

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?

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

John 7:1-16 - Jesus responds to pressure

1 After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want[a] to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. 2 But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, 3 Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. 4 No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." 5 For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

6 Therefore Jesus told them, "My time is not yet here; for you any time will do. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. 8 You go to the festival. I am not[b] going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come." 9 After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee. 10 However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. 11 Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, "Where is he?"

12 Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man." Others replied, "No, he deceives the people." 13 But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders.

Jesus Teaches at the Festival

14 Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. 15 The Jews there were amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having been taught?"

16 Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. 17 Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. 18 Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. 19 Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"

20 "You are demon-possessed," the crowd answered. "Who is trying to kill you?"

21 Jesus said to them, "I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. 22 Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. 23 Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man's whole body on the Sabbath? 24 Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly."

Isaiah 54:17 - (NKJV) – No weapon forged against you will prevail

“See, it is I who created the blacksmith
who fans the coals into flame
and forges a weapon fit for its work.

And it is I who have created the destroyer to wreak havoc;

17 no weapon forged against you will prevail,
and you will refute every tongue that accuses you.

This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord,
and this is their vindication from me,”
declares the Lord.

John 6:66 - Some disciples abandoned Jesus

60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? 62 Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! 63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit[e] and life. 64 Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. 65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them."

66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

70 Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!" 71 (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)

Closing Prayer by Joyce Meyer on 11/2/2025: “How many of you we'll just make a commitment to just try to tighten your belt just a little bit. You're not going to forget it, but at the same time, very profound. Don't say It's just a little bit. No. And don't do it because everybody else is doing it. You're only going to have to answer for yourself. You do what's right if everybody else in the world wants to do it wrong. Amen - Father, we love you so very much, and we're so appreciative that you love us. And I want to thank you for reminding us that we need to pay attention to little things, because it is the little foxes that spoil the vine. So we're all making a fresh commitment today to always be sure that we do what we say we're going to do, Not harbor things like jealousy and petty things and little, hang on to little anger issues- but to just let that stuff go. And help us to appreciate everything you do for us. And God put a watch over our mouth lest we sin against you with our tongue by complaining. And let the words of our mouth and the meditation of our heart be acceptable in your sight. In Jesus' name, amen.”

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

Sermon Summary: Ever feel like there are too many voices telling you what to do and who to be? The enemy whispers fear, doubt, and distraction, but God's whisper brings peace, purpose, and direction. When you stop agreeing with the enemy's lies and start trusting the whisper of the One who sent you, you'll find confidence in where — and who — you are.

Sermon Highlights

- Four pressures that Jesus was under: Amazement – the pressure to keep performing, Abandonment – the pressure of people leaving, Arrival – the pressure to prove identity and worth, and Agreement – the pressure to agree with God despite opposition
- God can speak something in one whisper that can do more than all of your human wisdom.
- Not everything that God has given you to do needs to be run by a committee.
- No work, no weapon. The devil does not attack you when you're doing nothing for God.
- That's how God gets glory out of your life: when He does so much with so little.
- The enemy will use people who disappointed you to cause you to doubt the God who never will.
- Sometimes you get so sad about who left that you start missing who's left.
- Wherever people leave a space, God does a miracle.
- Sometimes the power of knowing your purpose is being able to say “I am not going.”
- The enemy is whispering and so is God. And it's a war of whispers.
- Listen to the whisper of the One who sent you.
- It's not important which voice is the loudest, it's important which one you agree with.

Scriptures:

- John 7:1-16 - Jesus responds to pressure
- Isaiah 54:17 - (NKJV) – No weapon forged against you will prevail
- John 6:66 - Some disciples abandoned Jesus

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

Sermon Discussion

“God can speak something in one whisper that can do more than all of your human wisdom.” When has God used a seemingly small word, verse, or impression to create a big change in your life?

“It’s not important which voice is the loudest, it’s important which one you agree with.” Where do you need to stop listening to the enemy’s whisper and start agreeing with what God says instead?

“No work, no weapon. The devil does not attack you when you’re doing nothing for God.” Where are you feeling resistance, and how might that actually confirm you’re on the right path?

“Sometimes you get so sad about who left that you start missing who’s left.” Who’s someone in your life that you never want to take for granted, and how can you be intentional about appreciating them this week?

