

# **Welcome to Kev's on-line eGroup**

**The e-Glue that helps with the glitter**

**Part 1: Detailed sermon notes**

**Part 2: eGroup study questions**

### Here Comes Church – “In the know”

- Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc)
- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone – See [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc). The “e” stands for empowerment - because getting the instructions from God without having the empowerment to live them out will frustrate you. These groups are our way of putting some very wonderful people in front of you feed you spiritually.
- Stay out of “isolation silos” - you are an easy target for the enemy – and you don't have the benefit of friends to support you. Embrace the power of numbers.
- Interested in leading an eGroup? See: [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc)
- Don't over-think it – Invite someone to church – “Who do you know that is close to you that is far from God?”
- What are your Gr8ful eight?
- K-Love and Elevation Workshop at Red Rocks in CO in August 2025
- Elevation Nights is back: Elevation Nights is hitting the road again and we're coming to a city near you from October 21st through the 30th, 2025 - we're going to be in St. Paul, Omaha, St Louis, Louisville, Duluth, Tampa, Miami, and Orlando.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

## 2 Kings 6:8-17 - Elisha in Dothan

8 Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place."

9 The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there." 10 So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places.

11 This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?"

12 "None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom."

13 "Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." 14 Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

15 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.

16 "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

17 And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

18 As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, "Strike this army with blindness." So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.

19 Elisha told them, "This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for." And he led them to Samaria.

20 After they entered the city, Elisha said, "Lord, open the eyes of these men so they can see." Then the Lord opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria.

21 When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, "Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?"

22 "Do not kill them," he answered. "Would you kill those you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master." 23 So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel's territory.

Romans 8:18 KJV - Paul reckons because he recognizes

### Present Suffering and Future Glory

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who[i] have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

## 1 John 4:4 KJV - Greater is He

4 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Genesis 37:16-18 - Joseph in Dothan

12 Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, 13 and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them." "Very well," he replied.

14 So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron.

When Joseph arrived at Shechem, 15 a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

16 He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?" 17 "They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. 18 But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

19 "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. 20 "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

21 When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. 22 "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing— 24 and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it. 25 As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

26 Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? 27 Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

28 So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

29 When Reuben returned to the cistern and saw that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes. 30 He went back to his brothers and said, "The boy isn't there! Where can I turn now?" 31 Then they got Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. 32 They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, "We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe."

33 He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces."

34 Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days. 35 All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "No," he said, "I will continue to mourn until I join my son in the grave." So his father wept for him.

36 Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.

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

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Closing Prayer by Pastor Steven Furtick on 10/6/2025:

"I've got more in me. I've got more love in me than I've got hate in me. I've got more dreams in me than I have disappointment." Keep it in context. There are more with us than against us." Joseph said "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good." Dothan is just a dot on a map – not a destiny – the most horrible thing happened to Joseph - but he was restored enough to move forward in the revelation of who God was. Don't let this dot define you - In light of what God is doing through you, this is just a dot. It's not even worth comparing. Do you not understand that your testimony is changing lives – when people hear of your faith and your perseverance? Before the enemy was visible, God was there invisible. He is in your situation, and he is in your struggle, and God is not surprised. This is just a dot, because greater is he that is in me than any enemy that is against me. What would it look like for you to open the file in your mind today, to just reframe your situation with the faithfulness of God? Dothan is a place where you can admit it's both. "I'm surrounded, and I'm secure, because I keep it in context." When you begin to praise God for His faithfulness, you shrink the Enemy, and he has no power over you. When you begin to open up your mind and say, "God, I've seen good days and bad days. Father, I pray for those today who have felt in their hearts and in their spirits like, "This is the end." I agree with your truth concerning them, that it is nothing compared to the glory you will reveal in them. I thank you for what you're doing in their life even now. You're developing fruit and character and maturity, and you will not leave them alone in Dothan. God, I thank you for the moments that you showed up for me in Dothan. I was surrounded. I didn't know what to do. I couldn't understand it, but you put it in context, and you reminded me that not only are you faithful and not only are you good, but you can get glory out of any situation. Hallelujah.

Opening Prayer #2 by Pastor Furtick on 9/22/2025: A little history lesson. Back before we had cell phones, we had something called collect calls. A collect call is when you needed to get in touch with somebody but you didn't have any money or currency or resource. And then they would say, do you accept the charges? And if the person who picked up the phone really loved you, they would say, I accept. I hear the Lord saying, I accept. I hold you to the high of my heart. I know your name. You call my name. And when I hear your name, I'll come see about you. I'll help you in the day of trouble. I'll carry you through rough water. I'll still the storm if you'll call my name. We thank you, Lord, that you've already paid the price for us to come into your presence today. Not by the blood of bulls and goats, but by the precious blood of Christ. We thank you today that we can come before you and make our heart an altar. We can bring anything to you. It doesn't scare you, intimidate you, or repulse you. We thank you that you have already dealt with our sins and we are free to worship you because of Jesus. We cast all anxiety on Jesus today. He's strong enough. We cast all depression on Jesus today. He's big enough. We cast all of our fear on Jesus today for He is big enough. God, I pray for every one of my brothers and sisters in Christ, in this room, across all of our campuses, and all around the world. I thank You that You're doing a great work. I sense Your presence. Even if I didn't, You would be here. But I thank you that I feel you right now. And I praise you for the word that you gave me. It is a liberating word. A powerful word. It came from heaven and so hell has to leave. Because when you speak, anything is possible. And we ask you now. Kind father. Give a word to us.. In Jesus name. Amen.

