no condemnation... the law of the Spirit of life has set me free from the law of sin and death”), consecration of the season, and declarations of healing, the “oil of Gilead,” and “the joy of the Lord” as strength.
- Confession of God’s power: “nothing too hard,” “exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,” moving mountains, doing miracles; worship culminating in “we crown the King called Jesus.”
- Community moment: instruction for “12 hugs” (12 days of Christmas) and “Merry Christmas” greetings; welcome to the eFam worldwide; introduction of Holly to preach her final 2025 sermon.

Scripture foundation and sermon frame

- Text: Luke 1:34–45. Mary questions, “How can this happen? I am a virgin.” The angel explains the Holy Spirit’s work and cites Elizabeth’s pregnancy as confirmation, concluding, “For no word from God will ever fail.” Mary responds, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you said about me come true.”
- Elizabeth’s Spirit-filled confirmation: “God has blessed you... you are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.”
- Sermon title: “Blessed Because You Believed.”
- Belief maturing beyond black-and-white
- Personal anecdote: Holly admits she’s a poor liar and “gullible,” humorously noting how AI-altered videos (cats “saving” babies from bears; a baby dolphin) fooled her until comments exposed them.
- Reflection: In her 20s, belief felt black-and-white; with time, she learned believing God is more about who He is than what she expects Him to do. God is not Santa; we grow into belief through relationship.
- Salvation is the beginning; the “middle” of the Christian life is knowing God in worship, questions, sorrows, and disappointments.
- Twenty years of ministry and God’s names
- Upcoming milestone: the church’s 20th anniversary in February; “we’re going big.”
- Founding story: starting the church at age 25 brought growth in knowing God’s character.
- Names experienced: Jehovah Jireh (provider), Jehovah Nisi (battle-fighter), Jehovah Rapha (healer), and Emmanuel (God with us).

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – from Pastor Holly Furtick on 12/22/2025 and Pastor Matt Drew on 1/4/2026

Truth 1 — I believe that God believes in me

- Mary's selection was not based on strength, accomplishments, or experience. The angel: "Greetings, favored woman... you have found favor with God."
- Application: Wake daily with "God picked me for this"—for the day, the job, the child. God chose your time, place, family, and opportunities. The only disqualification is believing the lie that God can't use you.
- Model response: "I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said."

Truth 2 — I believe that God leads me

- Often the next step is what you already know to do. The angel mentioned Elizabeth; Mary "hurried" to her and received confirmation when Elizabeth's baby leaped.
- Confirmation through people: shepherds (angelic vision), Simeon and Anna (temple), wise men—affirmations along Mary's path as she obeyed.
- God reveals "what you need when you need it," not exhaustive timelines. The angel didn't detail Bethlehem, Egypt, Nazareth, or the later ministry and the cross.
- Faith posture (from a prior sermon): faith is "grappling in the dark," holding tight to the promise but loosely to the plan—not insisting on our original script.
- God's intent: Emmanuel—presence with us in hardship; Jeremiah 29:11 offers hope that His plans are good, though not fully disclosed.
- Guidance promise: the Spirit guides (John 16:13). Belief is trusting who, not knowing how. Control your attitude, words, and responses; do the known step before expecting the next.
- Prayer for clarity: ask God to "make it plain," then obey. God may confirm through a person, a verse, a song, or a small next step. Look for Him everywhere.

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Truth 3 — I believe that God hears me

- Luke 1 begins with Zechariah and Elizabeth. While Zechariah performed ordinary priestly duty (burning incense), an angel declared, “God has heard your prayers.” Elizabeth would bear John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus.
- Timing: Their long-unanswered prayer was answered when it fit God’s larger redemptive story. Faithfulness looks like showing up while waiting.
- Prayer re-learned: prayer is primarily entering God’s presence. Requests are biblical, but a request-only approach misses relationship. Holly shared reaching frustration about a long-prayed situation and sensing God whisper, “Good. I can work on that.” Persistence is good; sometimes faith is trusting He heard you the first time and is working.
- Testimony — “God is up to something upstream”

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Elevation Sermon Notes – from Pastor Holly Furtick on 12/22/2025 and Pastor Matt Drew on 1/4/2026

A powerful testimony: An eFam mother recounted her daughter's descent into an abusive relationship in 2021 and fear of leaving.

