

Welcome to Kev's on-line eGroup

The e-Glue that helps with the glitter

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Part 2: eGroup study questions

Here Comes Church – “In the know”

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

Numbers 21:4-7 - The Israelites complain.

The Bronze Snake

4 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

6 Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

8 The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." 9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

1 Corinthians 10:8-11 - – Paul warns the church to learn from the Israelites' sin.

Warnings From Israel's History

10 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. 2 They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. 3 They all ate the same spiritual food 4 and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

6 Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. 7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry." [a] 8 We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. 9 We should not test Christ, [b] as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. 10 And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. 12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! 13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted [d] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, [e] he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

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

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 Sermon Notes – “Just A Little Bit” by Pastor Joyce Meyer on November 3, 2025

Sermon Highlights

- Everything God tells us to do or not to do is for our benefit, not His.
- The biggest lie the devil tells people: “it’s just a little bit.”
- We have to stop letting just a little bit of sin into our lives because a little bit matters.
- God doesn’t answer complaints. He answers prayers.
- There are things we do that we shouldn’t do, but we do because everyone does.
- “Acceptable sins” that can trap Christians: jealousy, unforgiveness, lying, and complaining.
- As soon as you become jealous of someone, you can no longer have a right relationship with them.
- Three things to do to forgive someone: pray for them, speak well of them, and meet their needs.
- We expect God to keep His word, and He expects us to keep ours.
- How can we be a light in a dark place? Be a rare person who doesn’t complain.
- God still does miracles. We just get used to them.

Scriptures:

Numbers 21:4-7 - The Israelites complain.

1 Corinthians 10:8-11 - -- Paul warns the church to learn from the Israelites’ sin.

Sermon Discussion

- “Everything God tells us to do or not to do is for our benefit, not His.” Share a time when obeying God was difficult, but turned out for your good.
- “The biggest lie the devil tells people: ‘it’s just a little bit.’” What’s an area of life where it’s easy to let “just a little bit” of the wrong thing in?
- “God still does miracles. We just get used to them.” Go around your group and share some things you don’t want to take for granted.
- “God doesn’t answer complaints. He answers prayers.” What’s something you’ve been complaining about that you can pray for instead?

Prayer Prompt: Lord, we thank You for the many ways You’ve blessed us. Help us see the little miracles we’ve grown accustomed to and choose to express our gratitude when we’re tempted to complain this week. I pray that we recognize when the enemy is tempting us to compromise just a little bit, and that we’d stand firm on Your truth. Amen.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Win Before You Begin” – Pastor Rich Wilderson – 10/26/2025

AI Generated recap of Sermon:

Joyce Meyer on Rejecting Small Compromises and Complaining

Nov 2, 2025 • 1 hour, 1 minute

- At Elevation Church, the gathering opened with a prayer of gratitude and trust in God's unwavering presence and faithfulness, followed by Pastor Steven Furtick's introduction of Joyce Meyer. Meyer delivered a message titled “Just a Little Bit” (formerly “Acceptable Sins”), urging believers to tighten their commitment to holiness by refusing “small” compromises—especially the often-overlooked sin of complaining—while practicing forgiveness, integrity, gratitude, and everyday witness as lights in a dark world.
- Opening prayer and worship context
- Thanksgiving for God's faithfulness, presence, and answers to prayer; affirmation that “if we have your presence, we have everything we need.”
- Corporate declaration: “Jesus Lord,” rejecting idols; praise for God's goodness, mercy, and might.
- Intercession for those anxious about children, jobs, health, emotional struggles, and addictions; trust in God to direct “every path ... one step at a time.”
- Encouragement: “If it's not good, you're not done.”
- Introduction of Joyce Meyer
- Pastor Steven Furtick welcomed Meyer, likening her influence to “the Beatles” for music, praising her practical depth, authority, and empathy.
- Credentials cited: over 150 books; sermons translated into 113 languages; more than 40 years of ministry.
- Joyce Meyer's background and framing
- Personal: four grown children (youngest “will be 45 in December,” oldest “60”), 12 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren; husband Dave absent due to a virus; married “59 years” in January; 50 years teaching.
- Call for believers in a dark time to “shine a little brighter,” noting everyone has a “pulpit” (home, workplace, neighborhood).
- Theme: The devil's lie—“just a little bit”—minimizes sin; God calls His people to holiness without descending into joyless legalism.
- Attention to little things and integrity
- Penny lesson: God impressed on Meyer early that blessing accompanies faithfulness in “little things.”
- “Tighten the belt of truth” (Ephesians 6): not merely knowing the Word but living it with integrity and excellence.
- “Acceptable” sins called out