# **Part 1: Detailed sermon notes**

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “Keep it In Context” by Pastor Steven Furtick - October 6, 2025

## Sermon Highlights

- Your mind has files. The one that you open is the one that will fill: Faith or Fear? Worry or Worship?
- God specializes in starting with not enough so He can show that He is more than enough.
- God doesn't look for what you don't have, but works with what you do have.
- Elisha didn't pray for help because the help is already here.
- Stop praying for God to send help and start praying for Him to show you.
- Before the enemy ever sent an attack to stop you, God sent the support to help you.
- The reason it's hard for you is because there is something great in you.
- God doesn't give Elisha an elimination of the enemy, He gives him an illumination of his help.
- Are you suffering under the pressure of an attack that hasn't happened yet, but it might? You are already limping from a blow the enemy hasn't thrown yet.
- Whatever is surrounding you, God is surrounding it. Greater is He that is in me.
- It's not that it's not big, it's that I have something bigger. Keep it in context.
- Dothan is the place that you may not have chosen, but it is also the place where God will send what you need for the plan He has for you.
- God will not let you die in Dothan.
- Dothan is just a dot. Don't let this dot define you.
- The devil went down to Dothan but God got there first.
- The file is called: It's not fine but He's faithful.

## Scriptures

- 2 Kings 6:8-17 - Elisha in Dothan
- Romans 8:18 KJV - Paul reckons because he recognizes
- 1 John 4:4 KJV - Greater is He
- Genesis 37:16-18 - Joseph in Dothan

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Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “Keep it In Context” by Pastor Steven Furtick - October 6, 2025

## Sermon Discussion

- “God doesn’t look for what you don’t have; He works with what you do have.” Where does it feel like you don’t have enough? Share some of the resources you do have.
- “The file that I open is the one that’s going to fill.” Which mental file do you need to stop opening, and what file can you begin replacing it with?
- “It’s just a dot, not a destiny. You will not die in Dothan.” Share about a time that felt like the end of something, but it turned out to be a dot in something greater God was doing in your life.
- “God doesn’t give Elisha an elimination of the enemy, He gives him an illumination of his help.” Where do you need to pray for God to open your eyes to the help that’s already here?
- “It’s not me versus my enemy, it’s the one that’s in me versus my enemy.” Where have you been carrying the fight on your own, and how can you remind yourself that God’s fighting for you?

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “Keep it In Context” by Pastor Steven Furtick - October 6, 2025

- Elevation Night is hitting the road again and we're coming to a city near you. From October 21st through the 30th, we're going to be in St. Paul, Omaha, St. Louis, Louisville, Duluth, Tampa, Miami, Orlando.
- I've been waiting to share this word with you this week. The Lord has been speaking to us about Same Lies/New Loops. (Put my graphic on the screen so they can know what I'm talking about.)
- **It's important that in this season of your life you don't repeat the wrong things over and over again. The victory and defeat in your life is all a matter of what you put on repeat in your mind and in your heart.**
- How many have found that to be true? If you repeat the wrong thing long enough, it starts to sound like it's true, even though it's not true. "I'll always be. My mom was. My sister is. I can't break this. I can't deal with this."
- **So, when we say "new loops," we're talking about getting a new meditation in your heart that comes from God. We can't stop the Enemy from lying, but if we can teach you to identify when he's doing it, and if we can teach you how to tune into the voice of the Holy Spirit that is speaking a truth over you, we can get you set free in some areas of your life that you had become convinced "It always has to be this way." So we're praying for new patterns.**
- How many have been blessed by the series so far? Amen.
- Today, I want to pick up with a Scripture that is very powerful in 2 Kings, chapter 6. Praise the Lord. Second Kings, chapter 6. I was thinking about this, JJ. Probably one of the coolest pictures we get in the whole Bible of when you feel overwhelmed and don't know what to do... One of the clearest pictures we get of what to do. So, this will help you today.
- Second Kings, chapter 6. Let me read the full story, please. Start in verse 8. "Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, 'I will set up my camp in such and such a place. The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: 'Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there.' So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places. This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, 'Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?' 'None of us, my lord the king,' said one of his officers, 'but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom.' 'Go, find out where he is,' the king ordered, 'so I can send men and capture him.' The report came back: 'He is in Dothan.' Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city." Now verse 15. It gets good. "When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. 'Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?' the servant asked."

