

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

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

**Part 1: Detailed sermon notes**

**Part 2: eGroup study questions**

### Here Comes Church – “In the know”

- Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc)
- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone – See [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc). The “e” stands for empowerment - because getting the instructions from God without having the empowerment to live them out will frustrate you. These groups are our way of putting some very wonderful people in front of you feed you spiritually.
- Stay out of “isolation silos” - you are an easy target for the enemy – and you don't have the benefit of friends to support you. Embrace the power of numbers.
- Interested in leading an eGroup? See: [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc)
- Don't over-think it – Invite someone to church – “Who do you know that is close to you that is far from God?”
- What are your Gr8ful eight?
- New album release on 2/20/2026 – “So Be It” – Outstanding
- Good Friday and Easter:
  - A SPECIAL GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNION EXPERIENCE ON FRIDAY, APRIL 3
  - CELEBRATE EASTER ON SUNDAY, APRIL 5.

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

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John 1:35-42 - John the Baptist points to the Lamb of God

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

39 "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

40 Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. 41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

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

John 4:6 (ESV) - Jesus stays in Samaria

4 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John — 2 although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. 3 So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. 4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. 7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." 11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" 13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." 17 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." 19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." 21 "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." 25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." 26 Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

John 11:1-6 - Jesus stayed where He was when Lazarus was sick, but then resurrected him

### The Death of Lazarus

11 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.  
2 (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."  
4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days,

Opening Prayer by Pastor Furtick on 3/22/2026: “Nobody can do what you can do, Jesus. Nobody deserves the praise that you deserve. Yours is the glory, the kingdom, the honor, and the power. There is nothing like your name, Jesus. Your name makes a wave lie down and be still. There's nothing like your name. Your name makes a chain snap in half. There's nothing like your name. The angels spin 24 7 just praising your wonderful name. Saying worthy is the lamb who was slain. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the lamb. Worthy of our worship. Worthy of our praise. Worthy of the honor. Now Lord in the strong invincible name of Jesus the Christ our savior. We come to you thankful for another day. Thankful for this time in your presence. Thankful for your healing. Thankful for your salvation. Thankful for your freedom. God I ask today that in the name of Jesus every opposing spirit would bow its knee as we worship the name that is above every name. We need no other name. We lift your name high as our banner today, God. I thank you for your presence as we have been singing and worshiping you. And I pray that you will continue to move in this room through the duration of this time. Have your way in this place. You're an amazing God. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.”

Prayer Prompt by Elevation Church:

“Dear Jesus, thank you for staying on the cross for us. Thank you for being the perfect model of steadfast love. This week, as we navigate the practical aspects of our lives, please confirm for each of us where we need to seek You and stay close to You. If we need to change a perspective or a feed in our lives, give us the courage to do it. I pray that each person in this group will see the fruitfulness that comes through staying rooted in You. Amen.”

# **Part 1: Detailed sermon notes**

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Faith To Stay” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2026

Sermon Summary: When we're going through a season that's uncomfortable or uncertain, we often look for a way out. But Jesus demonstrates another way that leads to lasting transformation and fulfillment if we have the faith to follow His example.

## Sermon Highlights

- What are you seeking?
- What are you seeking? Whatever you answer that question with is what you will find.
- Focus on the favor in your life more than the flaws.
- If you change your feed, you'll change your focus.
- It takes faith to look at a broken situation and see an open door of opportunity.
- To see King Jesus, sometimes I need to change my lens.
- How much faith do you have for the unfamiliar?
- Does it always have to look like the lens you have to see the Lamb in it?
- Where are you staying?
- Staying is under-rated.
- This season of faith will not be defined by your step, it will be defined by your “stay.”
- It takes faith to stay positive when everything inside you screams fear.
- **“I want to see what my life can be if I plant it in one place and serve God.” – Chris Brown**
- Stay planted in what God cares about.
- We love God to order our steps, but what about when He orders our “stay”?
- You can tell a lot about a Savior by where He stays.
- Sometimes the greatest faith in the room is the faith to stay.

## Scriptures

- John 1:35-42 (ESV) - John the Baptist points to the Lamb of God
- John 4:6 (ESV) - Jesus stays in Samaria
- John 11:1-6 (ESV) - Jesus stayed where He was when Lazarus was sick, but then resurrected him

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Faith To Stay” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2026

## Discussion Questions

- **“What are you seeking? Whatever you answer that question with is what you will find.” Pastor Steven used a magnifying glass to illustrate that we can find either flaws or favor in our lives.**
- Where this week can you take a closer look at all the good God has done?
- **“This season of faith will not be defined by your step, it will be defined by your ‘stay.’” When staying feels difficult, how do you practically keep close to Jesus?**
- “If you change your feed, you’ll change your focus.” Where have you seen your focus shift because of what you were consuming?
- **“Staying is under-rated.” Share about someone who has been consistent over time that has made a positive impact on your life.**

Elevation Church Prayer Prompt: Dear Jesus, thank you for staying on the cross for us. Thank you for being the perfect model of steadfast love. This week, as we navigate the practical aspects of our lives, please confirm for each of us where we need to seek You and stay close to You. If we need to change a perspective or a feed in our lives, give us the courage to do it. I pray that each person in this group will see the fruitfulness that comes through staying rooted in You. Amen.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Faith To Stay” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2026 - AI enabled sermon recap:

Faith to Stay: Seeking Jesus in John's Gospel

Mar 22, 2026 • 59 minutes, 34 seconds

Overview: A worship-filled service culminated in week two of the “Seeking Jesus” series, centering on John 1:35–42 and the message title “Faith to Stay.” The sermon contrasted the celebrated “faith to step” with the often-overlooked “faith to stay,” framed by two questions in John 1: Jesus’ “What are you seeking?” and the disciples’ “Where are you staying?” The pastor urged attendees to seek Jesus, recognize him beyond their lenses, and practice daily abiding as the pathway to transformation.

Worship, Welcome, and Opening Prayer

- Extended praise exalting the name of Jesus (“Worthy is the lamb”), declaring his unmatched power (“Your name makes a wave lie down and be still”; “Your name makes a chain snap in half”).
- Prayer offered “in the strong invincible name of Jesus the Christ our savior,” thanking God for healing, salvation, and freedom; asking that “every opposing spirit would bow” as the congregation worships “the name that is above every name.”
- Warm welcome to all campuses and those watching around the world; emphasis that “there is no distance in the Spirit” and “where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”
- Call for congregational unity, joy, and encouragement (e.g., greeting and hugs), with attention redirected solely to “King Jesus.”