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

AI Generated recap of Sermon:

The war of whispers: Jesus' pressures and purpose - Nov 9, 2025 • 1 hour, 41 minutes

Overview: The speaker exhorts the congregation to gratitude and praise, then teaches on “The war of whispers,” drawing from John 7:1–16 and Isaiah 54:17. He outlines four pressures on Jesus' ministry, shows how Jesus handled public opinion and timing, and contrasts God's quiet guidance with the enemy's counter-whispers. He calls listeners to align with God's whisper, set identity-based boundaries (“I am not going”), and trust God amid abandonment and pressure. The gathering also honors Veterans Day and welcomes the worldwide online church family.

Scriptures and setting

- Primary text: John 7:1–16. Context: Jesus remains in Galilee as leaders in Judea seek to kill him; brothers pressure him to go public at the Festival of Tabernacles; he later goes in secret. Opinions about him divide the crowd (“He's a good man” vs. “He deceives the people”); midway through the festival Jesus teaches, and people are amazed at his learning.
- Key verse emphasized: “My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me.” (John 7:16)
- Additional citation: Isaiah 54:17 (new King James) “No weapon formed against you shall prosper...” referenced as heritage and righteousness from the Lord.
- Occasion notes: Veterans Day weekend acknowledgment; welcome to global church “eFam” (Elevation Church's online family).

Four pressures Jesus faced (model for us)

- Amazement: Crowds marveled at Jesus' wisdom and works though he lacked their formal training. Examples recalled included turning water into wine, healing at a distance, calming storms with authority, and multiplying loaves. The pressure of “amazing” is the expectation to sustain it.
- Abandonment: Despite miracles, many left when Jesus refused to repeat signs on demand. After hard teaching, “From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.” (John 6:66) Even “his own brothers did not believe in him” (John 7:5). Leaders sought to kill him; crowds consumed him; disciples often misunderstood him.
- Arrival (introduced after initially saying “a riot”): Jesus' brothers urged public spectacle: “No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret.” Jesus refused, confident in who he already was. He went later, “not publicly, but in secret,” and only “when” it was time.
- Agreement: The decisive battle is which whisper we agree with—God's or the enemy's. Jesus anchored his voice and timing in the Father's will, not public opinion.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

AI Generated recap of Sermon:

The war of whispers: Jesus' pressures and purpose - Nov 9, 2025 • 1 hour, 41 minutes

- God's timing, identity, and boundaries
- “My time is not yet here... I am not going up to this festival because my time has not yet fully come... After he said this, he stayed in Galilee... after his brothers had left... he went also, not publicly, but in secret.” Jesus models staying in place until the Father's timing.
- Identity over image: Brothers said, “become a public figure,” but Jesus already was who he was—“I am” (as in John's I AM statements). Knowing who you are clarifies what you are not and what you will not do.
- Boundary phrase: “I am not going.” Applied broadly as a faith-based boundary (e.g., resisting peer pressure, refusing compromise), rooted in identity (“I am a child of God”).
- “I'm good in Galilee”: Contentment in current placement under God's guidance; gratitude for one's actual life rather than chasing comparison.
- Amazement without addiction to outcomes
- Miracle multiplication and its pressure: After feeding the multitude (John 6), crowds sought a repeat. Jesus resisted creating dependence on a specific miracle and called them to believe. The refrain: “No work, no weapon”—resistance often rises when we advance in God's work.
- Practicing gratitude: Praise lightens burdens, fosters creativity, and aligns the heart with God.
- Abandonment reframed
- Even Jesus experienced people leaving. The takeaway: do not let others' disbelief in you make you stop believing in God.
- Notice “who's left”: During a season of empty rooms, the same faithful team that stood in obscurity later ministered in arenas. Grieve losses, but attend to remaining provision and partners.
- Secret place: When others go quiet, God draws closer. Absence can become an invitation to deeper intimacy.
- The war of whispers
- Dual whispers around us: “He's a good man.” “No, he deceives the people.” Similarly, internally we face contrary whispers—encouragement versus condemnation—especially after vulnerable moments.
- Personal example: After a taxing ministry moment, while receiving affirmations from his wife, contrary thoughts answered in exact rhythm with her words, dark and opposite in content. Insight in prayer: the goal is not to make the opposing whisper disappear, but to never agree with it.
- Choosing agreement: “My teaching is not my own... from the one who sent me.” Align with the Sender's whisper. It is not which voice is loudest, but which voice you agree with that leads your life.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

AI Generated recap of Sermon:

The war of whispers: Jesus' pressures and purpose - Nov 9, 2025 • 1 hour, 41 minutes

- Reframing by whisper: God's whisper can reframe situations without changing circumstances, moving the heart from worry to worship. A single whisper can prevent years of misdirection.

