

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

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Here Comes Church – “In the know”

- Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc
- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone – See www.elevationchurch.cc. The “e” stands for empowerment - because getting the instructions from God without having the empowerment to live them out will frustrate you. These groups are our way of putting some very wonderful people in front of you feed you spiritually.
- Stay out of “isolation silos” - you are an easy target for the enemy – and you don't have the benefit of friends to support you. Embrace the power of numbers.
- Interested in leading an eGroup? See: www.elevationchurch.cc
- Don't over-think it – Invite someone to church – “Who do you know that is close to you that is far from God?”
- What are your Gr8ful eight?
- K-Love and Elevation Workshop at Red Rocks in CO in August 2025
- Elevation Nights is back: Elevation Nights is hitting the road again and we're coming to a city near you from October 21st through the 30th, 2025 - we're going to be in St. Paul, Omaha, St Louis, Louisville, Duluth, Tampa, Miami, and Orlando.
- Love week 3rd week in July 2025 - <https://www.elevationchurch.org/love-week>

Message from Elevation Church:

“This year, as we celebrate two decades of ministry, we are more aware than ever that it’s been the faith and generosity of people that have made it possible.”

Already in 2025:

- Over 9,546 people have made a decision for Christ.
- 2,033 have gone public with their faith through baptism.
- We released the song, “I Know A Name.”
- We released 2 new albums: Sons of Sunday and Victory Lap .
- We had our biggest Elevation Nights to date in the spring, and we’re headed back out this fall.
- Our Uptown and Greenville campuses are both set to move into their permanent facilities by year-end.
- We broke ground on our Raleigh location and are expected to launch early next year.

Psalm 77

For the director of music. For Jeduthun. Of Asaph. A psalm.

- ¹ I cried out to God for help;
I cried out to God to hear me.
- ² When I was in distress, I sought the Lord;
at night I stretched out untiring hands,
and I would not be comforted.
- ³ I remembered you, God, and I groaned;
I meditated, and my spirit grew faint.
- ⁴ You kept my eyes from closing;
I was too troubled to speak.
- ⁵ I thought about the former days,
the years of long ago;
- ⁶ I remembered my songs in the night.
My heart meditated and my spirit asked:
- ⁷ "Will the Lord reject forever?
Will he never show his favor again?"
- ⁸ Has his unfailing love vanished forever?
Has his promise failed for all time?
- ⁹ Has God forgotten to be merciful?
Has he in anger withheld his compassion?"
- ¹⁰ Then I thought, "To this I will appeal:
the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand.

Note the transition in vs. 10

Psalm 77

- ¹¹ I will remember the deeds of the LORD;
yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.
- ¹² I will consider all your works
and meditate on all your mighty deeds.”
- ¹³ Your ways, God, are holy.
What god is as great as our God?
- ¹⁴ You are the God who performs miracles;
you display your power among the peoples.
- ¹⁵ With your mighty arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.
- ¹⁶ The waters saw you, God,
the waters saw you and writhed;
the very depths were convulsed.
- ¹⁷ The clouds poured down water,
the heavens resounded with thunder;
your arrows flashed back and forth.
- ¹⁸ Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind,
your lightning lit up the world;
the earth trembled and quaked.
- ¹⁹ Your path led through the sea,
your way through the mighty waters,
though your footprints were not seen.
- ²⁰ You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “The Power To Change Your Mind” - Bishop T.D. Jakes - July 13, 2025

Prayer Prompt from Elevation Church:

Pastor Steven reminded us this week: “You don’t have to see God’s footprints to trust His purpose.”

What do you have coming up this week that you need to trust God has a purpose for, even if it’s hard to see Him working through it? We Thank God for the message this week and the reminder that even when we don’t see Him working, He is. We pray that we will remember to trust God’s purpose as we go into this week. As we face whatever challenges come our way, pray that God would help us to trust - that His hand is working in our lives in a great way - and that they will be able to look back and see all that God has done for them through the challenges they deal with.

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

"I Thought It Was Through" – "That's What I Thought Series" - by Pastor Steven Furtick - July 20, 2025

Sermon Highlights

- Even if you don't see it, even if you don't feel it, God is working.
- The biggest enemy to what God wants to do is "What I Thought" He was going to do.
- The only thing more difficult than remembering and admitting I was wrong is realizing I am wrong right now.
- It's possible that the devil has you trapped in an "I Thought" right now, and some of your "I Thoughts" are wrong.
- You can't block an "I Thought," you have to deal with it.
- You know the enemy has you in an "I Thought" when it's: Personal, Permanent, and Pervasive.
- Never allow distress (temporary) to turn into despair (forever).
- A Truth for the Trap: I thought it was through, then I thought it through.
- If I can't get help from God the way I want it, I'm going to think this through.
- The challenge is that you can't see the path in the present. You only see God's tracks when you look back.
- You don't have to see his footprints to trust His purpose.

Scriptures

- Psalm 77:19 - Even if you don't see it, God is working.
- Psalm 77:2-9 - I thought God was the problem
- Psalm 77:10-12 - Then I thought...
- Exodus 14:11; 26-28 - God makes a path for Israel and Exodus 15:1 - Israel sang a song looking back

Sermon Discussion

- "You know the enemy has you in an 'I Thought' when it's: Personal, Permanent, and Pervasive." Which one of these 3 P's do you find yourself leaning toward when in distress? What truths can you hold on to when facing this trap?
- "I thought it was through, then I thought it through." Where have you believed something was over, but God's inviting you to think through it at a deeper level?
- "The biggest enemy to what God wants to do is 'What I Thought' He was going to do." What expectations do you need to let go of and trust that God is working — even if it's not the way you thought He would?
- "The challenge is that you can't see the path in the present. You only see God's tracks when you look back." Where can you look back and see that this was true in your life? What did God teach you through that experience?
- "You can't block an 'I Thought,' you have to deal with it." What's a thought you've been trying to ignore, but you know it's time to face? What's one small step you can take this week to start dealing with it in a healthy way?