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- Jealousy: “Jealousy rots the bones.” Examples included workplace rivalry over an office and siblings comparing gifts. Jealousy blinds us to our own gifts and harms relationships.
- Unforgiveness: Identified as a major church problem. Forgiveness is a decision about how we treat someone, not a feeling.
- Three biblical actions toward enemies:
- Pray for them to be blessed (e.g., to gain revelation).
- “Bless and do not curse” them—do not spread what they did.
- If they have a need, meet it.
- Clarification: Forgiveness does not require close contact or reconciliation; it is releasing the person into God’s hands—for your own freedom.
- Not keeping one’s word (lying): God expects us to keep our word as we expect Him to keep His. Examples included saying “I’ll call you back,” “I’ll pray for you,” and casual invitations. Anecdote: a spur-of-the-moment invite forced Meyer to host and invest a week with visiting pastors—God used it to teach integrity.
- Main focus: the sin and cost of complaining
- Standard set high (Madame Guyon): even sighing can signal discontent.
- Biblical warnings:
- Numbers 21: Israel complained about manna; “fire-burning serpents” came; “many Israelites died” (“23,000 exactly”).
- 1 Corinthians 10: Israel’s history serves as “example and a warning” against immorality, testing God, and “discontented complaining.”

Core principles:

- Miracles alone won’t keep us grateful; familiarity dulls awe. God still acts; we often stop noticing.
- Obedience over sacrifice: Saul kept “good” things contrary to God’s command, then framed it as worship; similarly, we try to offset disobedience with offerings.
- We are easily “spoiled” by convenience; minor inconveniences reveal a complaining reflex.
- God answers prayers, not complaints (Philippians 4:6—pray “with thanksgiving”). Meyer reported God saying: Why give more if you’re already complaining about what you have?
- Gratitude in practice: “Be thankful and say so.” Use “please” and “thank you” at home; appreciation sustains relationships.
- Being a light without always using words

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- “Preach at all times and if necessary, use words” (attributed to St. Francis of Assisi). Smile, be friendly, and avoid complaining; witness through conduct.
- Finding your fit: try different forms of service until one fits. Meyer’s calling emerged after leading a coworker to Christ and then being told by God, “Teach her.”
- God uses the weak and foolish so He gets the credit; Meyer noted her messages now reach the world in “107 different languages.”
- Marriage, contentment, and everyday kindness
- Focus on strengths rather than fixating on irritations; exercise love that “covers a multitude of sins.” Practical exercise: make two lists (what you like vs. don’t like)—the “like” list is usually much longer.
- Anecdotes: choosing to stop nitpicking (e.g., a closet light left on); gratitude for a spouse’s support outweighs small annoyances.
- Reframing complaints: be thankful for legs when stuck in traffic; be grateful for having a job rather than complaining about it.
- Concept: “Complain” means “remain”
- Israel’s 40 years in the wilderness vs. an 11-day journey: complaining was one reason for delay. God calls for prayer with thanksgiving, not grumbling.
- Commitment and closing prayer
- Call to “tighten your belt just a little bit” and avoid the rationalization “it’s just a little bit.”
- Prayer focus: do what we say, let go of jealousy and petty anger, appreciate God’s goodness, guard our mouths from complaint, and let “the words of our mouth and the meditation of our heart be acceptable” to God.

Next steps and actions

- Reject “just a little bit” compromises; choose holiness over convenience or cultural norms.
- Keep your word: if you say you’ll call, pray, or meet—do it.
- Practice forgiveness as a decision: pray blessing, speak no evil, and meet needs when possible; release offenders to God.
- Replace complaints with prayer and thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6); verbally express gratitude (“say so”) at home and work.
- Be a light daily: smile, be courteous, avoid grumbling; remember “preach ... if necessary, use words.”