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Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “Keep it In Context” by Pastor Steven Furtick - October 6, 2025

- I want you to really pay attention to how the prophet answered. "Don't be afraid." "What do you mean, 'Don't be afraid,' when we are surrounded on every side?" No, no, no. Don't be afraid, because it cannot sink you if it surrounds you; it can only sink you if it submerges you. So, regardless of what you see with your senses, don't be afraid. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Isn't that good? "And Elisha prayed, 'Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.' Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."
- One more verse from Romans 8:18, King James Version, please, on the screen. "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."
- "For I reckon..." I thought about it a little while. I did the math on it. I added and subtracted and multiplied and divided. I sat down with my situation, and I reckon that the sufferings of this present time, what I'm going through right now on the outside... I reckon that that is not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in me.
- Now let me give you my title. Turn to your neighbor and say, "I know it's crazy, but keep it in context." Keep It in Context.
- Father, I pray that you would illuminate what you're doing in our situation. Thank you that you already were speaking while your Word was being read. Now make it so personal that people squirm. Like, "Has he been following me around this week?" Because you have been following them around this week. "Surely, goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life." Thank you for speaking, Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.
- **In the Bible, the kinds of conversations we get to hear are really crazy if you step back and think about it. To get to hear Elisha, one of the greatest prophets God ever made, as he is dealing with a situation that is beyond his control, and how he advises his young servant, is really an incredible master class for us in our minds. I think it's amazing in this conversation how the servant wakes up and sees something that is so much bigger than him, and the prophet essentially says, "Don't make it bigger than it is."**
- In every marriage, there's one person who makes things bigger than they are. In my marriage... Let me go ahead and give you a framework for my marriage. Did y'all see the movie Inside Out? Did y'all see Inside Out 2? All right. Our family went to see Inside Out 2, because in Inside Out, the little girl has all of these emotions, and they're personified by characters that sit at the control panel. So, you've got Sadness and Disgust and Joy and Anxiety. In Inside Out 2, Joy and Anxiety are always battling each other inside of her mind. So, we went to see the movie this summer, and we were going out to eat. On the way to the restaurant, I found out that this restaurant might be closed. Not would be closed, might be closed. You think to yourself, "That's not a big deal," but to my mind, the restaurant being closed is an unacceptable first domino in what could be a very bad day. I feel like if everybody's blood sugar crashes to a certain point, then it may cause the kids to fight. If the kids fight too much, it may cause me to respond in a terrible way. If I respond in a terrible way, I'm going to feel shame. I'm going to have to humble myself and apologize. So, as I'm going back and forth with Holly in the car, driving to the restaurant that might be closed (not is closed, might be closed) and talking to her about how unacceptable the outcome of the restaurant being closed would be, Graham says from the back seat, "You know, watching Mom and Dad talk is literally like watching a conversation between Anxiety and Joy."

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- Now, in the passage I read to you, it's literally like watching a conversation between the wisdom of the experience of the older prophet Elisha and his young servant who has never faced a situation like this before. "I've never faced a situation like this before. I've never been in this stage of life before." We get, through the miraculous conservation of the Scriptures, an inside and, in some ways, candid seat to this conversation.
- The prophet says, "Don't make it bigger than it is." Now, that's a crazy thing to say when you're surrounded by horses and chariots, because whatever it is you're going through today in your life, it's not this. Can we all agree? It's not this. This man is a national security threat. It's not this. They're not all coming to get you, although our minds will try to tell us that it is.
- So, in our relationship, Holly is always the one who says, "It's not a big deal." Even yesterday, I was preparing this message for you, and as I was sitting down to study, she was flying to a speaking engagement, and she started texting me. I was looking for an illustration to talk about how sometimes my mind tries to make it bigger than it is, and she started texting me about a flight delay. Now, she's the one flying; I'm not, but I'm the one freaking out, not her, because I texted her, "Oh no! This is horrible." She said, "No, it's fine." I was like, "No, it's not fine, because why do they always just get to delay our flights whenever they want to? Somebody needs to say something about this and do something about this. This is unfair. This is unjust. This is actually bigger than just your flight today, Holly. This is actually a way they're treating consumers that is unacceptable. I mean, you paid for the ticket. This is not a prison you are in. This is an actual place that you paid to be, and you have a place that you need to be, and you are not going to get to the place that you need to be because the place that you paid to be did not provide the service that..." Hey, have you ever tried to work somebody who was like, "It's not a big deal" into an "Oh, yes, it is a big deal" situation? That's me and her. I'm outraged; she's drinking Starbucks. For her, it's extra time. For me, it is a travesty of travel justice. Anxiety and Joy just having a conversation, you know. "It's not a big deal." "Yes, it is, because if you don't make it to the event..." See, here's the thing I found out. When a flight gets delayed for me, my mind opens a file. Write this down.
- My mind has files. Did you know that? Your mind has files. So, when a flight gets delayed, it opens a file in my mind called "Every time a flight got delayed, and then got delayed again, and then got delayed again." So, when she said, "My flight is delayed," she was like, "It's fine." That's her file. Holly has this huge file called "It's fine." "It'll be fine. It's going to be fine. If the restaurant isn't open, it'll be fine. We're not going to starve. It'll be fine. We could even turn it into a fast. It'll be fine." The biggest file in her mind is called "It's fine."
- So, when the flight is delayed, Holly is like, "It's fine. It has been fine so many times before. There have been so many times that it has been fine that it is going to be fine right now. I did the calculation, the tabulation, and the math, and it is going to be absolutely fine that the flight is delayed, because we can still get there, because I built in buffer." But I am thinking, "No, this is just the first in a series of horrible things." And I go back to when we went to Atlanta to record a preaching series, and we were late, and we didn't get there in time because the flight was delayed. This was 15 years ago. They were so mad at me for not showing up at the taping that they banned me from the network from ever appearing on the network. And the ministry was so small. To me, that was the worst thing that could ever happen. So, when she says, "The flight is delayed," I'm like, "You're about to get banned." I don't know who's going to ban her or what they're going to ban her from, but for some reason, a mild inconvenience in my mind...watch this...opened a file called "When this happens, this can happen."