Scripture Focus: John 1:35–42—Two Defining Questions

- Context: John the Baptist points to Jesus—“Behold, the Lamb of God”—and two of his disciples follow Jesus.
- **Question 1 (Jesus): “What are you seeking?” Highlighted as the first question Jesus asks in John's Gospel and a life-directing inquiry.**
- **Question 2 (the disciples): “Where are you staying?” Jesus responds, “Come and you will see.”** They “stayed with him that day” (about the 10th hour—counting from 6 a.m., approximately 4 p.m.).
- Identity note: One disciple is Andrew; internal detail (“about the 10th hour”) suggests the other is John (the author), an eyewitness who elsewhere calls himself “the one that he loved.”
- John the Baptist models stepping back by faith (“He must become greater, I must become less”), yielding attention to Jesus.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Faith To Stay” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2026 - AI enabled sermon recap:

Seek and You Will Find: Lens, Focus, and What You Look For

- **“Seek and you will find” applies broadly: if you seek complaints, flaws, or confusion, you will find them; if you seek God’s work, you will find that.**
- **Marriage analogy: magnifying glass vs. mirror—offenses are easy to find; choose to magnify favor over flaws.**
- “We have this treasure in earthen vessels”—God’s power shines through imperfect people; attend to the treasure, not the cracks.
- Church testimony of favor (if you look, you can find it): hundreds of people saved weekly (at least 100 every week); even “small” baptisms are 300; diverse worshipers (millionaires to minimum wage) united in the name of Jesus.
- Reframing focus: “Change your feed, you’ll change your focus.” Look for where God is present—in hospital, rehab, depression, divorce, or custody battles. Example: like Joseph, find God even “in the prison.”
- Seeing through a clean lens: sometimes the “window” (our perspective) is dirty, not the world. Faith “looks at a lamb and sees a king.”
- Scripture lens: “In the beginning was the Word”—you don’t need a magnifying glass, just the Word; pray “Show me, Jesus.”

Faith to Step vs. Faith to Stay

- Following Jesus then was not a button but a belief—these disciples pivoted on one sentence from John the Baptist and followed without questionnaires or interviews.
- **Adaptability of faith: be willing to change categories and lenses when God says “change,” including how you parent, where you worship, and how you define yourself.**
- “Staying is underrated”: we celebrate first steps, but it “takes faith to stay.” The text notes, “They stayed with him that day,” modeling daily abiding.
- Abiding thread: The word “stay” here is the same as “abide” in John 15—“Abide in me, and I in you.”
- Practical counsel: Before taking a new job, ensure God has worked on “the person you go to work with”—yourself—so you can stay steady wherever you go.
- Daily discipline: God calls you to have faith to stay “that day,” then the next—e.g., sobriety is “one day and another day and another day.”
- Unseen formation: Though John 2’s first miracle hadn’t occurred yet, simply “staying” with Jesus revealed him deeply; some revelation only comes by staying.
- Example of planting: A long-time worship leader chose to plant and serve in one place rather than chase accolades (e.g., Grammys); unexpected fruit followed from staying rooted.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Faith To Stay” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2026 - AI enabled sermon recap:

Where Jesus Stays Reveals Who He Is (Survey in John)

John 2 (Provision and Correction):

- Wedding at Cana—Jesus stays after the wine is gone and turns water into wine (provision).
- Temple cleansing—Jesus makes a whip and drives out exploitation (correction). Same Jesus: provision and correction; we must stay with him in both.
- John 4 (Samaria at Noon): Jesus stays at a well in the heat of day, waiting for a woman who becomes an evangelist; he goes through, not around, hard places.
- John 5 (Pool of Bethesda): Jesus stays by a man stuck 38 years and enables him to walk—staying for the one in long-term bondage.
- John 6 (Feeding Multitudes): Disciples want to dismiss the hungry; Jesus says they can stay and feeds them—he won't turn a hungry soul away.
- John 7 (Timing and Identity): Urged to “go prove yourself,” Jesus chooses to stay in Galilee—he is led by the Father's timing, not public pressure.
- John 8 (Adulterous Woman): Jesus stoops and stays in the dirt while others cast stones—mercy over condemnation.
- John 9 (On the Sabbath): He heals a man born blind despite controversy—he stays with people even when it costs controversy.
- John 11 (Lazarus): “Now Jesus loved Martha... and Lazarus. So when he heard Lazarus was sick, he stayed... two more days.” He stays to reveal a greater dimension—“I am the resurrection”—arriving “late” to call, “Lazarus, get up.”
- Theological Emphasis: Love, Abiding, and The Cross - Sometimes God's love is shown in staying—trusting you to abide through delay, anxiety, and loss, then revealing greater glory.
- Jesus had faith to stay on the cross when he could have summoned angels; the call is “Don't you have enough faith to stay?”
- At the cross, only one disciple stayed—John—exemplifying the faith to abide to the end.

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## Community and Practical Applications

- Join a small group to “unpack” the message (e-groups are open and free).
- Keep seeking the Lamb in flawed vessels; look for God’s favor in your life and church; resist offense and distraction (even in parking lots and traffic).
- When tempted to run (relationships, church, faith), ask God for “Saturday faith” to stay—abiding between promise and fulfillment.
- Salvation Invitation and Response
- Call to begin or return to following Jesus; assurance that the Spirit helps and the blood of Jesus pardons all sin.
- Corporate prayer confessed: need for a Savior, belief that “Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of the world,” receiving new life, and declaring, “I am a child of God.”
- Benediction: “Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling and present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. Amen.”
- Final word from the Lord emphasized by the pastor: “Stay.” Even if locations change, stay in faith.
- Corporate agreement prayer for steadfastness: “steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.” Encouragement: “Your house is built on the rock... The big bad wolf can huff and puff... we know a name... dead things come alive.”

## Upcoming Steps / Actions

- Practice daily abiding: “Stay another day”—seek Jesus today, then repeat tomorrow.
- Shift your focus: intentionally look for where God is working; “change your feed” to change your focus.
- Engage community: join an e-group to discuss and apply the Word; keep gathering for worship.
- New believers: connect, receive a Bible, and begin foundational discipleship in the church community.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Faith To Stay” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2026 – Sermon Transcript:

- **Opening Prayer: Nobody can do what you can do, Jesus. Nobody deserves the praise that you deserve. Yours is the glory, the kingdom, the honor, and the power. There is nothing like your name, Jesus. Your name makes a wave lie down and be still. There's nothing like your name. Your name makes a chain snap in half. There's nothing like your name. The angels spin 24 7 just praising your wonderful name. Saying worthy is the lamb who was slain. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the lamb. Worthy of our worship. Worthy of our praise. Worthy of the honor. Now Lord in the strong invincible name of Jesus the Christ our savior. We come to you thankful for another day. Thankful for this time in your presence. Thankful for your healing. Thankful for your salvation. Thankful for your freedom. God I ask today that in the name of Jesus every opposing spirit would bow its knee as we worship the name that is above every name. We need no other name. We lift your name high as our banner today, God. I thank you for your presence as we have been singing and worshiping you. And I pray that you will continue to move in this room through the duration of this time. Have your way in this place. You're an amazing God. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**
- Hey, would you give out about 15 hugs, please? Welcome to church, everybody. Remain standing, please. Remain standing. How many know there's freedom in the name of Jesus? Healing in the name of Jesus.
- We're about to go into week two of our new sermon series, everybody. I've got something for you today. Welcome to all of our campuses. Welcome to our eFAM watching all over the world. I want to take a moment and greet you to let you know that there is no distance in the Spirit. That wherever you are, the Lord is. And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So I pray that today you might feel free to worship God, that you could just have a distraction-free environment just to come before him today and hear from him. How many are glad that you made it to the house of the Lord another day? Praise the Lord.
- So many beautiful faces, so many wonderful stories and testimonies. Just look around this room for a moment. Just look around the room, I said. Everybody that you're looking at today, they had a time in their life where they didn't think they'd make it, but they did. Would you just touch your neighbor real quick? Just touch him real quick and say, I just wanted to see what a miracle feels like. Come on, tell your neighbor you look like a miracle. Turn to your other neighbor, say you look like you need a miracle. Tell him it's a good thing you're sitting next to me. Because when I start singing, prison doors fly open. When I start praising, let me test my microphone. When I say hallelujah, you say? When I say God is good, you say? And all the time, when I say thank you, you say Jesus.
- We came to see King Jesus. Now your outfit looks beautiful, but I didn't come to see your outfit. I came to see King Jesus. Your hair is pretty. I can tell you got it cut in color, but I didn't come to see your hair. I came to see King Jesus. I like your jeans, whether they're baggy or skinny, I think you're wearing them. Well, I didn't come to see your skinny jeans or your fat jeans. to see King Jesus. So let's take a moment and put all the attention on him. Come on, come on, come on, come on. I came to see him high and lifted up and shining in the light of his glory and the train of his robe fills the temple. I saw the Lord seated on the throne.
- Today we're going to go right back to John chapter 1. I've got a special message to share with you today from the Lord's heart in John chapter 1. It is so funny to me how I outline all of my message series for nothing. I was going to move to John chapter 2 this week, but the Lord directed me to stay in chapter 1. And I think I know why as he has been speaking to me during worship. This message will be something you can talk about at home. All right. I'm going to give you some stuff today that you will need to unpack with some friends.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Faith To Stay” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2026 – Sermon Transcript:

- So if you're not a part of an e-group in the church, we don't charge for it. So what's your excuse? What is your excuse for not getting together with these wonderful people who get together and discuss the word of God? But at the very least today, I believe the Lord is going to give you something to meditate on. And I want to start in verse 35. A little bit before where I read yesterday. Jesus Christ is collecting his first five followers. And the Bible says the next day, John. was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, behold, the Lamb of God. I love that. A lot of people saw Jesus walk by, but John recognized who he really was.
- You know, Jesus is walking up and down these aisles today, waiting for somebody to recognize him for who he is. Jesus is walking up and down these aisles today, looking for somebody to be honest enough to say, I need your help, Lord. I can't do this on my own, God. I'm exhausted today. Did you know Jesus is looking for a head to lift today? Jesus is looking for somebody today who will say, come home with me, Lord. I need you to get in the car with me. I need you to help me to deal with this situation in my house. I got a lot of strife. I got a lot of friction. I'm not even sure if we can make it. John said, look, behold, the Lamb of God. Now watch this. The two disciples, his two disciples, John the Baptist, two disciples, heard him say this and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, what are you seeking? Like I say to my kids when they're being nice to me, what do you want?
- You didn't come in here just to give me a kiss. I know better. What do you want? And they said to him, Rabbi, parenthetically, which means teacher, where are you staying? He said to them, come and you will see. So they came and saw where he was staying. And they stayed with him that day. and they stayed with him that day for it was about the 10th hour. One of the two who heard John speak and follow Jesus was Andrew Simon Peter's brother.
- He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, we have found the Messiah parenthetically, which means Christ. He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him. Now, a lot of people looked at Simon, but they didn't see him for who he was. Y'all are slow today. Remember, a lot of people looked at Jesus, didn't see him for who he was. A lot of people looked at Simon and didn't see him for who he was. But Jesus looked at Simon and said, you are Simon, the son of John. You shall be called Cephas, which means Peter. I want to talk to you today about something very important.
- **The title of this message is Faith to Stay. Faith to Stay.**
- **Opening prayer #2: Father, I honor you and I bless you in advance for the way that your word will speak and the testimonies I will receive as it goes forth. Your word does not return void. It accomplishes the purpose which you sent it to do. I thank you that not one drop will be wasted today, that it will water the soil of what you've already been doing in this person's life, and that it will bring forth fruit and abundant harvest in your time. We thank you and we trust you in Jesus' name. Amen.**

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Faith To Stay” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2026 – Sermon Transcript:

- You may be seated. Did you enjoy last week's message? Amen. If you missed it, go get it online. It's all there. I'm not sure if it was the same online. It was good in the room. It was good in the room. To where sometimes you got to be there. You know, you got to be in the room. The room where it happens. Good job coming to church today.
- If you didn't make it today because you couldn't, that's all right. If you didn't make it because you didn't, you need to get here sometime. Come and see what the Lord will do. And I think right here in John chapter one are two of the most important questions that adorn the entire Holy written word.
- In other words, some of the most important things in the Bible get said right here in John chapter one. I'm gonna break them down for you one by one, and then we'll go get some lunch. If you're so inclined, but the first thing is the thing that Jesus asks. And the second thing is the question that is asked.
- **I'll pull your attention back to the screens for just a moment where Jesus turned around and asked his disciples, his soon to be disciples who were just following him for the first time. What are you seeking? And then when they asked him back a question, they said, where are you staying?**
- **Those two questions will form the skeleton of my sermon today. The first one is about the most important question that you can ever answer correctly. What are you seeking? The first question that Jesus asked wasn't, do you believe in me? The first question Jesus asked wasn't, will you follow me? The first question that Jesus asked in John's gospel is, what are you seeking? What are you seeking? And I found out the reason that question is so important is that because whatever you answer that question with is exactly what you're going to find.**
- **One of Jesus's most popular teachings goes like this. Seek and you will find. He was talking about the kingdom of heaven. But did you know that seek and you will find is not only true of the kingdom, it's also true of complaining? If you seek something to complain about, you'll find it. If you seek something wrong with my outfit today, you'll find it. I tried to iron it. I tried to smooth it out. I tried to make sure it fit, but I'm sure for somebody is too tight for somebody else is too baggy. If you seek something wrong with what I'm wearing, you'll find it. If you seek something that I say today that makes no sense, you'll find it.**
- Somebody was recently telling me about a part in my sermon that they didn't understand. I said, that's the only part you didn't understand. I give you three more. I didn't understand it. I'm the one who said it. If you seek something that you don't understand in this sermon, you find it. But if you seek something that you do understand that you don't want to do, but you understand it almost so well that you focus on something that you don't understand to avoid having to do something that you do understand.
- You can find something in this sermon that will point right to the situation that you're dealing with. What are you seeking?
- **I've often taught in marriage, two of the most important tools are the magnifying glass and the mirror. I didn't bring a mirror, but I did ask them to get me a magnifying glass today. And I'm not going to use it much, but just how in marriage, if you look for something to be offended about, you find it. If you look for something that your partner doesn't have that you wish they had, you'll find it. If you look for something that they didn't reciprocate or something that they didn't appreciate, you'll find it.**