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- You must really know how to listen to God because a little voice told you to come to church and you didn't even know that Joyce Meyer was preaching to you. What's your take? And I'm gonna welcome her in just a moment. Yeah! You made the right call! See, you made the right call and you got an extra hour of sleep! Give them an extra ten seconds for an extra hour! Some of them were gonna skip, but then they looked at the clock and they were like, well, I have an extra hour to kill. But the Lord is so good, and I want to thank God for you, Joyce.
- I have the privilege right now of explaining to my son, Graham, about all of the different preachers who influenced me. And when he asks me about you, Joyce, I tell him, it's like trying to tell you what the Beatles meant to music. Let's say what Joyce Meyer meant to ministry. It's like trying to explain Stevie Wonder or Bob Dylan or... is just me and Holly has been listening to Joyce a lot on Sunday mornings before she goes to church I guess in case I don't reach for the mission it's not just kidding about that she really has been on on a real kick listen to Joyce and she'll come try to tell me you know Joyce said this thing and I'm like I know I've been written Joyce of for 20 years now this there's nothing you can tell me that she's preached that I haven't heard sometimes when someone needs no introduction uh... only to be presented you forget how much time and i don't have to happen today uh... you're looking at a lot of time has really released over a hundred and fifty books you're talking about someone who sermons are translated into a hundred and thirteen languages We're talking about somebody who for over 40 years has stood and said, this is what the Lord says.
- And as I was explaining, as explaining to Graham, she has this way of teaching the deepest things in the most practical way so that we can't make excuses. And she does it with the authority that God gives and with the empathy that only comes from someone who has been broken and put back together in his hands. I told her you're preaching bigger churches than Elevation, but you will never preach for a pastor who is more excited to have you in his pulpit. So if I never do anything else in my life, what a great honor in all of our locations to get to present to you Elevation Church, the one, the only, the greatest ever to do it, Joyce Meyer! Praise God.
- You can be seated. Love you too. You know, we tell each other we love each other all the time, but I really, really do love Holly and Stephen. It's kind of funny, you have connections with certain people. And I met him, I don't know how many years ago, at the Hillsong Conference in Australia. And it was just like an immediate bond. And so, it's an honor for me to be here today. And I want to teach you something that will... You'll enjoy, have fun with, but it will also make you come up higher. Because we're living in a day that really, to be honest, we talk about how hard it is, but God chose us for this time. We didn't just end up here in 2025 accidentally. We're here for a purpose and the world is very dark. But we have the privilege of being lights in a dark place.
- And I think we need to shine a little brighter than what we are. Amen. And you know, everybody, you all have a pulpit. Maybe it's not this one. It might be your backyard fence or your desk at work. But you've all got a pulpit. And most people that will come to the Lord will come through somebody like you, your influence. Because the ones that really need it aren't here today. But they are different places in your world. And really, we're not supposed to be doing all the work anyway. Paul said, you train them up so they go out and do the work of the ministry. You know... Well, first of all, I'll tell you, I have four grown children, and my baby will be 45 in December. My oldest son will be 60. I don't know how that all worked out since I'm only 50. That's an odd thing. But we have four grown children. Dave actually ended up with some kind of virus and couldn't come this weekend. We have four grown children, we have 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. And so, I feel like all I do is write checks all year.

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- It don't take them very long and all they want is money. Like five or six years old and they'll got their hand out for the cash. Dave and I in January will be married 59 years. We are not alike at all, so don't tell me that you can't get along with somebody that's different than you are. Because you can if you want to. I've actually had the great privilege. I can't think of having the privilege of doing anything greater than actually handling and teaching the Word of God. The most important thing that we have. And I've been teaching for 50 years. And I want to talk to you today about, well, I actually put two titles on it. The first one was acceptable sins, which I think that we think there are some of those. And I think there are things that are said that we have forgotten our sin and, um, But I decided to change the title to Just a Little Bit.
- Because, you know, that's the biggest lie the devil tells people, is just a little bit. That's not a big deal. That doesn't matter. I think the hardest thing for a sincere Christian to do is to keep the balance between holiness and egoism. You see, I've been legalistic and I don't want to be legalistic. I don't want to feel like I can never do anything or never have any fun. You know, that all I can do is spiritual things. However, if I have to choose to lean toward holiness, I'm going to always lean toward holiness. And some people will call that legalism, but it's not. And God has called us to be a holy people.
- And... We live in a more casual society today, and I don't know that I think it's good, but maybe that's because I'm older. I don't know. But it seems like the more casual our society gets, the more casual our morals get. And I think we have to be really careful. Because we are a unique generation that has been called for such a time as this. Do you know that Jesus actually really could come back in our lifetime? I mean, he really could call the church home at any day. And I don't ever want to be ashamed when I stand before him. When 50 years ago, just as I was starting to teach home Bible studies, I was going to a Walgreens drugstore one day, and I remember I was walking down the street to get there, and I saw a penny laying on the street, and I just kind of kicked it and walked over it. And I got about this far, and the Lord spoke very clearly to me, and He said, if you pick up pennies, you'll always be blessed. But I knew it had nothing to do with the penny. What He was saying to me was, if you pay attention to little things, I'll always bless your life. And he has. And we've picked up many pennies in our life. I will dig them out of the dirt. I won't.
- I won't leave them there because they have a very special meaning to me. And we've tried the best we can to run our ministry with integrity and excellence. But I think it's time to tighten our belt of truth just a little bit tighter. You know, Ephesians 6, When it talks about warfare, one of the first things it says is tighten the belt of truth. Tighten it. So you may know the word, but God wants us to lean in on it a little bit more. Make sure we're living it and not just talking about it. And so I think that there are things that we do that we shouldn't do, but we do them because the devil says, it's just a little bit. Everybody does it.
- Maybe you're not here because I know their integrity, but there are pastors I know that do things that God won't let me do. And I used to... I went to God complaining about it one time because there was a movie that was out that I really wanted to see. And I just... knew God didn't want me to go see it. But, I mean, my pastors were seeing it. Everybody was seeing it. And I got a little miffed. I thought, why is it that everybody else can do stuff and I can't do anything? And you know what he said to me? Look, Joyce, you asked me for a lot. Do you want it or not? So, you know, everybody wants everything that you hear talked about, but not everybody's willing to live the lifestyle they need to live to get it. I want to read you a story. It's by a woman named Annette Nae.