- July 2, 2022: a DUI crash totaled the daughter's car; she suffered bruises, a broken nose, and a broken hand, and was charged with a felony DUI. The family first felt, "Really God?" but saw the crash as an intervention enabling her to escape and survive.
- Recovery: the daughter engaged AA and therapy faithfully; months later, on February 20, 2023, she was sentenced to 180 days in jail—triggering anger and a trust crisis.
- **Breakthrough: during the sermon "God is up to something upstream," the repeated phrase "God is 20 miles ahead" prompted the mother to check the distance to the county jail: 20 miles. She wept, sensing God's precise reassurance.**
- In jail, the daughter led Bible study and sang Elevation songs; she served four and a half months. Pickup day was one of their best. They now "take one day at a time" and "keep praising our Father."

Closing exhortation and worship

- Mary's Magnifies models praise before visible outcomes: "My soul magnifies the Lord... he has done great things for me." Praise resets focus from situation to Savior.
- Closing song: "Call God," incorporating lines from the hymn "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus," affirming that He hears when we call and is present in grief, anger, pain, disappointment, and confusion.

Next steps / actions

- Magnify and praise God now; reset your focus.
- **Ask God to reveal the next small step; commit to obey it.**
- **Release your grip on your plan; hold tight to God's promise and presence.**
- Go to God first; watch for His confirmations through people, Scripture, or songs.
- **Work on what you can control—attitude, words, and responses—while you wait.**

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Elevation Sermon Notes – from Pastor Holly Furtick on 12/22/2025 and Pastor Matt Drew on 1/4/2026

Learning on the Go: Calling, Belief, and Obedience

Pastor Math Drew – Blakeney Campus

Jan 4, 2026

Overview: A New Year sermon urging a shift from behavior-focused resolutions to belief-driven obedience. Centered on Exodus 3–4, it examines Moses' calling and his internal objections, highlighting God's answers: presence, revelation, provision, help, and teaching. The message calls listeners to “learn on the go,” take faith-risks, use what's already in hand, and step into God-given authority, culminating in an invitation to receive the universal call to salvation.

From Resolutions to Beliefs

- Most resolutions target behavior (e.g., read the Bible more, attend church, get healthier), but beliefs drive behaviors. Thoughts and beliefs steer outcomes.
- Illustration: At 15, the speaker “bought” a 2001 sunburst orange Pontiac Trans Am on his dad's eBay Motors account for \$15,000 because he believed he could afford it (expecting help from dad/grandmas and selling a fish tank). His dad declared fraud; the truth (“you have no money”) corrected a false belief. Point: false beliefs persist until confronted by truth.

Three Kinds of Calling

- Universal call: Salvation in Jesus—freely given by grace, available to all at any time.
- General (corporate) call: Who Christians are to become—holy, loving, generous, kind, merciful; growing into Christlikeness.
- Specific call: What someone is to do. Biblical examples: Moses (deliverer), David (king), Esther (advocate), Jonah (sent to Nineveh), Paul (apostle to Gentiles).
- Starting point for discerning specifics: intersection of “what you're good at” and “what you love.”
- Moses' Accomplishments vs. His Inner Obstacles
- Accomplishments often remembered: led over 2 million people out of Egypt; parted the Red Sea; received the Ten Commandments; brought water from a rock; organized a nation (laws, structure, leadership); interceded personally with God; guided Israel 40 years; raised Joshua to lead next.
- Behind the scenes: Moses faced doubts, fears, and insecurities—like us.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – from Pastor Holly Furtick on 12/22/2025 and Pastor Matt Drew on 1/4/2026

