

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?

Scripture for this week.

Matthew 11:28-30

Matthew 12:1-8

1 John 5:3

Hebrews 4:11-16

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - "God's Got You" - by Pastor Holly Furtick - May 11, 2026

Sermon Summary: You weren't created to live weighed down. If you've been carrying stress, pressure, guilt, or expectations you were never meant to hold, God is inviting you into a different kind of rest — one built on grace and mercy, not performance.

Sermon Highlights

- Jesus is inviting you into a new kind of rest.
- The Law that was originally intended to give God's people structure began to suffocate them.
- If we're not careful, we'll begin to worship the rules instead of the Savior.
- If you feel weary or burdened, that is the very thing that qualifies you to come to Jesus.
- The Pharisees said "do," but Jesus says:
- Come: Stop going everywhere else to find rest. Go to God.
- Take: I have to put His yoke on. True rest is found when Jesus and I do the work together.
- Learn: Weary isn't a way of life.
- True rest is found when we work together with Jesus. He's calling us into relationship over rules.
- He has open arms for you, not pointing fingers.
- God's way is meant to make you lighter.
- Every weight you bear is either pardoned by mercy or empowered by grace.
- Mercy means that God does not give us what we deserve. Grace means God gives us what we do not deserve.
- Rest is not an event; it's an invitation to receive grace and mercy in your time of need.
- Reading the Bible isn't a rule, it's a lifeline. You can get bold with the Bible.

Scriptures

- Matthew 11:28-30
- Matthew 12:1-8
- 1 John 5:3
- Hebrews 4:11-16

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Elevation Church Sermon Notes - "God's Got You" - by Pastor Holly Furtick - May 11, 2026

Sermon Discussion

- "True rest is found when we work together with Jesus. He's calling us into relationship over rules." Where have you been trying to handle everything on your own, and what would it look like to invite Jesus into the process?
- "Stop going everywhere else to find rest." Where do you tend to go for comfort or relief when you feel overwhelmed, and how can you turn to Jesus first instead?
- "He has open arms for you, not pointing fingers." Who in your life has shown you the love of Jesus by responding to you with grace and mercy instead of shame or guilt?
- "Reading the Bible isn't a rule, it's a lifeline." What's one practical way you can engage with God's Word this week — not out of obligation, but for connection?

Prayer Prompt: Lord, thank You for inviting us into a new type of rest, one that's about a relationship with You more than rules. When we try to carry too much and get overwhelmed, remind us that weariness doesn't have to be our way of life. We accept Your invitation into mercy and grace this week as we come, take, and learn. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

AI generated recap of Elevation Church Sermon - "God's Got You" by Pastor Holly Furtick - May 11, 2026

Mother's Day message on Jesus' rest and burdens

May 10, 2026

Overview: A Mother's Day church message centered on Matthew 11:28–30 and Hebrews 4:11–16, urging people who feel weary and burdened to come to Jesus for true rest. The speaker contrasts rule-keeping with relationship, explains Jesus' "easy yoke" as shared strength, and encourages bold approach to God's grace and mercy. Key theme: "God's got you."

Announcements and Celebrations

- Celebration of all women in the church: mothers and women who have been "found family," offering support, prayer, and guidance.
- Ninth annual commemorative mug gifted to every woman present (printed with "God I'm just grateful"); EFAM (host) will give instructions to get one.
- Inside each mug: save-the-date for a ladies' night on September 25, 2026, at all campuses and online; the speaker will preach and there will be worship. The event was introduced as "a flight," and later referenced as "Reflect."
- Personal Anecdote: "I got you" and motherhood
- The speaker, a mom of kids aged 20, 18, and 15, notes her teens often text "I got you." A prom-suit scramble for Graham revealed the irony: "No, you don't got me. I got you."
- **On behalf of mothers: "I got you—your lunch, your ride, your cleats, your iPad, your toilet paper, your dentist appointment." Transition to the sermon's title: "God's got you."**

Scripture Focus and Context

- Matthew 11:28–30: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest ... my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Context from Matthew 12: Jesus and the disciples walked through grain fields on the Sabbath; the Pharisees objected to plucking grain. Jesus cited David and the priests, quoted "I desire mercy, not sacrifice," and declared, "the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."
- Illustration of how Sabbath laws multiplied into burdens (e.g., wearing vs. carrying a jacket; no carrying a needle; no lighting/extinguishing fires; baths forbidden lest spilled water require mopping; not looking in a mirror to avoid plucking gray hair). Point: a gift (rest) became work.
- **From Rules to Relationship; Rest Defined - Rules can help, but when worshiped, they suffocate. Jesus invites relationship over rule-keeping. Rest here is not sleep or vacation; it is the lifting of burdens in everyday life.**
- **Yoke metaphor: a tool pairing two oxen to pull a heavy load; Jesus' rest is found by "yoking up" with him—doing the work together under his guidance.**

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AI generated recap of Elevation Church Sermon - "God's Got You" by Pastor Holly Furtick - May 11, 2026

Three words from the text:

- Come: Feeling weary and burdened qualifies you to come to Jesus; don't try to self-fix first or seek rest in substitutes.
- Take: Put on Jesus' yoke; it is "easy" (well-fitting) and "light," because he carries with you. Jesus' heart is "gentle and humble (lowly)," welcoming with kindness, not condemnation. Reference to an insight from a book by Dane Orton about "heart" as the center of who we are.
- Learn: This is a process. Hardship does not vanish, but you learn to carry it with Jesus, who abides with you.

