

Welcome to Kev's on-line eGroup

The e-Glue that helps with the glitter

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Part 2: eGroup study questions

Here Comes Church – “In the know”

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

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Psalm 114:5-8

14 When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language;

2 Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion.

3 The sea saw it, and fled: Jordan was driven back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs.

5 What ailed thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest? thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?

6 Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams; and ye little hills, like lambs?

7 Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob;

8 Which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Matthew 4:1-4

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted[a] by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'[b]"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'[c]"

7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'[d]"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'[e]"

11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Jesus the Great High Priest

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, [a] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Numbers 13:30-33

30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." 32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

Matthew 3:16

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

Awesome opening prayer on Sept. 14, 2025: "I want to pray a pastoral prayer over you like I so often do from this pulpit. I realize that you may be carrying more weight than normal this week. But God is still strong, able, capable, mighty, and sovereign. He never leaves His throne for a moment. We're reminded on weeks like these that tomorrow is not promised. So we have to give God the worship He's worthy of today. We're reminded as we look around this great house, this ministry that God is building, that we're in this together. That the name that unites us will always be stronger than anything that divides us because Jesus is our King. I said Jesus is our King. I'm going to say it one more time. Jesus is our King. I don't know about you, but the world's always been crazy, but He's always been King, and He's still King. So when you don't know what to do, when you don't know what to say, when you don't know why, when your words fail, maybe you just put the weight on him because he's worthy. One name. Always worthy."

Opening Prayer #2 by Pastor Furtick on 9/22/2025: A little history lesson. Back before we had cell phones, we had something called collect calls. A collect call is when you needed to get in touch with somebody but you didn't have any money or currency or resource. And then they would say, do you accept the charges? And if the person who picked up the phone really loved you, they would say, I accept. I hear the Lord saying, I accept. I hold you to the high of my heart. I know your name. You call my name. And when I hear your name, I'll come see about you. I'll help you in the day of trouble. I'll carry you through rough water. I'll still the storm if you'll call my name. We thank you, Lord, that you've already paid the price for us to come into your presence today. Not by the blood of bulls and goats, but by the precious blood of Christ. We thank you today that we can come before you and make our heart an altar. We can bring anything to you. It doesn't scare you, intimidate you, or repulse you. We thank you that you have already dealt with our sins and we are free to worship you because of Jesus. We cast all anxiety on Jesus today. He's strong enough. We cast all depression on Jesus today. He's big enough. We cast all of our fear on Jesus today for He is big enough. God, I pray for every one of my brothers and sisters in Christ, in this room, across all of our campuses, and all around the world. I thank You that You're doing a great work. I sense Your presence. Even if I didn't, You would be here. But I thank you that I feel you right now. And I praise you for the word that you gave me. It is a liberating word. A powerful word. It came from heaven and so hell has to leave. Because when you speak, anything is possible. And we ask you now. Kind father. Give a word to us.. In Jesus name. Amen.

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “He Answered” – by Pastor Steven Furtick - September 22, 2025

Sermon Highlights

- A noisy mind needs a new loop.
- The enemy is always speaking, and so is God.
- Victory and defeat are both found in the repeat.
- The Spirit led Him into the wilderness, but He did not leave Him there.
- Three truths to remember for new loops in your life: He's here, It's handled, I'm His.
- Be careful who you vent to. Sometimes when you start venting, you start inventing.
- When the devil gets rhetorical, you get historical.
- Just because the answer hasn't arrived yet, doesn't mean God didn't send it.

Scriptures

- Psalm 114:5-8
- Matthew 4:1-4
- Hebrews 4:14-16
- Numbers 13:30-33
- Matthew 3:16
- Matthew 4:11

Sermon Discussion

- “Victory and defeat are both found in the repeat.” What's a pattern in your life that has set you up for victory, or has kept you stuck in defeat?
- “Three truths to remember in the wilderness: He's here, It's handled, I'm His.” Which of these three truths—He's here, It's handled, I'm His—do you most need to put on repeat in your current season?
- “Be careful who you vent to. Sometimes when you start venting, you start inventing.” How has choosing the right person to vent to been helpful when you find yourself inventing?
- “Don't get better at describing your wilderness than you are at describing your water.” Share and pray with your eGroup—A wilderness season you're walking through, or water that you've seen God provide in your wilderness.

Elevation Church Prayer Prompt: Pastor Steven reminded us, “Just because the answer hasn't arrived yet, doesn't mean God didn't send it.” Where do you need to hold onto this reminder this week? Thank God for this week's message – We pray that everyone in the midst of any challenges we face or questions we are waiting to be answered, remembers the three truths that we learned this week — that God is here, it's handled, and we are His. Pray that as we hold onto these three truths, we can begin developing new loops in our lives.”

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “He Answered” – by Pastor Steven Furtick - September 22, 2025

AI generated sermon recap:

He Answered: Presence, Provision, and Identity in the Wilderness

Sep 21, 2025 • 59:46 minutes

Overview

A worship service and sermon centered on calling on God and receiving His answer, framed by the series “Same Lives, New Loops.” Through Psalm 114 and Matthew 4, the message emphasizes God’s nearness in hardship, His unmatched power (“it’s handled”), and the believer’s secure identity (“I’m His”). Practical counsel urges replacing toxic mental loops with God’s Word, resisting temptation without shortcuts, and trusting that help (“angels”) is on the way.

Opening Worship and Exhortation

- Corporate praise declaring God’s names and attributes: “Call His Name,” “Jehovah Jireh,” “Jehovah Nissi,” “Jehovah Rapha.”
- Refrains: “Call God... He answered,” “We are united.”
- Illustration of “collect calls”: when you have no resources, you call and the one who loves you says, “I accept.” Applied to God: “I hear the Lord saying, ‘I accept... I know your name.’”
- Prayer: casting anxiety, depression, and fear on Jesus; gratitude for access by “the precious blood of Christ”; request for a liberating word and increased strength for the weary.