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Faith To Stay” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2026 – Sermon Transcript:

- Some of you found a few of them on the way to church today. Few things to be frustrated about. You know, if Holly wanted to turn this on me, I'm so thankful that she doesn't. There's all kinds of reasons that she could find not to be on this front row. that in spite of all the faults she could find in me, she can also see something so beautiful that comes through a vessel that she knows is so flawed. Can you find something that is beautiful in a vessel that is flawed? The Bible says we have this treasure in earthen vessels so that the power of the excellency might be of God and not of us. It means God puts it in a cracked clay pot so that what's inside gets more attention than what's on the outside.
- **And I wanted to remind you as we begin this sermon today to focus a little bit more on the favor that is in your life than the flaws that are in your life. And I wanted to remind you of that about this church because the favor of God is on this church. I said the favor of God is on this church. I don't know if you feel that way, but I feel that way. The favor of God is on this church.**
- Not a week goes by hundreds of people getting saved every single week. Not a week goes by that at least 100 people aren't saved in this church. The favor of God is on this church. When we have a small baptism in this church, it's 300 people getting baptized. That's a little tiny baptism in Elevation Church. The favor of God is on this church. The favor of God is on this church. You know how I can tell? All kinds of different people worship God in this church. Millionaires worship God in this church. Right next to people making minimum wage. The favor of God is on this church. We worship the name of Jesus. We celebrate the name of Jesus. We are not the same, but we worship the name that makes what we have in common way more important than what we have that's controversial or divisive. The favor of God is on this church.
- And if you want to see it, you can find it. On the other hand, if you want to find a reason not to come back next Sunday, you could probably find one in the parking lot. You could probably find a driver with an elevation sticker on their car who looks like they need to go back to driver's ed and they're 43 years old. You could probably find a reason to flip somebody the bird when you leave here, or you can find a reason to lift your hands and say, thank you, Lord, for the word. And I don't mind waiting in traffic. I'm just trying to say, what are you seeking is not a question to be skipped over. It is so important what you attune your mind to. It is so important that you look for where is God working in this situation. I know you're in the hospital. God is in the hospital. I know you're in rehab. God is in rehab. I know you're in trouble. God is in trouble. I know you're depressed.
- **God is in the lowly and the contrite heart. I know you're going through a divorce. God is with you while you lay your head on your pillow alone at night. I know you're in the middle of a custody battle. God is helping raise your kids. You're not a single parent at this moment. You are a parent in co-parenting relationship with the creator of the universe. Because if I seek, I can find. But if I look for a reason to believe that God is not with me, I could get one of those too.**
- **I could collect evidence for either verdict in my life. I could either make up my mind that my best days are behind me, and I could collect evidence to prove that my best days are behind me, and I could point to the stiffness in my joints and the grayness in my beard and the lack of energy in my life and the people who have left me, or I could turn around and look at all the people who didn't leave me and all the strength I still do have left and all of the ability that God gave me that did not diminish and all of the wisdom that I have gained from the valleys that I have traversed through.**

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Faith To Stay” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2026 – Sermon Transcript:

- The Lord is with me. Joseph said the Lord is with me. How do you know that in the prison because I looked for him in the prison I got out my magnifying glass I decided I was gonna search in every nook and cranny until I found Jesus Now the good news about Jesus that I told you this week is that he doesn't look like something You can fit in your pocket. The Bible says in the beginning was the word you won't be needing this to look for Jesus and You'll just be needing this. You'll only be needing this. All you got to do is say, show me, Jesus. I need to see you in my situation. I need to see you in my life. I need to see. Don't be offended I threw Jesus down. He's high and lifted up. He ain't going nowhere. You can't let him down. You were never holding him up. I came to see anybody. Ask your neighbor what you're looking for.
- Yeah, because if you look for a reason to be miserable, I'll help you find five. I'll give you some addendums. I'll give you some footnotes. If you want a reason to think that the world is a dumpster fire, I'll give you a reason to think that the world is a dumpster fire. But if you change your feed, you'll change your focus. And you will see there is a favor of God. Look the Lamb of God. When John said that the world was not perfect. When John said that justice was not established for Israel. He was pointing to the Lamb of God. And recognizing him as the King of Kings.
- How many of you really love deep Bible study? I put this point in for you. **It takes faith to look at a lamb and see a king. It takes faith to look at a lamb. see a king. Just like it takes faith to look at a broken situation and see an open door of opportunity. Just like it takes faith to look at your kids when you know they're on drugs and declare that they're delivered. It takes faith to focus.**
- I don't know if I can get past this point, Lord. You gave me more points than this, but do you want me to stay right here? Because I will. Look the land. That requires a lens, doesn't it? lens. One day I was looking out my window and I had a funny thought. The trees were dirty. The house that I could see through the window was dirty. The car that I could see in the driveway was dirty. Of course, you understand that it wasn't the world that I was looking at that was dirty. It was the window. Seek and you'll find. And sometimes you need to clean what you're looking through.
- So for me to see King Jesus, sometimes I have to change my limits and look at a lamb and see a king. I haven't given you much background on this passage yet, have I? When Jesus says to these two disciples, were you seeking skin? I don't know if you knew this, but you know everything about the Bible.
- One of the disciples is Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, and it says that. But there is a detail in this text that suggests who the other disciple is. And it blessed me to recognize it today. It can be kind of confusing to read the Bible if we're just throwing out all these names, because even in this passage here, I told you to turn to the book of John, and then I told you that John pointed at Jesus, but it's not John that wrote the book. It's John the Baptist.
- And John the Baptist, by the way, is not like his nickname or something like that, like Pete the Presbyterian, Ernie the Episcopalian. It's not like John the Baptist. That was actually what he was out there in Bethany doing, is baptizing people. He was telling them, repent, repent, repent. The kingdom of God is at hand. One is coming who is mightier than I, and I'm not worthy to untie his sandals.