Illustration: Weighted Vest vs. Jesus' Yoke

- The speaker invites friend Amy Corbin on stage to represent the weary. Weights placed in a vest symbolize common burdens: severe allergies (including to chicken), parenting two young adults, job responsibilities at Elevation (getting Elevation Worship songs on Apple Music, Spotify, and radio), sin and mistakes, worries, and grief.
- Key point: Jesus is not "another weight" in the vest. Romans 8:1 — "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." 1 John 5:3—God's commands "are not burdensome." The vest comes off to take on Jesus' easy, light yoke.
- Hebrews 4: Entering Rest with Confidence
- Hebrews 4:11–16: The word of God is "alive and active"; Jesus, the great high priest, empathizes with our weaknesses, having been tempted yet without sin.
- Therefore, "let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence" to receive mercy and find grace in time of need. This is a "then" moment—trade the heavy vest for Jesus' yoke.
- Core principle: "Every weight you bear is either pardoned by mercy or empowered by grace."
- [Warren Wiersbe's distinctions: Mercy—God not giving what we deserve \(e.g., punishment\). Grace—God giving what we do not deserve \(e.g., forgiveness, new life, power\).](#)
- Applications: Shame over past mistakes—come boldly for mercy. Grief, job loss, finishing the school year strong—come confidently for grace.
- Choose Response; Boldness and Scripture as Lifeline: Echoing Pastor Steven: You can't always change the result, but you can choose your response. Respond boldly rather than react fearfully.
- Story: When stopped from entering a meeting, Elijah said, "Yes, I can. That's my dad." As God's children, we come boldly to the Father.
- Scripture practice: Write verses in a journal/on cards and read them aloud over burdens. Not magic, but it lifts the weight by anchoring in God's word. The Bible provides instruction, comfort, victory, and power.
- Worship response: "'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus," emphasizing resting on his promises.
- Prayer of gratitude that we can come as we are, without having to clean up first; asking that God's love and readiness to help in time of need would strengthen confidence and impart rest.

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Next Steps and Actions

- Women: pick up the commemorative mug; follow EFAM host instructions.
- Inside the mug, find the save-the-date; mark your calendar for the ladies' night on September 25, 2026, at all campuses and online; plan to attend.
- Personally: come to Jesus with current burdens; approach God's throne of grace with confidence to receive mercy and find grace.
- Begin a simple scripture practice: select a few verses each week, write them down (journal/cards/notes), and read them aloud when feeling overwhelmed.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Transcript - "God's Got You" by Pastor Holly Furtick - May 11, 2026

- I'm so glad that you are here with us today. Happy Mother's Day. Before we get into today's message, I want to take a moment and I want to personally celebrate all of the women in our church like we saw a moment ago. Our mothers today the women who gave us life but we're also celebrating all of the women who have been found family for us - so once you've listened to us and advised us and patiently walked with us prayed with us spoken over us when we needed it. I'm so grateful for the women that God has placed in my life and used in my life and in all of yours as well and we have a special gift for all of those women who are here today.
- We started this tradition almost a decade ago of giving out a mug that sort of commemorates the year. A way to thank all of the women who are a part of our church. Thank you for everything that you do. Has anyone been collecting these mugs? Okay, this is our ninth one. See, we put God I'm just grateful on the mug and just a reminder for you of God's faithfulness to you when you wake up in the morning and you're having your cup of coffee and tea or whatever you drink. You can put butter in your coffee or whatever. All there, and we have one for every woman today. EFAM, our host, will give you specific instructions on how you can get yours as well.
- And really quick, also, you will find inside of your mug, you'll find our little save the date for our ladies night. It's called a flight. It's happening on September 25th at all of our campuses and online. I know it seems a little early. It's five months away. But go ahead. Look, this is for you. Mark your calendar so you won't miss it. I'm going to be preaching. We're going to worship together. It's the best time. It's the best time. So raise your hand. Are you going to be there? September 25th. 2026. You can grab one of these on your way out today.
- And if you will remain standing for one more moment, I wanna read our scripture for today. If you would, turn in your Bible to Matthew chapter 11. Are you ready for the word? I feel a huge responsibility today because, I mean, every time that I get on the stage, but our pastor has been bringing the most powerful messages the past couple of weeks. Amen? Have you been challenged with changing your end to then? Yeah? Are n't you grateful for a pastor who preaches in such a way that it just sticks with you? Just follows you around? Yeah, me too.
- Okay, so here's our scripture. Matthew chapter 11, verse 28. Jesus is talking and he says, "'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, "'and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Lord, would you bless the reading of your word today.
- Thank you for the message that you have given me. Speak through me now. In Jesus' name.
- Well, it's Mother's Day and I feel like it would be a mess if I did not take a minute to pick on my own kids. Now I have teen agers, any moms of teenagers here with me today, let me know online. My kids are 20, I know that's not a teenager, but it basically is. 2018. And 15, I know you're thinking she does not look old enough to have children that age. I do. Um. Okay, listen, so I just want to say that raising kids is no joke.
- And for those of you who are here who didn't raise your hand, maybe you have little ones, and you think that you cannot wait for things to get easier. Look, this is all I have to say. It doesn't get easier, it just gets different. And every season has wonderful and hard and it's all mixed in at the same time, so just buckle up, settle in, and stand your ground.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Transcript - "God's Got You" by Pastor Holly Furtick - May 11, 2026