Series Context: New Loops vs Old Noise

- Series: “Same Lives, New Loops”—replace destructive mental repeats with God’s Word and worshipful melodies to anchor the mind in truth.
- Personal notes: recalling “Old Church Basement” (2021) when the church was empty but “God was here.”
- Purpose: “My job is to put God’s words in people’s hearts.” Music and Scripture become new loops to steady believers in trials.

Three Core Truths (New Loops)

1. He’s here
 - It’s hard is true, but do not define yourself by the difficulty; define yourself by the size of your God.
 - The Spirit may lead into hard places but does not leave you there. God is with you in weakness, addiction battles, hard conversations, caregiving, financial strain, and dry seasons.
 - Practice the declaration: “It’s hard, but He’s here.”
2. It’s handled
 - Historical proof fuels present faith: the God who split seas and made mountains leap is the same God now.
 - Use “but” to break spirals: “It’s hard, but He’s here... It’s handled.”
 - “It is written” is the pattern: trust God’s plan over shortcuts. Beware: venting can turn into inventing and create false enemies or exaggerated obstacles.
3. I’m His
 - Temptation’s twin lies: “It’s not enough” and “You’re not loved.” Jesus rejects turning stones to bread because identity and provision are already secured in the Father.
 - Christ is the Bread and the Cornerstone; the devil cannot give you what is already yours in Christ.
 - Identity loop: “I’m His”—chosen, known, sustained, and secure; help (“angels”) is already on the way.

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AI generated sermon recap:

Practical Counsel and Mental Loops

- Victory and defeat are both found in the repeat. Train new loops by Scripture meditation and worship; limit noise (“more Word, less news”).
- Be careful which voices you give weight to; do not let human opinions drown out heaven’s voice.
- When the devil gets rhetorical, get historical—recount what God already did to confront present lies.

Illustrations

- Collect call: God says “I accept,” knows your name, and comes to help.
- 40-day fast: hardship is real, yet dependence on the Word sustains.
- Gym/repetition: strength grows by right repeats; so does defeat by wrong repeats.

Declarations and Response

- Corporate affirmations: “He’s here. It’s handled. I’m His.”
- Praise refrains: “I call God and He answers.”
- Encouragement: wait for the angels; don’t substitute stones for bread by seeking shortcuts or counterfeits.

Salvation Invitation

- Prayer of faith: confessing Jesus as Son of God and Savior, asking for new life and committing to follow Him.
- Public response: hands raised; community celebration of life change.

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- Opening prayer: Call His Name Today - Call Him Jehovah Jireh Today - Call Him Jehovah Nissi Today - Call Him Jehovah Rapha Today - Call Him from wherever you are He's not a far away God. He'll answer you. You can call Him from right where you are. I call God with love today. I call God in the morning. I call God on the good day. I call God when the air is so round. That too. Mine. I call God just to thank him. No other reason. I just call to say I love him. I'm so glad you said it again. I call God. I'm not. Get your hands up. Work the verse. I call God. I call God. I'm calling God to save me I'm calling God to heal me - I'm calling God to lighten me - We are united - When nobody else picks up the phone - When you can't tell anybody else your business - We are united - Praise the Lord. Clap those hands. Don't get tired. Praise the Lord.
- Call him in the morning. Call him in the evening. Call him at noon day too. He's still on the mountain. He's still out in the valley. Call him one more time. I call God in the valley. He's tonight in the valley. Call it one more time. I call God in the valley. I call God in the valley. I call God in the answer. I call God in the answer. I call God and He answers I call God and He answers All right.
- **Opening Prayer #2: A little history lesson. Back before we had cell phones, we had something called collect calls. A collectcall is when you needed to get in touch with somebody but you didn't have any money or currency or resource. And then they would say, do you accept the charges? And if the person who picked up the phone really loved you, they would say, I accept. I hear the Lord saying, I accept. I hold you to the high of my heart. I know your name. You call my name. And when I hear your name, I'll come see about you. I'll help you in the day of trouble. I'll carry you through rough water. I'll still the storm if you'll call my name. We thank you, Lord, that you've already paid the price for us to come into your presence today. Not by the blood of bulls and goats, but by the precious blood of Christ. We thank you today that we can come before you and make our heart an altar. We can bring anything to you. It doesn't scare you, intimidate you, or repulse you. We thank you that you have already dealt with our sins and we are free to worship you because of Jesus. We cast all anxiety on Jesus today. He's strong enough. We cast all depression on Jesus today. He's big enough. We cast all of our fear on Jesus today for He is big enough. God, I pray for every one of my brothers and sisters in Christ, in this room, across all of our campuses, and all around the world. I thank You that You're doing a great work. I sense Your presence. Even if I didn't, You would be here. But I thank you that I feel you right now. And I praise you for the word that you gave me. It is a liberating word. A powerful word. It came from heaven and so hell has to leave. Because when you speak, anything is possible. And we ask you now. Kind father. Give a word to us.. In Jesus name. Amen.**
- Now I take my job seriously. And my job is to put God's words in people's hearts. That's my job. That's my job is to put God's words in people's heart. That's my job. That's my job. Whenever I'm not preaching to you or studying to preach to you, I'm usually humming a melody into a song, changing a lyric for the 15th time. So the team has to learn it at 9.13 before we try it the first time. And it's all the same thing. I want you to have, watch this, a new loop in your life. That's what I'm preaching about today. That's what I preached about last week. Our series on the graphic, it's called Same Lives, New Loops.