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- Many parents are working hard to explain to their children and teens why some video games, music, movies, books, and magazines are not acceptable material for them to see or bring into their homes. One parent came up with an original idea that's hard to refute. He listened to all the reasons his children gave for wanting to see a particular PG-13 movie. It had their favorite actors, everyone else was seeing it, even church members said it was great. It was only rated PG-13 because of the suggestion of sex, they never really showed anything. The language was pretty good, they only used the Lord's name in vain three times in the whole movie.
- The video effects were fabulous, the plot was power packed, the video effects were fabulous. Yes, there was just one scene Or they blew up a bunch of people and killed them. But you know, not violence is normal stuff today. It wasn't really that bad. Even after all these explanations for the rating, the father would not give in. He didn't even give them a satisfying explanation for saying no. He just said no. Little later that evening, the father said to his teens, if you'd like some brownies, I've made some fresh. He explained he'd taken the family's favorite recipe and added a little something new. They said, what is it? And he calmly replied that he had added just a little bit of dog poop. He said, but it's just a little. And then this whole batch of brownie, you won't even taste it. All the other ingredients were gourmet quality. He had taken great care to bake the brownies at the precise temperature at the exact time.
- He was sure they'd be superb. Even with all the explanations of the perfect attributes of the brownies, the teens, not one teen, would even try one. The father acted surprised. Well, there's only one little element in there that... I don't know why you act so stubborn. He said, I assure you, you won't notice it. You won't taste it, if at all. But they all held firm and not one would even try the brownies. It then explained that the movie they wanted to see was just like those brownies. Stand in our minds and our homes by deceiving us into believing that just a little bit won't matter. Just a little bit won't make any difference. So now when the father's children want to do something they shouldn't do, he just says, would you like a brownie?
- Now, I have one main thing that I want to get at today, and so I'll have to just kind of give you a little dust over, so we all have a good idea. Okay. I doubt that any one of you is going to rob a bank next week. I doubt that anybody here is planning to rob local mini-mars. I doubt that anybody here is planning a murder. But there are some of you here this morning that harbor jealousy. Oh yeah, it is a sin. The Bible says jealousy rots the bones. You know, it's amazing to me that we don't see this syndrome. Everything that God tells us to do or not to do is not for His benefit, it's for ours. He just tells us to do what will make us happy and what will make us better and what will make us healthier and make us live longer. Jealousy rots the bones. It has an actual effect on your health. But let's just say that there's a woman at work that is not a believer, And there's an office that's opened up.
- There weren't enough offices for everybody, but certain people got offices and somebody had quit, so now this office was open and you're a Christian and you prayed for that office. You even gave a little extra that week in the offering because she wanted that office. But this girl who wasn't even a Christian. got it. Now all of a sudden you can't like her anymore. Because as soon as you become jealous of somebody you can no longer have a loving, right relationship with them. Or maybe let's say it's a sibling rivalry. Maybe just somebody here today. Maybe.