- All right, so our teenagers, teenagers can be really fun, and they bring a lot of life into our house. And we have some amazing conversations and debates around our dinner table. It's really fun actually to get to watch your kids grow up and to start to develop their own opinions, especially when their opinions match my opinions. I like that. And just watching them begin to thrive in their giftings. And one of the things that is easier with teenagers is a lot of the communication happens over text messaging.
- And often my kids will use words or phrases that are new to me. Or they're like, I know them, but they're using them in a different way. And sometimes I like them. Like, I like it when Abby calls me queen. But then like, I have figured out that she usually calls me queen after I send her money. You know, so it's like, mom, can I have money for lunch? And I'll say yes, and she'll say thanks, queen.
- So, But there's one phrase that they all text me, and I have mixed feelings about this phrase. It's just there's something about it that bothers me, and I haven't been able to put my finger on it. And I know that they're basically just saying yes, but to me it doesn't sit well with me.
- So the conversation might go something like this. I will text Elijah, can you take out the trash? And he will reply, "I got you." Abby, did you practice piano? "I got you." Graham, you need to be home by midnight. "I got you." And recently it all clicked for me. So it's Graham's senior year, and his prom was right around the corner. And we all know that boys are not like girls. They do not plan their outfits months in advance. And they care, but they don't care. And they don't remember to care or something, I don't know. So about a month before prom, I checked in with Graham, and I texted him, and I was like, you know, What do you want to wear to prom? And he said, can you help me find a baggy suit? So I was like, okay. So I sent in several links to several suits that would arrive in plenty of time. And then I just mentally checked it off my list. Well, two weeks before prom, I can't.
- And I realized that Graham never replied to me and we had nothing on the way. Now a good mom would have just said, I guess you'll have to wear your not baggy suit, the old one. But that's not what I did. I rush ordered a suit for him because it was the scene of prom, you know? And I was like, it's fine, I'll get him a bag of suit. So the suit comes in, it's five days before prom. And of course, the sleeves need to be tailored. So I found the tailor. I found one that was close to our offices where Graham works. And I texted him this. I just, I'm gonna read you exactly what I said. I said. I got your suit to the office. You need to pick it up and take it to the tailor. Please let me know you see this. And he replies, "I got you."
- **Okay, it all came together why this phrase annoys me so much because in this scenario, how do you got me? I got the suit. I got the tailor. I got the suit to the office. No, you don't got me. I got you. And I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of mothers everywhere, to children everywhere, this Mother's Day, 2026. I got you. I got your lunch. I got your ride. I got your cleats. I got your iPad. I got your toilet paper. I got your dentist appointment. I got you. I've been getting you your whole life. All moms, if you're anywhere near your child, maybe you should send them a text message if they're not with you. This is your opportunity. Look at them and say it.**
- Okay, here's the title of my message today. Are you ready for this? God's got you. God's got you. We've got to get back to Jesus. Matthew 11. I love this passage of the Bible because Jesus is inviting his disciples into a new rest. He says, come to me, all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. for your souls.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Transcript - "God's Got You" by Pastor Holly Furtick - May 11, 2026