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- "Even if it's not in the probable odds of it, there is a chance. Once they start this crap, once they say, 'We're delayed by 10 minutes,' that's just the first lie." And now the file opens of every lie they ever told me on an intercom about "The flight is going to be fine," because sometimes it's not fine! Sometimes you get banned.
- The servant wakes up and sees the place surrounded and says, "It's not fine. It's not fine. We're about to die. They have come to capture you in Dothan. It's not fine." And Elisha says, "Don't be afraid. There are more with us than with them."
- I believe one of the contrasts in this passage that makes it very powerful is not only that Elisha was the prophet and that the servant was in an administrative position where he had to deal with details but that Elisha was a little older and the servant was a young man. So, when Elisha woke up that morning and saw the hills surrounded with his enemies...
- Go ahead and bring me my teaching screen, because I think I need to draw this for you. How many have been enjoying my drawings of loops all the last few weeks? I'm still waiting on someone to get a tattoo, a little loop tattoo. I know what the book of Leviticus says, but that's not what it means. You can get a tattoo if it's for the Lord.
- Now watch this. (That's going to be the clip they're going to put online, but they won't keep it in context.) So, this is how the servant felt. I'm not drawing this because I think I'm such an awesome artist. We've just been talking about these loops. The Enemy says; God says. The Enemy says; God says.
- What does the Enemy say over and over again? "It's not enough. You're not loved. It's not enough. You're not loved." We've been talking about new loops that God can design.
- So, the servant, who is a very young man, wakes up in the morning, and all he sees surrounding the hills is the enemy, surrounding. Talk about a literal loop. There are horses and chariots coming to take away the man of God. It is a literal loop around these two. The servant sees the enemy, and then he sees...
- I wonder if you can relate to this feeling. I wake up in the morning, and all I feel, all I see, all I can sense is the avalanche of anxiety of everything that's probably not going to get done today that needs to get done today or of all of the potentially awkward conversations that need to happen. There's a little voice inside of you saying, "It's fine, but what if it's not? It's fine, but maybe not this time. It's fine. It's good. This is good. It's good." But when you're surrounded by the enemy... This is what he sees. Here's the enemy, and here's me. That's about how it feels. This is how big the enemy is; this is me. Can y'all see that that says "me"? Big ol' enemy; little ol' me. And what is little ol' me going to do with a big ol' enemy?

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- Elisha says, "It's fine." "How is it fine?" "Because I have a file. I have a file."
- A File To Fight Fear - This is not Elisha's first time in trouble. This is not Elisha's first time outnumbered. This is not Elisha's first time dealing with "It's not enough." One time, he was standing at the bank of the Jordan after his mentor Elijah was taken away, whom he followed for years and years, seeing miracles, miracles that only God can do.
- I believe that as he was watching his mentor as God performed miracles, he was building a file, a file in his mind that God can send fire from heaven; a file in his mind that God can even raise the dead; a file in his mind that enabled him... When he was standing at the Jordan with nothing but the mantle that was left from his mentor, he rolled it up and struck the water, and the water parted. When he saw something as simple as a piece of clothing part a body of water, that became a new file in his mind.
- Then there was the time where they brought him to a city and the water supply was bad in 2 Kings chapter 2. He took a little salt and threw it in the water, and the water was purified from a little bit of salt. How can a little bit of salt purify a whole body of water? So, Elisha put it in his mind that God can take a little thing, something that is not enough, something that seems insignificant, and he can purify and "plentifully" something that seems absolutely beyond human ability.
- When a widow came to him and said, "They're about to take my sons as slaves," Elisha said, "What do you have in your house?" She said, "I don't have anything, just a little bit of oil." Elisha said, "That's fine. But if you get enough jars and start pouring what you have, even if it seems insignificant to you..."
- **If you will begin to do the thing you can do with the thing you do have, God will do the thing you can't do, because God specializes in starting with not enough so he can show that he is more than enough.**
- I believe that as Elisha saw those jars filled and pushed to the side... Each time a jar was pushed to the side from a supply that wasn't enough before God spoke, he began to fill a file in his mind that God is faithful, that God is more than enough, that God is greater than a bad situation, and that God doesn't look for what you don't have but works with what you do have. I believe that by this time in his life, after seeing Naaman healed of leprosy; after seeing a little boy who was not supposed to be born, be born and die and rise from the dead... By the time he gets to this place in his life, he has a big file in his mind.
- **So, when he sees the hills that are full of the enemies surrounding him, when he sees the hills that are full of the opponents that have come to take him away, when he sees the hills that are full of the thing that threatens to take his life, he has a file that is full to fight the fear he feels, because he knows, "If God is not done with me yet, there's more in me, so I can't die here unless God is done with me. So, why would I be afraid of something that can't take me until God is done with me? Because I've got a file for that."**
- Will You Open Faith Or Fear?
- Your mind has files. Your mind has a file called worry; your mind has a file called worship, and the one you open is the one that will fill. I just said something to somebody, and I don't know who. Your mind has files, one called faith, one called fear, and the one you open is the one that's going to fill.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “Keep it In Context” by Pastor Steven Furtick - October 6, 2025