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- Or somebody watching on television. Maybe you have a brother or sister that's smarter than you are. I had one son that got straight A's and never had to crack a book. And another, another one that, a girl, she's, she got good grades, but I mean, she studied so hard, that was all the girl did. And then I had two who didn't care. And one of those two runs the ministry now. And, uh... Because he wasn't a book guy. He was a hands-on guy. And everybody has gifts and you should never be jealous of somebody else's. Because what happens if you're jealous of somebody else's gifts, it causes you not to see your own. And then we end up being robbed because God put that gift in them for you. The gift that's in me makes me work. you get to enjoy it. Right? And so I need your gift and you need mine but if we get jealous of each other then it doesn't happen. What if my eyes said, you know I'm really tired of just looking at that ring. I've looked at that ring all my life and I'm just tired of it and I want my own ring. Now what if God said, oh okay there you have it. So, now I've just messed up everything. I got my ring, I got my way, but now I can't see what I'm doing or where I'm going in life. Amen? Or what about unforgiveness? And you know, I know you hear a lot about unforgiveness, but It's the single biggest problem in the church. You would be absolutely astonished at how many people are in here today that are angry with someone.
- **And you don't forgive them because you don't think they deserve it. Or, you know, it's funny when somebody does something that hurts us, how well we remember it. but how quickly we forget the things that we do to other people. Amen? And you want to forgive. Some of you, some of you don't. You want to forgive. People get mixed up because they think forgiveness is a feeling. So you pray to forgive and you don't feel any different about that person when you see them. You still want to knock them down. But forgiveness is not a feeling, it's a decision you make about how you will treat someone. I want you to get that. But that will help so many of you. The Bible says that we are to do three things. Pray for our enemies. So if you want to forgive somebody, you pray for them. You pray for them to be blessed. And you think, well, I don't want them to be blessed.**
- Well, you pray for them to be blessed anyway. And that doesn't mean God's going to give them a new house. Maybe He'll give them some revelation about how to treat people. You pray for them to be blessed. You bless and do not curse them. And that means in that way that you speak well of them and you don't speak evil of them. So you don't run around telling everybody else what they did. And thirdly, if they have a need, ooh, that's the out you want. If they have a need, you meet that need. Now forgiveness doesn't necessarily mean that you have to be around the person. You don't have to have a reconciliation of the relationship, but how you feel about them in your heart. You release them in your heart. You release them into God's hands. And you do yourself a favor when you do that. Not them, you. Because you can't, it messes your love life up if you're mad at people. And I tell you, I want to be so good at forgiveness that I'm forgiving somebody while they're still trying to offend me.
- So I just wanted to give you, and I got to get going here to get to the real stuff. One I want to mention is lying. There are a lot of Christian liars. Because any time you don't keep your word, you're lying. Now, we're going to get down to little stuff, because I think God cares about the pennies. If you tell somebody, I'll call you back this afternoon, and then... And really if the truth were told, you already know when you say that you're not going to call them back. You just found a way to get rid of them. I'll tell you how God cured me of that.

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- We were in Florida, Jacksonville, Florida, ministering in several different churches. We kind of really hooked up with this one couple that were pastors. So we said to them, I said to them, Hey, you guys ought to come to St. Louis sometime. And stay for about a week and we'll take you to the arch. You know, we'll do all these things. I didn't even know why I said it. I didn't really say it. I didn't really say it because I wanted them to come. Well, about a month went by and the man called and he said, well, we're ready. I said, ready for what? He said, we're ready to come to St. Louis. And I thought, oh. And I said to God, God, what am I going to do? I can't have company for a week right now. up to my eyeballs and work. And he said, I'll tell you exactly what you're going to do. You're going to tell them to come. And you're going to put them in a good hotel. And you're going to spend the week with them. And that's going to teach you not to say things that you really don't mean. Amen?
- **Don't tell people I'll pray for you and then don't pray for them. I'll pray for you is a good way to get rid of people too sometimes. I'm going to pray for you about that. Well, then you pray for them about that. If you tell somebody you're going to call them back, you call them back. If you say, I'll call you in a few weeks and we'll go to lunch, call them and take them to lunch. We expect God to keep His Word.**
- And God expects us to keep our Word. Amen. I mean, these to me are areas where you could lean a little toward legalism and it wouldn't hurt. I honestly try before God, anything that I tell somebody I'm going to do, to the best of my knowledge, I do it. And if there's anything I've forgotten, Lord, please remind me. But the thing I actually want to talk to you about today is a big sin, but one that people, I don't think you even think it's a sin, and that's complaining. I don't know if you know who Madame Guyon is, but she lived in the 1600s and, Some of her books have really helped me. They're pretty strict, but they've really helped me. She said something that's just like, God, you better be kidding. She said, even if you sigh, it's a sign of discontentment. So let me just tell you, I've got a ways to go. Because I still do sigh.
- In Numbers 21, verses 4 through 7, the Bible says, And they journeyed from Mount Horeb by way to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom, and the people became impatient, depressed, much discouraged because of the trials of the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses. Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? There's no bread here, neither is there any water, and we loathe this light, contemptible. unsubstantial manna. My, my. Then the Lord sent fire-burning serpents among the people. And they bit the people and many Israelites died. It was 23,000 exactly. And so they went to Moses and said, We have sinned. Duh. Sometimes it takes us a long time to get the idea that God's trying to get something across to us and we're just not paying any attention. Oh, Joyce, does the Bible really say complaining is sin? Well, it says give thanks in all things, no matter what the circumstances might be.
- Be thankful and give thanks, for this is the will of God for those of you who are in Christ Jesus. Well that was a lousy clap. And then over in the New Testament, in 1 Corinthians 8-11, it repeats that whole thing again that's in Numbers. And Paul said, These things befell them by way of a figure as an example and a warning to us. A warning. You know, everything that you hear in church is not supposed to make you feel great. And that's one of the problems we have today. People just go to get their blessing and they want to feel good. Tell me how wonderful I am. Tell me all the good things that the Bible has to say about me. Well, you know, I just went through a season of doing that. I spent about six weeks telling the whole world how wonderful they were. Now I feel led to go in another direction.