- Today I want to talk to anyone here who feels weary and burdened, because I think that accounts for most of us. This most of us are weighed down by our job carry the weight of our past decisions we worry about the future - we think about our dreams - we think about our challenges - we think about our disappointment.
- **I want to show you that is inviting you into a new kind of rest. It's not a rest that means sleep. It's not a rest that means a break from work. It is a rest that means it's a lifting of your burdens. It's a weight off your shoulders.** So I want to look at this passage again because I want to show you something that I almost missed. Because a lot of the times when I read the Bible, I'm not like Pastor Steven. When I read the Bible, I like to go to the good verses. You know? today, because I just read that one, or all things work together for good, and then I stop after the end of the good verse, and I sometimes miss the context of the verses around it, and being able to understand what the verses really mean, and who they were spoken to, and how I can actually apply them to my life, so I want to get back to read these verses again, and I want to show you the events that were surrounding what Jesus is saying right here, and I want you to watch for the action, so we'll start back. Matthew 11, verse 28, it says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light. At that time, Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, Look, your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath. He answered, Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread, which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. Or, haven't you read the law that the priests on the Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath, yet are innocent? I tell you that something greater than the temple is here if you had known me."
- What these words meant, I desire mercy, not sacrifice. He would not have condemned the innocent, for the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath. Jesus says these beautiful words to his disciples on the Sabbath while they're walking through some grain fields. He's teaching and he's demonstrating, it's not a coincidence that he's telling them this on the Sabbath. He's talking to them about rest on the day of rest - and he allows them to eat some grain as they're walking through the field, knowing that this is breaking a Sabbath rule.
- Now, what's important to note is that during this moment in time, the Jewish people were weighed down with rules. They had rules on rules on rules about everything, but especially the Sabbath. Now, these rules, they started out as well-intentioned. The Pharisees, they were the teachers of the law. Their original intent was good. They were trying to interpret the law so that ordinary people could obey it under daily conditions. But what happened was the law that was originally intended to give God's people structure, it began to suffocate them. And the people were burdened with the weight of all the things they could and could not do on a daily basis. They had rules for rules for rules. And when it came to upholding the Sabbath, the day of rest, they had developed 39 categories for what was or wasn't considered work. Here's a few of the more extreme rules that I found. So wearing a jacket was permitted, but carrying one would be considered a sin. Um, a tailor was not allowed to carry a needle for fear of being tempted to mend a garment. I like this one. No fire could be lit or extinguished, but fires already burning could be used. Baths were forbidden on the Sabbath because if water spilled, it would be considered work to mop up the floor. And then this one's pretty funny: Women were not permitted to look into a mirror on the Sabbath lest they spot a gray hair and pull it out.

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Elevation Church Sermon Transcript - "God's Got You" by Pastor Holly Furtick - May 11, 2026

- Okay, now we laugh because this seems really absurd, but I don't know what's in your feed, but lately, as a woman in her 40s who does look in mirrors and find occasional gray hairs, my feed has a lot of rules for rest too. Like here's a few that I wrote down. I'm supposed to drink enough water during the day, but not after 7 p.m. or you'll be up all night. I'm supposed to avoid caffeine six to eight hours before bed. I'm supposed to exercise so my body will be tired, but not exercise too close to bedtime or you'll be awake. You're supposed to wake up and go to bed at the same time every day, even on the weekends. Avoid long or late naps. Keep naps under 30 minutes. No screens two hours before bed. Avoid having bright alarm clocks. I think we have also made a job out of getting rest.
- The one thing that was supposed to be relaxing, we've turned into work and something that we need to worry about. And this is what's happening in this passage. They managed to turn the Sabbath, a gift, a day of rest, into this impossible amount of work and something to worry about if they were doing it right or doing it wrong. And so when the Pharisees saw the disciples picking grain, they waved the red flag. They said, Jesus, they're breaking the rules. And Jesus, of course, turns around and he uses scripture to overrule their rules. And he starts talking about David and the priests. And he quotes the prophet Hosanna to them. And he says to them, I am the Lord even over the Sabbath. I can't be free from these rules.
- **Now listen, rules are man's attempt to define faith. They're our way of controlling the parts about God that we just can't necessarily grasp. So we hear something like, "God wants to have a relationship with you." And so we give it a tangible definition. What does that mean? What it means? Go to church, read your Bible, pray, memorize scripture, Do these things and avoid these things. And these parameters are not bad. They're meant to bring us joy. They're meant to help us grow in our faith. They're meant to give us guidelines so we don't ruin our lives.**
- But if we're not careful, we will begin to worship the rules instead of the Savior. I wish I had heard this message when I was in my 20s. There's nothing wrong with Sabbaths. Many people today practice upholding the Sabbath. They set aside one day each week to rest and to reset. That's amazing. Sabbath is, it was given to us by God. God rested on the seventh day of creation. He wants us to have rest from our work too, but that's not what this message is about.
- **I'm not talking about physical rest today. I'm not talking about going on vacation. I'm talking about what you carry. And why are you carrying it? And should you be carrying it? And why are you so tired? And how do we find rest? And so Jesus, he's introducing this new idea. He's saying, what if there is a way to find rest while you're living out your everyday life? And I believe that God has sent me to tell you today that you're letting some things weigh you down that he never intended for you to carry.**