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Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “I Thought It Was Through” – “That’s What I Thought Series” - by Pastor Steven Furtick - July 20, 2025

- I want you to think about that for a moment. Is there something that he did for you in your life that you were praying for and you haven't praised him yet? Just anything at all, anything at all. Take inventory of your life for a moment. Just think about some of those things that you asked him to do, even some of those things that you didn't have the faith to ask him to do, but he was gracious anyway. I think what happens a lot of times in our lives, honestly, is we spend so much energy fighting the battle that when God blesses us and sees us through it, we don't have any strength left to celebrate what he did.
- Boy, tell your neighbor, God has been good to me. Tell him God has been good to you too. Tell him I know it because you look good. Tell him I know it because you look good Tell them I know it because you smell good.
- Come on tell them after all the hell you've been through You still don't smell like smart Come on give God a great praise Don't panic, praise him I didn't come here to play with y'all Praise the Lord He came crazy.
- I didn't come here to play guitar. Praise the Lord.
- There is no place like the presence of God. There is no church like Elevation Church. It's so good to see you. This is my first week back preaching. I will preach a little bit this week. I'm excited to do it. So, at least I get an extra ten minutes for every week I was gone today. I'll still have you out on time. In fact, I'm excited.
- The Lord spoke to me a series that we're going to start today and just hit the ground running. And I'll share that with you in a moment. Look at your neighbor and say a lot of good things are happening.
- I don't want you to miss Love Week next week. Our annual demonstration. You don't have to tell them this part. This is me. Sorry, I'm a little rusty. Love Week on July 26th through August 2nd. There are so many opportunities to serve. If you are like me and you're not a handy person, handyman, handywoman, whatever the politically correct way is to say handyman, if you're not very good at fixing stuff, I don't want you to think Love Week is just that or building stuff. Love Week is not just that. You can read to kids. You can pray with people. Or if you're like, I don't like to talk, I don't like to read, then you can fix stuff. But everybody has a gift and we get to put it to work. You can go to elevationchurch.org right now and sign up for an opportunity. Make your kids come. You might get a date at Love Week. It has happened. We have received testimonies of people who found love at Love Week. They came to give love and they found love. They got more love than they bargained for. So that's a little plug for Love Week. Elevationchurch.org.
- Also, I want to let you know if you don't live near Charlotte but you've always wanted to come to Clevation church we figured out a way to come to you elevation nights fall tour 2025 coming up 10/21/2025 to 10/30/2025. Go to elevationknights.com.
- Happy 11th anniversary to our Raleigh campus. Help me celebrate them better than that. Come on. Happy 11th anniversary, Raleigh. Raleigh campus. better than that. Come on. Happy 11th anniversary, Raleigh. Raleigh Campus. We're praying for a great next year of ministry.
- It's our 20th year of ministry as a church. And just we'll continue the celebration all year. Thank you to all the wonderful guest preachers who filled this pulpit and preached and all of our home team that preached. But my middle son, Graham, looked at me the other day. He said, it is time. We want you back.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “I Thought It Was Through” – “That’s What I Thought Series” - by Pastor Steven Furtick - July 20, 2025

- All these speakers have been great. We want you back. I'm back. I want to share with you today a scripture that the Lord gave me during our break. Our break was very unusual this year. Part of the time is just rest. Part of the time is study, songwriting, and all of that. The first half we spent in an unusual way. Our oldest son, Elijah, had a surgery, and he was recovering from that. It was a pretty major surgery. And then he got infected, and we ended up back in the ICU for quite a while after that. And he's doing all better now. In fact, the Lord healed him and he's clipping my sermon for TikTok right now as I preach it in a back room somewhere.
- So let's give God praise for that. I told him before I came to preach to us, I'm going to be very clippable today. I'm going to say good stuff. I'll make your job easy.
- But in our Bible reading, as we were going through some of that for the better part of a month as a family, we came across Psalm 77. And there was a verse I knew I wanted to share with you when I got back with you. And it's going to lead us into a series today.
- So remain standing for just when I read this one verse. Just one verse. Can you stand for one verse? It's in Psalm 77 verse 19. And I'll read this and then work backward from there to give you the message for today. And the Lord is going to help us in some remarkable ways. Psalm 77 verse 19. The psalmist says to God “your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen.” Isn't that a beautiful scripture? And the Lord really used that in my life. And I believe he wants to use it in yours. Really underrated scripture too. Maybe it'll be your favorite at the end of today.
- He says, your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen. And just turn to the person next to you and tell them, even if you don't see it, God is working.
- Tell them, even if you don't feel it, God is working.
- Let's put our hands together and praise the way maker in this place. Come on, praise the way maker in this place. God, I thank you for every mountain you brought me over, every valley you brought me through. It was nobody but you. And I praise you today. Speak now through your word. Use me as a vessel. I'm willing and available and open. Give me the courage. Give me the clarity, the confidence to speak to your children today and may they receive it and obey it. For it is in Jesus name that I pray and believe and call it done. Amen.
- You may be seated.
- Well, boys, bring out my teaching screen - Let's get this series started properly - As I announce to you Our title for the next six weeks at least And maybe even beyond that Because this is such a big topic That we're going to talk about And the title of the series doesn't come exactly from the verse that I read you, but I'll show you where it did come from in a moment.
- **But what I want to talk to you about for the next few weeks, the title of the series is, and you're going to like this phrase because you can say it with attitude, okay? We're going to talk about “That's what I Thought.”**

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- You know, you got to look at your neighbor and say it like you were just right and they were just wrong. And you tried to tell them, but they wouldn't listen. Tell them, that's what I thought. That's what I thought. Like you were certain and you were proved to be correct.
- **There is no better feeling than that's what I thought. Or that phrase is so elastic that we use it also to mean that our bias was confirmed. That's what I thought. But we want to really use that phrase today to deal with the thoughts that we think. Because honestly, not only pastorally, but personally, 90% of the problems that I have faced in my life have not come from what the devil did to me. Or from what others said about me. The biggest problem is that I get trapped in what I thought.**
- **The biggest obstacle. And somebody shout, if you know what I'm talking about, when I say that the biggest problem that I seem to have over and over again, it's not necessarily the enemies that I face, but it's what I thought. It's not necessarily what my life is at this moment. That's making me thought. It's not necessarily what my life is at this moment. That's making me sad. It's what I thought my life was going to be at this season.**
- **It's not necessarily who I am as a person that makes me insecure. It's what I thought I was supposed to be based on what I saw that other people showed me from who they are. But I didn't see their flaws. And so now I'm comparing my future to somebody whose flaws I have never seen. And now I'm frustrated about where I am. Not because of where I am. But because of what I thought.**
- **I'm not frustrated because I'm not married at this age. I'm frustrated because I thought I would be. I'm not frustrated because I'm dealing with this situation. I'm frustrated because I didn't have the chance to prepare for it. And over and over again in my life, the biggest enemy to what God wants to do is what I thought he was going to do. Now, I want you to get a time in your mind where you were, what I like to call, confidently wrong. And I don't know if you can think of one or if you've blocked all of that out. Selective memory.**
- **There's nothing really harder in life than to going back and admitting and remembering when you were wrong you just hit the lead on those times in your life like don't want to remember them and the problem with that is then you can't grow from them- as you go forward in the future - now when we say that Jesus takes away our shame and our sin that doesn't mean that he wants to cancel out the lessons that we learn from our mistakes. It means that he frees us from the penalty of it and the bondage to it.**
- But it doesn't mean that Jesus wants us to live our lives just to continue to be wrong in all the ways that we were wrong a year ago, five years ago, 10 years ago. And there's almost nothing more difficult than remembering and admitting when you were just so wrong.