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- I feel a new morning coming on me for a season. One of those mama's paintings. We must not gratify evil desire and indulge in immorality as some of them did. God called what they were doing immorality. They were crabbing and complaining about this miracle that God's raining down out of the sky. You think miracles would keep you happy? They really won't. Because we get too used to things. I bet they were excited about that man in the first few days. But you know, we get familiarity with things. I remember saying to the Lord once, why don't you do the things that you used to do when I was first baptized in the Holy Spirit? I mean, I had so many supernatural things happening, it was just like, I'd ask God for an answer to something and open my Bible.
- And there would be the answer. Why don't you do the things you used to do? And boy, did he shock me. He said, oh, I still do them. You've just gotten used to them. How many amazing things is God doing in your life every day that you don't even recognize as amazing anymore? Do you know how amazing it is just to have a church like this to go to? Yeah. I mean, really. Amazing. There's so many amazing things that God does for us, but we have gotten, yes, God's our friend, but he's also sovereign, and he means what he says. And when he says to do something, if we don't do it, we're going to feel it in our own life. Remember what I said. I think if you get this, it will really help you. Everything that God tells us to do or not to do is for our benefit. It's not for his. It's for our benefit. He's telling us what will make us happy. What will make us powerful.
- What will put us in a position where the devil can't touch us. He's telling us how to live a life that is so far superior that you can't hardly believe it. And we have the audacity to obey him, yes, but just a little bit, just a little bit that we... You know, Saul, when God told him to go in and... Kill all the women, the men, the babies, the cattle. Don't leave anything. And Saul did a little too much thinking. And instead of just doing what God told him to do, he killed everybody, got rid of everything except the good stuff. Right?
- And when Saul confronted him about it, Prophet Saul, he said, well, I just kept the good things to sacrifice them to the Lord Now you're really getting a lot of life. Oh, I just did it for you, Lord. I desire sacrifice. I desire obedience, not sacrifice. And I think sometimes we don't obey God in something and then we will do something like give extra money in the offering. And I think it just happens so fast, sometimes we don't even realize what we're doing. We're trying to make up for something else that we should have done and we didn't do. Wonder how happy it would make the Lord if everybody that's a Christian never complained. I'd be happy if I could make it through one whole day. I mean, I really try to do this. I'll tell you what we don't do very well is inconvenience. We are just spoiled, right? Yeah. Inconvenience. Well, my electric went off for two hours. None of my electronics would work. I couldn't use my E-pad, whatever they are. There's too many things. It's YouTube. I mean, we can't live if we don't have all of our electric stuff. I mean, I left my phone at home on this trip. And I was kind of proud of myself. I thought, well, see how I do without it. But they figured out a way to get it to me, and I got it. I had it by the time I got here. Okay, listen to what Paul says in 1 Corinthians. 1 Corinthians 10, 8. We must not gratify evil desire and indulge in immorality as some of them did and 23,000 suddenly fell dead in a single day. Wow. We should not tempt the Lord, try His patience, become a trial to Him. by critically appraising him and exploiting his goodness, as some of them did and were killed by poisonous serpents.

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- Nor should we discontentedly complain, as some of them did and were put out of the way entirely by the destroyer. Now these things befell them by way of a figure as an example and a warning to us, They were written to admonish and fit us for right action, by good instruction, we in whose days the ages have reached their climax. You know, the Bible doesn't say that we are just to be encouraged. Paul told Timothy, preach the word, encourage, urge, warn, and rebuke. Yeah. So we need a healthy diet of all of it in order to be balanced. Yes, we need to be encouraged. There are times when we need to be rebuked. There's times when the sermon needs to make you squirm just a little bit in your seats. I mean, if we're not going to learn anything, you've got to learn something when you go to church. I mean, it's great. The worship is great. It's great to jump around and be happy.
- We all need that. But you need to listen to every word that Stephen says. Don't ever be the kind of person, if somebody asks you, what did Stephen preach on the day of Sabbath? It was good. I know it was good. I want you to know, well into the middle of next week, if somebody asks you, oh, I heard Joyce is at your church Sunday, what did she preach on? I want you to be able to tell them, that we have to stop just letting a little bit of sin into our lives, because a little bit doesn't matter. And when you have something inconvenient, I want you to, when you start to complain, to remember, oh, that's something I'm not supposed to do. So, and how many of you complain? Everybody in the whole church is sinning. Let me ask you a sincere question. Do you believe that little things like this make a difference? So it's not the big things that we're guilty of. It's all the little stuff. A man that I knew, his wife had divorced him and he had met another guy and they both claimed to be christians and this other guy was living with his girlfriend had been for quite some time and he says to the guy that i know i've got a good idea why don't we fast once a week pray together
- For God to do these certain things they want him to do that excuse me, but that's just stupid Why why even bother? But you know somehow or another he had himself convinced that what he was doing was wrong and that's the scary part the Bible says that That the heart is deceitful above all things. Who can know his own heart? That's why we've got to have some meetings with ourselves.
- I mean, at least once a week, you should have a meeting with yourself. And just really ask God, am I doing okay here? Is there something you need to remind me of? Do I need a little kick in the rear? You see, this doesn't mean that you have to live this rigid, legalistic life where you can never do any things or never have any fun. But how about if I throw this out? What if you start listening to your conscience? That's one of the best things that God has given us is a conscience. It's part of our spirit. Conscience comes from your intuition. Revelation. So I can sit and talk to your head all day, but I want it to fall from your head to your spirit and become a revelation. We have got so much information, but we need it to become revelation because when it's revelation, that's when you start learning. One of the definitions I found for complain, to complain means to remain.

