

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?
- Elevation Nights tour: Feb 24–Mar 5 in Hershey (PA), Brooklyn (NY), Indianapolis (IN), Milwaukee (WI), Grand Rapids (MI), Knoxville (TN), Columbus (OH), Rosemont (IL). Tickets: elevationnights.com.
- New album release on 2/20/2026 – “So Be It” – Outstanding

EASTER MESSAGE FROM ELEVATION CHURCH: "EASTER IS THE MOMENT EVERYTHING COMES INTO FOCUS. THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE, PEOPLE WALKED WITH JESUS WITHOUT FULLY RECOGNIZING WHO HE WAS OR WHAT HE WAS DOING... UNTIL THE MOMENT THEIR EYES WERE OPENED. EASTER IS AN INVITATION TO SEE HIM CLEARLY: TO SEE HIS LOVE, HIS LIGHT, AND HIS PURPOSE AT WORK, EVEN IN PLACES THAT ONCE FELT UNCLEAR. "JESUS SAID, 'I HAVE COME INTO THE WORLD AS A LIGHT, SO THAT NO ONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME SHOULD STAY IN DARKNESS.'" – JOHN 12:46. AS YOU PRAY ABOUT WHO TO INVITE TO CHURCH WITH YOU THIS EASTER, WE WANTED TO SHARE SOME RESOURCES WITH YOU. THEY'RE SIMPLE WAYS TO START A CONVERSATION, EXTEND AN INVITATION, OR REMIND SOMEONE THAT JESUS MAY BE CLOSER THAN THEY THINK. BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNION EXPERIENCE ON FRIDAY, APRIL 3, AND TO CELEBRATE EASTER WITH US ON SUNDAY, APRIL 5. WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE."

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Isaiah 43 - New International Version - Israel's Only Savior

43 But now, this is what the Lord says—

he who created you, Jacob,

he who formed you, Israel:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters,

I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers,

they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,

you will not be burned;

the flames will not set you ablaze.

3 For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

5 Do not be afraid, for I am with you;

I will bring your children from the east

and gather you from the west.

Acts 3 - New International Version - Peter Heals a Lame Beggar

3 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. 6 Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. 9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Acts 4: 12 and 13 - Suffering for Being a Christian

12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And,

“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Daniel 3 - New International Version - The Image of Gold and the Blazing Furnace

3 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide,[a] and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. 2 He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. 3 So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.

4 Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: 5 As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

7 Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

8 At this time some astrologers[b] came forward and denounced the Jews. 9 They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May the king live forever! 10 Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, 11 and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. 12 But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."

13 Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, 14 and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? 15 Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us[c] from Your Majesty's hand. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Daniel 3 - New International Version - The Image of Gold and the Blazing Furnace

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual 20 and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. 21 So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. 22 The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, 23 and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"

They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

25 He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

26 Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, 27 and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way."

Opening prayer #1 by Pastor Furtick on 2/22/2026: "I sought the Lord and he heard and he answered. That's why I trust in God, not because of somebody else's testimony, but because of my own experience. That's why I trust in God, our father and our God. We give you glory today. I simply ask Lord. that you would make us aware of what you're already doing in our lives because it's so much. And for those who have come in discouraged, defeated, or diminished today, my prayer is that as we have praised you and as we have magnified you, that the burden has lifted a little bit. My prayer is that as they give you the glory for the great God that you are, that the weight of this world would not be on their shoulders anymore, but that they would cast their cares upon you, knowing that you care for them. Father, I am so grateful that as I stand before you today, I am not standing before a deaf God, a dead God. That when I pray to you and I say, Father, You respond and you are not far away. Lord, I ask that each and every person who is connected with this message now would get that sense, that gentle knowing that you are near. I thank you that you're near to the brokenhearted today. I thank you that you are near to sinners today. I thank you that you come close when we call your name."

Opening Prayer #2 by Pastor Furtick on 2/22/2026: “Now, God, we call on the mighty name of Jesus. We ask you that you would give us the Holy Spirit for the preaching and the receiving of your word. I pray not only for myself that I would preach it, but I pray for the hearts of those who would hear it. We know that if their hearts are full of distractions, then they're not going to be able to take action on this word. But we also know that you can clear out, make space, make room, and do what you want to do because you're a way maker. So God, I pray that you would clear out space and make room in the hearts of each person today. They are not here by accident. They are here by design. And now unto him who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, we thank you for your glory in this place. In Christ Jesus, in the church, now and forever. And we praise your wonderful name. And all God's people said amen.

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes “ Not Something But Someone” Pastor Steven Furtick – 2/22/2026

AI generated recap of sermon

Not Something But Someone: God's Presence in Trials

Feb 22, 2026 • 1 hour, 6 minutes

Pastor Steven Furtick

Overview: The message centers on trusting God's personal presence (“someone”) rather than pursuing outcomes or “things,” using Isaiah 43:1–2, Acts 3:5–6, 1 Peter 4:12–13, and Daniel 3 to teach that God calls people by name, walks with them through inevitable trials, and remains “still in it” as the faithful fourth man in the fire.

Context and Opening Prayer: The gathering opens with worship and a prayer thanking God for hearing and drawing near, asking for the Holy Spirit to empower both preaching and receiving, and requesting God to clear distractions so hearts can make room for His word. Attendees are urged to cast cares on God and sense His nearness, especially the brokenhearted and sinners.

Scriptures and Central Theme

- Isaiah 43:1–2: “But now... do not fear... I have redeemed you... I have summoned you by name... When you pass through the waters... when you walk through the fire, you will not be burned.”
- Acts 3:5–6: The lame man expected “something,” but received healing “in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.”
- 1 Peter 4:12–13: Do not be surprised by fiery trials; rejoice as you share Christ's sufferings.
- Theme: Not something, but someone—God's presence, not merely His gifts or outcomes. Subtitle: “Still In It.”