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Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “I Thought It Was Through” – “That’s What I Thought Series” - by Pastor Steven Furtick - July 20, 2025

- i had one this week i have fresh examples of being confidently wrong- I did it at the dinner table one of our kids said something and i just came back with something and i didn't listen to the rest of their sentence and I completely missed the spirit of what they were trying to say. Just confidently wrong.
- **Now I have about a 12 hour expiration dosage cycle on the dumb things I do. It takes that long for me to digest my dumb and then apologize. So 12 hours later I found myself saying I was so wrong for that. Now that's hard, isn't it now that's hard, isn't it? That's hard, isn't it?**
- To say I was wrong to talk to you like that. I was wrong to assume that about you. I was wrong to judge you like that. I was wrong to put you in that position. I was even to admit dumb things like I was wrong when I said that song sucked. The first time I heard it, I thought it sucked. Now I realize it's a bop and I feel dumb because I like it, but I can't admit I like it because the first time I heard it, I thought it was silly. That actually is a banger. I've been wrong about songs that I've written before. We wrote a song in this church one time and I thought it was good. And then we went to record it. And after the recording, I turned to Holly and I said, well, I thought that song was good, but it's not good. She said, I thought it was pretty good. I said, it wasn't good. You could tell the people didn't like it. The people didn't care about it. And it's not going to go anywhere. After we recorded, “oh, come to the altar.” That's how wrong I can be about a song.
- And I'm glad I was wrong because it means there might be something else in my life right now that I think sucks. But it's actually going to be an amazing thing. If I'm wrong about that then i might be wrong about this it is the utter relief of realizing that you were wrong and admitting it and growing from it but the only thing more difficult than remembering when you were wrong and admitting you were wrong which i know isn't a very good way to start a sermon.
- None of us want to talk about that. The only thing more difficult than remembering and admitting I was wrong is to realize I am wrong. If it's that hard for everybody in my family and everybody watching this sermon to go back and remember i was so wrong.
- How could i have been so wrong to think what i thought or to say what i said or to believe what i believed or to assume what i assume the only thing more difficult than remembering it because it doesn't feel good is realizing that I am wrong right now.
- If we don't even want to admit that we were wrong, how much less do we want to realize that we are wrong or might be wrong or could possibly be wrong? Just see if you can get it out of your mouth. I may be wrong about that. And when you get to that point in your life, you realize that a lot of us in here, we have iPhones.
- How many of you have iPhones? Hold up your iPhone right here at this part of the sermon.
- **I want you to realize that not only do you have iPhones, but you also have I thoughts. And it's possible that the devil has you trapped in an I thought right now in your life. An I thought. In the psalm we just read, the psalmist says something so incredibly miraculous and wonderful. He says God's path led through the sea and his way through the mighty waters, though his footprints were not seen.**
- But to understand the process by which he arrived at that thought, I want to take you all the way back to the beginning of Psalm 77 and journey with me now for a moment while I build this thought out for you. That's what I thought.

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Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “I Thought It Was Through” – “That’s What I Thought Series” - by Pastor Steven Furtick - July 20, 2025

- The psalmist is lamenting here. There are four different types of Psalms in your Bible. There are Psalms of praise, Psalms of thanksgiving, Psalms of wisdom, and Psalms of lament. Lament is where they're just telling God their trouble. Lament is where they are being honest with God, realizing that why would you hide it from him? It's not like he didn't see the whole thing. Realizing that you can say something to God and he's big enough to handle your brokenness.
- This is a psalm of lament, but I want to show you how it goes from a psalm of lament to a psalm of wisdom. And over the course of the next several weeks, I want to help you with your thoughts.
- **Because some of your I thoughts are wrong. Some of your I thoughts about people are wrong. Some of your I thoughts about people are wrong. Some of your I thoughts about what is still ahead of you in your life are wrong. and you could be confidently wrong. And you can be completely trapped.**
- That's the situation for the psalmist in Psalm 77. It's not David writing this time. It's one of the sons of Asaph, the musical leaders and he's pouring out his heart to God he says I cried out to god for help I cried out to god to hear me when i was in distress circle the word distress please i sought the lord at night i stretched out untiring hands and I would not be comforted i remembered you god and i groaned what a strange thing to say i thought it was i remember you god and i was grateful i remember you god and i praised i remembered you god and i was encouraged i remembered you god and i rejoiced he said it was so bad. I remembered you. And I groaned.
- The reason Psalm 77 is special and you might want to study it is because a lot of times when they wrote Psalms, they were asking And it was an external enemy. Or in the case of Psalm 51, David is praying about his own sin. He's saying, created me a clean heart. Oh God, I did something horrible and I need you to make me new and I need you to raise me up and I need you to give me a second chance.
- But this is not a Psalm about enemies. **And this is not even a Psalm about sin. In this Psalm, the primary problem for psalmist is not an external enemy or even his own sin. His problem is God. His problem is God. And more specifically, his problem is God. Where did you go? His problem is God. When are you going to help me feel something again?**
- God, when are you going to help me feel something again? God, when are you going to answer this? I'm holding out my arms to you and you seem to be standing at a distance. I'm not even sure you're in the room. I'm not even sure you hear this. And so as he's recounting this, I want you to understand the heaviness of it. So that when I encourage you in just a few moments, like I plan to do with God's help, you will understand the place this psalm starts at.
- **He has a problem with God. And when you have a problem with bills, somebody can pay them for you. When you have a problem in your body, you can go to a doctor about that. When you have a problem, even in your mind, you can have a therapist for that. But what do you do when your problem is with the one who has no boss? What do you do when your problem is with the one who has no supervisor that you may ask to speak to?**