- If you open a file called "What could go wrong on this flight?" you will be checking everybody's bag, and you're not even TSA. How far are you going to take this? I mean, are you going to interview the pilot? Will you stop there? Are you going to check the plane yourself? If you open the file called "Is this going to go well on the flight..." I mean, that file is completely infinite. That loop is complete. That's what the Enemy does to you. He gets you to open the file, and you don't have time for that file right now. No.
- **Let me say that again. You do not have time to be running every hypothetical scenario in your life for what might go wrong, because if you repeat what might go wrong long enough, what you repeat ends in defeat. Your mind has files, and the one you open is the one that will fill. That changed my life, because it helped me to start saying things to people like this: "Man, I don't really want to talk about that right now." One of my friends told me the other day something horrible that somebody said about me, and they said, "But I had your back." I said, "I appreciate it. Can we be done with this conversation?"**
- Thank you for having my back, but I'm done talking about this." Why? Because I don't really want to hear about somebody who hates me. I don't want to open that file right now, because that could be a big file, and I might start adding friends to that file who really don't hate me. Remember, when you vent, you invent. So, if my heart is full of fear, what file did I open? I'll do a real-time example.
- I'm looking around this room right now, and I just saw two people yawn while I was preaching, consecutively, in a row. Big ol' "I'm not even trying to cover it up" yawn. There's a difference between, like, "I'm tired, but I'm really enjoying this..." There's a difference between that and "Maybe if I do it big enough, he'll just finish." That's what it looked like to me. But why did I open that file? He's not yawning. She's not yawning. You're not yawning. At least I didn't see you yawn. You haven't yawned. You're on the edge of your seat. You've got your thumbs ready. You look like you are about to beat the Devil to death with your thumbs and your notes app, and you are writing every word of this down, because "Man does not live on bread alone." Why am I watching their mouth yawn when he's typing? His phone is smoking. His phone is about to burst, spontaneously combust, with the wisdom and power of God.
- Why would I open a file that says, "You're boring," when I have a thousand people in the room saying, "No, I need this word. This is helping me. This is feeding me. This is good for me. My soul needs to know this, because I woke up this morning, and I was surrounded by a really big enemy, and I'm a really little me. But I came to open a new file today, because I've got a God who is great and does miracles and performs wonders."
- So, the file I open is the one that will fill. If you tell your mind, "We want to be offended," your mind will find things for you to be offended about. Your mind will go looking and reading into things and even taking things out of context just so you can get offended. Why? Because you opened the file called "I want to be offended," because it feels good to be offended. But it doesn't feel good to be filled with bitterness, does it? But when you open the file called, "I want to feel offended," you end up filled with bitterness.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “Keep it In Context” by Pastor Steven Furtick - October 6, 2025

- Even in a relationship... I've had to learn over and over again, if I start trying to find every way they let me down... When I open that file, the Enemy will fill it. The Devil will start bringing up stuff. You'll be like, "How do I remember that and I don't remember my middle child's name?" Because he wants to help you fill the wrong file. He wants to help you fill the file called "I'm all alone."
- I love what the prophet Elisha said. He didn't minimize what the enemy meant; he just helped multiply the help they already had. I don't know if you noticed this. The Bible says in verse 17 that Elisha prayed, but he prayed something very specific, didn't he? He didn't pray for God to send help, because the help was already there. I feel like taking my shoes off and preaching. I feel like there is somebody listening to me preach today who doesn't understand that their help is already here.
- You keep asking for God to send help. You keep asking God to send something. But today, let's change your prayer a little bit. Somebody pray this. Say, "God, show me something." "Show me something that is already in my life. Show me something you already did. Show me something that I forgot about that would cause me to know that you are greater than what I'm going through. You are greater than what I've been through. You are greater than the uncertainty I face. God, show me something." Pray it again. "God, show me something."
- **He did not pray for God to send horses and chariots. It would have been redundant. God had already sent them. I believe that before the enemy showed up, God did. I believe that before the Devil started messing with your life, God was making a masterpiece of your life.**
- **The Bible says that before you were born, he formed you. In your mother's womb, he knew you. So, before the attack ever happened... I don't know who needs to hear this, but before the attack ever happened, the angels were already assigned. God is busy in your situation. God is busy in your life. God is setting up camp. And if the Enemy sent a strong force, that means you represent a significant threat to hell.**
- **So, stop thinking the reason it's hard for you is because there's something wrong with you. The reason it's hard for you is because there is something great in you, something amazing in you, something designed about you, something wired about you.**
- Remember, Elisha was surrounded because he was successful. He was so good at doing his job for God, so good at prophesying, so being used by God that the Enemy said, "We've got to surround him with something to stop him."
- **But the good news is before the Enemy ever sent an assignment to stop him, God sent the help to support him. So, keep it in context. I know it's crazy in your life right now, but keep it in context. I know it's weird in your world right now, but keep it in context. I know not everybody is nice to you, but keep it in context. Not everybody is mean to you. Keep it in context.**