Context and Command

- Moses had lived 40 years in Midian as a shepherd (working for his father-in-law), married with sons; he was 80 years old.
- At the burning bush God issued the call: Exodus 3:10 — "So now go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."
- Theme: We often don't miss God's call because we don't hear it, but because we struggle to trust it. God often gives a simple directive—"go"—without all details, requiring us to learn on the go.
- Moses' Five Objections and God's Responses (Exodus 3–4)
- "Who am I?" (identity/inferiority)
- Exodus 3:11: "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"
- God's reply (Exodus 3:12): "I will be with you... when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."
- Key shift: From "Am I enough?" to "Is God with me?" Value and authority flow from God's presence, not self-qualification.
- "I don't know enough" (lack of answers/confidence)
- Exodus 3:13–14: Moses anticipates questions about God's name. God replies: "I AM WHO I AM... Say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you."
- God proceeded to outline forthcoming steps/events for several verses, yet it still wasn't enough for Moses—he lacked confidence, not information.
- Principle: You don't need all the answers; you need to know the One who does.
- "What if they don't believe me?" (risk/credibility/fear of failure)
- Exodus 4:1: "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The Lord did not appear to you'?"
- God's signs (Exodus 4:2–9):
- "What is in your hand?" A staff—thrown down, it became a snake and back again.
- Hand in cloak—leprous and then healed.
- Water from the Nile—turned to blood.
- **Principle: Everything needed is near at hand. God uses what we already have and supplies confirmation as needed. Faith entails risk; choose to ask, "What if it does work?"**
- "I'm not gifted enough" (skill limits/comparison)
- Exodus 4:10: "I have never been eloquent... I am slow of speech and tongue."
- God's reply (Exodus 4:11–12): "Who gave human beings their mouths... Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

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Context and Command

- Principle: God designed our gifts intentionally; He will help and teach. Don't dismiss your own gifts while admiring others'—use yours.
- "Please send someone else" (refusal/abdication)
- Exodus 4:13: "Please send someone else." This drew God's rebuke.
- Concession: God appointed Aaron to assist. Consequence noted: stepping back from God-given authority can lead to misdirection—later Aaron led the people in worship of a golden calf at the base of the same mountain where Moses was meant to lead worship of the true God.
- Principle: Don't abdicate the authority God entrusted to you (e.g., in your family, marriage, or influence), or something/someone else will fill the gap.

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Applications for This Year

- **Learn on the go. Obey the simple "go" even without full clarity; God's presence, answers, help, and teaching meet you on the way.**
- **Replace beliefs: from "I'm a nobody / I don't know enough / It's too risky / I'm not gifted enough" to God's truths: "I am with you; I AM; use what's in your hand; I will help and teach you."**
- Use what you already have. Expect that what's needed is close by and that God won't call you to guaranteed failure.
- Take faith-risks in practical prompts: start or join an e-group, trust God in giving, invite someone to church, have the hard conversation, send the encouraging text/scripture.
- Don't stay in Midian. The speaker urged, "I don't want you to be at the end of 2026 and still in Midian." Freedom and impact lie beyond "go."
- Expect dormant gifts to be revived. The God of resurrection can surface long-buried abilities and purposes.

Closing Prayer and Response

- Corporate prayer inviting those without a current relationship with Jesus to accept the universal call to salvation, receive forgiveness, and embrace God's purpose.
- Those who prayed were asked to raise a hand on the count of three as an outward sign of their inward decision: "One, two, three... Raise them up."

Upcoming Steps / Actions

- Ask God daily: "What do you want me to do today?" and act on prompts.
- Take the next small "go" step—before all answers are in place.
- Identify and use what's in your hand; trust God to help and teach in real time.
- Invite someone to church; consider starting or joining an e-group; practice generosity.
- Guard and step into your God-given authority in your home and relationships.

Part 2: eGroup study questions

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – from Pastor Holly Furtick on 12/22/2025 and Pastor Matt Drew on 1/4/2026

What is the best advice you have received regarding New Years resolutions?

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Quote of the day in today's Wall Street Journal: "If approach beats avoidance, the next design principle is more counterintuitive: Make the goal small—almost embarrassingly so. Research on habit formation shows that behaviors with the highest survival rate are the ones easy enough to complete on your worst days. In "tiny habit" experiments, trivial actions prove far more durable than grand ambitions launched with January zeal. Consistency beats intensity."

10 COGNITIVE BIASES

Even Smart CEOs Fall for Daily (and How to Counter Them)

2026

by Eric Partaker

1. Overconfidence Bias

Believing you know more than you do.

Example: Launching into a new market without testing, because you "just know" it'll work.

Counter: Start with a pilot before going all in.

2. Confirmation Bias

Only seeing what supports your beliefs.