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- And meditating on the Word of God is hard when we have so much noise in our world isn't you know go sit there and act like it's not noisy in your in your mind so a noisy mind needs a new loop something else to latch on to so you don't go absolutely crazy with temptation and with anger or with shame. And one thing that I love to do is when we can get a meditation from God's word and then God gives us a melody to go with it, it helps us to remember in the hard times. Today I want to share with you from a psalm, Psalm 114. We read it in our family Bible club.
- We don't stand the whole time in our church in case you're wondering, did you wear the wrong shoes? I'll let you use that seat to its fullest in just a moment. Please stand for the reading of God's word. If you're watching this somewhere else, you may want to stand too.
- There's something about respecting and reverencing God's words because His words are eternal. Everything else everybody says, it comes and it goes. God's word lasts forever. Psalm 114. I pick up in verse 5. You're going to like this. Wow. Wow. Why was it sea that you fled? Why Jordan did you turn back? Why mountains did you leap like rams? You hills like lambs. To us that's kind of strange imagery.
- First of all he's talking about the things that God did in Israel's past. This is a Passover song that they would use to remember how God brought them out of Egypt. How many of you remember when God brought you out of something in your own life? So now he's taunting their trauma. Why is it C that you've left? Why, Jordan, did you turn? I've got to say something about that verse. Did you know you have a God who when he speaks to the sea, it sprints to obey him? If God says to the Red Sea, right, left, the sea doesn't dawdle, the sea doesn't walk, the sea doesn't crawl, the sea doesn't think about it. When God says, sea split, the sea sprints to obey His word. That's how powerful He is.
- I gotta go faster, that's only one verse. Verse 6, why mountains did you leap like rams? Did you know you have a God who when He speaks, mountains leap? I know we're used to talking about mountains moving, but this is a different picture when he speaks, mountains leap. I know we're used to talking about mountains moving, but this is a different picture. He said not only do they move, the mountains leap when he speaks. The obstacle moves when he speaks. It can happen quickly and suddenly and irreversibly and dramatically when he speaks, mountains leap. When he speaks, seas, when he speaks sea split. And I'm trying to read my scripture, but I'm excited because he's been doing it for a long time. Verse 7, Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, who turned the rock into a pool, the hard rock into springs of water. One verse from Matthew chapter 4, verse 4. Matthew chapter 4, verse 4. The Bible says, Jesus answered, it is written, men shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Say amen to that, somebody. Amen.
- I want to take those two words from verse four. Put it up again, please. Jesus answered. The title I'd like to preach to you from today is two words. He answered. He answered. Yeah. He answered. He answered. Yeah. He answered. Turn around and hug five people on your way to your seat and say, I'm so glad he answered. I'm so glad he answered. I'm glad he picked up my call. I'm so glad he answered. I'm glad he paid the price. I'm so glad he answered. I'm grateful because he answered. I'm standing here today because He answered. He answered. I asked Him for another day and He gave it. He answered. I asked Him to help me keep my mind together. Somebody put it in the chat. Say, He answered. Say it out loud in every location. He answered. Aren't you glad you have a God who answers prayers? Come on, it's not a rhetorical question.

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Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “He Answered” – by Pastor Steven Furtick - September 22, 2025

- Aren't you glad you have a God? Put it in the chat. Say, I'm glad He answered. Sometimes other people don't. He answered. Sometimes other people turned away. He answered. Now, speaking of rhetorical questions, I love the way Psalm 114 puts the truth across. It was fresh to me. And again, we have a family Bible club, and we landed in this just at the time that my message was coming together.
- Thank you, Lord, for speaking to me in my personal life so I can share others I want to give it to you like you gave it to me it's a rhetorical question why was it sea that you fled why jordan did you turn back why mountains did you leap like rams you hills like lands we know the answer because God told it to. But in framing it rhetorically, it invites us into the story and it invites this truth into our story as well. The story of your lives and what ifs. The loops and lies that the enemy has you in imagining worst case scenarios and replaying past hurts to the point that you cannot see God who is your present help.
- Into this the psalmist speaks and I wonder what melody is attached to this meditation. Why was it C that you fled? It's a rhetorical question. Now you know the phrase rhetorical question, right? A rhetorical question is a question that you ask but you really don't expect an answer. Right? Like, somebody says, what were you thinking? All they're saying is you're stupid, but they're framing it with a question. But don't answer, it's rhetorical. It means you weren't. Right? Or, there's other ones too, I don't know. I was thinking of a few before I came up. Oh, here's one. One time, Elijah did something that Holly kept telling him not to do. She kept on and kept on.
- She finally goes, how many times do I have to tell you? And he goes, three times? It was a rhetorical question. It wasn't a literal question. It was a rhetorical question. And by framing this question as rhetorical about the Red Sea or the mountains that God moved for his people, God is not only asking a rhetorical question, but he's asking a historical question. What did God do for you in your past that when you remember it reveals to you how powerful he is in your now go ahead and get ready to write down some notes I'm going to give you three points today somebody says he answered put the title of my sermon right there in the comments please he answered in all caps and of course when he there in the comments please, just put, he answered in all caps.
- And of course when he answers in Psalm 114 he says, tremble earth at the presence of the Lord. Now that's how it happened. The presence of the Lord. Let me put all this together really quickly. Why did the sea sprint when God's people were passing through? That's a historical event. A rhetorical question. Why did the mountain move when God told it to? What about those impossible things that he did in your life? It's rhetorical. It's also historical. And if you look back over your life, you'll see that his presence was everywhere.