Major Points:

- **Point 1 — “But Now”:** Faith for the Present - “But now” signals a decisive present reality that interrupts past failure, shame, or fear. The call is to respond “now,” not postponing purpose or impact to the future. Applied across ages and seasons, the emphasis is that God's calling and power are for “now.”
- **Point 2 — “By Name”:** Identity and God's Personal Call - “I have summoned you by name” underscores specificity and intimacy. God addresses “Jacob” and “Israel,” acknowledging both the imperfect past (Jacob) and the transformed destiny (Israel). Warning against confusing events with identity: brokenness or past sin are events; God can still call the home “blessed.” “Feeling is not failing”: ongoing feelings of anxiety, grief, or struggle do not invalidate God's deliverance or your faith.

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- Point 3 — “Will Not”: Conviction Amid Uncertain Outcomes - Trials are promised as “when,” not “if.” God does not promise the absence of fire or water, but His presence in them.
- **Daniel 3 model: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego affirm God “is able” and “will deliver,” yet hold “even if he does not” convictions. They refuse to bow—“will not” kneel to idols. Outcome in the furnace: three men were thrown in bound; a fourth appeared; they walked unbound and unharmed. The fire burned the ropes, not them. “Three went in, four walked around, three came out”—someone (Jesus) is “still in it.”**
- Someone vs. Something: Acts 3 contrasts expecting “something” (alms) with receiving “someone’s” name and power (Jesus) that brings true change. Matthew 6:33: Seeking God’s kingdom (someone) aligns priorities; “things” are added appropriately. Illustration: **Calling vaguely for “something” (water) meets a need; summoning “by name” (a specific person) brings presence, intimacy, and ongoing companionship—“the water and the walk.”**
- **Walking Through, Not Running From, the Fire**
- “When you walk through the fire” highlights trust that allows steady obedience rather than frantic escape. Confidence is tied to who walks with you, not to perfect conditions.
- Historical anchors: God parted the Red Sea (Exodus 14) and the Jordan (Joshua 3). The question becomes, “Will He do it for me now?”—to be answered by trusting who He is.

Practical Applications and Warnings

- Do not hold God to promises He did not make (e.g., a life without stress or loneliness). Faith rests in His presence, not preferred timelines.
- **Set “will not” boundaries: feel temptation but do not kneel to it. Address roots (e.g., comparison and lust) that fuel anxiety.**
- Guard inputs that amplify fear (e.g., what you watch before sleep). Modern “FOMO” is worsened by visible “proof of missing out.”
- Students and adults alike are called to impact “now,” not waiting for another season.

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Personal Ministry Reflections

- Shift from praying for polished sermon “points” to praying for “people.” God cares about people and supplies the points as needed.
- Transparent struggles: past panic attacks and fear of public speaking; ongoing fear of failure. Resolution: “I will not live in fear,” even while preparing diligently and accepting that feelings may persist.

Response and Ministry Moment

- Invitation to trust “the one who will never fail.” Congregational confession of faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection, receiving grace by faith, and a call to follow Him.
- Those responding raise hands; ushers provide Bibles; the church celebrates and invites sharing the decision via provided links/numbers.

Announcements and Community Updates

- Elevation Nights Winter 2026 Tour: prayer requested; invitation to attend in Hershey (Pennsylvania), Brooklyn (New York), Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Columbus, Grand Rapids, Knoxville, and Chicago (details at elevationnights.com).
- E-Team Connect Weekend: opportunities to serve (Prayer, Connections, Chat Hosting, and more). Invitation to join E101 via on-screen QR code.
- Album release: “So be it” available to download and share.
- Easter Message from Elevation Church: “EASTER IS THE MOMENT EVERYTHING COMES INTO FOCUS. THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE, PEOPLE WALKED WITH JESUS WITHOUT FULLY RECOGNIZING WHO HE WAS OR WHAT HE WAS DOING... UNTIL THE MOMENT THEIR EYES WERE OPENED. EASTER IS AN INVITATION TO SEE HIM CLEARLY: TO SEE HIS LOVE, HIS LIGHT, AND HIS PURPOSE AT WORK, EVEN IN PLACES THAT ONCE FELT UNCLEAR. “JESUS SAID, ‘I HAVE COME INTO THE WORLD AS A LIGHT, SO THAT NO ONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME SHOULD STAY IN DARKNESS.’” – JOHN 12:46. AS YOU PRAY ABOUT WHO TO INVITE TO CHURCH WITH YOU THIS EASTER, WE WANTED TO SHARE SOME RESOURCES WITH YOU. THEY’RE SIMPLE WAYS TO START A CONVERSATION, EXTEND AN INVITATION, OR REMIND SOMEONE THAT JESUS MAY BE CLOSER THAN THEY THINK. BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNION EXPERIENCE ON FRIDAY, APRIL 3, AND TO CELEBRATE EASTER WITH US ON SUNDAY, APRIL 5. WE CAN’T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE.”

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Upcoming Steps / Actions

- Act on “now” faith: refuse to bow to fear or idols; establish your “will not” convictions; walk steadily through trials, trusting who is with you.
- If you committed to Christ: receive the Bible from ushers; inform the church via the shared link/number for prayer and support.
- Pray for and consider attending the Elevation Nights Winter 2026 Tour in the listed cities.
- Explore serving opportunities during E-Team Connect Weekend and join E101 via the QR code shown.
- Share and revisit the message and worship; download “So be it” and pass it to someone who needs encouragement.