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- What do you do when you're in a situation where what God did is so much different than what you thought he should do. That is Psalm 77. I remembered you, God, and I groaned, not shouted, groaned, not clapped, groaned, not danced, groaned. I remembered you, God, and I groaned. I meditated and my spirit grew faint. People will tell you all the time how much they've grown but they won't tell you how much they groaned so they could grow into the place where they are today this is the process of becoming a person that God can use and it is not easy he said my spirit grew faint you kept my eyes from closing I was too troubled to speak.
- And then verse 5 gives us the entire problem, not only with the psalmist, but with ourselves. I thought. Everybody say, I thought. I thought about the former days. Justin, do I even have to say it? Circle I thought about the former days. Justin, do I even have to say it? Circle. I thought circle it for everybody in here who's having doubtful thoughts.
- Circle it for everybody in here who's having fearful thoughts. Circle it for everybody in here who's having jelly, pettish, petty, jealous, petty, jelly thoughts, jelly thoughts.
- We're calling them right now. Circle it for everybody in here who is dealing not with an external threat and maybe not even a personal sin, but with a I thought. Now, when I read this at first, you're going to be like, he did the right thing. This is what you're supposed to do.
- This is what we teach in church, that you're supposed to go back and remember if you're in a season right now where you don't know what God is going to do. Just remember what he did. And that's what it sounds like on the surface.
- But I want to dig a little bit because I've been waiting two months to preach this message and I'm going to preach it today.
- I thought about the former days when my jeans fit a little looser. I thought about the former days when my hamstrings weren't. So I thought about the former days. When my hamstrings weren't. So I thought about the former days. When I didn't need these readers to look at my Bible. And this size 67 font.
- In order to preach it to you. I thought about the former days. The years of long ago. I remembered my songs in the night. My heart meditated and my spirit asked. What's wrong with any of this? It's an I thought. I remembered, verse 6, please, my songs in the night. My heart meditated and my spirit asked.
- Now watch what happens when it starts with me. Verse 7, this is what you get back. When you send out an I thought. This is what you get back. And you know what? You can't block an I thought. Not with your fingers. You have to deal with it. And the psalmist is putting it all out there for us today. **Which gives us permission to know that we can feel emotionally confused. And still get spiritually strong. Watch what he says. It gets worse before it gets better. Will the Lord reject forever? Will he never show his favor again? Has his unfailing love vanished forever? Has his promise failed for all time? Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has he in anger withheld his compassion? I thought. And that's what came back. And what I heard the psalmist saying today, and I wonder if it's true of you.**

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- He says, I thought I suffered and I thought - I thought it was through I thought back over the best days of my life and I thought they're behind me. I thought about the things that I would love to see God do for me that he's done for others. And I thought, well, I guess he just doesn't want to do it for me. I thought, I thought, I thought it was through. I thought that my experience of God had completely dried up. I thought he didn't love me anymore.
- The psalmist said that I didn't. So if you've ever felt that you're in the Bible. I thought that God had taken his hand off my life. I thought he had just given up on me because others did. I thought it was through. And you see in this passage, what they call the three P's of negative thinking.
- I'm going to be talking to you over the next six weeks about, I thought I'm going to be talking to you about three ways of negative thinking that you may recognize in your life.
- They're all here in the Psalm and we'll come back to them a few times, but I just want to point them out to you he says will the lord reject forever will he never show his favor again has his unfailing love vanished forever I thought it was through I thought it was gone I didn't see his footprints in the sand y'all ever seen that little poster on the thing did you ever see butt prints in the sand.
- Y'all ever seen that little poster on the thing? Did you ever see butt prints in the sand? That's another one. You can look that up another time. He says, I felt rejected. I thought it was never going to come again. Now that's strong saying never. That's strong when you think that he will never show you favor again.
- **And he said, I thought his love had vanished. And they call these the three P's of negative thinking because they're traps. And it's when you take something that happens to you and you make it personal rejection. It's when you make it permanent, never. And it's when it becomes pervasive, vanished, everywhere. It took everything away. It's completely ripping through your whole life.**
- It's one thing to have a problem and you've got it in a corner. And this is the one thing that I'm dealing with in my life. But you know the enemy has you in and I thought when it becomes personal the lord rejected me there's something wrong with me it's fine to be disappointed because somebody didn't want to be your friend it is another thing to assume that they are worthy to be the Olympic figure skating judge of your life and then you stop putting yourself out there. Because you think that somehow they have the stamp of approval to give the human race.
- And that they know just from their virtue of their own goodness. Whether or not you're worthy. And now you've got yourself isolated because you took it personal. And there may have been something that they were going through that was so dark.