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- So the Israelites remained in the wilderness 40 years trying to make an 11-day trip. And one of the reasons I found, I have found 10 reasons why they stayed out there. But one of them was just complaining. Okay. They just complained every time it was inconvenient. Now it's God's fault, it's Moses' fault, and we wish we could have stayed in Egypt where we had those onions and leeks and garlic. Whew! I might rather try a brownie than that, I don't know. If we could just understand what we give up, in an effort to try to get what we think we want. God doesn't answer complaints. He answers prayers. Philippians 4.6 Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything. But in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition, definite request, with thanksgiving. Now, you know, the Lord says a lot of stuff to me. I just don't get by with much. Not that I'm trying to, but I don't.
- And I was praying for something one time. And the Lord said, why should I give you that you're already complaining about what you've got. Why should I give you something else to complain about? We're supposed to be thankful people. I love be thankful and say so. It's not enough to say, well, I'm a thankful person. How many people are in your life that are blessings to you that you haven't thanked in a long, long, long, long time? You know, if the word thank you was around your house as more, marriages would last a lot longer. Dave told me the other day to get him something, and I said, say please. And he didn't say it, I said, you're not getting it until you say please. Don't take me for granted. Even in your home, you need to say please and thank you. It's amazing. I mean, if we just had better manners.
- **So how can you be a light in a dark world? Get out there and, you know, you don't really have to preach to everybody. I forget the famous person that said it, but somebody said, preach at all times and if necessary, use words. Francis of Assisi. Who was it, Mike? Francis of Assisi. St. Francis of Assisi. He's like, my brain reminds me of that. I think there's so much stuff I forget now it's just gotten to be hilarious. I don't even argue with my kids anymore when they tell me, you told us that last week. I'd say, okay, if you say so. I don't remember it, but if you say so. But I'll tell you, you know, when you don't remember things as good, it's great for movies. Oh yeah, that's great. I can watch a movie and not see it for two months and go back and watch it again. It's like a brand new movie.**
- You know what, you're gonna get old. And you better make your mind up. I just made up my mind I'm gonna be a funny old person. I'm not gonna be cranky and claggy and hard to get along with. I just want to be funny. And my kids think I'm hilarious. what I was saying before I got off on that. There you go. It's in there, it comes back. So how can you be a light in a dark world? You know, I think a lot of people, they get real tense when somebody says you need to witness. Because we automatically think that means we've got to back somebody into a corner and preach to them. When I wanted to be used of God, I didn't know yet that God wanted me to preach. So I just... Anything they asked us to do at church, I tried it. And one of the first things I did was... It was at a season when passing out tracts was a big thing.

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- And so our church... would take a group of people on Saturday morning to downtown St. Louis and pass out tracts. So I tried street preaching. I hated it. Did not like it. And that doesn't make God mad for me to say that. It's just that that didn't fit. You know, if you don't know what you believe God wants you to do, act like a woman buying a new outfit. You just keep pying on stuff till something fits. Amen? We're too afraid of being wrong. And it just paralyzes us. It doesn't matter if you try something and it's not the right thing for you. Your heart's right. You're just trying to find out what God wants you to do. And it's not that hard. You find something you're good at. Everybody's good at something. You just keep trying all this stuff till it fits. So I tried street ministry and didn't like that. I tried working with the nurse and didn't mean the argument. It's like that. I got over that in two weeks. But when I finally got around to trying to teach, I had led a girl to the Lord in the bathroom at work. And when we started to go back to our desk, the Lord simply said to me, what are you going to do with her? And I said, well, what do you want me to do with her? He said, teach her. I don't know how to do that. He said, I do.
- Whoever says God's going to call you to do something you know how to do. That's the fun part is stepping out blindly and watching God work through you. Why is he called the weak and the foolish things of the world and confound the wise? So we can't take the credit. I mean, I am the least likeliest person on the earth to be doing what I'm doing. I mean, this message that I'm preaching here today will go around the world in 107 different languages. And that's... That's amazing. It's amazing. I don't know. I don't know. I don't know how I've written 150 books. I thought one day, how did I do that? I don't know how I did that. And people say to me, how have you done all this? I don't know. I don't know. If you're willing, God will use you. But don't get all torn up if the first thing you try doesn't work or the second thing doesn't work. You're not a failure until you quit trying. Amen? Be happy in your faith and rejoice and be glad-hearted continually.
- **One of the things we can do to be alive in a dark world is just smile. Seriously, just don't get out in the world and be a prank. Be friendly. Hi, how are you today? Smile. And be... one of the very unusual people that don't complain. You hear complaining everywhere you go. Nexttime you feel like complaining about waiting in traffic, just be glad you're not one of the people that have no legs and can't even walk. The next time you, Just to the ladies, the next time you want to complain about your husband, there's a lot of lonely people that will take him off your hands.**
- Well, that's going on with better than I thought. Maybe I better say something to the men, too. I mean, really, once your eyes are open to it, you see how ridiculous it is to complain. God does so much for us. And you know, part of the reason why there's so many divorces is people forget about the good stuff. And they laser in on the one or two things that aggravates them. And that's all they think about. One time I was having a hard time with Dave or something, and God put on my heart to make two lists. One, everything I liked about him and everything I didn't like about him. And the list of stuff I liked was so much longer than the list of stuff that I didn't like. And that's usually what it comes down to. People will get divorced over a couple of little things that they don't like and forget about all the things that you love about them.