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Elevation Church Sermon Notes "Not Something But Someone" Pastor Steven Furtick – 2/22/2026

Sermon Transcript

- **Opening prayer #1: "I sought the Lord and he heard and he answered. That's why I trust in God, not because of somebody else's testimony, but because of my own experience. That's why I trust in God, our father and our God. We give you glory today. I simply ask Lord. that you would make us aware of what you're already doing in our lives because it's so much. And for those who have come in discouraged, defeated, or diminished today, my prayer is that as we have praised you and as we have magnified you, that the burden has lifted a little bit. My prayer is that as they give you the glory for the great God that you are, that the weight of this world would not be on their shoulders anymore, but that they would cast their cares upon you, knowing that you care for them. Father, I am so grateful that as I stand before you today, I am not standing before a deaf God, a dead God. That when I pray to you and I say, Father, You respond and you are not far away. Lord, I ask that each and every person who is connected with this message now would get that sense, that gentle knowing that you are near. I thank you that you're near to the brokenhearted today. I thank you that you are near to sinners today. I thank you that you come close when we call your name."**
- **Opening Prayer #2: "Now, God, we call on the mighty name of Jesus. We ask you that you would give us the Holy Spirit for the preaching and the receiving of your word. I pray not only for myself that I would preach it, but I pray for the hearts of those who would hear it. We know that if their hearts are full of distractions, then they're not going to be able to take action on this word. But we also know that you can clear out, make space, make room, and do what you want to do because you're a way maker. So God, I pray that you would clear out space and make room in the hearts of each person today. They are not here by accident. They are here by design. And now unto him who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, we thank you for your glory in this place. In Christ Jesus, in the church, now and forever. And we praise your wonderful name. And all God's people said amen."**
- Praise the Lord. Reach around and help four people, would you? And remain standing. Tell the person next to you, God has been so good to you, you're glowing. I never ever, well, not never ever, but I hardly ever tell them what song to sing before I preach. I just like to see if God will line it up. They could not have sang anything more perfect to set up this message than today."
- I'm going to be sharing with you today from Isaiah chapter 43. verses one and two. And as the choir makes moves behind me, let's thank the Lord for them. Oh, they're gone. I just heard the sound. I didn't know.
- Would you pray for us this week as we begin Elevation Night's Winter 2026 tour? We could use your prayers. Hey, if you're anywhere near Hershey, Pennsylvania, Brooklyn, New York, Indianapolis, um, Milwaukee, Columbus, Grand Rapids, Knoxville, or Chicago, go to elevationnights.com and join us. It's going to be amazing.
- I have a feeling the Lord wants to do something in our house right now that is special and remarkable. I never ever get up here without expecting God to do something special. Yeah, I'm not up here just to get through a sermon. I'm not up here just to get you to lunch either. You should have ate something before you came. Or steal something out your neighbor's purse. Because today, the Lord has a word for us. I'm so glad you're here. It's great to see you in the presence of the Lord today. Give yourself a hand because you made it. I said give yourself a hand because you made it.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes "Not Something But Someone" Pastor Steven Furtick – 2/22/2026

- I wanna share this scripture from Isaiah 43, one and two, a promise that I have never preached about before, but it has meant a lot to me personally through the years, and I think you'll see why. The prophet says: *"But now this is what the Lord says. He who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel, do not fear for I have redeemed you. I have summoned you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. And when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned. The flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."*
- And now I'm going to do what the Lord told me to do, because I never thought this scripture would go with that scripture. But look at Acts chapter 3, verses 5 and 6. Acts chapter 3, verses 5 and 6. I told the Lord, Isaiah is Old Testament, Acts is New Testament. What do they have to do with one another? But there is a connection. The Bible says in verse five, *"So the man gave them his attention, "expecting to get something from them. "Then Peter said, Silver or gold I do not have, "but what I do have I give you "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."*
- So today I wanna talk to you from this subject. The title of this message is "Not Something, But Someone." And then for a subtitle to the message, we're going to call it "Still In It."
- High five four people that you can reach and say Still In It. And please put it in the chat as well. Still In It. Still In It. Welcome today to our eFam around the world. Wherever you are, God is with you. Still In It. You may be seated. Somebody shout Still In It.
- Happy Birthday cheer from audience: Response from Pastor Furtick: Well, thank you so much. 46 looks good on me, huh? 46 years old. 46 and still not fixed. Well, now this is ridiculous. Y'all are a disobedient class. I didn't tell you to sing this. Happy birthday to you. Thank you so much. That is very kind. Thank you. Thank you. Okay, thank you. Thank you. Are y'all done now? Messing up my sermon intro. I appreciate it so much. It means a lot. It kind of goes along with what I was going to say to start the sermon. Forty-six years old, I've been preaching for 30 years, and then I've been pastoring for 20. I'm still learning how to do this. I'm not saying that like humble pie. I am still learning how to do this. And even sometimes I realize that the way I've been doing it is completely wrong. And then I try to correct and let the Lord speak to me when that happens.
- It happened a year or two ago, I was praying so hard for God to give me my sermon points. I'm kind of OCD about my sermon points. I don't care as much about matching my clothes, but I like all of my message to match. I like it all to start with the same letter. I like for it all to have the same cadence. I like for it to have an arc. I like for it to have continuity.
- **I like for there to be layers to the message, and I want to present something pretty when I preach. But the Lord spoke to me in my preparation one time and said, I didn't die for pretty. I died for people. And you're so worried about your points. You keep praying, Lord, give me my points, give me my points, give me my points. And he said, I want you to shift that and start praying not for the points, but pray for the people. And if you'll pray for the people, I'll give you the points.**

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Elevation Church Sermon Notes " Not Something But Someone" Pastor Steven Furtick – 2/22/2026