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- **And there's a rest that we can enter into as believers in Christ that goes beyond the rules, and it allows us to somehow move through the hardship and the difficulties and the seasons that we go through in life in a way that we never knew. And he's using this word picture of a yoke to define it. Now the irony here is funny because a yoke was an instrument that represented work.** So a yoke is a piece of farming equipment that would have been a common sight in this day and time. It was a piece of equipment that you would use to harness two oxen together in order to pull a heavy load. I have a picture so that you can sort of get your mind around this, okay. So here we have two oxen who are yoked together. They're pulling a plow and the man behind them, the farmer, he's guiding the plow.
- **This would have been a picture that they knew well. So essentially, Jesus is saying to us, true rest is found when we do the work together. He's saying, yoke up with me. He's calling them to relationship over rules. He's inviting them, come into me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble and hard and you will find rest for your souls for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**
- **Today I wanna point out three words straight from this text and break it down. Come, take, learn. Pharisees said do. Do this, don't do that. Do better, do more. Jesus says, come. He's calling you, he's calling the weary and the burdened. And I want you to know today that if you feel weary or burdened, that is the very thing that qualifies you to come to Jesus. We get this backward. We think we need to get rid of our burdens so we can come to Jesus. We think in order for God to use us, we have to get rid of the weight of our guilt. Get rid of our shame. Get rid of, or to somehow make up for our mistakes or our worries or our anxieties before we can come to Jesus. We have to make ourselves a vessel that he could use or somebody that he would even want to. Why would he want to partner up with me? I'm so weighted down. But suddenly we... You think that God needs someone that he would want to yoke up with and pull the weight together, right? But the opposite is actually true. The very fact that you feel burdened is what qualifies you to come to Jesus. He's waiting with the gift of rest that he has for you. But in order for you to receive it, you have to come to him. He says, come to me.**
- **Stop going everywhere else to find rest. You're not going to find rest at Sandals. Stop avoiding, stop thinking that rest is something out there. Stop going to other people to relieve your burdens. You don't have to work harder to avoid these feelings. He says, just come to me. Come to me. And then he reveals something about his heart. He says, I'm gentle and humble in heart and out.**
- **Did you think this is the only time? In all four Gospels that Jesus reveals the nature of his heart. I read a book by a man named Dane Orton, and he says that when the Bible talks about the heart, it's talking about the center of all we do, like the reason we get out of bed in the morning, the center of who we are. And he said so when Jesus reveals his heart to us, he could have revealed a lot of things But what he says, my heart is gentle and humble. Some versions say lowly of heart. Gentle meaning he has open arms for you, not pointing fingers. His heart towards you is not judgment. It's patience. It's kindness. It's love, not lecture.**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Transcript - "God's Got You" by Pastor Holly Furtick - May 11, 2026

- Okay, can I illustrate this for you? So, all the ladies who cheered earlier that you are coming to reflect, any of you, were you here last year at Reflect? Okay, cool, yeah. All right, so do you remember this? Okay. So, at Reflect, we talked about fighting the good fight, finishing the race, and we talked about all of the things in life that we're called to carry and the things that we're not called to carry as we, run this race that's marked out for us. Nod your head if you remember the sermon so I can feel good about how hard I worked on that sermon.
- Okay, so remember how I told you that I got one of these because Instagram told me that I needed it so that I could be strong and open jars when I'm 70 years old? So I told you though that it was, you know, it was, September and I got in mind in June and that I was waiting for it to get cooler before I really started wearing this on my walks. Well, I have a bit of a confession. Um, I do not feel in all honesty that I have the right to put this thing on again in front of you because I have had the cooler weather of fall, winter, and spring. And I confess to all of the women of our church that I've maybe worn this thing three times since it made its appearance on the Spirit stage.
- And so, because this is what I've decided. This thing, it takes all the fun out of walking. Walking was the last shred of exercise that I did not dread until the internet told me that my walks don't count if I'm not wearing one of these. And I'm sorry, but I just don't wanna do it. I have decided that I am not giving up the enjoyments of walks around my neighborhood with my husband. So that I can open a jar when I'm 70. Look, props to you if you love your hot girl walks. You do you, okay? Oh, okay, sorry, anyway, so because of that, I feel a little bit hypocritical putting this on in front of you, so I thought maybe I could get my dear friend, Amy Corbin, to come up here.
- Everyone, let me welcome Amy Corbin to the stage! Okay, Chunks and Amy were the very first couple to commit to starting this church with us. They have been by our side for 20 years. Amy is one of my best friends in the whole world, and you know, Amy, I've thought about how many times my husband has called your husband on this stage during a sermon for an illustration. And to my knowledge, you have never been used as an illustration. It's been 20 years. It's been a long wait. Today's your day to shine. Happy Mother's Day.
- Okay, Amy is going to represent us today, all of the people who feel weary and heavy-burdened. Now, Amy and I have been close for, 24 years and I'm pretty sure I know everything there is to know about Amy. I know things about Amy that she has forgotten. I'm still mad at that girl who stole your baby name 21 years ago. We're that kind of close. Okay. Um, now when we think of the yoke, uh, that Jesus is talking about, we could think that the yoke is sort of like this weighted vest and inside, um, the vest are all of the weights that we carry. So I've got. Got some weights here. Like Amy has severe allergies. Amy's allergic to chicken. Who's allergic to chicken? Amy is. So Amy carries the weight of allergies and other health issues. Amy's the mom to two young adults who also text, I got you. So we're going to give her a weight for that. Amy is married to Chunks. Amy. Okay. I don't know if you know this. Amy works full-time at Elevation. Her job, one of her jobs, is to get Elevation worship songs on Apple Music and Spotify and radio. Aren't you grateful for Amy? Okay. But she carries the weight of the responsibilities of her job. Here is a weight to represent Amy's sin and her mistakes. Amy doesn't have a lot. But we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. So we've got a weight for all of her sins and her mistakes.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Transcript - "God's Got You" by Pastor Holly Furtick - May 11, 2026