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- You didn't always recognize it because you were hurting too bad, but his presence was there with you you couldn't quite see it because there were enemies surrounding your table but he prepared a table for you in the presence of your enemies who was it that told the sea to split the mountain to move it was God it's a rhetorical question it's a historical question I like them to bring my teaching screen out please everybody clap to give me the courage to draw a little bit today see how supportive the ladies are when I think I'm gonna preach reflect myself next year. It looks so fun. It looks so fun. Okay, I heard you. I heard you. I am not going to answer that. You hear what they said? No. We want Holly. We want Holly. I know, me too. Just to get you back in the mindset of this message, I drew a loop, and I talked about how the enemy is always speaking, and so is God. Same lives, it's abbreviated. New loops. This is the process of transformation. Does that kind of look like a brain a little bit? Not really? The renewal of your mind. To stop repeating the same stuff over and over again that leads you to defeat and start repeating what leads you to victory. Mm-hmm. what leads you to victory.
- Victory and defeat are both found in the repeat. That doesn't only rhyme. That's really good. The victories you experience in your life or even in your physical body, the victories of losing weight, the victories of building strength, it's found in the repeat. So are the defeats. You losing weight, the victories of building strength, it's found in the repeat. So are the defeats. You lift weight, you lift weight one time every four months, and you only lift one weight, one time every four months, we will see that result. If you lift it every day, 40 times, we will see that.
- If you get the right thing on repeat, oh God, I feel like somebody's about to get set free. If you get the right thing on repeat in your life, you're going to get stronger. You're going to say like the prophet Isaiah said, that they that wait on the Lord will renew their strength. I'm renewing my strength by what I do every day. I am renewing my strength every time I come to church. Give yourself a hand for coming to your class today for tuning into this message today. Because this for me is not just a church service this is a new loop.
- This for me is retraining my brain to move away from the lies and believe what God says about me. Not only this for me is retraining my brain to move away from the lies and believe what God says about me not only is your victory found in your repeats though but your defeat is often found in your repeats what you say to yourself over and over again that disagrees with what God already spoke about you before you were ever born well if you're feeling weak you're not really weak you just are repeating the wrong thing repeat the right thing to be stronger this is not to say that our praise and pursuit of God will preclude all of our proclivities towards sin in other words I'm not saying it's going to be easy think about.
- I read to you what seemed to be a random verse from Matthew chapter 4 where Jesus answered and said, it is written man will not live on bread alone, but every word comes from the mouth of God. You know where Jesus was when he said that? The wilderness. The wilderness. The wilderness. I want to show this to you. You're not going to believe this. It's in the Bible. In Matthew chapter 4, verse 1. Turn there a few light, we'll put it up on the screen for you. Matthew chapter 4, verse 1. The Bible says this, then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. That's the part I thought would shock me. Because I thought the Spirit would lead Jesus to an easy place. But it gets worse. Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. I have got all kinds of questions about that verse, and none of them are rhetorical. I really need to know.

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- Why would the Spirit lead him into the wilderness? And I thought about that over and over again. And I realized, the more I read it, that it was a repeat. Because I remembered how Israel in the Old Testament went through the wilderness to not for 40 days and 40 nights but for 40 years here's what the enemy did to them when they were coming out of Egypt. God was bringing them out of Egypt to the promised land. And on their way out of Egypt into the promised land, the devil told them a lie that they could not do what God had called them to do.
- **The devil has been telling you that same lie, hasn't he? That you are not enough and that you are not loved. You are not enough. You are not loved. I said this last week, but victory is found in the repeat. And when you begin to understand that, all the devil ever says to you, you're not enough, it's not enough, they're not enough, you're not loved. It's not enough, you're not loved. You're not loved. It's not enough. You're not loved. Unless you do this, you can't be that. They won't love you if they only love you because you're not enough. You're not loved. You're not even enough for God to love you unless you act a certain way. You're not enough for God to hear you unless you reach a certain level of spirituality and scale yourself up to the highest high, to the best Christian. It's not enough. You try, but it's not enough. And you're not loved. Now, those two lies play on a loop in our mind.**
- But in the case of Israel going through the wilderness, I want to say something. It was actually true.
- They were not enough for their enemies. Without God. But they were not without God. And that's what you forget. You forget that He's with you in the wilderness. He's with you in the wilderness. He's with you in your weakness. He's with you as you fight through this addiction. He's with you as you resist temptation. He's with you for that hard conversation you need to have. He's with you as you care for somebody who doesn't appreciate you. He is with you as you work through those bills and try to get yourself back on some financial stable ground. He's with you as you try to consider, how am I going to mention this so I can begin to deal with it because I'm tired of caring. He is with you in the dry place where you haven't felt him for a really long time. And you're starting to feel like, well, maybe something's wrong with me. Maybe God has left me. But the Bible says that Jesus was led into the wilderness by the spirit. It says that the spirit led him, but it doesn't say the spirit left him.
- **The spirit led him to a hard place, but the Spirit did not leave him in the hard place. The same Spirit that led him in the wilderness was there all 40 days and 40 nights. And I know you need some things in your life to get better. And I know you need some chains and shackles to fall off your feet and I know you need God to turn some stones into rivers of water and I know you need God to do some things and he can and he will but even until he does he's with you in this wilderness he's with you in this in-between he didn't drop you off in the middle of your adversity he didn't believe you to figure this out by yourself. He did not abandon you when you got attacked. He's not waiting for you to get it together to come down and rescue you. He picks up the phone and if you call him, he'll come. If you call him, he'll come. If you say Jesus, he'll say yes. I've done it a thousand times.**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes – “He Answered” – by Pastor Steven Furtick - September 22, 2025