- Because the points are what you care about and the people are what I care about. And if you'll pray about what I care about, I'll give you what you need. Ever since then, it shifted me. so that when I sit down to preach, I picture people, some that I know, some that I've invented, some who are a composite sketch of many individuals that I've met through the years. I bring Tom to the table, all that you've been through and all that God has done in your life. I tell myself if this isn't true for Tom, it isn't true for anyone because of what you've been through. I tell myself when I'm preparing a sermon that even if they don't all start with the letter N, it's okay, because somebody in the room is going through Parkinson's, and they don't care anything about my points. Somebody in the room just got a promotion and they don't really care about my points either. They just think about that paycheck. They're just thinking about that vacation they're going to be able to take now.
- Then I think about all those people are going to have to manage now. They didn't think about that part when they prayed for the promotion, but they can find out real soon. So I need to get them prepared for that promotion. And they don't care anything about the points. And instead of focusing on something to say, I've learned to focus on someone to say it to.
- **Always remember that God gives you influence in life, not for something, but for someone. Seek first the kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you as well. If you seek the kingdom, you get the things thrown in like a prize at the bottom of a Happy Meal. But if you seek the things, you miss the kingdom and the things aren't even the things you think they're going to be. Many of us live our entire lives thinking that there is a thing. We think there is a thing that will make us satisfied. We think there is a thing that will make us confident. We think there is a thing that will make us feel finally happy. We think that there is a thing that will make us feel secure. We think there is a thing that will bring us joy and things can bring for a little while. It works until it doesn't.**
- A thing can be a thing, but the thing has a thing that is only the thing until the thing is just a thing. What I'm trying to say is it's someone, not something. I'm preaching to someone today who is going through something very difficult in your life. You say that's generic. I'll be more specific. You are still in it, even though you thought God brought you out of it. Somebody say still in it. Still in it. And that's why we are surprised sometimes by the fiery trials.
- **In 1 Peter 4 verse 12, the disciples said, my friends do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in as much as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. Did you see the progression in the text? He said, you're going to rejoice when his glory is revealed, but don't be surprised when the fire comes to test the proven value of that which your life is built upon. I won't spend very long in that because in the book of Isaiah, in a different context, the prophet is speaking to someone or actually a group of people who are in exile because of their sin and disobedience.**
- The Lord has allowed them to be carried away into Babylon for a while to bring them back to himself forever. The Lord allowed them to be carried away for a little while in order to bring them back to himself forever. In Isaiah 43, verse 1, two of the most hopeful words that can appear appear in Scripture, where the prophet says, I know you've been a long way off. I know you're in a strange place. I know you're in a situation that you are not equipped to deal with, and I know that it's your fault. When you open Isaiah 43, verse 1, get ready to shout, but now. I think those two words should be our first point, but now.

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Elevation Church Sermon Notes " Not Something But Someone" Pastor Steven Furtick – 2/22/2026

- **The but lets me know something came before it that was going to cancel it out. The now lets me know it's not over and it's not too late. The but lets me know that there was something that was blocking me. The now lets me know that there's something bigger that's breaking through.**
- Somebody shout but now. I better calm down, because this is just my first point, but I came to announce now to somebody. I came to get you out of your pity party today. I came to get you from thinking about when you're 70 years old. You're 17. Somebody shout now. Came to preach to a student section to tell you you don't have to wait till later to have an impact for God - shout now I came to say you're called right now. I came to say you're chosen right now I came to say you're wise right now. I came to say your life doesn't start when you go to college You got a ministry on your campus now.
- I need a 16 year old to shout now I need an 18 year old to shout now. I need an 80 year old to shout now I I need a midlife crisis 46-year-old to shout, Now! Now, Jesus, I need you now! But now, two beautiful words. Mary, the sister of Lazarus, wouldn't go to the gate, and Martha came to Jesus and said, if you would have been here, my brother wouldn't have died. But I know that even now, God will give you whatever you ask.
- I'm not going to make you shout the whole sermon, but let's just keep it going for a little while. Shout now. Now. But now. But now. And every time the devil tries to drag you back to your past, but now. But now. But now, every time he tries to drag you back to your shame, but now, but now this is what the Lord says. Isaiah 43 verse one, please. This is what the Lord says. He who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel, do not fear. Somebody needs to hear that. Do not fear.
- You say, you brought me all the way out here just to tell me something that simple? Do not fear? No. I brought you all the way out here so God could tell you something that simple. Because if I say it, who cares? Because I don't know what you're facing. But if God says it, and he only knows what you're facing, but he knows the plans he has for you to give you a hope and a future.
- **See, it's not saying something, it's someone saying something that gives it the power. So that if someone says to you, it'll be okay, it may mean nothing. But if somebody who lived through the death of a spouse says to you, when you lose your spouse, it will be okay. It's not something that they said, it's someone who said it. But now this is what the Lord says. There's the thing that he says, don't fear. And there's the one who said it, the Lord.**
- I love the Lord because only he can tell me something that ridiculous, and I have to submit to it. If you tell me, don't be afraid, I love when people give me advice about pastoring the church. Just let the Lord lead you. And that means a lot, considering you've never done it before. But the fact, no, I mean, I appreciate it. But I appreciate the fact that the one who knows where he's taking me is the one who's speaking to me. And I also want to point out not only the phrase, but now, but I want to point out the phrase in verse one where he says, I have redeemed you.
- I have summoned you by name. Our first point is, but now.
- them by name.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes " Not Something But Someone" Pastor Steven Furtick – 2/22/2026