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- That if you would have known that you would have given them a hug and said I'll send you a Christmas card but now you've got it personal permanent it's never coming back it's always going to be this way it will never change i'm never going to be able to go a week without doing this i am never going to find anybody who gets me it's permanent it's going to stay this way forever and it's pervasive it's when you can't way forever and it's pervasive it's when you can't celebrate the kid that's doing good because of the one that you're worried about it's when you can't celebrate the health in your body because of the hell in your mind it's because you're in an i thought he said i thought it was through i thought the dream through.
- **I thought the dream was through. I thought the vision was through. I thought the relation, I thought my joy, I thought my very joy in life was through. It's an I thought.**
- And if you're there today, let's start there. I thought it was through. There are some things in your life that may very well be through. That's why you can't dwell on. I thought about was through.
- There are some things in your life that may very well be through. That's why you can't dwell on. I thought about the former days.
- That's why you can't watch Andy Griffith reruns and wish again for wholesome entertainment and curse this love island. It does crap. These kids are watching and the devil has taken over a generation. This is an I thought but the Lord y'all are laughing like y'all been watching it too I thought it was through I thought the best days were behind me I thought and I want to show you something that's really helped me it's something that he said in verse 2 and uh yeah yeah yeah he said when i was in distress - everybody say distress - distress is a normal part of the Christian life just - like it's a normal part of the human experience distress in and of itself is not a problem. When I was in distress. The promise that God makes is not to protect us from distress.
- **The promise that God makes is not to keep all pressure from coming on our lives. The promise that God makes is not to make sure that he always takes us the long way around any problem. The problem is when the distress becomes despair. There's a difference. Distress is this hurts, but I have hope. Despair is this hurts and I have no hope. Despair is dangerous. Despair is hurt minus hope. Despair is looking at the situation saying never vanished. Rejection. Personal. Permanent. Pervasive.**
- I thought the psalmist said, not that this is just a difficult season and I got to get through it because we all have those. Not this is just a bad day and if I can make it till five o'clock without cussing anybody out, I can keep bringing home a paycheck and not get kicked out of this house that I'm behind a month on anyway.
- **It's not if I can get through this, it is, is this all there is? The stare is it's never going to get better. That's where the devil wants you. It's never going to get better. And you'll always lose your temper. It's never going to get better. And you will always be a failure. It's never going to get better. And you are always going to be too loud. And you are always going to be too quiet. And you are always going to be too short. Did you ever think maybe God made you short so you could fit through little doors?**
- **Now, if this is where the psalmist starts, we have got to do something today to get you out of this. If despair is dangerous and distress isn't dangerous, you can go out of this. If despair is dangerous and distress isn't dangerous, you can go through a lot of things. You've been through a lot of things. You've put up with a lot of things.**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “I Thought It Was Through” – “That’s What I Thought Series” - by Pastor Steven Furtick - July 20, 2025

- Tell your neighbor, I'm tougher than I look. Tell them again, I'm tougher than I look. Don't let my pretty smile fool you. I'm tougher than I look. I'm tougher than I look.
- I took a licking and kept on ticking i'm tougher than i look i'm like a weevil i wobbled but i didn't go down i'm tougher than i look - i've had some challenges to my faith - i've had some questions about god - i'm still here praising in fact that's my two-word testimony when I can't think of anything else to praise him for. Still here. Somebody shout, still here.
- In a funk, still here. Down in it, still here. Wondering about it, still here. Peace isn't... So what you've got to do, child of God, is never allow This isn't. **So what you've got to do, child of God, is never allow distress, which is temporary, to become despair, which says forever.**
- **And the devil specializes in turning distress into despair to get you so clouded by one conflict that you have forgotten your calling.**
- Who am I preaching to today?
- God sent this word to disrupt your despair. Hear me. God sent this word to disrupt your despair.
- Every I thought that has been telling you, you will not make it. Every I thought that has been telling you, will not make it every I thought that has been telling you.
- **You are not worthy of God's love - the cross made you worthy - what does it have to do with your behavior what did it ever have to do with your behavior - it's about his blood - I call you worthy in the name of Jesus - I call you healed by his stripes - I call you forgiven and his favor is coming to your situation right now.**
- Into your room. Into your home. Into your wound. Into your family. Into your business. Into that thing that the devil told you. It's through. It's through. Give up. It's through. Quit fighting. It's through. Don't go back to rehab. It's through. Give up on it. Just manage the addiction. It's through. Give up. It's through. Quit fighting. It's through. Don't go back to rehab. It's through. Give up on it. Just manage the addiction. It's through. It's through. Just walk away from it. It's through. Just move to another city and start over the same stuff all over again until it catches up with you. It's through. Leave. It's through.
- But I found something for the trap. I found a truth for the trap. For everybody who has been in an I thought. And I know you know the one I'm talking about. Don't make me start prophesying.
- The I thought. The one that starts with you and ends with misery. You know every thought that starts with me ends in misery eventually. If it doesn't involve God. So what I noticed from what I read from Brueggemann and some of the other theologians that I was looking up. He said, I thought about the former days. And I thought it was personal, permanent, pervasive. I would ask God to help me with the problem. But God was the problem. I didn't know where to go.
- Now, I kind of lied to you when I set the sermon up.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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- I said I was going to share a verse that I read that meant a lot to me right after Elijah got out of the hospital. And I am, but it wasn't the one I read to you when I started the sermon. It's one... It's a little sniper verse. It's a little sniper scripture. It's like you could just gloss right over it, but remember how bad of a state this guy was in.
- What's going to turn it around for you? What's going to turn it around for us? What's going to break us out of these patterns and traps of thinking that the devil says never. What's going to break us out of these patterns and traps of thinking that the devil says never all what's going to break us out of this limited view of your situation they can't find God in it because you have gotten so blurry in the battle.
- I told my mom i said I'm going to be reading from psalm 77 to preach this week. And she likes when I give her a little head start. Well, she sent me back a picture of her Bible open to Psalm 77. She's like, I already beat you to it, preacher. I'm trying to do her voice when I do that. I already beat you. It was a text, but that's how she would have said it. And I said, bring that Bible because I want to show you something. It's a relatively obscure psalm. You see how she had that circled? I need to do that's better she has that psalm 77 circled like a serial killer that's just like all right and i realized why she's got it all underlined.
- I said bring the bible to church i got to show the people something - she was circling everything in this bible all the way down to has his unfailing love vanished forever has his promise failed for all time and then on her bible that's the part where that page ends.
- I told her I was like that's not the best part of psalm 77 she's like yeah that's what i was reading right after your dad died - thanks a lot I said you know that's a good part of psalm 77 too obviously when you're going through things.
- But I said read the rest and hit me a couple hours later.
- My dad died of ALS - It was over 10 years ago - in June of 2013 and this psalm meant a lot to her during that low time of her life - and so she was reading it like we do - and we come to this place - I thought it was through and she had just lost her husband - she just lost him after caring for him it was an atrocious disease - but what i want to show her and you today from Psalm 77 is in verse 10.
- May this change your life. May this break your pattern. May this bring you out of the trap because he said, I was stuck in. I thought, watch this. Then I thought. That's the whole sermon. Then I thought. Circle it on the screen, Justin. Then I thought. No, circle then I thought. Because the first thought wasn't the right thought. Then I thought. I thought, I thought, I thought. And I got stuck in a loop of I thoughts.