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- **And so he's saying all of this, and then he sees what he's been saying. And he points the attention and he says, look, the Lamb of God. And he gives us a great object lesson in the times where God will require you to take a step back by faith. We always talk about stepping forward in faith. But there are times where God will strip you of your main character energy and tell you to step back in faith. And you'll find yourself saying things like, he must become greater, I must become less.**
- **And in order for somebody to see King Jesus, I have to step aside. Now, for me, at different seasons of my life, sometimes that's looked like knowing who I'm not and staying in my lane. One of the things that I realized early in my ministry is that although I loved worship and loved writing worship songs, I am usually more effective writing songs than I am singing them.**
- And I can sing them too if I choose to. But through realizing that God gave me a primary gift and God gave me a secondary gift and that my passion isn't always my gift, I've been able to be a part of preaching God's word in this church and helping to write songs through all of the awesome singers that we have here.
- Don't you believe we have awesome singers here? And I'm just using that as an example here of a time where God might call you to stay in your life and to know what you're called to do. And so as John is pointing, John the Baptist is pointing. There are these two disciples. One is Andrew, and I'm going to show you in just a moment how I know that the other one was John, who wrote the book.
- Now, he doesn't say that because John, when he writes his gospel, he keeps calling himself this nickname. He says, the one that he loved. So it's one thing to think about yourself in the third person, but this takes it to an entirely different level of confidence and strength. When they went to see Jesus, it says, I don't know if you noticed this when I read the text, it was about the 10th hour. And the reason that detail is in the text, why would you take the time to say that? It's not symbolic or anything. It simply means counting from 6 a.m., which is when the Jewish day started, that it was about four in the afternoon. But the reason that it was included in the text as a detail is because whoever is writing it was there. They didn't just hear about it. They were there.
- It is an eyewitness account written by none other than the disciple that Jesus loved. At least that's what he called himself. I personally think I'm the one he loves. I don't know about you, but I'm God's favorite kid. Would you tell your neighbor real quick, I'm God's favorite. Tell him, be careful how you treat me because I'm his favorite. You cuss me out, you got to talk to my dad about it because I'm his favorite. He really likes me, so you might want to say nice things to me because I'm his favorite. And John, who is in his own mind the favorite of Jesus, is following Jesus. Can we take a moment and appreciate the faith that it would take to follow someone on the basis of one sentence that was said about him? I thought that was amazing.
- However long they've been following John the Baptist, all it took was one directive and they became the disciples, not of John, but of the one that John was pointing to. How much faith do you have for the unfamiliar? How much faith do you have to detach from the way you've always defined yourself? Do you always have to go to a white church? Do you always have to go to a black church? Or will you go to the church that God sends you to regardless of how people may define it? Do you always have to go to a Pentecostal church?

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Faith To Stay” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2026 – Sermon Transcript:

- Do you always have to go to a quiet church? Or will you go to the church that God calls you to? Does it always have to look like the lens that you have for you to recognize the Lamb in it? Are you able to adapt? And when God says change, change. It takes a lot of faith to change. It takes faith to change how you parent the kid. It takes faith because you've been watching over them when they were little, making sure that they didn't get hurt. But you can't keep them when they're 23 from climbing in a tree. They might fall down, and the best you can do is help them with the bills. It takes faith to let them try new things. It takes faith to change the relationship.
- It takes faith to let go of some of the control. It takes faith just to completely change. I mean, they pivot on a single sentence to a person that they know nothing about, except that they know that John has called him the lamb of God. of God. And when John said, look, the lamb, they followed Jesus. They did not ask permission. They did not interview him. They did not submit a questionnaire. They did not check. Nope. They simply follow Jesus. That's what it says in verse 37. They followed Jesus. That takes faith to follow Jesus. I'm going to say it again. I'm going to get it. This is not following Jesus like you and I follow Jesus.
- Our definition of follow is based on Instagram, TikTok, and the artist formerly known as Twitter. We follow somebody on X. We follow somebody on Instagram. It is as simple as hitting a button. For them, this required a complete shift in their belief system. This was not a button. This was a belief. And to transfer all of your belief into someone you've never seen and to follow somewhere you've never been, that takes faith. And so we celebrate the fact that they stepped behind him, perhaps quietly.
- How many steps they took before they were addressed by the rabbi, we don't know. How long did Jesus let them walk before he turned around and acknowledged? How long did he check to see that they were still coming? How long did Jesus continue to keep his stride unbroken? Because he was on a purpose, for a purpose, with a purpose. not turning off of his path for anybody until he finally broke the silence. Silence turned around and said, what do you seek?
- And the disciples didn't say anything very deep. In fact, they didn't answer him at all. They said, where are you staying? John is so clever. The word staying that he uses here is the same word that he uses in John 15, where he says, Abide, stay in me, and I will abide, stay in you. It's the same word, not a letter different. So what seems on the surface so simple is setting us up for a revelation that's so deep. It is that they had the faith to take steps with the Savior. And boy, don't we love to see somebody take a step of faith.
- Don't we love to see somebody get baptized and take a step of faith? Don't we? Don't we love to see somebody raise their hand at the end of the service and say, I am giving my life to Jesus today. And we love it so much. We stay till the end. We don't slip out and get to our car early just because we want to get out before everybody else. We stay because we care and we celebrate that they are starting their relationship with Jesus. I know. I know. I know. We celebrate that. We celebrate when somebody goes, you know, I'm just gonna move there by faith. I'm going to St. Louis. I'm stepping out in faith, St. Louis.

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- I know there's a lot of unknowns. There's a lot of uncertainty, but we will celebrate somebody who can step into uncertainty because most of us are creatures of comfort and we stay in areas of familiarity. And when we watch somebody break free and audition for American Idol, or we watch somebody break free from the cage and just step out and do something completely different.
- And I'm gonna be a chemist at age 63. I've never studied chemistry in my life. I don't even know how to use Play-Doh, but I'm gonna be a chemist at age 63. I'm going back to school. I'm gonna start this.
- **We celebrate that so well, but can I tell you something? Staying is underrated. Staying is underrated. Because the same way that you think it takes faith to step, I think it takes faith to stay. And I will prove it to you, not from my own mind or experience.**
- I will prove it to you from this text. When they said, where are you staying? He said, come and you will see. And verse 39 is the clearest verse that gets across my message today in this entire passage. So they came and saw where he was staying. And watch what they did next. Applaud them for stepping out. Applaud them for following the lamb. It takes faith to be led by a lamb. It takes faith to look at a lamb when you can't see a king. All of that takes faith to give up on your plans, to give up. All of that takes faith. But I want to celebrate something different today. Look at it in verse 39.
- So they came and saw where he was staying and they stayed with him that day. I celebrate that they had faith to stay. And you celebrate that they had faith to step. But I celebrate that they had faith to stay. And could it be that in this season of your life, with all of the turmoil, With all of the trauma, with all of the unknowns, with all of the transformations and metamorphosis that you're going through, God is calling you to a greater level of faith. And this season of faith will not be defined by your step. It will be defined by your stay.
- And God said today, if I would preach this message like he gave it to me, he would put your focus in your eyes on Jesus and give you the faith to stay. I don't know who this is for, but you're where you need to be. I don't know who this is for, but don't move a muscle. I don't know who this is for, but pillow your head on the lion and take a nap because God is going to be shining through about four hours from now. Stay where he puts you.
- Blessed are those who are planted by the streams of water. I feel like preaching because if you quit, we give you a going away party. If you started, we give you a showing up party. But I want to give somebody a stay and put party today. And the fact is. It would have been easier for you to leave. It would have been easier for you to walk off. It would have been easier for you to wring your hands and throw in the towel and give up on God. It would have been easier for you to switch churches 13 times in the past 15 years.