- Our second point is by name. And yes, they're all going to start with the same letter because I still like my points. The Lord is working on me. You know, when the Lord is speaking this verse, he's speaking it to the nation of Israel. And so it's interesting that in order to deal with their fear, in order to deal with their panic, in order to deal with their pain, he speaks to their past. He says, he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel. Now, you may be confused and think that God is speaking to two different people. And he kind of is. But the interesting thing about God calling them by name is that Jacob is both a name and a nation. Israel is both a name and a nation. By this point, when Isaiah is prophesying, they have become a nation in captivity, but he calls them from captivity, and he calls them Jacob, and he calls them Israel. He calls them by name.
- But the interesting thing is that Jacob's name was changed to Israel when he wrestled with God and did not let go. And so you would think that by the time God calls them by name, he would no longer speak to Jacob, only call them Israel. However, God is not uncomfortable with bringing all of who you are into the season of your life that you're in. And for every nation that God builds, there is a name that comes along with it. So for every Israel that God raises up, there is a Jacob that comes along and rides shotgun in the car. For everything that God does in your life that is awesome, there are some other things that you bring along in the process that you wish he would get rid of.
- **And so when God says, I have called you by name, Jacob, I have called you by name, Israel, he is speaking to both parts of me, not only the part of me. And I can tell this is a little too fancy. So let me say a little bit simpler. God knew you when he named you. And so when God calls you, he calls you Jacob. He calls you Israel. One speaks to all that you have been. One speaks to all that you will be. And God calls both to come forth. And so that's why you don't have to be afraid when you're still in it.**
- When there's a situation in your life that you thought God would have delivered you out of, and I'm gonna work on this for a moment, because it can confuse you to the point where you think that the event is your identity. And so when you struggle with a certain thing or you have struggled with a certain thing, the event becomes the identity. This even happens to entire families.
- Because of the brokenness that a family can experience, which is an event, we will say things like, I come from a broken home. The only issue I have with you calling the home broken is that God might want to call it blessed. So don't let the fact that there was some brokenness in your past or even in your present, because let's be honest, some of us, it's not I come from a broken home. My home is still broken, but it's still blessed, even though it's still broken.
- And so be careful of people who give you partial testimonies. A partial testimony goes like this. I was struggling with depression, and God delivered me from depression. The problem I have with your testimony is I know you still cry sometimes. The problem I have with your testimony is I know it sounds good on a microphone, but you are still struggling to live it out on Monday. The problem I have with that testimony that God delivered me from anxiety makes the person feel like, if they still feel anxiety, that God has failed them in deliverance.
- But feeling anxious doesn't mean God has failed. Feeling is not failing. So that when you feel that you have failed, it does not mean that you have failed. Because God, the one who created you, God, the one who formed you, God, the one who named you, God, the one who makes nations out of names. God knows my Jacob, even as he calls my Israel.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes " Not Something But Someone" Pastor Steven Furtick – 2/22/2026

- Does it make sense out of my mouth like it does in my head? He said, I called you by name. I think I want to demonstrate this. Let's say right now in this sermon, I was thirsty and I was like, I need some water. I'm making my need known. I need some water. (Chunks walks up to stage to give some water) Thank you, Chunks. Now watch that. I got the water. Thank you. I appreciate it. Chunks, I'm just grateful for you. I got the water, but I wonder, watch this now. All I did in that situation was I made the need known. So I didn't say, Chunks, I need some water. I didn't tell him I was gonna do this in my sermon or anything like that. I just kinda figured somebody, all these people that love me and sang me happy birthday, you're not gonna let me stand up here and go, you're gonna bring me some water.
- But the Lord said, when I called you, look at this, this is a powerful word. He said, verse one, I have summoned you by name. Summon is a powerful word. It's a specific word. It's not a word like, I wish someone would. Summon means that God knows who he wants to do it. So let me try again. Take the water.
- We're just going to do the illustration again. And this is what I want you to see. But now, by name, Israel, Jacob, Jacob, Israel. All the parts of you that sit in that seat with you, all of the parts of you, all the parts of your home, all the parts of your family situation. The Lord said, when I called you, I summoned you by name.
- Watch this. Holly, would you please bring me some water? And this is what's great about it. Because she doesn't mind bringing me the water. Watch this, because verse one she said, I have summoned you by name, you are mine. So now, I don't know what would happen if I asked your wife to bring me water. You might be offended and she might have an attitude. She might spit in it. I don't know your wife like that, but she's mine. So when I said her name and I said, "'Holly, would you bring me,' when I summoned you, I could get used to this. That's a good feeling. I wonder if this summoning thing only works when I'm preaching a sermon. I try to summon out at home.
- I summoned her, right, Holly, by name, and she brought me the water. So I've got the water from my wife. But then there's something I can get from her that I don't really wanna get from him. She can hold my hand. Everybody's turning red in the church. I'm just talking about this. Watch this. I got the water, and I bet, because it's her, I bet she'd give me some sugar, too. That's all right. Hey, don't be jealous about it. Get in some marriage counseling. You can get some sugar, too. Because she's mine. When I just asked for the thing...
- **When I called for something, I got the thing. But when I summoned by name, I didn't just get the thing. I got someone. Nothing against chunks, but there is an intimacy to this thing that is not there for that thing. I need the one to come to me in my low moments who will not only bring me the water, but who will watch this walk with me. After this water is gone, I still need somebody to walk with me.**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes "Not Something But Someone" Pastor Steven Furtick – 2/22/2026

- And I'm going to help you because some of the things that you've been praying about in your life, you just keep asking God to give you the thing, the thing, the thing. So God, get me through this situation. So God, change this circumstance. So God, take away this pain. So God, give me this advance. So God, give me this favorable outcome. And you can call for the thing. You can ask God for something, or you can ask for someone. You can get somebody to bring you water, or you can have the water and the walk.
- Because there will be times in your life. where you might be standing at a Red Sea, and you might need someone to show you what to do at that Red Sea. So if all you have is the thing, all you're ever going to be is stuck at the sea. But if you learn to call on the God of Moses, the one who opened up the oceans and said, I need you now to do the same thing for me. I don't just need something. I need someone. And the Lord said, I've called you by name. I have summoned you by name. I have called you by name, which means that when he called you, he knew you had what he needed you to have.
- So don't freak out about the situation. If he summoned you for it, you're the one for it. Pause and think about it. I called her to be with me because I knew she had what I needed for what I wanted to prove. And this is why the Lord says, do not fear, because I knew what I put inside of you when I summoned you. And here's the other thing, he didn't just call Israel, he called Jacob too. So when he called you to do it, He knew where you would be right now.
- Go back to the history of this for a moment, would you? I already alluded to it. He said, Do not fear. I have redeemed you. I have summoned you by name. You are mine. But verse 2 is really what I wanted to preach about, because this is where I think so many of us are. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. And just like he can call you by name, you can call him too. When you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned. The flames will not set you.
- **Now, this is not just nice things God's saying so you can sleep better at night. These are actually historically anchored events that God's people have seen him do in the past. But see, they haven't seen it firsthand just yet. It's one thing to hear that God opened up an ocean. It's another thing to stand in front of one and believe him to do it now. It's one thing to believe that God can do it for your friend, but it's another thing to believe that he's calling your name.**
- And I love the promise because he's reaching into the history, things that they've heard about God doing and speaking to something that they're about to see him do. Now watch this. This is really good. He said, when you walk through the fire, you will not die. I think every word of that is important. First of all, he says, when not if we got to be careful promising people stuff that God did not promise them.
- **We got to be careful claiming things as promises from God that are really just preferences of our flesh. Because the Bible would be a lot easier for me to preach if I could write it how I want. I wish there was a workaround for this water you're walking through, but there may not be. The Lord says, There will be times when you walk through the waters, and I will be with you, and when you pass through the rivers...**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes "Not Something But Someone" Pastor Steven Furtick – 2/22/2026