Practical applications

- Listen for God's whisper amid noise and pressure. Expect it to be specific and timely.
- Set identity-based boundaries: “I am not going” where compromise calls. Choose obedience to God's timing over public validation.
- Refuse agreement with lies: When shame, cynicism, or despair whisper, answer with truth: “God's with me,” “I am enough,” and Scripture's promises (e.g., Isaiah 54:17).
- Practice gratitude and praise: Thanksgiving lifts the soul and aligns perspective.
- Release those who left: Forgive, bless, and trust God to fill vacuums with his presence and provision.
- Invitation to salvation
- Call to respond to the Lord's knocking (“Revelation 3 and 26”). A guided prayer of repentance and faith in Jesus as Son of God and Savior, receiving new life and declaring, “I am a child of God,” followed by a visible response (“On the count of three... raise your hand”).

Next steps / actions

- Throughout this week, intentionally listen for God's whisper and reject agreement with opposing whispers.
- Affirm identity-based boundaries: speak “I am not going” where needed.
- Practice daily gratitude and praise.
- Read John 7 and reflect on Jesus' timing and responses to public opinion.
- For those who prayed for salvation: continue seeking God in prayer and Scripture, sharing your decision with someone who can encourage you.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

- Let's have a testimony service for a few moments. Just turn to somebody next to you and let them know something that God did for you recently. You shouldn't have to think about it too hard. Come on, he woke you up this morning. He gave me a little more microphone in my monitors. Come on, he started me on my way. Come on, he kept me. Another day. Lord, we thank you. Nothing will get you further faster than thanksgiving and praise. Nothing. Makes you more creative. Makes you feel lighter. Helps you breathe better. And it's fitting for the upright to praise him. I used to think that scripture, there's a scripture that says it's fitting for the upright to praise him. And I always thought upright meant like that you always do everything right. Like you're upright.
- And maybe it means that too. But then I realized it just means it's fitting if you're still standing upright. You know what I mean? If you're not lying down flat, sleeping in your grave today. Because somebody else would have loved to have been here today. But you are. And I am. And we give God all the praise. How many don't mind praising God? All right, I'm going to give you another chance. You were a little slow earlier. Tell five people something God did for you recently in your life. Turn around and repeat the same words for five different reasons. You woke up this morning? There you go.
- And happy 15th anniversary to Ellen. I preached some of my best sermons at Elevation Blakeney. That's amazing. Woo! I look around this room today, and I think about how personal God is. And that comforts me because I can stand up here all day long and say things that are true, but if the Holy Spirit applies the truth to your heart, it will be so specific, to what you need that you'll leave saying, that was the best sermon he ever preached. No, it's just the best time you ever listened. Isn't that true? It's the best one you've heard.
- Now, I kinda wanna go along those lines as I'm setting up my scripture today, because my title today is very interesting way to come at the scripture. And I know that you are so excited for the word of God, I can feel your anticipation. I'm going to be sharing with you from John chapter 7, and I have a lengthy scripture to read, but you need every one of these 16 verses. Every single one of them. You know you have to read your Bible this week like you promised to. In January, everybody's got their YouVersion Bible app straight going.
- By this time of the year, you need all the extra Bible you can get on Sundays. I do want to say welcome to our worldwide church family. Let's welcome our eFam one time. Come on, Elevation Valentine. Let's thank God for all of those who are joining us online. Also, since it's Veterans Day weekend, I want to thank all of you who have served our country in any branch of the service I thank the Lord for each and every one of you. I'm excited about what he will speak today. John chapter 7, verse 1, verse 16. The Bible says,
- After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. But when the Jewish festival of tabernacles was near, Jesus' brothers said to him, Leave Galilee. And go to Judea so that your disciples there may see the works you do. No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world. For even his own brothers did not believe in him. Wow. Verse six. Therefore, Jesus told them my time is not yet here for you. Anytime we'll do. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival because my time has not yet fully come. It's a good thing to know that you're right where God wants you to be. And it's a good thing when you know that not to move, no matter what anybody says to you about it. He said, my time has not yet fully come. After he said this. He stayed in Galilee.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