- This is the things that Amy's worried about that are keeping her up at night. She carries that weight. This is a weight for grief. I know that Amy's lost several loved ones, and that's something that she thinks about and that weighs her down. But here's the thing that I want to illustrate to you today. Most of us think that God is another one of these.
- **A lot of us have gotten the wrong impression about God. It's easy to confuse having a relationship with God with religion. But Jesus did not die so that we would be weighted down by a different, more modern set of rules. Jesus came to set us free. Romans 8, one says, "there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." The enemy wants you, he wants nothing more than for you to think that you need to try harder. He wants you to think that you need to pray more. He wants you to think that you need to clean yourself up. He wants you to think that you need to prove that you are worthy. And I want you to know that that is not from God. Jesus is not another weight in your vest. 1 John 5, 3, look at this. It says, we know we love God because we keep his commands. And his commands are not burdens.**
- Listen to this. God's way is meant to make you light. He says, take my yoke upon you, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Okay, so when you put those weights down right here, and let's take this vest off, because as long as we have this vest on, oh, because I'm not saying, we cannot take up the yoke that Jesus offers. This is not the yoke that Jesus is talking about. This is (a life vest when in the water). Jesus came to save us, not to weigh us down. And no matter what is weighing you down, no matter what feels like it is about to take you under, I want you to know, that God's got you. Take his yoke, he says. His yoke is easy.
- **Some scholars suggest that that word means that it's well-fitting. His yoke is easy. His burden is light. It lifts you. And then he says, learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly of heart. This is a process. Jesus is not saying that when you take his yoke, that you're immediately going to be freed of all pain and hardship. Pain and hardship are part of living on this earth. When you learn to take his yoke, you not only allow him to abide with you in your place of need, he wraps you up no matter what is weighing you down. He offers you open arms. He stands by ready to show you that there is a new way. for you to carry this load together. Jesus, your savior is in it with you.**
- I wanna show you another passage of scripture. I'm gonna take you to Hebrews chapter 4 because I wanna show you something else that we can learn about Jesus. Now, the book of Hebrews It was written to Jewish Christians. And the Jewish Christians, they were second guessing their conversion to Christianity. And they were wanting to go back to the old, more comfortable Jewish customs and laws. Because sometimes rules, they make you feel good, they make you feel safe. And the writer of Hebrews, he's trying to convince them, the whole book, he's trying to convince them not to go back to the burden of the old law.
- And he gets to chapter 4, verse 11, and it says this. Oh, you're going to like it. "Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter into that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience. For the word of God is alive and active, sharper than a double-edged sword. It penetrates to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It judges the thoughts... and attitudes of the heart, nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account. Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith that we profess, for we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, When we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Transcript - "God's Got You" by Pastor Holly Furtick - May 11, 2026

- Now we get a new picture of Jesus. Matthew tells us that Jesus said that he is gentle and lonely of heart. but Hebrews adds to us and tells us that Jesus is our great high priest. The job of the priest in the Old Testament was to represent the people to God. Jesus came to earth and he lived in human form. He was tempted, the scripture just told us, in every way, but he knew no sin. That means that he can be our high priest. He not only knows all of the things that we carry that are making us feel weary, He is a priest who empathizes with our weaknesses. Meaning, he actually knows how we feel and because of his work on the cross, we can look at that last verse again. This has got to be the most beautiful verse in the entire Bible, maybe one of them, okay? It says this, look at it, verse 16. "Let us then Approach God's throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."
- Our pastor just spent the last two weeks telling us how we can change the end to then. And this is so beautiful because this is a then moment for you. We have the opportunity. Come before the throne and we can trade this for this. Let us then approach God's throne and say boldly, so that we may receive mercy and find grace in our time of need. In other words, every weight in this vest.
- **Every weight in this vest is either pardoned by mercy or empowered by grace. That's something you can write down. Every weight you bear is either pardoned by mercy or empowered by grace. Now here's the difference between grace and mercy. Warren Wiersbe said this, I'm going to read it slow. Cause you kind of have to listen. Mercy means that God does not give us what we deserve. Something like punishment or judgment, that's mercy. Grace means God gives us what we do not deserve. Forgiveness, pardon, new life, power. Every weight that you carry, God's got you covered. Either mercy or grace in your time of need. So if you carry the weight of shame from a past mistake, you can come boldly and receive mercy. If you carry the weight of a lost loved one today, you can come with confidence and receive grace to get through your grief.**
- If you're walking through a job loss, there's grace. Maybe you're trying to finish the school year strong. There's grace. Rest is not an event. It's an invitation to receive grace and mercy in your time of need. You do not have to go through life feeling weary and burdened. All you have to do is come boldly and accept the gifts of mercy and grace.
- Pastor Steven said something last week that really stuck with me. He said, you can't always change the result but you do get to choose your response. And that really spoke to me as I was praying about like how God wanted me to break this down and to make this really clear and practical.
- **I was just thinking about that and the weights that we carry and how they fall into these two categories. Like the ones that we probably could have prevented, the ones that, and the ones that we carry that were outside of our control. Like for instance, maybe you made a bad choice. and you would give anything to go back and relive that moment again and make a better choice. And that moment weighs you down. Others carry burdens of things that we could not have prevented. Maybe you have an illness or you have a family situation that you have to manage every single day and you feel like it just sets you back. We don't always get to choose the things that are weighing us down, but Pastor Steven said, we can choose our response. And sometimes I think that we need to get bold with our situations and respond to what we're going through rather than just react. Do you know what I mean by that? Like when my boys were little, they were wild. Like two little boys, two years apart, they ran everywhere. They're like running and darting everywhere. Um, and so it's hard to like take them anywhere.**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Transcript - "God's Got You" by Pastor Holly Furtick - May 11, 2026

