

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.
- Fall 2025 eGroup sign ups

Proverbs 19:21 - – God's purpose is greater than our plans

2 Desire without knowledge is not good—
how much more will hasty feet miss the way!

8 The one who gets wisdom loves life;
the one who cherishes understanding will soon prosper.

11 A person's wisdom yields patience;
it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.

13 A foolish child is a father's ruin,
and a quarrelsome wife is like
the constant dripping of a leaky roof.

20 Listen to advice and accept discipline,
and at the end you will be counted among the wise.

21 Many are the plans in a person's heart,
but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

1 Samuel 17:47 - The battle is the Lord's

45 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

51 David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.

Romans 8:28 - God works all things together

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.

More Than Conquerors

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[k] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 - We fix our eyes on what's unseen

The Temple's Furnishings

4 He made a bronze altar twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide and ten cubits high. 2 He made the Sea of cast metal, circular in shape, measuring ten cubits from rim to rim and five cubits[b] high. It took a line of thirty cubits[c] to measure around it. 3 Below the rim, figures of bulls encircled it—ten to a cubit.[d] The bulls were cast in two rows in one piece with the Sea.

4 The Sea stood on twelve bulls, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south and three facing east. The Sea rested on top of them, and their hindquarters were toward the center. 5 It was a handbreadth[e] in thickness, and its rim was like the rim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It held three thousand baths.[f]

6 He then made ten basins for washing and placed five on the south side and five on the north. In them the things to be used for the burnt offerings were rinsed, but the Sea was to be used by the priests for washing.

7 He made ten gold lampstands according to the specifications for them and placed them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north.

8 He made ten tables and placed them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north. He also made a hundred gold sprinkling bowls.

9 He made the courtyard of the priests, and the large court and the doors for the court, and overlaid the doors with bronze. 10 He placed the Sea on the south side, at the southeast corner.

11 And Hiram also made the pots and shovels and sprinkling bowls.

So Hiram finished the work he had undertaken for King Solomon in the temple of God:

12 the two pillars; the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars; the two sets of network decorating the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars; 13 the four hundred pomegranates for the two sets of network (two rows of pomegranates for each network, decorating the bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars);

14 the stands with their basins; 15 the Sea and the twelve bulls under it;

16 the pots, shovels, meat forks and all related articles.

All the objects that Hiram-Abi made for King Solomon for the temple of the Lord were of polished bronze. 17 The king had them cast in clay molds in the plain of the Jordan between Sukkoth and Zarethan.[g]

18 All these things that Solomon made amounted to so much that the weight of the bronze could not be calculated.



Hiram's great work – some of which no one could ever see from the ground – a testament to God and no one else.

Quiz question: How much in today's dollars would it cost to build King Solomon's temple?

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church recap "Hand Him The Plan" by Pastor Steven Furtick - August 18, 2025

Sermon Highlights

- Details follow obedience.
- Don't make plans based on the wrong pictures.
- Many (mini) are the thoughts.
- We got the book of Psalms through what David wrestled with. I wonder what you're going to leave behind out of what you wrestle with.
- The answer is not in your head, it's in the Lord's hand.
- If you are fighting hell in your mind, there is something that God is trying to download into your mind that hell is trying to interfere with.
- The same place where God speaks to us is where the enemy does (the heart).
- The battle always happens in the place of the blueprint.
- Are you trying to ask God to give you peace, but you will not give Him your plans?
- It's not mine. It's the Lord's.
- Some of the best stuff that happens is not in your plan.
- Stop letting the enemy cut you off at the place of your last mistake.
- God's will wins. God will win.
- You need to be open-handed with the plan, but keep a firm grip on the purpose.

Scriptures

- Proverbs 19:21 -- God's purpose is greater than our plans
- 1 Chronicles 28:19 -- David understands the plan
- 1 Samuel 16:6-7 - The Lord looks at the heart
- 1 Chronicles 28:2-4 - David's heart is set on building the temple...
- 1 Chronicles 28:5-6 -- ...but God chooses Solomon instead
- 1 Chronicles 18:11 - David dedicates what he has to the Lord
- 1 Samuel 17:47 - The battle is the Lord's
- Romans 8:28 - God works all things together

Part 2: eGroup study questions

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!

Sermon Discussion – “Bars and Battles” from 2017

Elevation Ballantyne Sermon notes from KH for eGroup – 8/5/2017

Pastor Steven Furtick

Sermon Title: “Bars and Battles” week 1 – “The Winning Hand” – the war, the weapons (when to use the sling and when to use the shield), and the way (how to use those weapons).

- . However, there is one matter that is worth examination: There is a belief that when we are winning great things that life gets easier. This is not the case. When we see more success in our lives, the struggles will increase in proportion to the victories.
- . With greater levels of victory come greater levels of responsibility and challenges. Every time David wins another battle, he gets another assignment.