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “Keep it In Context” by Pastor Steven Furtick - October 6, 2025

- I know there are some struggles in your life. Who of us doesn't have something we need to fix? But look at how far you've come. I mean, did you really even think you would be in church today? Keep it in context. I know there's some stuff you're fighting at home, but you are here right now, so keep it in context.
- If the Enemy can't get you fixated on one situation in your life, he will get you fixated on one flaw in yourself. So, Elisha does not give him an elimination of the enemy; instead, he gives him an illumination of his help. Now I want to share my favorite verse with you, Greater Is He That Is In You - my favorite verse today. It says in 1 John 4:4, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."
- So, this is how it feels. Right? "Oh no, Lord. We are surrounded. What am I going to do about this?"
- It's coming in from every side, and it is the pressure of an attack that hasn't happened yet but might. I want to speak about that for a moment. Some of you are suffering under the pressure of an attack that hasn't even happened yet, but it might. The Devil hasn't even done it to you yet, and you are already giving him the permission to fill the file in your mind as if he did. You are already living the injury as if it happened. You are already limping from a blow the Devil hasn't even struck yet. You are already giving away this moment in your life because the Enemy surrounded you. He didn't defeat him; he just surrounded him. When you feel surrounded by the Enemy, I want you to begin to understand 1 John 4:4. Oh, I love this verse, bro, because it gets the idea "You are of God, little children," and it helps me understand why I feel so little in the face of my enemy. But then it says something that is very important. It says, "You have overcome them," because greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world.
- Elisha prayed not, "God, shrink my enemy," but he prayed instead, "God, open his eyes to see that what is surrounding him, you are surrounding it." LJ, hold me down. Because if it's me versus the enemy, I'm in trouble. If it's me versus this addiction, it's over. If it's me versus this depression, I'm not going to take a pill strong enough. If it's me versus this season of my life, I don't have the wisdom for it.
- If it's me versus the enemy, I'm outnumbered. But 1 John 4:4 said, "Greater is he that is in me." I've been looking at the enemy, and I've been defeated because that's all I've seen. But I found out that "Greater is he that is in me." And when I remember who he is and what he did and what he gave me and what I have in him, my enemy isn't so big anymore, because "I'll lift my eyes to the hills from which cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth," and greater is he that is in me.
- So, it's not me versus my enemy; it's the one who is in me versus my enemy. This changes everything, because it opens a brand-new file in my mind. It lets me recognize that even if I'm surrounded with no way out, and even if I'm pressed, hard-pressed; even if I'm crushed; even if I'm persecuted; even if I'm abandoned; even if I'm broke; even if I'm down; even if I'm suffocating; even if one thing is piling up on another; even if my boss hates me; even if my employees hate me; even if I don't want to do it; even if I feel lazy; even if I don't have what it takes, the one who is in me is greater than what's against me.
- So, it's not that it's not big; it's just that I found something bigger. You're a big boy unless we put you next to something bigger. That's all Elisha did. He said, "Hey, this is big." Tell somebody, "This is big." But there's something bigger. It's the purpose of God. So, keep it in context.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “Keep it In Context” by Pastor Steven Furtick - October 6, 2025

- Paul said, "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time aren't even worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed in us." What is happening to me is not even worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed in me. When Paul says, "I reckon..." (Thank you so much. You did a great job. I love you too. Just remember that when the Devil picks on you. Find something that's bigger. That's all Elisha did. He said, "Open his eyes to see something bigger.")
- Could it be that the pain in your life right now is part of a bigger context that you can't understand right now and that this is the reason the Enemy has come after you in full force, because there is something bigger that God is trying to do? Paul said, "I reckon." That word does not mean "I know"; it means "I am convinced of this opinion."
- "I can't prove it, but I reckon that when I see what God is going to do through this situation, it will make what I went through to get to it seem small in comparison." **That's a decision of faith, my friend. If you want to open a file in your mind today of all of the ways God could use this situation... If you want to open a file in your mind today of all of the ways God could turn this around... God has a thousand creative ways to use this.**
- You know, I don't think it was coincidental where Elisha was. (Sit down. I've got something else to tell you.) There's something I learned two years ago that I have been waiting to share. In Genesis 37 passage, it says that Elisha kept telling his king, Joram, where the enemy was going to attack him. So, the enemy came to attack Elisha so he could attack the nation. It was a bigger context.
- The Devil isn't just attacking you; he's attacking everyone your life is supposed to impact and figures that if he can get you to give up right here, you won't get to make a generational impact. So, when you're fighting him, realize you're fighting for your family, too, and keep it in context.
- Tell your neighbor, "I know it's hard, but keep it in context." Tell them, "It's not just about you." Give them deep, penetrating eye contact when you say that part. "It is not just about you." Put that in the comments. "It is not just about me." Because there's a lesson in this. It was not only who said, "Don't be afraid" (Elisha, the prophet) but where he said it. See, in 2 Kings 6:13, they were looking all around for Elisha, and they said, "'Go, find out where he is so I can send men and capture him.' The report came back: 'He is in Dothan.'" Now, I almost called this sermon "The Devil Went Down to Dothan." I thought that would be a cool thing to call it, but I knew it could also be corny, and I didn't want to take the risk, so I just called it Keep It in Context. You know, when you read the Bible, there's a specific place and time, the geography... All of these details in the Bible carry rich meaning.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “Keep it In Context” by Pastor Steven Furtick - October 6, 2025