- However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. Now, at the festival, the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, where is he? Among the crowds, there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, he's a good man. Others replied, no. He deceives the people. But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders. Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. The Jews there were amazed and asked, How did this man get such learning without having been taught? Well, that's an ironic question.
- The one who is wisdom is being questioned as to where he got it. But verse 16 is where we're going to begin our sermon journey today. Jesus answered. My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. I want to give you one more scripture from Isaiah chapter 54, verse 17 in the new King James, no weapon formed against you shall prosper and every tongue, which rises against you in judgment, you shall condemn this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord. And their righteousness is from me, says the Lord. I want to talk to you today about the war of whispers. The war of whispers. Father, I thank you for what you spoke.
- Help me to give it to them like you gave it to me. Not watered down, not weakened, but just like you gave it to me. And I know that it will bless them because you blessed me with it. If there is someone today who needs this word online, block out all distractions. I pray that their kid would just fall down and take a nap right now so they can focus on this word in the name of Jesus. If there's somebody who's focused on something else that's going to happen tomorrow, we block it out right now. The Lord is in this place. We ask you to speak a word. We are listening in Jesus name. Amen. You may be seated. The war of whispers. I want to talk to you from four dynamics from this Bible story that represent four different pressures that Jesus was under in his life. We will definitely get to the first three, and the fourth is amazing, depending on time. I'm going to give them all to you right now, so you can fill in the blanks as we go along. In this passage, there are four pressures that Jesus is under. Jesus, the Son of God, was under tremendous pressure. as he fulfilled his purpose in the earth. And I think he serves for us as a model of what to do for the pressure that we feel in our life.
- And so I'm going to give you all four things, all four pressures, as we begin our sermon. They all start with the letter A. They will be easy to remember. Number one, amazement. Amazing. Amazing. Number two, abandonment. Abandoned. Number three. A riot. A riot. And number four. Did we get there? Agreement. These were pressures. And more. I mean, Jesus, the Son of God, who took on the weakness of sinful flesh. Not because he was sin, but he... became sin so that we might become the righteousness of God, who had then only three years to fulfill the mission of his ministry, which would lead him ultimately to the cross where he would die and pay for the penalty of our sin, experience tremendous pressure. Not only on the cross where the pressure was so great that it actually caused his lungs to collapse from physical exertion, but even before that in the Garden of Gethsemane as he prayed such a heavy prayer his sweat became like drops of blood. That's pressure.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

- And I know you're going through a lot too, but your capillaries haven't burst like blood yet, have they? And so it helps us in times of our humanity when our weakness is great, to know that we have a high priest named Jesus, who is not unable to be touched with the feelings of our infirmity, but one who is tempted in all points, just like we are, yet without sin. Now that's the difference between me and Jesus. He was under pressure and I'm under pressure, but he always stays focused on purpose and I don't. I get distracted when I'm under pressure. I start reacting rather than responding when I'm under pressure. I start eating things that I said I wouldn't eat under pressure. Speaking things that I said I wouldn't speak under pressure. Texting people that, anyway, In my pressure state, I am often vulnerable. And so this moment in the life of Jesus is very interesting, isn't it?
- The Bible says he went to Jerusalem for one of the feasts, the Feast of Tabernacles, and when he got there, they were amazed at the way he talked. They were amazed. I don't know if you noticed that in verse number 18. It says, the Jews there, excuse me, verse number 15, they were amazed and they asked, how did this man get such learning without being taught. They didn't teach him, so they couldn't understand how he could have learned so much outside of their system. I told you this a few weeks ago, but my son Graham, who wrestled for three years in high school, would say, dad, when I look back on when I used to start wrestling, I'm amazed how much you taught me with how little you knew. Which is a compliment, kind of. He means it's not like you were some kind of great wrestler But somehow you were always coaching me. And when you were coaching me in the early days, I thought you knew so much more than you did. That you were basically just yelling the same three things over and over again, weren't you? And I thought to myself, yes, and that is my parenting strategy as well.
- Just to keep saying the same three things over and over again. And there's something about this moment in your life that if you're honest about it, even though there are some pressures that you're under and some problems that you're facing, it's amazing. that you're doing as well as you are, considering where you've come from. How many of you would say, Pastor Stephen, you would be shocked how loud I sang today if you knew how hard my week has been? Wave at me. Well, look at you just feeling sorry for yourself. I'm kidding, I'm kidding, I'm baiting you for that. The fact of the matter is, in Jesus' case, he came from heaven and so, He had the knowledge that came from being at the right hand of God eternally. He was the Word of God. He didn't just speak the Word of God. And so the knowledge that he had reflected the place that he came from.
- Yet the Jewish leaders were very amazed, keep that word in your mind, that he could know so much when he had been exposed to so little of their system. It's ironic, I know, because in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. all things were made by him and through him and for him. We're talking about Jesus. And when they see him, they're amazed at him, and they are amazed about the things that they are hearing that he's doing. Jesus at this point in his ministry has been doing amazing ministry in the region of Galilee. He has been turning water into wine at weddings when his mom told him to do it. Yeah, that's John chapter two. When they ran out of wine, he would just somehow make it flow. That's amazing. Anytime you have somebody who can create overflow where there was one scarcity, it's amazing. Everybody say it's amazing. Amazing.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