- And I remember one time, um, we went to the offices in the middle of the day. And Elijah, somehow, I don't know, he was probably like four years old, he got away from me, and he ran over to the door of his dad's office, and he was about to go in, and one of our staff members stopped him and said, you can't go in there, they're having a meeting. And Elijah looked back at that staff member and said, yes, I can. That's my dad. The enemy wants you to stay weighted down with shame. and anxiety, and worry. He wants you to think that weary is your way of life. And I want you to know that that is a lie. And it's going to take some boldness for you to break free from it. But you can come boldly to his throne. You are a child of God. Because of Jesus, we can come bold.
- We just read in Hebrews that the word of God is alive and active, sharper than any two-edged sword. It's able to divide between soul and spirit. Now, when this was written, they didn't have the completed work of the Bible like we do. But many of them had walked with the word himself. And the word became flesh and dwelt among us. The words of Jesus. The things that he taught, they were fresh and they were circulating among them. And I wonder if the writer of Hebrews, when he said, let us enter into this rest, if he was recalling the words that Jesus had said when he taught his disciples about this new rest. And I want to tell you today that there is not only mercy for every bad decision that you have made and grace for every situation that you face.
- I want you to know that there is a word that God wants to give you. that you can cling to. You can get bold with the Bible. There is instruction in this book. There is victory in this book. There is comfort in the words of this book. There is power found in this book. When I was in college, I was taught that I was supposed to write out scripture and put it up where I could see it, and I thought that it was something I was supposed to do, you know, like a rule. But now I'm a grown woman, and it's not a rule to me. It's a lifeline for me. Recently I got a fresh journal and I started writing out scripture that I felt that God was giving me about different things that I was going through things that were weighing me down.
- And, um, I would just, I would just find the couple of Bible verses each week and I would write it out and, and then I just began to read these scriptures out loud when I felt overwhelmed and, and. It's not magic. Okay. But I can tell you that. even though the situations that I was praying about didn't necessarily see some massive change because I spoke scripture over them, but somehow they just weren't weighing me down the same way. I felt a lift off of my shoulders. And I want you to know that you can get aggressive about the things that are weighing you down. Don't just give in to them. And that's how I wanted to end this week because I want to pray for you that you would be able to start... gather scripture that speaks to you with what you're going through, right?
- You get a journal, you get some index cards, you get post notes, you get gas receipts and write a verse on the back of it and start to read those verses out loud because you can come boldly. Maybe you think like, I can't come to God. I don't know what to say.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Transcript - "God's Got You" by Pastor Holly Furtick - May 11, 2026

- **Closing Prayer by Pastor Holly Furick on May 10, 2026:** "You can come boldly to his throne of grace and receive mercy and grace in your time. That's what I want to tell you today. Jesus, gentle, lovely of heart, bends towards you, he stands before you today with open arms and he's offering rest for your soul. And I just want that to minister to you. I just want you to think about that for a moment. God is the universe. He wants to yoke up with you. He wants to lift your burden. You don't have to carry your burdens all by yourself. He stands by ready to help in your time of need. We thank you that we don't have to clean up ourselves to come into your presence. We thank you that we don't have to be good enough, strong enough, We can come with all of our mistakes and all of our struggles. How beautiful it is to know that our Heavenly Father stands by ready, Christ in the secret time of need. God, let these words sink into our hearts today. May we go out of here confident in our Father's love for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

Part 2: eGroup study questions and additional thoughts

“I'm gonna tell you two things you can't control – the future and others. Neither one of those are in your control. But your decision to live by conviction in this season of your life,

When Moses, the servant of the Lord sent me to explore the land and I brought him back a report according to my convictions - but it died by committee. All of those people over 20 died in the wilderness, but not Caleb.

Look what he said. “My fellow Israelites made the hearts of the people melt in fear. I, however, follow the Lord my God wholeheartedly. Now, then, just as the Lord promised, he has kept me alive for 45 years. 38 in the wilderness - or seven of taking the promised land. It's still a mountain on his mind.”

- Do you know how many commandments are the bible?