- I didn't feel like calling on him. But I lifted my hands by faith, not sight. By faith, not feeling. And I called on the Lord. And I sought the Lord. And he heard and he answered. So I want to give you three truths today to remember for new loops in your life. And the first one is this. I want you to shout it out. Everybody say, He's here. He's here. Say that again. He's here. He's here. Now, in the verse I read you, He's not the only one here. Is the devil talking? I'm not even going to write out his whole name. I'm going to just put that D right there and know that I'm going to come out. And then there's Jesus. Hold on. I'm going to do that in all caps. I can't draw, but I can do that. Listen to me and listen to me close about this. It's a conversation going back and forth in the wilderness.
- And the spirit is with Jesus to defeat the enemy. The spirit is with you forth in the wilderness. And the Spirit is with Jesus to defeat the enemy. The Spirit is with you to defeat the enemy. I love how we make it seem like Jesus as our perfect risen Savior, and He is. Never experienced difficulty, or at least, you know, we may not say that about Jesus because we know we went to the cross. Sometimes we act like that was the only time that Jesus' life was hard. Jesus' life was hard the whole time. It was hard. This is the brink of his ministry.
- He's 30 years old, and the Spirit leads him in the wilderness to be tempted by the dead. That's his ministry apprenticeship. That's what the Lord gave him. That's what his father gave him to prepare him. And so I have recognized every time in my life that God was about to do something huge, I had to go through hell before I got there. Every time. And I pass that along to you in case you're going through hell.
- You might be on the brink of something huge. And the devil might know that. And he might be deploying extra resources. To try to get you to choke. Before you arrive at your destiny. Everything I ever released for God. Faced tremendous resistance. I just say that in case it's been difficult for you. Now, that note made, then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
- After fasting 40 days and 40 nights, this has to be the most obvious verse in the Bible. He was hungry. And yet it's not because Jesus was hungry. It's not because I had food to eat, but you know, but it still had a stomach and it was still empty. I fasted 40 days at one time when we started the church. There's one of the hardest things I ever did. And people told me before I did it, don't worry about it. Once you get through the first three days, you don't even think about food anymore. And I said, it's not hard after like day three. Let me tell you something. Every one of them, I reviewed your lives. I reviewed my same lives from your loops. It was hard the whole time.

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- I started dreaming about foods I don't even eat in my normal life. I would see Brussels sprouts and salad in them. I didn't even eat bacon in them. I just would see Brussels sprouts and salad in it. Not even eat bacon in them. I just need the Brussels sprouts. I'll eat it without oil, without salt, for the whole 40 days. It was hard the whole time. And you know, we think that the only time that it was hard for Jesus was when He went to the cross because we read about Him healing blind eyes and the highlight reel, and people couldn't speak, spoke, when He spoke for them to speak. Because whatever he speaks to does whatever he says. If he speaks to a sea and sprints, if he speaks to a mountain and leaps, whatever he speaks to does what it says. Except for us sometimes. I'll come back to that in a future series. But it was hard the whole time. It was hard for him when he was tempted by the devil in the wilderness. His life was hard ever him when he was tempted by the devil in the wilderness. His life was hard ever since he was a baby. Not only was he born, but Herod tried to kill him.
- From the day he was little, he was on the run. Not from the devil. Toward the purpose of God so if it's been hard for you that's okay and the devil would just get you stuck in that get you stuck in how hard it is so I'm going to go ahead and put it there it's hard it's hard and you're like that's not a lie I don't know if you're about to say that that's not true no it's hard. It's hard. And you're like, that's not a lie. I don't know if you're about to say that that's not true. No, it's true. It's true. It's just that if the enemy can get you to go from a line to a loop, then instead of going through the hard thing, you get stuck in the heart thing that instead of God delivering you through this season you get in this season and you dig down deeper and you actually define yourself by the difficulty of the season let me speak to that for a moment do not define yourself by the difficulty of the season. Define yourself by the size of your God because greater is He that is in you than he that's in the world. So I'm not saying it's not hard.
- I'm just saying He's bigger than it is. And I am also saying that you don't only have a God who stands high above the hard things in your life. You have a God who became a above the hard things in your life. You have a God who became a human and did the hard things. The book of Hebrews chapter 4 verse 13, about verse 13 says something very interesting. He says that that's not the right verse. I don't know what the verse is. There it is, verse 14 that I gave you earlier. Since we have a great high priest, everybody say Jesus is high, who has ascended into heaven. This is after his resurrection. Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet he did not sin. Here's your shouting verse.
- Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence. Somebody shout, he's here. So that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of success, our time of blessing, our time of wholeness, our time of completeness, all of that is true too but if you are in the hour of need right now I know a name that is greater than your need. I don't care what need you make. Name cancer. Name bankruptcy. Name divorce. Name hatred. Name evil. I know a name that is greater. And when I call it, he answers. High five at least five people say he answered. I turned to the throne and he answered. He answered. He answered. God saw humanity striving in our sin. Trying to keep the law and couldn't do it. Trying to be perfect and couldn't do it.