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- It would have been easier for you to say, let me find a younger woman. It would have been easier for you to say, let me find a richer man. You could have tried your chances out there on the open market, but instead you stayed. And I celebrate the stayers today because it is since staying that you see. You're telling me not to take the job? I don't know. What's the job? You might take it. But I'll tell you one thing about the job that you take. You are going to be going to work at that company with you. So make sure that before you go to work somebody else, you let work for somebody else. You let God work on you enough that you like the person that you go to work with when you go to work. Because if you go to work and you don't like who you work with, I'm talking about you.
- If you don't like who you show up with, you can turn a vacation into a hell. You can turn a mansion into a ghetto. You can turn anything. Oh, God. If you don't learn to stay, you will never see. King, Jesus, can we stay with you for a day? Jesus said, all right, you can stay. You can stay. Come stay with me. I thought that was so cool that the first thing we see about Jesus in the scripture is through staying.
- And I'm all for steps of faith, right? But I think that today that the majority of us in the church aren't being called so much to a step as a stay. I'll break it down more. I know it's kind of confusing. Where are you going to go to college when you graduate high school? I don't care so much where you go to college as the fact that you stay close to God when you get there. So. So go to the one that you can afford. Go to the one that makes sense to you. Go to the one that you have an offer for. You see, I'm talking to you because it's more important that you stay pure when you get there than it is that you select correctly where you're going to go.
- And so much of our agony in life is about going and getting it right. And, oh, Jesus, am I following you right? Am I doing the right thing? And we get so paralyzed by that you when they saw Jesus because they stayed. I told you you were gonna talk about this message at home and what I thought was you'll probably use this message against each other, you know? See, I told you we weren't supposed to move. See, I told you we weren't supposed to sell the house. God said stay, well, that's not what he meant.
- **I am talking about the faith to stay even when everything inside of you is telling you to rebel and run. Many of you will not be here in this church this time next year. And if that's because God has moved you somewhere else and you're being fed there, then I celebrate. But if it's because you found it hard to follow Jesus and you thought that stepping out was what it meant to have faith, then I did not correctly teach you that it takes faith to stay.**
- It doesn't take faith for you to be into the Bible one month and then into New Age Crystals the next month and then into self-help and motivational teaching the third month. And by the fourth month, we can't even keep up with your location anymore. And we've got you on Life 360, but we don't know what weird part of the map you've gone to. And the first time you hit a question in the scripture and the first time you hit something you don't understand about God, you think you've got to run from God.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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- But what if the thing you don't understand about God is just the reinforcement that you're not him? What if the thing they don't understand about Jesus is the invitation to come deeper? into him. Do you really think that when you found Jesus you were finished? You weren't finished when you found him. In fact, you didn't even really find him. He found you and he found you a mess and he cleaned you up and he welcomed you home and you've got to learn to stay this time. You cannot keep running to the hog pen every time it gets hard.
- **You cannot keep running to escape mechanisms that leave you a slave every time it gets hard. You've got to stay somewhere. You've got to stay positive, surrounded by problems. You've got to stay looking for the Lamb of God. You've got to stay looking for redemption. You've got to find a reason to forgive, a strength to forgive. You've got to find something to say to yourself to get yourself up in the morning. You've got to stay in faith when everything inside of you is screaming fear.**
- I'm going to tell you how I get my messages from God. I stay in the chair until he speaks. If he doesn't speak in the chair, I get on my face on the floor, and I stay on my face until he speaks. If he doesn't speak when I'm on my face on the floor, I'm pacing around the house, and I stay pacing. But even if I'm moving, I'm staying. I might have to change locations, but I'm staying. I might have to change clothes, but I'm staying. I might have to downsize some of my life, but I'm staying. I might have to change some affiliations, but I'm staying.
- **Because you keep saying that faith will bring you out. But I believe God can give you the faith to stay rooted, planted, more fruit, much fruit, abounding fruit. If you abide. And they stayed with him that day. Oh, that's an important detail. Don't miss that. They stayed that day. God doesn't call you to have the faith to stay for 10 years. Just that day. Just that day. You can follow Jesus the whole way that way. I talked to somebody who was sober one time. They've been sober seven years. I met them just this past Elevation Nights tour. They said, I've been sober seven years. I said, seven years, how? They said, no, I didn't stay sober seven years. I stayed sober one day and another day and another day and another day.**
- You see what I'm saying? I stayed another day. I stayed another day. That's how you do it. You stay another day. Tell your neighbor, stay another day. Stay another day. That's all you got to do. You don't have to forecast out into the future. You are losing your strength because you are projecting too far into your future. Stay another day. Stay another breath. Stay another moment. Stay another day. That's all I've got to do. Stay another day. And that day they stayed with Jesus.
- And the Bible does us so dirty, y'all. John did his dirty. He just completely cuts to the next scene. And they stayed with him that day. And they ran to Peter and said, we have found the Christ. I want to know what happened in that house. What did he say? What did he do? We know he didn't do a miracle because the first miracle isn't until John chapter two. It says in John chapter 2, this was the first of the signs that Jesus performed in Cana, which is where Nathaniel was from, who we preached about last week, who Jesus told, you'll see greater things than these. And then the next thing he saw was a miracle of water becoming wine in his own hometown at a wedding.
- But he wasn't turning water into wine in that house that day. He did that in John chapter 2. They weren't drinking wine in the house. What was he saying in that house that day? And we don't know, except that they stayed.

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- **Sometimes I can't explain it to you, but just by staying, you get to see it. Isn't that true, Chris? Where's Chris? He's always in here. Been my worship leader for 18 years. He's won two Grammys. I had a bunch of babies. You like how I said he had them? Beth is right by his side. He told me, he told me, he told me. He told me about 17 years ago, I don't care if I ever win a Grammy. He said, I don't care if I ever get to go on Good Morning care if I ever have a platinum record, gold record. He said, I want to see what my life can be if I planted in one place and served God.**
- I'm not saying that you were wrong to change jobs. I'm not saying that you would be wrong to break up with your boyfriend. In fact, some of you need to end it with him so you can stay with him. That'd probably be real confusing if you were listening to this and not watching the video, wouldn't it? Stay with God. And I thought it was interesting that fruit that Chris didn't even care about came to him. Because he stayed planted in what God cares about. He stayed that day. It's almost like there's foreshadowing in this text.
- They stayed with him that day, but what happened the next day? Well, the next day he decided to leave for Galilee. They found Philip and said, follow me. And then they found Nathaniel and then they took off and went to the wedding and all of that. Do you know that more would be revealed to these disciples through where Jesus stayed than where he stepped? I was thinking about this.
- Because we're in a series called Seeking Jesus, right? And these disciples were so surprised to see Jesus at a wedding turning water into wine. Like, hey Jesus, we got to get out of here. The wine's gone. Jesus is like, no, this is what we came for. We showed up to stay after the wine is gone. So that after everything seems to be over, we could turn what seems to be nothing into something. But then their next stop was at the temple where Jesus made a whip and started driving out the people who were charging the people for an exchange rate and charging them for sacrifices and lying to people in the house of God. And he said, you're robbing the people instead of praying. So now notice this all in John chapter two, they go from wine to whips. And it's the same Jesus doing both. And one represents provision and one represents correction. And it's the same Jesus doing both.
- **And sometimes we'll stay with him through the provision, but we won't stay with him through the correction. But it's the same shepherd of the stars who orders both. And sometimes we will follow God. Yes, Lord, let me meet the right people. Yes, God, bring the right opportunities, the right scholarships. And as long as he's ordering our steps, we're good. But what about when he orders your stay?**