- The place called Dothan is not a very famous place in the Bible. In fact, it is only mentioned twice in all of Scripture. This is once, and another occurrence is found a thousand years earlier. There was a dysfunctional family in the book of Genesis, a dad named Jacob who had a son he really loved named Joseph. One day, he sent his son Joseph, who was the son of the wife he loved, to go check on his other brothers. He had given him an amazing coat, and his brothers not only hated his coat; I think they really began to despise the destiny that was on his life. So, while his brothers were herding sheep, Joseph was, for some reason, at home, being young as he was, and his dad said, "Go check on your brothers." This is in the book of Genesis, chapter 37 - He went to a place called Shechem where he expected to find them tending the sheep, but they weren't there. We pick up the story in Genesis 37:16. He told the men, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?" Now, the response that came next would have been a story that Elisha the prophet would have been familiar with. Because when he asked, "Where are they?" the man answered, "They have moved on from here. I heard them say, "Let's go to Dothan." So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan." This is the only other time in the Bible that Dothan is mentioned. It is only mentioned twice, and this is one of them.
- So, he goes to Dothan to find his brothers. But look at what verse 18 says. "They saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him." They took Joseph, and just as they were about to kill him, Reuben said, "Let's not do it," so they decided to throw him in a cistern in Dothan. They put him in the cistern, not sure what to do, and had lunch. Just about that time, a caravan of Ishmaelite traders were... Well, let me just show you this on the map real quick. Just about the time they were having their lunch... Do you see that red line where Joseph started out that day? He goes all the way up to a place on the map called Dothan. When he gets to Dothan, his brothers try to kill him because they're envious of him, and they don't get him. Just as they're about to kill him, one of the brothers cries out and says, "No, let's not kill him; let's just put him in this cistern." So, they leave him in the cistern, perhaps to leave him for dead, to hide him from the father. "What are we going to do?" But just at that time... Do you see that blue line that comes down right there and kind of matches up with the red line? Do you see the one that comes up from top? That's the caravan that was coming through, the Ishmaelite caravan that was coming through. Just about the time they're coming through and Joseph is in a cistern, one of Joseph's brothers named Judah says, "Hey, what if instead of killing him, we sell him? This seems to be an opportune time. The caravan is coming right now. Joseph is in the cistern. If we sell him right now, we can profit 20 shekels off of him, and we don't have to kill him." So, Joseph is sold into slavery. Right? But he is also sent to be a deliverer for his family in Egypt.
- Both are true, and both happened in Dothan. It was in Dothan that they tried to take his life. It was in Dothan that God stopped it. It was in Dothan that he was sold into slavery. It was in Dothan that he was positioned to be a deliverer. It was in Dothan that he got in the right cart at the right time so that he could be positioned in the right house; so that he could have the right answer when the famine came to Egypt, when the famine came to the whole world; so that his family, who had tried to kill him, would come to him; so that he would have the bread they needed in the season they never saw coming. And all of that happened in Dothan.
- I'm trying to tell you that God does stuff in Dothan. See, Dothan is a place you might not have chosen.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “Keep it In Context” by Pastor Steven Furtick - October 6, 2025

- Dothan is a place you might not like. Dothan is a place you might not have voted to go. Dothan can be a scary place. Dothan is a place where you can feel surrounded. But Dothan is a place where God will send the right car, the right person, the right thing, the right idea, the right redemption, the right opportunity at the right time, because you're the right one, because the hand of God is on you. It has always been on you, and you will not die in Dothan.
- **Closing Prayer: Closing Prayer: "I've got more in me. I've got more in me. I've got more love in me than I've got hate in me. I have got more good days ahead of me. I've got more dreams in me than I have disappointment." Keep it in context. There are more with us than against us." Joseph "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good." Dothan is just a dot on a map— not a destiny – the most horrible thing happened to Joseph - but he was restored enough to move forward in the revelation of who God was. Don't let this dot define you- But in light of what God is doing through you, this is just a dot. It's not even worth comparing. Do you not understand that your testimony is changing lives— when they hear of your faith and your perseverance? Before the enemy was visible, God was there invisible. He is in your situation, and he is in your struggle, and God is not surprised. This is just a dot, because greater is he that is in me than any enemy that is against me. I have a file in my mind called "It's not fine, but he's faithful." Let's open that file for a moment today. What would it look like for you to open the file in your mind today, to just reframe your situation with the faithfulness of God? Dothan is a place where you can admit it's both. "I'm surrounded, and I'm secure, because I keep it in context." When you begin to praise God for his faithfulness, you shrink the Enemy, and he has no power over you. When you begin to open up your mind and say, "God, I've seen good days and bad days. Father, I pray for those today who have felt in their hearts and in their spirits like, "This is the end." I agree with your truth concerning them, that it is nothing compared to the glory you will reveal in them. I thank you for what you're doing in their life even now. You're developing fruit and character and maturity, and you will not leave them alone in Dothan. God, I thank you for the moments that you showed up for me in Dothan. I was surrounded. I didn't know what to do. I couldn't understand it, but you put it in context, and you reminded me that not only are you faithful and not only are you good, but you can get glory out of any situation. Hallelujah.**