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- Then I thought verse 10 is the hinge where everything changes for this Psalmist. Verse 10 is the hinge where everything can change for you and I. Verse 10 is the hinge that depression doesn't want you to know about. Verse 10 is the hinge that the devil wants to hide and delete off of your Bible app.
- Verse 10 is the hinge that the devil doesn't want you to turn to. Because after all of that, which is real, after all of that, which is a part of being you, after all of that, I thought it was through.
- **After all of that, he says, then I all of that he says then I thought let's see what he thought next to this I will appeal the years when the most high stretched out his right hand I will remember the deeds of the Lord yes I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds. Go back to verse 10. Then I thought to this I will appeal. The years when the most high stretched out his right hand. Go back to verse 2. When we started with these I thoughts, he was saying, when I was in distress, I sought the Lord at night. I stretched out untiring hands. Who stretched out? I stretched out.**
- **It can't do this much longer. I don't care how many interior raises you do in the gym for your shoulders. You can only do this so long. And is it possible that the reason you are so faint in your faith and so weary in your worship and so discouraged about your destiny and the reason that you think that it's through is because you have been so focused on this. God, I can't give anymore. I can't do anymore. I already feel so stretched. God, I feel so empty. I feel so unseen. I feel so uncelebrated. I keep stretching out my hands. I keep putting myself forth. I keep taking my next step. But you're not there. Then, verse 10. Then, verse 10. Then, I thought, I'm going to appeal to a higher court.**
- **Instead of thinking about how I'm doing this, let me think about the years when God stretched his hand. And when I start thinking about how he stretched his hand and I forget about my hands suddenly my hands go up in worship because I remember that the battle is not mine but it belongs to the Lord.**
- Then I thought. That's anointing. Yeah. High five your neighbor. Say then I thought. I thought over and over. I thought. Then I thought. Oh yeah, then I thought. I thought it and over. I thought. Then I thought. Oh, yeah. Then I thought. I thought it was through. Then. I thought I might as well throw in the towel. Then. I was very focused on all the reasons I had not to go forward. Y'all slow. Y'all are real slow. Y'all slow like molasses in the south. Then I thought, let me think about his hand. Let me remember his deeds. He does it in a quartet. He talks about the mighty deeds of God, the works of God, the awesome deeds of God, the deeds of God. He lists them off and rattles them off because he said, I thought it was through.
- And then after I had gotten done with all of my questions, then after I poured out all my complaints, then after I considered all the reasons that I had to be afraid. I thought it was through, but then I thought it through. I thought about saying, alright right, devil, I quit. Then I thought it was through. But then I thought it through. And I decided I wouldn't despair unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. High five seven people say I thought it through. I thought it through. I thought it through. I thought it through. I thought it through. I thought it through. I thought it through. Now let me tell you what I mean.

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- In verse 19, let's go right back to the top of the sermon. He said, when I thought about the way God works, don't sit down. You're about to shout again. You might as well just save yourself a calorie burn. You might as well just save yourself a cardio. Just go ahead and jump up now by faith and get ready to celebrate. He said, your path led. Circle the word through. Let's do Bible study. I wanted you to take me around it i wanted you to carry me over it i wanted you to give me a boat but instead of a boat i got a mighty hand and an Your path. Your path led through. Tell your neighbor, I thought it through.
- Your way through the mighty waters. Through the mighty waters. Though your footprints weren't seen. Why didn't I see God's footprints? Because he was working with his hand at a higher level he was driving back waters that i didn't know he needed to part so he could drown Egyptians that were chasing me and trying to bring me back into captivity what am i trying to say think it through you just keep thinking the same i thoughts and you're like i do think it through.
- You just keep thinking the same I thoughts and you're like, I do think it through. I'm an overthinker. You just, because you think it again, doesn't mean you thought it through. You under thinker you, you, you think like this. Oh, well, the devil's attacking me i guess god's not with me what if you thought that through god must be so with me this is how you think it through god i i went i went to my in-laws uh 50th uh wedding anniversary the other day.
- Clap your hands for that. And it survived betrayal. And it survived addiction. And it survived special needs. And there were times where they thought it wouldn't make it. Then I thought.
- **The challenge is you can't see the path in the present. It's only in retrospect that the Red Sea looks like a blessing. I'll show you what I mean. Go to Exodus 14.**
- When the Israelites came up on the Red Sea, you know the story? You know the story? They came up on the Red Sea. They were leaving Egypt. They had been slaves for 430 years and God was leading them out. They happy they're ready to dance they even packed their tambourines and as the tambourines are jingling in their suitcase oh no here comes trouble what is the sound of that very high pitch it doesn't sound like a tambourine.
- It's an Egyptian chariot oh no the Egyptians are coming after us so watch what they thought because i'm trying to get you to see that you might be wrong you might think the attack means it's through that's an I thought they thought - watch this exodus 14 - the lord said to moses let's stretch your hand over the sea the waters may go to flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen were swept them into the sea.
- So the Israelites didn't die - the Egyptians did.
- Go to verse 28 the water flowed back and covered all the chariots and horsemen - now that all sounds so wonderful God drowned their enemies right - and I now rushing - I don't have time - you can come back next week for part two of this - but what's crazy to me about this scripture is the scripture says that when they got to the edge. Of their escape route.

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- For Jesus who would be the greater Moses. Who would bring us out of the slavery to sin. It's all set up here. And the psalmist is looking back and saying. When I could not see your footprints. I remembered that your hand was working in the night.
- And you've been looking at the wrong level. And you have been thinking at the wrong level.
- And God's thoughts are not our thoughts. And his ways are not our thoughts. And his ways. Are not our ways. And what if the attack that is against you. Is actually sent to remind you. How valuable what you carry actually is.
- Think it through. Think it through. The devil is not omnipresent. The devil does not have unlimited ammunition.
- **So if there is an attack against your life. If there is an attack against your family, if there is an attack against your mind, there is something in your future that hell has recognized. Think it through. What is it? What is it that hell knows about my family that I forgot about my family? Then I thought it through. And even more, what is it that God knows I need to learn that he would let me go through this? And if you really want to get out of the, I thought, what is it that he's going to use this for in somebody else's life?**
- Did I really suffer this much to stay silent about what he taught me as a student?
- **Closing Prayer #1: So the word of the Lord is, think it through. Think it through. It never comes like you thought it would come. Not when it comes from God. Because if it came like you thought it would come, then it comes from god because if it came like you thought it would come then your thoughts would be god and he says my ways are not your ways neither are my thoughts your thoughts and it just blessed me to think about all of the people in here who instead of giving up on this pursuit of Jesus - instead of giving up on your purity - instead of giving up on the impact God has called you to make - instead of thinking it was through - you're going to think it through - today so that the song you have to sing on the other side reflects the faithfulness of the god who split the sea.**
- One moment, it looked like the sea was going to kill them. The next minute they realized, wait, God didn't bring us this far to drown us. He didn't bring us out here to leave us. He didn't bring us out here because he's not with us. He brought us out here because the enemy can't swim.