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- The Bible says that love covers a multitude of sins. And I'll tell you something that will help you in your homes. Stop everytime somebody makes a mistake telling them they did. We have lived in our home for 20 years and for at least 18 of those 20 years, sometimes I'm slow, 18 of those 20 years, every time Dave left his closet light on, which is all the time, I would say, you left your closet light on again. I finally decided to shut up and just turn it off. Because if I tell him you left your closet light on, you know what he says? Do you know what he says? He says, I didn't leave it on, you must have turned it off. Now, why would I go to his closet and turn on the light?
- The man has three different kinds of hearing aids. and he won't wear any of them. He won't wear any of them, and he says that he's not hard of hearing that I mumble. Now let me ask, have you heard me mumble one time here today? But you know what? You know what I really love about Dave? He lets me do anything I want to. That is so sweet. Just anything I want to do, he likes to do it. Well, that's worth turning off a closet light and keeping your mouth shut. If I went home and said, you know, honey, I feel like I need to spend some time alone. I'm going to just leave for a couple of weeks and spend some time with the Lord. He'd say, okay.
- Okay. So see, look at the good things in people. Look at the good things about your job. Instead of complaining about your job, be glad you've got a job. There's so many people that don't even have a job. Amen? Let's appreciate everything good that God does for us and let's just not complain about anything. Amen?
- **How many of you, if we pray together today, how many of you we'll just make a commitment to just try to tighten your belt just a little bit. Let's all stand up together. I just forgot to ask how they like to close services here, but I'm going to pray for you and then get it back to Steve. Now, this has been very serious to me today. I never go anywhere and preach without feeling like I've got the word of the Lord. And so this is very simple. You're not going to forget it, but at the same time, very profound. Don't. It's just a little bit. No. And don't do it because everybody else is doing it. You're only going to have to answer for yourself. You do what's right if everybody else in the world wants to do it wrong. Amen? Amen. Father, we love you so very much, and we're so appreciative that you love us. And I want to thank you for reminding us that we need to pay attention to little things, because it is the little foxes that spoil the vine. So we're all making a fresh commitment today to always be sure that we do what we say we're gonna do, Not harbor things like jealousy and petty things and little, hang on a little anger issues, but to just let that stuff go Let it go. And help us to appreciate everything you do for us. And God put a watch over our mouth lest we sin against you with our tongue by complaining. And let the words of our mouth and the meditation of our heart be acceptable in your sight. In Jesus' name, amen. Thank you for having me today**

Part 2: eGroup study questions

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Just A Little Bit” by Pastor Joyce Meyer on November 3, 2025

Would you give your family brownie desert with a little bit of dog crap?

“Preach at all times and if necessary, use words” (attributed to St. Francis of Assisi)

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Finding your fit: try different forms of service until one fits.

Closing prayer:

“The ride didn't change. You changed. You changed. It didn't get easier. You got stronger. And the battles won't get lighter, you'll just get wiser. And circumstances won't change, but you will. You will grow from the inside out. You will win from your mind, and even before you get in the battle, even before it begins, you're walking in with a winning mindset. Deuteronomy chapter 20, verse 4. The Lord your God goes with you. fight for you to give you victory. May you step into this week knowing that you have a God who will fight for you and with you, and he will give you victory. I know it feels like it's been battle after battle, but I think a faith-filled person looks back on their story and says, actually, it's been victory after victory after victory after victory. I'm getting stronger. And if you'll face it, listen to me, if you'll face it, God will fight with you.”

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.”