Example: Ignoring critical feedback while praising loyal fans.

Counter: Appoint a "devil's advocate" to challenge assumptions in key meetings.

3. Groupthink

Avoiding conflict to keep the peace.

Example: Everyone nods at the CEO's plan—no debate, no pushback.

Counter: Use anonymous input to surface real opinions.

10. Survivorship Bias

Only studying the winners.

Example: Copying unicorns without looking at the 99% that failed.

Counter: Study both successes and failures before making key decisions.

4. Authority Bias

Overweighting opinions from "experts."

Example: Taking a board member's advice over hard data.

Counter: Require evidence, no matter who's speaking.

9. Sunk Cost Fallacy

Sticking with a bad investment to "protect" past effort.

Example: Propping up a failing product because of what you've already spent.

Counter: Define a "kill switch" in advance—then use it.

5. Anchoring Bias

Fixating on the first number you hear.

Example: Using a supplier's first quote as the benchmark.

Counter: Compare at least three independent options before deciding.

8. Status Quo Bias

Favoring the familiar over the better.

Example: "The old system works fine. Why change?"

Counter: Ask: "If we weren't already doing this, would we start now?"

7. Recency Bias

Overvaluing the latest data.

Example: Treating one bad quarter like a long-term trend.

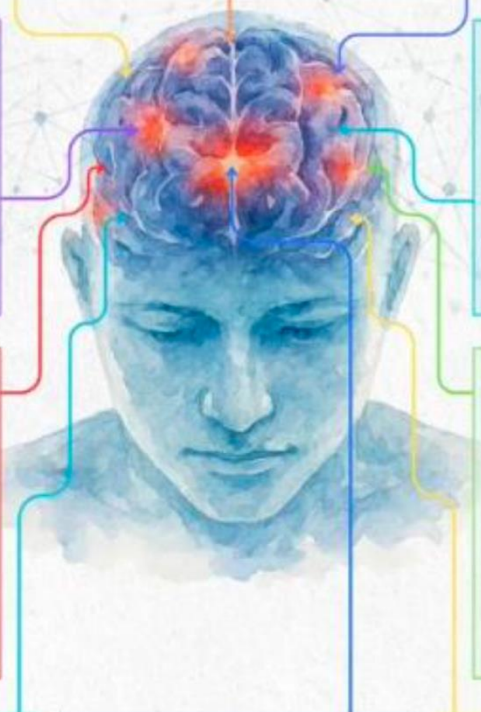
Counter: Use rolling averages to spot real patterns.

6. Availability Bias

Overreacting to what's memorable.

Example: Rethinking strategy after one loud customer complaint.

Counter: Focus on trends, not outliers.



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“We don’t grow out of our belief in God — we grow into it.”

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When plans don’t go my way, I hold onto the promise that He has good plans for me.

You don’t have to know the plan. Just stay close to the One who does.

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Release your grip on your plan; hold tight to God’s promise and presence.

Work on what you can control—attitude, words, and responses—while you wait.

Learning on the Go: Calling, Belief, and Obedience

Pastor Math Drew – Blakeney Campus

Jan 4, 2026

“Most resolutions target behavior (e.g., read the Bible more, attend church, get healthier), but beliefs drive behaviors. Thoughts and beliefs steer outcomes.”

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- “Universal call: Salvation in Jesus—freely given by grace, available to all at any time.
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Starting point for discerning specifics: intersection of “what you’re good at” and “what you love.”

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- Use what you already have. Expect that what’s needed is close by and that God won’t call you to guaranteed failure.
- Expect dormant gifts to be revived. The God of resurrection can surface long-buried abilities and purposes.”

12/10/2025 quote of the day:

“Therefore, the Lord waits to be gracious to you - Isaiah” 30:18”

Additional commentary by Charles Spurgeon: “God, often delays an answered prayer. Sometimes it is to show His power and his sovereignty - more often delay is for our own benefit. God knows that with the delay, you’ll see the need more clearly - and you’ll seek more diligently, and that it will treasure the mercy all the more on account of the wait. Or God makes you wait for a while so that He may display the riches of his grace more abundantly in the end. Do not allow despair to make you silent, but continue to present your requests to God.”

Back up slides

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.”