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Pastor Steven Furtick

Sermon Title: “Bars and Battles” week 1 – “The Winning Hand” – the war, the weapons (when to use the sling and when to use the shield), and the way (how to use those weapons).

“The internal battles. Key point: the internal battles tend to rage the strongest. While David was fighting a battle on the outside, Saul was fighting a battle on the inside – and has a sense that his kingdom is slipping away and intends to take his anger out on David. Have you ever had to fight a battle on outside while you had to fight a battle on the inside? It is a terrible thing to have to be in a position where someone you are trying to serve is dealing with something that is within themselves that causes them to take it out on you.”

Sermon Discussion – “Bars and Battles” from 2017

Elevation Ballantyne Sermon notes from KH for eGroup – 8/5/2017

Pastor Steven Furtick

Sermon Title: “Bars and Battles” week 1 – “The Winning Hand” – the war, the weapons (when to use the sling and when to use the shield), and the way (how to use those weapons).

“Most importantly we need to understand the way in which we use these weapons – we do not fight for victory, we fight from victory.

We don't write our bars when the battle is over and we don't write about God's deliverance after the situation is resolved. We write our bars before the battle and declare that we have the winning hand and that we are more than conquerors.”

Sermon Discussion – “Bars and Battles” from 2017

Elevation Ballantyne Sermon notes from KH for eGroup – 8/13/2017

Pastor Steven Furtick

Sermon Title: “Bars and Battles” week 2 – “The Setup in The Strong Hold” – the war, the weapons (when to use the sling and when to use the shield), and the way (how to use those weapons).

“Just a reminder: Keep your life in context. David did not write this song while he was going through the battle, he wrote the Psalm after he has experienced God’s victory. Sometimes we write the sound track to our situation too soon and we do not understand that the greatest glory God - that we are getting out of our life - is through the parts of our lives that seem (to us) to be impossible.”

Sermon Discussion – “Bars and Battles” from 2017

Elevation Ballantyne Sermon notes from KH for eGroup – 8/27/2017

Pastor Steven Furtick

Sermon Title: “Bars and Battles” week 4 – “Why Am I Anxious”

Psalm 129: “17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!
18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you. 19 If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty! 20 They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. 21 Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you? 22 I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. 23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me.”

Sermon Discussion – “Bars and Battles” from 2017

Elevation Ballantyne Sermon notes from KH for eGroup – 8/27/2017

Pastor Steven Furtick

Sermon Title: “Bars and Battles” week 4 – “Why Am I Anxious”

“I love the fact that the enemy can’t destroy you if he can’t isolate you. Come out of isolation today. Of course you are anxious and crazy. We are all a bit crazy. Right in the middle the word anxious is the letter I, however, at the end is the word us. The true you is when you receive the word of God, because you are stepping out of ego and dark corners and come into an atmosphere where you can breath in the true presence of God. For those of you that are trying to fight anxiety by yourself will continue to ask this question: What is wrong with me? We were meant to be in community with each other – when honesty and communion increase, anxiety decreases. You were not designed to shoulder all of this on your own. When we get real and take off our armor, start sharing grace, we can declare that His hand is holy.”

Sermon Discussion – “Bars and Battles” from 2017

Elevation Ballantyne Sermon notes from KH's eGroup – 9/17/2017

Pastors: Pastor Steven Furtick

Sermon Title: Bars and Battles week 7 (the final installment) – “The Silent Sermon”

“A Pastor Steven Classic: Does your meditation start with me? For most of us, the answer is yes. When our meditation starts with “me”, this is merely a form of worry – where a silent prayer is only a silent worry directed in the vicinity of God – with a label stuck on it called “prayer” – but it is really self-focused and self-directed, self-serving, and self-sufficient – here is my list, here is my schedule and God will you please bless it?”

Sermon Discussion – “Bars and Battles” from 2017

Elevation Ballantyne Sermon notes from KH's eGroup – 9/17/2017

Pastors: Pastor Steven Furtick

Sermon Title: Bars and Battles week 7 (the final installment) – “The Silent Sermon”

- And the devil would love nothing more that create a permanent loop in your head of scarcity and shame.
- Scarcity = not of time, not enough energy, not enough money, and not enough of me to go around – too much life and not enough of me to go around – where we always run out. When we start our day with all of the crazy things that we have to do today, we get tired before we even engage.
- Here is the critical life choice: a. Are you going to base your thinking on the situation (since most of us spend our energy thinking about this) or b. Are you going to base your thinking around the revelation?
- If you focus only on the situation, your by-product will be worry stress, bitterness, scarcity, and shame.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon Discussion – “Bars and Battles” from 2017



Back up slides



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.”