- These are two different incidents, by the way. One can be found in Exodus 14, where the people of God crossed through the waters, the ocean, the Red Sea. Also, you may want to read in Joshua chapter 3 how they crossed over the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Moses, my servant, is dead. Now Joshua, get ready to lead these people. And the Lord did all of that for them. But will he do it for me? Isn't this the question we wonder when we come up on the situation? Will he do it for me? Can he use me? I understand how God can use them. Remember, he summoned you by name, but now by name.
- And he says, when you walk through the waters, but, but here's the part I couldn't figure out in verse two. He says, when you walk through the fire, you will not be burned. The flames will not set you ablaze. And what I couldn't figure out is if I'm in a fire, why am I walking? Let me just take a vote. How many of you...fire on both sides...just going to slow it down to a cool walk.
- **How many of you would vote that there is a better way to get through the fire than walk? The fire represents something you're going through. And the walk represents someone that you're doing it with. And the Lord said the reason that you cannot do what he said in verse one, do not fear, is because you are so focused on something, you have forgotten someone.**
- So now you're running all around how to do this. Now you're trying to escape situations. It's not something, it's someone. And the someone that is with you in the fire is none other than the God who created you and formed you and knows you and called you by name. But now in the fire, I'm beside you. It must take faith for you to walk through fire. It must take faith for you to slow down the pace a little bit. It must take faith for you to come through this like, I know it's going to be all right. It must take faith for you to continue in what God spoke to you, even though you don't feel his presence.
- And so I wish we had an example somewhere in the Bible of when someone was in the fire. And God did something about it. Should I use Jonah? No, Jonah was in the belly of a fish. I don't think we could use Jonah. Should I use Lazarus? No, he was in the tomb. I got the wrong one. Should I use? I'm just going through. Should I use Shadrach? Should I use Meshach? Should I use Abednego?
- Well, let's call on the three Hebrew boys then to find out about how God, but now, calls me and summons me by name, because he said, when you're in the fire, you will not, that's my third word is Not. *"He said, but now when you walk through the fire, I have summoned you by name and you will not be burned."* I don't know if you're getting good notes from this message, but this is prophetic for somebody.
- Let's check on Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Let's check on King Nebuchadnezzar, who erected a statue 90 feet tall, made of gold, nine feet wide, and said, Everybody hear the sound of the music and bow to the statue I made of myself. And there were three boys who were exiles in Babylon who said, We will not bow. And the king said, We'll see about that. What if, verse 15, when you hear the sound of the horn, the flute, the zither, the lyre, the harp, the pipe, and all kinds of music, if you're ready to fall down and worship the image I made, that's good.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes " Not Something But Someone" Pastor Steven Furtick – 2/22/2026

- But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what God will be able to rescue you from my hand? You're about to find out. Because it's not something... Because see, he's a king who made a statue, and that's a thing. And it's 90 feet tall, and it's 9 feet wide, and it's made of gold. But God is not a something. He is God. He's a someone. what god will be able to rescue you?"
- Here we get the names Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They replied to him, King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the god we serve is able to deliver us from it. That is something he can do. God can get you out of debt. That's something he can do. God can restore your relationship with your daughter. That's something he can do.
- God can give you freedom from the craving. That's something he can do. It's a thing he can do because he's God, and there is nothing that is impossible to God. So God can do this thing, whatever the thing is. He can reduce the prison sentence. He can cause the marriage to have love again. He can heal the pain in your body. God can give you a better job. God can move you to a more favorable part of the office. God can do the thing. But I didn't come to get a thing for my situation.
- Because things change. But Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. So if.. Y'all gonna sit there while I preach? Go ahead. But if we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think. And he will deliver us from your majesty's hand. next verse but but even if he doesn't we're doing the grown-up bible today We're doing the, he did not take my panic attacks away. I had one last night, but I came to church and praised him anyway, because he's the one who got me through it. I'm preaching that.
- Can we preach that? The even-ness of Jesus. We want you to know, your majesty, that we will not. But now, by name, will not. What's your will not? What's your will not? What's your, even if the feeling stays, I have faith to walk through it. Even if they walk away, God walks with me. What's your will not? I've told you mine before.
- The enemy torments me a lot of times with feelings that my entire ministry will end in failure. Many do. Many do. And yet, I made a decision one day that it may end in failure. But I will not live in fear. I just won't do it. I don't plan to fail. I don't pray to fail. I'm preparing not to fail. And I'm taking every precaution. But if something happens... And it ends in failure - There was a time where I was terrified to get on the stage and speak in public. And that's kind of important for me to do. You're like, well, were you 12? No, I'm talking about when I was in my 30s. And I would have to get up and do it. And a lot of times, the only way that I could get through the first five minutes was to grip the sides of the pulpit real hard.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes " Not Something But Someone" Pastor Steven Furtick – 2/22/2026