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- Trying to keep the commandments and couldn't do it. So he handled it himself. He's not only a high priest. He became a human. Why? He came down to handle what you couldn't. Point number one says he's here. Somebody shout he's here. Point number two says it's handled. Somebody shout it he's here. Point number two says, it's handled. Somebody shout, it's handled. I'm trying. If I could get three people to agree with me, we could get you out of this loop that the people of God were in all the way from number 13. We can't attack them. It's too hard for us. It's too hard for us. It's too hard for us. You know how sometimes we vent about our problems to people? Be careful who you vent to. Because sometimes when you start venting, you start inventing.
- I studied. I studied. I thought about what I wanted to say. I wanted to tell you how the Israelites looked at the land that God wanted to give them and remember they turned something that should have been a straight through into a 40 year loop and it all started because they were venting numbers chapter 13 verse number 30 then Caleb silenced before Moses we should go up and take possession of the land for we can do it I know we've been slaves for a long time, but we can do it. We're sons and daughters of God.
- We can do this. God is with us. Somebody shout, he's here. He's here. Anything's possible. If he's here, did you see what he just did to the sea we came through? When the devil gets rhetorical, you get historical. Start pointing to stuff that God already did and remind them how big your God is. I got a word for somebody. He already handled it. So it's hard, but but that's how you break that spiral. that's how you break out of that loop that's how you break out of this stupid crazy stuff that the devil's been feeding you just like you tried to beat Jesus you break it with a butt where is Where is y'all's mind? It's hard, but... He's here. I want everybody that puts that on a post-it note somewhere around your house this week to tag me, but I don't have social media, so I won't see it. But somebody will print it out and give it to me. And one of the reasons I don't have social media is because if I had social media on my phone right about now, I wouldn't be able to preach this sermon to you because in this season of my life, I have got to be very, very careful about the voices that I allow to have weight in my life.
- Because I refuse to let the voice of a human keep me from hearing from heaven. I will speak what God says. It is written. Tag me anyway. Somebody will print it out for me. Hashtag new loops. Hashtag less news, new loops. Hashtag more word, less news. I am saying nothing but what God says is more important than what you think, what any human opinion says. So be careful, because if you keep venting, you might start inventing. You might make an enemy out of somebody who is actually your brother or sister in Christ. Okay? New loops. It's hard, but he's here. He's right in the middle of all of it. His name is Jesus. And he's here.
- And also, he's him. Who told the sea to spring? Rhetorical question. It's a historical question. God did. Who told the mountain to move? God did. And I know it's hard, but can you believe this handbook? Here's what Caleb said. He said, we can certainly do this. God's got us. There a Caleb inside to tell you that you got tell you that you don't but he does tell you that you don't have to respond to temporary pressure by making decisions that are going to set you back for your destiny. The Lord wants you to know it's him. And in verse 31, the people start responding. The men who have gone up said, we can't attack those people.

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- They are stronger than we are. It's too hard. It's too hard. Verse 32, and they spread among the Israelites bad report about the land they explored and they said the land we explored devours those living in it all the people we saw there are of great size that's true and they're vintage but what's verse 33 we saw the Nephilim but the sins of Danak come from the Nephilim we seem like grasshoppers in our own eyes and we look the same to them well now you're in vintage because you don't know how the same to them well now you're inventing because you don't know how you look to them right right but if you look like that in your eyes you start inventing there have been times in my marriage where I started treating Holly like my enemy because of my own insecurity I start pushing her away because of something in me that I don't want her to see so now I'm treating the person that God gave me as my help and I am treating them like they are the person that I'm assigned to fight is your insecurity leading you to believe your enemy to To create new enemies. To join with the words of the enemy.
- Jesus would have none of them. When the devil spoke to Jesus. Jesus talked back. Jesus talked back. And it was hard. And he was hungry. But he understood that the spirit. Led him to the wilderness. The spirit did not leave him in the wilderness. And he understood that his father. Already had a plan. Now the devil has him to the wilderness. The Spirit did not leave him in the wilderness. And he understood that his father already had a plan. Now, the devil has a plan and God has a plan. Which one are you going to go with? One plan is to satisfy you temporarily in short term and the other is for you to trust God with your tomorrow because he's the one who's already there. Amen. The tempter came to him. He was hungry because he was human he's high and holy but he was born as a human to pay the price for our sin and the tempter came to him and said if you are the son of God, tell these stones.
- This is going to be a stone. If you are the son of God, tell the stone to become bread. If you are the son of God, do something. Take something that's not supposed to be something and make it something that it can't be. Now, we already know that if Jesus tells the stone to be bread, it'll be pumpernickel in a minute. It'll be rye bread in a minute. Before he says the first syllable, it will be the softest, warmest loaf of bread. Jesus could not only speak to the stone and make it bread, he could speak to heaven and rain down butter on the bread. He could speak to the sun and the sun would toast the slice of bread that wasn't there before that was a stone.
- He could do that. But watch what he said in verse 4. I think this is powerful for our lives. Jesus answered. Jesus answered. He's fully human and he's fully God. That means he's able to be tempted but he's also able to overcome. So when the tempter spoke, watch this, he answered. It is written. Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. The God who spoke to the sea and it split. The God who spoke to the mountain and it left. The God who spoke you into existence. That's what I live off of. That's what I go by. That's my new living. What God spoke. And any time that I get stuck, any time that I'm going around and around, this is so messy, I should probably just start all over again. Any time that I feel like what is against me is greater than what is for me, here we go. Same lies. Watch the lie. It's not enough. You've got to turn the stone into bread because God won't provide for me. Come on. Not enough. But at the heart of this chunk something very interesting. If you are the son of God. Because not only is not enough, but you're not loved. And that there's something that you have to do to get God to love you.