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Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “I Thought It Was Through” – “That’s What I Thought Series” - by Pastor Steven Furtick - July 20, 2025

- Closing Prayer #2: Now I want to pray for you. Everyone's standing. I want to pray for you. And I want them to prepare to sing the song. I was listening to before I came out that says, even when I don't see your work, even when I don't see it, you're working. Even when I don't feel it, you're working. You never stop. You never stop working. Never stop. You never stop working. Even when I don't. You never stop. Stayright there a minute. He said, I remembered the years when you stretched your right hand. I couldn't see your footprints. You only see God's trackslooking back. That's when you get to tell the story about how the heartbreak ultimately was a part of the healing. That's when you get to tell thestory about how what you thought was rejection from others was actually protection of God. That's the right hand. And you only see that right handin reverse. So he said, if I can't get any help from God like I want it, I'm going to look all the way back and I'm going to think it through. And sothat means if I'm facing an attack right now, I'm going to think it through. And so that means. If I'm facing an attack right now. I'm going to think this thing through. The mind of Daniel. Who spent the night with lions. And never even saw their teeth. And if God kept Daniel like that. In that lion's den. I believe he'll keep me too. And I'm going to think back about a shepherd boy with a stone standing against a giant that was much bigger than him and serving a king that didn't believe in him and fighting for brothers who insulted and looked down on him and took his stone. And I'm going to think this assignment through with the mind of David, who realized that if God is for me he is greater than any enemy that stands in my way so I'mgonna think it through I almost I almost turned around and went home I almost didn't do I almost turned back then I thought it through because God's path always leads through mighty waters.
- Closing Prayer #3: That's how he shows you. It was him. So mom, I can't make you do it, but I hope you will go home and cirde verse 10 with that same fury that you circled Psalm 77. Say, then I thought. Then I thought. You are one thought away from God. You are one thought away from peace. You are one thought away from victory. You are one thought away from a shout. You are one thought away from clapping your hards. You are one thought away from driving darkness out of your heart. You are one thought away from a shout. You are one thought away from clapping your hands. You are one thought away from driving darkness out of your heart. You are one thought away. Waymaker, miracle worker, promisekeeper. Light in the darkness. Lift your hands now. My God, that is who you are. I want every single hand lifted on every campus, in every living room, in every kitchen. On every campus. In every hospital room, if you're able, lift your hands. You get tired of stretching your hands. God never gets tired of stretching his. The way maker is coming into your situation. You don't have to see his prince to trust his purpose. You don't have to predict the path. Just stay on it. God is with you. Jesus is on this journey. His spirit is in you. Greater is he that is in you. Than he that is in the world. Now lift your hands in worship. and lift your voice in praise. Call his name. Then I thought, he's a way maker. He's a miracle worker. Comeand speak to me right in the darkness. My God, I need to hear you. See it again. I need somebody to thank for seeing the blue. Even when I don't see it. I know who he is. Yes, sir. Come on. You never stop. You never stop working. You never stop. You never stop working. Even when I don't see it, you're working. Even when I don't feel it, you're working. You never stop. You never stop.

Part 2: eGroup study questions

This is worth another look – I can't stop laughing at this

“And it's an ugly business because freedom is always an ugly business. The truth of the matter is, Christianity is not pretty.”

“I would love for God to put warning labels on our forehead. "Hello. My name is Mary. I'm crazy as a drunk bedbug." "Don't buy the fact that I'm cute and that I got nice eyes, 'cause my eyes roll up in my head, and I turn into the Cookie Monster." "I am scared of people, and I don't like to be in crowds. I don't like to talk ..except when I want to talk. And I'll tell you when I want to talk. And then when I talk, I want to talk about stuff that doesn't make any difference, and I want you to listen and think it's important-" "... And respond the way I like to have you respond. Because if you don't respond the way I like you to respond, it's gonna be hell up in this house.”

It's not necessarily what my life is at this moment. That's making me sad. It's what I thought my life was going to be at this season.

I'm not frustrated because I'm not married at this age. I'm frustrated because I thought I would be. I'm not frustrated because I'm dealing with this situation. I'm frustrated because I didn't have the chance to prepare for it.

And over and over again in my life, the biggest enemy to what God wants to do is what I thought he was going to do.

Now, I want you to get a time in your mind where you were, what I like to call, confidently wrong.

Pastor Furtick’s drop the mic moment:

“Now when we say that Jesus takes away our shame and our sin that doesn't mean that he wants to cancel out the lessons that we learn from our mistakes. It means that he frees us from the penalty of it and the bondage to it.”

“Now I have about a 12 hour expiration dosage cycle on the dumb things I do. It takes that long for me to digest my dumb and then apologize.”

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon Discussion – “I Thought It Was Through” – “That’s What I Thought Series” - by Pastor Steven Furtick - July 20, 2025

“God's path led through the sea and his way through the mighty waters, though his footprints were not seen.”

Question: Tie this back to Pastor Furtick’s message “I Thought it was Through”?

“God's path led through the sea and his way through the mighty waters, though his footprints were not seen.” Question: Tie this back to Pastor Furtick’s message “I Thought it was Through”?

Additional commentary but Pastor Furtick:

- Because some of your I thoughts are wrong. Some of your I thoughts about people are wrong. Some of your I thoughts about what is still ahead of you in your life are wrong. and you could be confidently wrong. And you can be confidently wrong and be completely trapped.
- And this is not even a Psalm about sin. In this Psalm, the primary problem for psalmist is not an external enemy or even his own sin. His problem is God. His problem is God. And more specifically, his problem is God. Where did you go? His problem is God. When are you going to help me feel something again?
- What do you do when you're in a situation where what God did is so much different than what you thought he should do. That is Psalm 77.

“God's path led through the sea and his way through the mighty waters, though his footprints were not seen.” Question: Tie this back to Pastor Furtick’s message “I Thought it was Through”?