- What is the difference between a cultural norm in the bible (that reads like a commandment) and an essential guard rail that is a commandment in the bible.

What is the difference between a rule and the yoke that Pastor Holly talks about?

What is the difference between a rule and the yoke that Pastor Holly talks about?

"Rules are man's attempt to define faith. They're our way of controlling the parts about God that we just can't necessarily grasp."

"A lot of us have gotten the wrong impression about God. It's easy to confuse having a relationship with God with religion. But Jesus did not die so that we would be weighted down by a different, more modern set of rules."

"I'm talking about what you carry. And why are you carrying it? And should you be carrying it? And why are you so tired? And how do we find rest?"

"And so Jesus, he's introducing this new idea. He's saying, what if there is a way to find rest while you're living out your everyday life? And I believe that God has sent me to tell you today that you're letting some things weigh you down that he never intended for you to carry."

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



Oswald Chambers

July 18 – Daily Devotional:

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

What is the difference between a rule and the yoke that Pastor Holly talks about?

"Jesus is saying to us, true rest is found when we do the work together. He's saying, yoke up with me. He's calling them to relationship over rules. He's inviting them, come into me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble and hard and you will find rest for your souls for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

What is the difference between a rule and the yoke that Pastor Holly talks about?

"The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, the one that one day we will all bow our knee to and confess that he is Lord. That guy."

"He humbled himself so that he could be accessible to you. His heart toward you is gentle. It's not harsh. It's not condemning. It's not punishing. He's gentle and lowly. He bends towards you. He wants you to get in the yoke with him. He's okay with your mess and your problems and your mistakes. This is who we are coming to Jesus."

"He's the Jesus, our gentle and lowly Savior who wants to give us rest. He says, come to me, all you who are weary and burdened. I will give you rest. And then he says, take my yoke upon you. So now we have to take action. We have to put the yoke on."

Every weight in this vest is either pardoned by mercy or empowered by grace.

What does that mean?

Every weight in this vest is either pardoned by mercy or empowered by grace.

"Warren Wiersbe said this:

- Mercy means that God does not give us what we deserve. Something like punishment or judgment, that's mercy.
- Grace means God gives us what we do not deserve. forgiveness, pardon, new life, power."

"Every weight that you carry, God's got you covered. Either mercy or grace in your time of need."

"So if you carry the weight of shame from a past mistake, you can come boldly and receive mercy. If you carry the weight of a lost loved one today, you can come with confidence and receive grace to get through your grief."

- Closing Prayer by Pastor Holly Furick on May 10, 2026: "You can come boldly to his throne of grace and receive mercy and grace in your time. That's what I want to tell you today. Jesus, gentle, lovely of heart, bends towards you, he stands before you today with open arms and he's offering rest for your soul. And I just want that to minister to you. I just want you to think about that for a moment. God is the universe. He wants to yoke up with you. He wants to lift your burden. You don't have to carry your burdens all by yourself. He stands by ready to help in your time of need. We thank you that we don't have to clean up ourselves to come into your presence. We thank you that we don't have to be good enough, strong enough, We can come with all of our mistakes and all of our struggles. How beautiful it is to know that our Heavenly Father stands by ready, Christ in the secret time of need. God, let these words sink into our hearts today. May we go out of here confident in our Father's love for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

Back up slides

- Closing Prayer #4: “Father, I bless you for your word today. It spoke to me so much. The times in my life that I look back and see that you were weaving while I was walking. That you were weaving while I was waiting. I praise you today, Lord, because you brought somebody here to be reminded of the skillful touch of your hand, the weaver's hand. I thank you that today, Lord, as we stare into Easter Sunday and anticipate your resurrection, that you have given us the faith to face Friday, knowing that the weaver will never leave our side. Father, you know who you're speaking to today. You know their name. You know their need. You know the need beneath the need beneath the need that presents itself as the problem. And you are the weaver. God, I thank you that all things do work together for those who you love and are called according to your purpose. May we walk in the light of our resurrected Savior. May we worship our weaver who works all things together. I've come a long way. I've seen how you work. Much more than I know. Amen”

- Closing prayer #1: The Lord told me to tell you, keep walking. He's weaving. Keep walking. He's weaving. He's weaving, see? Because at some point, the Bible says that after Jesus was glorified, this is his death, this is his burial, this is his resurrection, this is his ascension. The Bible says that the disciples did what Jesus told them to do, even though they didn't understand it. Will you? What if you're asking God, what are you doing? Maybe he's asking you the same. What are you doing? Because there are some things in this season of your life where he's called you to trust him. And he's called you to have integrity. And he's called you to be kind. And he's called you to be patient. And he's called you to be giving. And he's called you to be a servant. And he's called you to prayer. And he's called you to worship. And he's called you to praise. So can you and will you? Do what he gave you to do as they are untying the donkey, the king, Jesus is weaving. See, he's weaving. They're walking. Crowds are waving. A donkey is waiting. And Jesus is weaving. He's reaching that 500 feet all the way through Zechariah's prophecy.

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!



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.”