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- Jesus knew better. Jesus knew not only he's here. Not only it's handled. But Jesus knew. he's here not only it's him Jesus did I'm his Think about the absurdity of the devil's temptation. Turn a stone into bread. Jesus already is up to those things. Peter said it this way the stone that the builders rejected has become the cheap cornerstone the rock that Moses drank from in the wilderness the one that God pulled into a pool Jesus is what the devil is trying to tempt him to turn something into and don't even get me started about bread because Jesus is the vine Jesus is the branch Jesus is the resurrection. Jesus is the way, the truth, the life. Jesus is the good shepherd. Jesus is the gate. And Jesus is the bread. So devil, you can't give me what's already mine. I belong to God.
- I'm His and He's got me. I'm His and He knows me. I'm His and He chose me. I'm His and no man can pluck me from His hand. I'm His, I'm called. I'm His, I'm sustained. I'm His, I've got grace for this season. Because I am called. I'm His. I'm sustained. I'm His. I've got grace for this season because I am His. And He's here. And it's handled because I'm His. Because He's here. And it's handled because I'm His. Tell your neighbor, be nice to me. My Father is a great God. Because I'm His. Tell your neighbor, be nice to me. My Father is a great God. Tell Him, be good to me. Because my God is a great King. And He's here. In this handle. And I'm in His.
- Receive the Word of the Lord, my friend. Receive the Word of the Lord, my brother. Receive the word of the Lord, my friend. Receive the word of the Lord, my brother. Receive the word of the Lord, sis. Receive the word of the Lord, man of God. Receive the word of the Lord, youth pastor. Receive the word of the Lord, single mom. Receive the word of the Lord, high school student. Receive the word of the Lord, recovery program, day 33. Receive the word of the Lord. Recovery program day 33. Receive the word of the Lord. The bread is already here. The stone that the founders rejected shall become the chief cornerstone. Thus you belong to God. Come on, let's sit in that for a moment. For every devil that's been lying to you. The devil came in Jesus three different ways.
- He told him, if you're the son of God, what do you mean if I'm the son of God? Y'all never read Matthew chapter 3 verse 16? Well, you're about to. Because the Bible says that before Jesus was led into the wilderness, he went through the water. And as soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment, heaven was opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. He's here. He's here. And the voice from heaven. Ain't it crazy? One verse before he had to deal with the voice from hell. God gave him the voice from heaven. You need a fresh encounter with Jesus. You need a fresh revelation of Jesus you need a fresh word from God a meditation in your heart if you don't meditate on his word you're going to medicate on other stuff and you are going to choke on stones because you don't have any bread and the voice from heaven said this is my son whom I love with him I am well pleased and a voice from heaven said, this is my son, whom I love.
- With him, I am well pleased. So when the devil, Matthew chapter 4 verse 1, started tempting Jesus in the wilderness, and in verse 2, the Bible says, after fasting 40 days and 40 nights, not 40 years, because Jesus was doing for them what they could not do for themselves. Don't you get it? He was in the wilderness for you. He was handling it for you. He was achieving a righteousness that you and I could never achieve. He was paying the price for you. That's why the spirit led Jesus into the wilderness so that you would never be there alone again. And when the devil said, if you are the son of God, turn something into something, Jesus said, I'm not turning anything into anything. I already know who I am because I'm still dripping with the water of the affirmation of my father in this dry place.

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- So I don't think so. I don't think so, devil. I don't think so, devil. I don't think so, devil. I don't think I'm just going to be depressed, devil. I don't think I'm just going to live the rest of my life reliving and rerunning this and repeating this and dredging this back up. I don't think so, devil. I don't think I'm going to let the world make me mad and angry and cynical, devil. I don't think so, devil. I know I'm his. I'm a royal people. I'm a chosen priesthood. I don't think so, devil. I know I'm his. I'm a royal people. I'm a chosen priesthood. I'm a holy nation. I belong to God. And he came at me three ways. I'm almost done. I know y'all want me to preach for four more hours. Come on. Four more hours. Come on. Four more hours. Come on. Four more hours. If Jesus could fast 40 days, y'all can sit five more minutes in this message. He's here. Say it. He's here. It's hard. It's hard. But. But. He's. You get the point. Yeah. And it's hard, but. It's him, though. Uh-oh. D definitely comes before L in the word. I do know that. But I was confused when it said, I'm his. Because that's what the Lord gave me that he said was more important than anything else.
- Because if you don't believe that you're loved by him, you will be trying to turn everything else in your life into loaves. He is. My favorite verse after the devil comes to Jesus three times. Because remember, defeat and victory are in the three people. So he's not just going to do it once. Not just twice, not just three times. But after he told him, hey, throw yourself off the building and the angels will catch you. Jesus is like, I know the angels on a first name basis. And I do not need to do something to get the angels to come. If I ask my father to send angels, they're already on the way. Touch three people say they're already on the way. The help you need is already on the way. The help you need is already on the way. The support you need is already on the way.
- The book you need is already in your mailbox. Check your mailbox. The book you ordered last week, it's got the answer. It's already on the way. And after being tempted, ooh, I feel this in my spirit. After he had tempted him as hard as he could tempt him, as hungry as Jesus was, tried to get him to step outside of who he was to do something that he already did. Something that he didn't even need from the enemy. Because watch this. The Bible says in Matthew chapter 4, verse number 11. Then the devil left. Oh, come on, get happy. I don't need no music.
- Just get happy. Come on, get happy. Then, keep clapping so I can erase. Then, come on, come on. You want the devil to get up out of your mind? You want the devil to get up out of your mind? You want the devil to get up out of your psychology? You want the devil to get out of your kids? You want the devil to get out of your feet? You want the devil to get out of your... Alright, get happy. Then, the devil left.. I'm going to just start all over. And the Bible says, verse 11, is it on the screen? Then the devil left. I'm going to start all over. And the Bible says, verse 11, is it on the screen? Is verse 11 on the screen? I saw a picture. Then the devil left and. Oh, thank you, Jesus.
- There's supposed to be an angel. The angels came. The angels came. The angels came. We're through hell. Don't smell like smoke. Because the angels came. Touch seven people. Say, wait for the angel. wait for the angel. Wait for the angel. Wait for the angel. Wait for the angel. Don't be too anxious. It's already on the way. Don't talk yourself out of standing strong for Christ. Wait for the angels. The angels are on the way. The angels are in route. You don't have to throw yourself off a building. The angels are coming. The angels are coming. The angels are coming.