Additional commentary but Pastor Furtick:

- If you're in a season right now where you don't know what God is going to do. Just remember what he did.
- I remembered, verse 6, my songs in the night. My heart meditated and my spirit asked.
- The three “P” of negative thinking - Personal, Permanent, and Pervasive.
- And they call these the three P's of negative thinking because they're traps. And it's when you take something that happens to you and you make it personal rejection. It's when you make it permanent, never. And it's when it becomes pervasive, vanished, everywhere. It took everything away. It's completely ripping through your whole life.
- I thought the dream was through. I thought the vision was through. I thought the relation, I thought my joy, I thought my very joy in life was through. It's an I thought.

“God's path led through the sea and his way through the mighty waters, though his footprints were not seen.” Question: Tie this back to Pastor Furtick’s message “I Thought it was Through”?

Additional commentary but Pastor Furtick:

- The promise that God makes is not to keep all pressure from coming on our lives. The problem is when the distress becomes despair. There's a difference. Distress is this hurts, but I have hope. Despair is this hurts and I have no hope. Despair is dangerous. Despair is hurt minus hope. Despair is looking at the situation saying never vanished. Rejection. Personal. Permanent. Pervasive.
- That's where the devil wants you.
- If despair is dangerous and distress isn't dangerous, you can go through a lot of things. You've been through a lot of things. You've put up with a lot of things.
- Two-word testimony - Still here.
- So what you've got to do, child of God, is never allow distress, which is temporary, to become despair, which says forever.

“God's path led through the sea and his way through the mighty waters, though his footprints were not seen.” Question: Tie this back to Pastor Furtick’s message “I Thought it was Through”?

Additional commentary but Pastor Furtick:

- And the devil specializes in turning distress into despair to get you so clouded by one conflict that you have forgotten your calling.
- You are not worthy of God's love - the cross made you worthy - what does it have to do with your behavior what did it ever have to do with your behavior - it's about his blood - I call you worthy in the name of Jesus - I call you healed by his stripes - I call you forgiven and his favor is coming to your situation right now.
- Verse 10 is the hinge where everything changes for this Psalmist.
 - Vs 10 Then I thought, “To this I will appeal:
the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand.
 - Vs 11 I will remember the deeds of the Lord;
yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

“God's path led through the sea and his way through the mighty waters, though his footprints were not seen.” Question: Tie this back to Pastor Furtick’s message “I Thought it was Through”?

Additional commentary but Pastor Furtick:

- Instead of thinking about how I'm doing this, let me think about the years when God stretched his hand. And when I start thinking about how he stretched his hand and I forget about my hands suddenly my hands go up in worship because I remember that the battle is not mine but it belongs to the Lord.
- The challenge is you can't see the path in the present. It's only in retrospect that the Red Sea looks like a blessing. I'll show you what I mean. Go to Exodus 14.
- You got to sing that same song on the other side so you can get through this through this.
- Jesus who would be the greater Moses. Who would bring us out of the slavery to sin.
- Think it through. The devil is not omnipresent. The devil does not have unlimited ammunition.

Closing Prayer #1: So the word of the Lord is, think it through. Think it through. It never comes like you thought it would come. Not when it comes from God. Because if it came like you thought it would come, then it comes from god because if it came like you thought it would come then your thoughts would be god and he says my ways are not your ways neither are my thoughts your thoughts and it just blessed me to think about all of the people in here who instead of giving up on this pursuit of Jesus - instead of giving up on your purity - instead of giving up on the impact God has called you to make - instead of thinking it was through - you're going to think it through - today so that the song you have to sing on the other side reflects the faithfulness of the god who split the sea.

Closing Prayer #2: Now I want to pray for you. And I want them to prepare to sing the song. I was listening to before I came out that says, even when I don't see your work, even when I don't see it, you're working. Even when I don't feel it, you're working. You never stop. You never stop working. Never stop. You never stop working. Even when I don't. You never stop. Stay right there a minute. He said, I remembered the years when you stretched your right hand. I couldn't see your footprints. You only see God's tracks looking back. That's when you get to tell the story about how the heartbreak ultimately was a part of the healing. That's when you get to tell the story about how what you thought was rejection from others was actually protection of God. That's the right hand. And you only see that right hand in reverse. So he said, if I can't get any help from God like I want it, I'm going to look all the way back and I'm going to think it through. And so that means if I'm facing an attack right now, I'm going to think it through. And so that means. If I'm facing an attack right now. I'm going to think this thing through. The mind of Daniel. Who spent the night with lions. And never even saw their teeth. And I'm going to think this assignment through with the mind of David, who realized that if God is for me he is greater than any enemy that stands in my way so I'm gonna think it through I almost I almost turned around and went home I almost didn't do I almost turned back then I thought it through because God's path always leads through mighty waters.

Closing Prayer #3: That's how he shows you. It was him. Then I thought. You are one thought away from God. You are one thought away from peace. You are one thought away from victory. You are one thought away from a shout. You are one thought away from clapping your hands. You are one thought away from driving darkness out of your heart. You are one thought away from a shout. You are one thought away from clapping your hands. You are one thought away from driving darkness out of your heart. You are one thought away. Waymaker, miracle worker, promise keeper. Light in the darkness. Lift your hands now. My God, that is who you are. I want every single hand lifted on every campus, in every living room, in every kitchen. On every campus. In every hospital room, if you're able, lift your hands. You get tired of stretching your hands. God never gets tired of stretching his. The way maker is coming into your situation. You don't have to see his prince to trust his purpose. You don't have to predict the path. Just stay on it. God is with you. Jesus is on this journey. His spirit is in you. Greater is he that is in you. Than he that is in the world. Now lift your hands in worship. and lift your voice in praise. Call his name. Then I thought, he's a way maker. He's a miracle worker. Come and speak to me right in the darkness. My God, I need to hear you. See it again. I need somebody to thank for seeing the blue. Even when I don't see it. I know who he is. Yes, sir. Come on. You never stop. You never stop working. You never stop. You never stop working. Even when I don't see it, you're working. Even when I don't feel it, you're working. You never stop.

Back up slides



July 18 – Daily Devotional:

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



Dr. Timothy Keller

total freedom = lack of meaning and significance

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

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

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

Have a good navigational beacon in 2022:

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