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

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “Keep it In Context” by Pastor Steven Furtick - October 6, 2025

What is speaking to you the most in this series “Same Lies/New Loops”

What is speaking to you the most in this series “Same Lies/New Loops”

Additional commentary by Pastor Furtick:

“So, when we say "new loops," we're talking about getting a new meditation in your heart that comes from God. We can't stop the Enemy from lying, but if we can teach you to identify when he's doing it, and if we can teach you how to tune into the voice of the Holy Spirit that is speaking a truth over you, we can get you set free in some areas of your life that you had become convinced "It always has to be this way." So, we're praying for new patterns.”

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “Keep it In Context” by Pastor Steven Furtick - October 6, 2025

Have you ever been in a conversation where anxiety and joy are talking at the same time?

Have you ever been in a conversation where anxiety and joy are talking at the same time?

Additional commentary by Pastor Furtick:

- “What does the Enemy say over and over again? “It's not enough. You're not loved.”
- Because the devil wants to help you fill the wrong file. He wants to help you fill the file called “I'm all alone.”
- “I believe that before the enemy showed up, God did. I believe that before the Devil started messing with your life, God was making a masterpiece of your life.”
- “So, before the attack ever happened... the angels were already assigned. God is busy in your situation. God is busy in your life. God is setting up camp. And if the Enemy sent a strong force, that means you represent a significant threat to hell.”
- So, stop thinking the reason it's hard for you is because there's something wrong with you. The reason it's hard for you is because there is something great in you, something amazing in you, something designed about you, something wired about you.

Thoughts on the risks of manufactured or artificial scarcity:

“If you will begin to do the thing you can do with the thing you do have, God will do the thing you can't do, because God specializes in starting with not enough so he can show that he is more than enough.”

How does this speak to you today?

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Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “Keep it In Context” by Pastor Steven Furtick - October 6, 2025

Thoughts on the risks of manufactured or artificial scarcity:

“If you will begin to do the thing you can do with the thing you do have, God will do the thing you can't do, because God specializes in starting with not enough so he can show that he is more than enough.”

How does this speak to you today?

Additional commentary by Pastor Furtick while referencing 2 Kings 6:8-22:

“So, when he sees the hills that are full of the enemies surrounding him, when he sees the hills that are full of the opponents that have come to take him away, when he sees the hills that are full of the thing that threatens to take his life, he has a file that is full to fight the fear he feels, because he knows, "If God is not done with me yet, there's more in me, so I can't die here unless God is done with me. So, why would I be afraid of something that can't take me until God is done with me? Because I've got a file for that.”

Let me say that again. You do not have time to be running every hypothetical scenario in your life for what might go wrong, because if you repeat what might go wrong long enough, what you repeat ends in defeat. Your mind has files, and the one you open is the one that will fill.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “Keep it In Context” by Pastor Steven Furtick - October 6, 2025

So what does Pastor Steven mean when he says keep things in context?

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “Keep it In Context” by Pastor Steven Furtick - October 6, 2025

So what does Pastor Steven mean when he says keep things in context?

- “I know it's crazy in your life right now, but keep it in context. I know it's weird in your world right now, but keep it in context. I know not everybody is nice to you, but keep it in context. Not everybody is mean to you. Keep it in context.
- If the Enemy can't get you fixated on one situation in your life, he will get you fixated on one flaw in yourself. So, Elisha does not give him an elimination of the enemy; instead, he gives him an illumination of his help.
- 1 John 4:4, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."
- What is happening to me is not even worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed in me – Open your eyes to something bigger.
- That's a decision of faith, my friend. If you want to open a file in your mind today of all of the ways God could use this situation... If you want to open a file in your mind today of all of the ways God could turn this around... God has a thousand creative ways to use this.”
- The Devil isn't just attacking you; he's attacking everyone your life is supposed to impact and figures that if he can get you to give up right here, you won't get to make a generational impact.
- God does stuff in Dothan. Dothan is a place you might not have chosen. Dothan is a place where you can feel surrounded.

Back up slides

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

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



## July 18 – Daily Devotional:

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



Dr. Timothy Keller

total freedom = lack of meaning and significance

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

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

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

Have a good navigational beacon in 2022:

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