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- Somewhere in those 40 days, I know Jesus prayed. Because I don't believe that the devil was the only one Jesus was talking to in Matthew chapter 4. I believe that Jesus, as human and as hungry as he was, prayed to his father and said, Father, I need you. And when he called his father, he answered. And just because the answer hasn't arrived yet does not mean God didn't send it. But in this season, if you start trying to turn stones into bread and substitute other human relationships for your relationship with God, you will miss your angel because you ate something that was never meant to be. Yeah. That's good. That's good. That's good. Stand on your feet.
- The angels are waiting. I believe there's angels coming to your house. Yeah. Yeah. I believe angels are coming to somebody's central nervous system right now to calm you down. To break you down. Swinging at stuff that isn't even swinging at you. Stop it. Wait for the angel He's here. It's him. You're his. Speak those things quietly. Say, he's here. It's him. I'm his. I'm his. I'm his. Come here, Abby. Come here. I called. She answered. Because she's mine. Amen. Amen. We love you Abby and some say I love you too person I don't know and before we came out I was showing her my angel I said does it look like an angel I said give me your hand put it up Can y'all get this on screen? I drew those two loops on her hand. Now this is my daughter.
- So I'm saying to her, and I know a 14-year-old can't get a tattoo, but if she could, I would probably have her get something like this. Somebody draw more professionally. Just to remind her that he's here. That this handle, you don't have to keep it all in your hands and handle all the worries and I'm his and I'm his angels are on the way angels are on the way angels are on the way what do you mean by that? I mean God is going to send you the help that you need as you call on him. And yesterday, why are we in your knees like this? Stand up. She had a soccer game yesterday afternoon. Yesterday morning. 10 a.m. soccer game. For somebody who's about to preach in 24 hours, I'm always stressed out trying to find the soccer field. That's my hardest part. I have no sense of direction. Holly got there. She sent me a pin. I left with plenty of time to park, and I arrived exactly on time. Five minutes to spare to an empty church parking lot with no soccer field. And I'm just driving, talking to my friend on the phone, talking about my sermon. I'm thinking about the angels and the bread and the stones.
- Does this make any sense? He's like, yeah, I'm sure they'll get there. But the angels are on the way. The angels are on the way. And as I'm on my way to the thing, I'm paying attention and all of a sudden I realize, oh, I'm here, as I'm on my way to the thing, I'm paying attention and all of a sudden I realize, oh, I'm here but I'm not there. I didn't disobey the GPS. Every turn it told me to take, I told. I didn't rebel against the GPS. Turn right, I don't think so. And listen, I'm going to give you this one because I need to use it because if something bad happens to me I want to redeem it and there's no really bad part of this story because all I did is I called Holly I said hey this is weird I went where you sent me to go before you left but I need you to resend it to me now that you're there.
- Because the address that we had, I got to the destination that it was taking me to, but the destination it was taking me to was not the destination where you are. I said, so what do I do? She said, I'm going to drop you a new pin because she's here now everybody said he's here 15 minutes away 15 minutes off and then I drove somewhere and then the GPS to be down this very strange dirt road. Yeah, it was the weirdest thing. The sign said, keep out. And I went through anyway. I'm just obeying the GPS, you know. And of course, it's a dead end. It's some weird looking government building. I don't even know where I was or what was about to happen to me. I don't know what got in my GPS. So I called her a guest.

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- You're surrounded by an incredible family that loves the Lord, that loves people. And so we're going to repeat this prayer together after me for the benefit of those who are praying it for the first time. Maybe this is your decision and you don't know what it looks like to follow Jesus, but this would be your moment. So with every head bowed and every eye closed, let's repeat this prayer. Dear Heavenly Father, I believe that Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. I believe He died that I could be forgiven and rose again to give me life. Come into my heart. Change me. Make me new. I'll follow you all the days of my life. And on the count of three, if you just prayed that prayer in the name of Jesus, placing your hope and trust in Him, I want you to do something bold in this room today. On the count of three, shoot your hand in the air. Jesus, placing your hope and trust in Him. I want you to do something bold in this room today. On the count of three, shoot your hand in the air. One, He loves you. Two, this is your greatest moment. Three, shoot your hand up in the air and let's celebrate. Let's celebrate. For the life change in this place today, we see you. He loves you. Amen. Amen, amen. What an incredible Sunday.

Part 2: eGroup study questions

What are the only two lies that the devil has been telling you?

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What are the only two lies that the devil has been telling you?

That you are not enough and that you are not loved.

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Victory and defeat are both found in the repeat.

What does this mean to you?

Victory and defeat are both found in the repeat.

What does this mean to you?

Additional commentary:

- The devil has been telling you that same lie, hasn't he? That you are not enough and that you are not loved.
- Victory is found in the repeat.
- Now, those two lies play on a loop in our mind.

What are the three truths to remember in the wilderness?

“Three truths to remember in the wilderness:

He’s here

It’s handled

I’m His.”

Which of these three truths—He’s here, It’s handled, I’m His—do you most need to put on repeat in your current season?

How is this helpful?

“Be careful who you vent to. Sometimes when you start venting, you start inventing.”

Closing prayer:

“You're surrounded by an incredible family that loves the Lord, that loves people. And so we're going to repeat this prayer together after me for the benefit of those who are praying it for the first time. Maybe this is your decision and you don't know what it looks like to follow Jesus, but this would be your moment. So with every head bowed and every eye closed, let's repeat this prayer. Dear Heavenly Father, I believe that Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. I believe He died that I could be forgiven and rose again to give me life. Come into my heart. Change me. Make me new. I'll follow you all the days of my life. And on the count of three, if you just prayed that prayer in the name of Jesus, placing your hope and trust in Him, I want you to do something bold in this room today. On the count of three, shoot your hand in the air. Jesus, placing your hope and trust in Him. I want you to do something bold in this room today. On the count of three, shoot your hand in the air. One, He loves you. Two, this is your greatest moment. Three, shoot your hand up in the air and let's celebrate. Let's celebrate. For the life change in this place today, we see you. He loves you. Amen. Amen, amen.”

Back up slides

Sermon Discussion – “Not As Long As My Song” - Pastor Furtick – August 10, 2025

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



July 18 – Daily Devotional:

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



Dr. Timothy Keller

total freedom = lack of meaning and significance

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

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

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

Have a good navigational beacon in 2022:

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