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- For example, in John chapter 4, Jesus shows up to a place called Samaria, which is a place where the Jews wanted to go around, but Jesus went through it. And not only did he go directly through Samaria, which was a place of great political, economic, and social tension, The Bible says in John chapter 4 verse 6 that when he got there his disciples went to get lunch and he sat down on the well and stayed in the heat of the day. The Bible says at noon or the sixth hour the way they count it. He stayed in the sun waiting for a woman who would become an evangelist to the area. They saw something of him as he walked but they saw even more when he stayed.
- On his way to the temple in John chapter 5, he stopped by the pool of Bethesda. And there was a man there who had been stuck there for 38 years. And Jesus, who had more important things to do and more important people to see and more important places to go, he stayed by this man until this man was able to walk. You can see a lot about the Savior by when he chooses to stay.
- In John chapter 6, the multitudes had come to hear him preach, and he taught so long they got hungry. And the disciples said, they got to go. They got to leave. We got to get out of here, man. There's not enough food. And Jesus said, no, they can stay. They can stay. You don't have to feed them, but I'm going to. They can stay. You can see a lot about a Savior who won't turn a hungry soul away. You can see a lot about a Savior who says, no, she can stay. She can stay. I know they made some mistakes, but they can stay.
- I know you didn't plan for it, but they can stay. You can see a lot about the Savior from where he stays in John chapter 7. When his brothers were like, you got to go up and. Prove yourself. Got to go to one of the feasts. And Jesus said, no, I'm good in Galilee. Y'all go. I'm going to stay. You can tell a lot by the Savior from where he stays. In John chapter 8, there was a woman who came to him who was caught in the act of adultery. And Jesus, who had the right to throw a rock at her and punish her by penalty of the law of Moses for adultery, got down in the ground. You could tell a lot by a Savior who stoops. and stays in the dirt while others are casting stones.
- You can tell a lot by a Savior by where he stays. In John chapter 9, there was a man who was born blind. He was blind from birth, and Jesus said, it's a Sabbath, but I'm going to heal you anyway because I'm going to stay and heal you even if it costs me controversy.
- You can tell a lot by a Savior. who stays in John chapter 11 brings us to the pinnacle of this message, the faith to stay. Because the Bible says in John chapter 11 verse 1, Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, Lord, the one you love is sick. And when he heard this, Jesus said, this sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory. So that God's son may be glorified through it. Now Jesus loved Martha. He loved her sister. And he loved Lazarus. So when he heard Lazarus was sick, he stayed. Where he was two more days. You can tell a lot about the Savior from where he goes. You can tell a lot about the Savior from what he says.

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- But you can tell even more about the Savior from where he stays. And now we are confused and we are forgiven for being confused. Because why would verse 6 say he loved them and they needed him. So he stayed two more days. Imagine the confusion of John and Andrew. Didn't you hear Jesus? He's sick. Why are we staying when he's sick? And perhaps Jesus pulled John aside, you know, because John is the one he loved the most. John is the teacher's pet. And maybe he explained to John off the record. See, if I go while he's sick, they will know me as healer. But they already know me as healer. And there is something I want to show about my nature that I can only trust to someone that I love. And I know they love me.
- And since I know they love me enough, I can stay here because they will love me even if I'm late. Abide in me. Abide in me. And you will bear much fruit. Abide in me through anxiety. Abide in me though friends forsake you. Abide in me with sickness in your body. Abide in me when the worst things happen. So he stayed because he had faith. Get ready for this. He had faith to know that I can stay two more days.
- And when I show up, Jesus, the son of God, Jesus, the lamb of God, Jesus, who is the resurrection new. When I get there, I'm going to speak the word. And there is enough power in my word that when I say Lazarus. Get up. He can't stay. So I have faith to stay right where I am. Because when I say his name, he's coming out of the grave. We could have had church right there, but you missed your cue. God is not staying away in your situation because he forgot about you. God did not get lost on the way to Bethany.
- Jesus did not have bad cell signal and unfortunately not get your message. There are times in your life that God shows his love for you by the fact that he trusts you enough. to stay. He knows you will stay. He knows you are like Job. They will not curse God, no matter what afflicts their life. They will not walk away from me, no matter who walks away from them. And God knows those who have faith. Because Jesus had faith to stay on the cross when he could have called legions of angels. And Peter said, don't you have enough faith to fight back Jesus? And Jesus said, don't you have enough faith to stay? Don't you have enough faith to trust me? In this situation.
- And I believe that the greatest faith in this room today. Is in the faith. That somebody has. To stay. To stay. Abide. They stayed with him that day. By the way. When Jesus went to the cross. Only one stayed. His name was John. The one who wrote it had the faith to stay.
- You celebrate Peter who got out to walk on the water. Great. I celebrate John who had the faith to stay at the foot of the cross. Everyone's standing, heads bowed and eyes closed. Father God, we receive your word today. You are an incredible God. You are a wonder-working God that never changes. I bless you today, God, because you stayed by my side. So many seasons where others left and you stayed.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Faith To Stay” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2026 – Sermon Transcript:

- **Closing Prayer #1: My prayer today is for someone whose branches are being shaken by the storm of their life. Someone who may have moved through that John chapter 11 moment. I pray that you would give them the faith to stay. I thank you that you called Peter the rock long before he ever was because you knew that your purpose for him would stay. Lord, I thank you today that there is a name. That when that name is mentioned, dead things come alive. So, Lord. We want to take just a moment and look at the Lamb of God. The one who is worthy of all praise. The one who is worthy of all worship. The one whose name never fails. The one who went to the grave on Friday stayed on Saturday and got up on Sunday. God give us that Saturday faith to stay today. We want to see King Jesus high and lifted up. We want to see King Jesus, but we're looking at the Lamb of God today. Heads bowed, eyes closed, all over this room. I believe there is someone today who God has given you the opportunity to become a follower of Jesus Christ.**
- **Closing Prayer #2: And I want to invite you right now by the power of the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus on the authority of the word. That first step of faith to become a follower of Christ. And you know, when you make that step of faith, you're not stepping out on your own. The Spirit of God comes in to be your helper. The Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead. The blood of Jesus Christ that pardons all sin. will come and wash your soul and make you a new creation. Heads bowed, eyes closed. You say, that's me today. Pastor Steven, I believe the Lord is calling me to this moment to follow him. Or maybe I have fallen away. There was a time I was following Christ, but today I'm coming back. If that's you, we're going to pray. a prayer right now. We're praying it out loud as a church family for the benefit of those who are coming to God or coming back to God. Repeat after me, church. Heavenly Father, today is my day of salvation. I am a sinner in need of a Savior. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. And today I make Jesus the Lord of my life. I believe he died that I would be forgiven and rose again to give me life. I receive this new life. This is my new beginning. I am a child of God. On the count of three, shoot your hand in the air if you prayed that. One, two, three. Celebrate you right now. Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, everybody. Come on, let's praise the Lord. Turn around and hug five people. Tell them, I got faith you're going to make it. I got faith you're going to stay. If you just received one of those Bibles, we celebrate your new beginning. Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling and present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. Amen.**
- **Closing Prayer #3: Let's clap our hands and thank God for his word today. Come on up, Holly. I saw those needles were kind of high. I didn't want you to take a fall. In front of all of our friends. The Lord has given us a word today. The word is stay. I know it's not sexy. But God said stay. I know people might not clap for you. But God said stay. The Lord said even if you change locations. Don't lose your faith. Stay. And you will see the goodness of the Lord. Father, I thank you once again. You have spoken and it is so. We say amen to what you gave us today. In fact, join hands with the person next to you. Make a connection. Father, I come into agreement with the person standing on my right and on my left with this entire church family. God, I thank you that they will be steadfast, immovable. always abounding in the work of the Lord. Squeeze their hand and say, you're going to make it. Your house is built on the rock and you're going to make it. You're not going anywhere. The big bad wolf can huff and puff all he wants. But we know a name. I said we know a name. That when that name comes forth, dead things come alive. Dead dreams come alive. Dead hope comes alive. In the name of Jesus. Give God a great shout of praise. For this mess. God bless you. What an amazing worship experience.**

## **Part 2: eGroup study questions and additional thoughts**

- Question 1 (Jesus): “What are you seeking?” Highlighted as the first question Jesus asks in John’s Gospel and a life-directing inquiry.
- Question 2 (the disciples): “Where are you staying?” Jesus responds, “Come and you will see.”

“Seek and you will find” applies broadly: if you seek complaints, flaws, or confusion, you will find them; if you seek God’s work, you will find that.

Marriage analogy: magnifying glass vs. mirror—offenses are easy to find; choose to magnify favor over flaws.

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

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Elevation Sermon Notes – “Faith To Stay” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2026 – Sermon discussion:

- “You cannot keep running to escape mechanisms that leave you a slave every time it gets hard. You've got to stay somewhere. You've got to stay positive, surrounded by problems. You've got to stay looking for the Lamb of God. You've got to stay looking for redemption. You've got to find a reason to forgive, a strength to forgive. You've got to stay in faith when everything inside of you is screaming fear.”
- Dang this is good!

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

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Faith To Stay” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2026 – Sermon discussion:

- But I believe God can give you the faith to stay rooted, planted, more fruit, much fruit, abounding fruit. If you abide. And they stayed with him that day. Oh, that's an important detail. Don't miss that. They stayed that day. God doesn't call you to have the faith to stay for 10 years. Just that day.
- I met someone them just this past Elevation Nights tour. They said, I've been sober seven years. I said, seven years, how? They said, no, I didn't stay sober seven years. I stayed sober one day and another day and another day and another day.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “Faith To Stay” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2026 – Sermon discussion:

## Where Jesus Stays Reveals Who He Is (Survey in John)

- Wedding at Cana—Jesus stays after the wine is gone and turns water into wine (provision).
- Temple cleansing—Jesus makes a whip and drives out exploitation (correction). Same Jesus: provision and correction; we must stay with him in both.
- John 4 (Samaria at Noon): Jesus stays at a well in the heat of day, waiting for a woman who becomes an evangelist; he goes through, not around, hard places.
- John 5 (Pool of Bethesda): Jesus stays by a man stuck 38 years and enables him to walk—staying for the one in long-term bondage.
- John 6 (Feeding Multitudes): Disciples want to dismiss the hungry; Jesus says they can stay and feeds them—he won't turn a hungry soul away.
- John 7 (Timing and Identity): Urged to “go prove yourself,” Jesus chooses to stay in Galilee—he is led by the Father's timing, not public pressure.
- John 8 (Adulterous Woman): Jesus stoops and stays in the dirt while others cast stones—mercy over condemnation.
- John 9 (On the Sabbath): He heals a man born blind despite controversy—he stays with people even when it costs controversy.
- John 11 (Lazarus): “Now Jesus loved Martha... and Lazarus. So when he heard Lazarus was sick, he stayed... two more days.” He stays to reveal a greater dimension—“I am the resurrection”—arriving “late” to call, “Lazarus, get up.”
- Jesus had faith to stay on the cross when he could have summoned angels; the call is “Don't you have enough faith to stay?”
- At the cross, only one disciple stayed—John—exemplifying the faith to abide to the end.

## Consumer relationships vs. covenantal relationships

## Consumer relationships vs. convenantial relationships

The commitment to remain – to abide

The main point by Dr. Timothy Keller:

“If the most profound, most joyful, most life changing, and glorious relationships are covenantal relationships, then your relationship with God has to be through and through a covenantal relationship. However, modern people have trouble mixing law and love together. The modern person say: I am spiritual but I am not religious. This means that I am spiritual and want a relationship with God, however, I do not want a covenantal relationship with God. . . . However, the bible says that that is impossible since the only relationship God wants is a covenantal relationship. In his relationship with Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, etc., it is always a covenantal relationship.”

Closing Prayer #1: My prayer today is for someone whose branches are being shaken by the storm of their life. Someone who may have moved through that John chapter 11 moment. I pray that you would give them the faith to stay. I thank you that you called Peter the rock long before he ever was because you knew that your purpose for him would stay. Lord, I thank you today that there is a name. That when that name is mentioned, dead things come alive. So, Lord. We want to take just a moment and look at the Lamb of God. The one who is worthy of all praise. The one who is worthy of all worship. The one whose name never fails. The one who went to the grave on Friday stayed on Saturday and got up on Sunday. God give us that Saturday faith to stay today. We want to see King Jesus high and lifted up. We want to see King Jesus, but we're looking at the Lamb of God today. Heads bowed, eyes closed, all over this room. I believe there is someone today who God has given you the opportunity to become a follower of Jesus Christ.

Back up slides

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



Oswald Chambers

## July 18 – Daily Devotional:

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

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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



Dr. Timothy Keller

total freedom = lack of meaning and significance

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

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

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

Have a good navigational beacon in 2022:

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