- But I will not. stop preaching just because I have to preach. You're paying. And see, I want you to have some conviction in some area of your life that even if I will not.
- You know this story about Daniel in the lion's den. He wasn't even in there. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were in there. He was in the lion's den. You understand what I'm saying. Daniel went to the lion's den. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego went to the furnace. And then we want to preach those things and expect God to bring us out of our situation by 5 o'clock today. Because what I love about the scripture that I gave you, listen to this. When they said, we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up, it gave me a picture.
- It's okay to feel it, but don't kneel to it. You got it? So I may feel lust, but I don't kneel to lust. Everybody wants to preach about the stuff we want God to take away. Take away anxiety. Well, deal with your lust. Some of your anxiety is dealing from your lust because you crave what you can't have and what you want, what you don't have. And now you lust in after stuff that you're not supposed to have. And you're anxious because you can't get it because God don't want to give it to you because it's not meant for you to have it. Stop praying about anxiety so much. Start controlling comparison. So I want this fruit but I am attached to this root that ain't gonna work - it's gonna keep growing and growing. We say I want the lord to remove fear from my life but you might have to change some of what you watch before you fall asleep at night if they are killing people while you are falling asleep, you're not gonna be counting sheep at 3 a.m. And it's fine, we watch normal TV too.
- I'm not telling you all I watch is The Chosen - but I'm saying that you may have to make some adjustments. What does this have to do with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? They said, we will not kneel even if the fire gets hot.
- And by the way, the Lord did not promise that it would not be hot. He did not promise that you would never feel... Stop holding God to promises that he did not make. God did not say you would never feel stressed. God did not say you would never feel lonely. You will feel lonely sometimes, especially if you follow Christ. You're going to feel ostracized, left out, uninvited.
- You're going to have FOMO. Why are you laughing at that? When we grew up, it was FOMO, like it was fear of missing out, right? And we were scared that everybody was off doing something fun without us when we grew up, right? But now they don't have FOMO. They have proof of missing out (POMO). It's looking at all the pictures and scrolling at all the stuff. Yeah, they're there without me, and they didn't ask me. There they are right there. I see them right there. FOMO.
- And it's going to be some flames. I just want to talk to you today because I'm so sick of it. I'm so sick of the preaching that is not based in a real promise. The moment I tell you shout and he'll bring you out, you just lose your voice. And now I shouted and now I got laryngitis and I'm still not out. And I'm still dealing with it. And I still gotta be disciplined. So now, now I shouted and I'm still not out.
- But the beauty of Daniel three is they said he will. We just don't know how he wants to do it yet. And so we are not going to bow to this pressure, even though we don't know how God is going to do it. Read the Bible with me. Even if he does not, we want you to know we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up now. I told my friend, when I preach this part, I'm just going to let it come out however it wants to come out. Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes " Not Something But Someone" Pastor Steven Furtick – 2/22/2026

- He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in the army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans, and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. It's getting close to the part that I want to read. The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. Firmly tied, bound with ropes. Now I know why the Lord left the fire on. To burn the ropes off. To set them free. God will use a fire to set you free. God will use a fire to set you free. That's not the verse I wanted to preach either. Verse 24 says, Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked the advisors, weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire? They replied, certainly, your majesty. You know, these are some real sycophants, man. I mean, they built the dude a 90-foot tall statue. He's compensating, and they're going along with it, all right? And they said, certainly, your majesty. Yes, sir. All three of them. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. All three of them, just as we requested. And he said, verse 25, look. I see you. four men that we tied up and threw into the fire. I see four men, wait, no, no. We tied three, we threw three, I see four.
- This is like a math impossibility. So we threw three, I see four walking around in the fire, unbound. and unharmed. The fire did not kill them. It only took off what was holding them. I see four walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed. The fourth looks like a son of the gods, because he was. Because it was Jesus in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. We might as well not guess, like Nebuchadnezzar. We know his name. It was Jesus.
- We know. He is the fourth man in the fire. We know it was Jesus, the bright and morning star. We know it was Jesus, the Lamb who was slain from the foundations of the world. We know it was Jesus. Just like it was Aaron's branch that budded, it was Jesus. It was Jesus in the fire. There were three men, and there are four men, and I see a fourth man who looks like a son the gods.
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said God can do something, but it's not something I'm confident in. It's someone I'm confident in. If I was confident there would be no fire, my faith would fail me now. If I was confident there would be no water, my faith would stop short. But my faith is not in something but someone. I know his name. So Nebuchadnezzar approached the opening. I'm almost done. I'm almost done. But tell somebody, still in it.
- **Tell somebody else, still in it. Tell a third person, still in it. Now tell a fourth person, still in it. Nebuchadnezzar approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here! So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire. Wait a minute. Three went in. Four walked around. Three came out. Come on, help me real quick. Three went in. Four walked around. That means there's someone still in it.**
- **So I came to declare for every fire walking, faith talking, He's still in it! It hurts, but he's in it! It made me cry, but he's in it! Not what I expected, but he's in it! He's in it! He's in it! He's in it! High five for people who say he's still in it! He's still in it! God's not done with you. God will make a house visit to Babylon. God will make a house visit to a prison. God will make a house visit to the belly of a fish. God will make a house visit. He's still in it. He's still in it. He's still in it. Even though I made the mistake My God will make a way but now I Have someone you Someone not something But some one I God called you.**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes “ Not Something But Someone” Pastor Steven Furtick – 2/22/2026

- **You hear me, bro? He called you. And he called your Jacob just the same as he is calling your Israel. It's not something. It's someone. Now stand to your feet wherever you are. Even if you're only joining this message online. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned. When lets me know that the trial is guaranteed. Don't be surprised at the fiery trials. Matter of fact, don't be surprised if this entire sermon at three o'clock doesn't even feel like it was for you. Don't be surprised by it. When you walk. through the fire. But Holly, my confidence is who I'm walking with. So if, listen to me, if there is something that you thought God was going to do in your life and it is not happening or it is not happening on schedule, the word of the Lord is your confidence is not something, is someone.**
- That's what he said. He said, I will walk with you. And that's how I can walk through fire. And that's how I can walk through failure. And that's how I can walk through struggles. And that's how, because he summoned me. By name.
- **Father, it is my sincere prayer that this message today will go far deeper than a head knowledge. It is my sincere hope today that we will not hear this as a candy-coated, placebo message of principles to help us survive just another six days. My prayer is that we would not hear this message with a false expectation of a delusional deliverance that leaves us doubting even more on the back end. But my prayer is that we would see the fourth man. Yeah, the one who is still in the fire. I prayed as I prepared today, Lord, for someone who is still in it. I was praying for something to say, and you gave me someone to say it to. You're still in the fire. And so is he. Jesus never left that fire. He's still in it. so that whatever fire you face today, he is your fourth man. You can talk to him, you can walk with him, you can cry with him, you can process your pain with him. Not something, but someone, and his name is Jesus. The one who will never fail. I trust in God. My savior, the one who will never fail. Lift your hands and sing that if it's your testimony. You're the one Lord. He will never fail. I trust in God, my Savior, the one who will never fail.**
- Come on, could you even just lift your hands for a moment? That's why I trust Him That's why I trust Him I sought the Lord And He heard And He answered I sought the Lord And He heard And He answered I sought the Lord And He heard And He answered That's why I trust Him That's why I trust Him I'm saying I trust in God. I believe he died and rose again to forgive my sin and give me life. I receive your grace by faith. Come into my life. Make me new. I'll follow you. Head still bowed, eyes still closed. If you just prayed that prayer to begin a relationship with God today, you're calling on the name of Jesus for your salvation, a new beginning. When I count to three, would you boldly shoot your hand up in the air? I want to celebrate what God has done in your heart today. One, two, three. Shoot your hand up and hold it up high so I can celebrate with you. Come on, God bless you. See you there. Hey, our ushers are coming around with the Bible for you, so keep your hand up for just a moment. Church, can we welcome them into the family of God? And can we thank the Lord for that word today? Come on, wave at me if that was what you needed today.

Part 2: eGroup study questions and additional thoughts

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes “ Not Something But Someone” Pastor Steven Furtick – 2/22/2026

- Calling vaguely for “something” (water) meets a need; summoning “by name” (a specific person) brings presence, intimacy, and ongoing companionship—“the water and the walk.”

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- “Always remember that God gives you influence in life, not for something, but for someone.
- But if you seek the things, you miss the kingdom and the things aren't even the things you think they're going to be.
- We think there is a thing that will bring us joy and things can bring for a little while. It works until it doesn't.”

Character Before Cash

“A good name is more desirable than great riches.” – Proverbs 22:1

- Kids don't learn money from what we say – they learn from What we model
- Wealth without character is entitlement
- Spending is a reflection of what you value- not what you earn

My Top 5 Value

1. Faith
2. Family
3. Focus
4. Health
5. Adventure

Reflection Question: *If my kids copied my financial behavior exactly, Would I be proud?*

Stewardship Over Ownership

“The earth is the Lord’s...” – Psalm 24:1

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.” — Luke 16:10

- **Money is a tool not identity**
- **We are managers, not owners**
- **Kids must learn: We don’t spend because we have we spend because we decide wisely**

The goal of money is control over your time. –Morgan Housel

Application:

Give kids small responsibilities with money early.

Allow small mistakes

Slide 3: The Psychology of Spending

“Better a little with peace...” – Proverbs 15:16

- Money amplifies who you already are
- Children absorb financial anxiety
- Wealth is what you don't see (Savings, Margins, discipline)

Spending Psychology is really about:

1. Self control
2. Self awareness
3. Emotional Regulation

Your spending habits reveal what you fear, what you value, and what you are trying to prove

Slide 4: Give, Save, Spend Framework

“Honor the Lord with your wealth.” – Proverbs 3:9

Framework

1. Give First – Generosity builds perspective
2. Save Second - Delayed gratification builds strength
3. Spend Wisely – Intentionality builds discipline

Application

- Allowance with accountability
- Teach contentment
- Let them see your budget
- Talk about Money openly – remove shame from it

* Financial success is behavior, not intelligence

- We got to be careful claiming things as promises from God that are really just preferences of our flesh. Because the Bible would be a lot easier for me to preach if I could write it how I want.
- **Set “will not” boundaries: feel temptation but do not kneel to it. Address roots (e.g., comparison and lust) that fuel anxiety.**

CS Lewis's analogy of bacon and "artificial (manufactured) starvation"



C.S. Lewis – Mere Christianity and thoughts on erotic imagery:

- Per C.S. Lewis: “And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, . . . you are slowly turning into a heavenly creature or into a hellish creature: either into a creature that is in harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God . . .
- What would you think if you entered some foreign land and observed excited men salivating over a plate of bacon mounted on a stage? You would probably think that these men are very hungry and in need of food. However review the audience confirms that everyone is well fed. Conclusion: these men are probably suffering from artificial or manufactured starvation.
- Per C.S. Lewis: “There are people who want to keep our sexual instincts inflamed in order to make money out of us. Because, of course, a man (women) with an obsession is a man (women) who has very little sales-resistance.”
- Kev's word on this: We are all getting played.

- Closing Prayer by Pastor Furtick on 2/22/2026: “Father, it is my sincere prayer that this message today will go far deeper than a head knowledge. It is my sincere hope today that we will not hear this as a candy-coated, placebo message of principles to help us survive just another six days. My prayer is that we would not hear this message with a false expectation of a delusional deliverance that leaves us doubting even more on the back end. But my prayer is that we would see the fourth man. Yeah, the one who is still in the fire. I prayed as I prepared today, Lord, for someone who is still in it. I was praying for something to say, and you gave me someone to say it to. You're still in the fire. And so is he. Jesus never left that fire. He's still in it. so that whatever fire you face today, he is your fourth man. You can talk to him, you can walk with him, you can cry with him, you can process your pain with him. Not something, but someone, and his name is Jesus. The one who will never fail. I trust in God. My savior, the one who will never fail. Lift your hands and sing that if it's your testimony. You're the one Lord. He will never fail. I trust in God, my Savior, the one who will never fail.”

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!



Oswald Chambers

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.**

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



Dr. Timothy Keller

total freedom = lack of meaning and significance

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

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

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

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.”