- One time a centurion needed a healing for his little boy, and Jesus was busy, so he didn't go to his house. He just sent his word and healed him. He didn't even go to his house. He just sent his word and healed him. Maybe the word of God is going to lead you home today, too, and deal with some things that you've been going through. Because of the word that you heard while you were here. You always make a wise decision when you come to church. Because God can speak something in one whisper. That can do more than all of your human wisdom. You could spend the next five years trying to figure out something God could fix in five minutes. If you could hear from him. That's why I value the word of God. That's why when I come to church. I'm not checking to see who just buzzed me in my back pocket. They can buzz me all they want to buzz me.
- But while I'm in here, the Bible is buzzing me. God is speaking to me. I've got a text message alert from heaven. There may be something God wants to say to me about why I'm stressed out. God might want to speak to me about the root of my bitterness so I can let this thing go and move on in my life. God might actually want to give me a strategy to break through to my wife because maybe we've been going through a difficult time. And maybe he's going to show me something that I haven't been thinking about how I can reach out and bring the love back. God might give me a date night idea while Pastor Stephen's preaching. God might show me the song to play that's going to make the silent treatment stop when I get home. I'm trying to say that God can speak something in a whisper that is greater than all of the human wisdom combined. So stop trying to figure everything out on your own. Because Jesus can do something so amazing. And he doesn't even have to raise his voice. He can do it in a whisper. It's interesting because... I almost had to have somebody else preach this message this week.
- Around Friday, I woke up and I had no voice. I could only speak with a whisper. And the Lord said, well, if a whisper is what you've got, then a whisper is what you give. And I took some medicine and my voice feels all right right now. And I might not be able to speak like I normally speak today. I feel like I'm doing pretty good so far, but I am trying to use wisdom for this. But sometimes the Holy Spirit and the adrenaline kicks in and I forget all my wisdom and I just start screaming. But I told the Lord, well, maybe I shouldn't preach. And the Lord said, no, maybe you should teach them about the whisper. The whisper. Because some of them are making decisions in their life right now. And it's so noisy with what everybody else thinks they should do. Amen. I want to give him a whisper. You know the Lord can give you a whisper and save you seven years of a bad relationship? The Lord can give you a whisper and show you a new way to see the situation that turns the regret into a lesson. I've had it happen before.
- I was feeling so bad about something, so down about something, and the Lord just whispered a different way to see it. And that little whisper that he gave me completely reframed the situation. And you know what's crazy? The situation didn't change. the way I saw it did. And the whisper God gave me reframed the situation. And I went from worry to worship. Jesus is going to the festival. He's going to the festival. And he's going to amaze the people with his teaching. But his brothers are pressuring him to do something at this time that is not appropriate to his assignment. I want to say to you today that not everything that God has given you to do needs to be run by a committee. Not everything that God has given you to do will align with what everybody else is doing.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

- Not everything that God has called you to be will align with what you see reflected in the environment around you. They were amazed by his teaching because he didn't come from their synagogue. They were amazed by his teaching because he did not teach like they taught. He taught with authority. When he spoke, storms listened. Jesus' voice was so powerful. He could sleep through a storm. And when he woke up, he could tell the storm. He didn't even have to say a word, just. And the storm would say, uh-oh, Jesus is talking. The word just spoke. Peter could holler every cuss word he wanted to holler. The storm didn't stop because Peter cussed. The storm stopped because Jesus said, If I could give this sermon a subtitle, it would be called, So just turn to your neighbor, don't breathe on them too much. When Jesus says, The storm shuts down. When Jesus says, The wind and the waves die down. When Jesus says, shh, everybody else sits down and listens because he teaches with authority. And it's amazing. Somebody say it's amazing. It's amazing. It's amazing. I look at some of your lives and I think about the fact that you were in rehab this time last year. And you're still doing good. And you're here today. And I think that's amazing. I mean, you didn't even see a path for this life. You didn't have this model for you. I know people sometimes come to church and they're so beat down by what they need to change.
- But can we take five seconds and at least be thankful that it makes no sense that we're even doing as good as we're doing when you're considering the faith, Father. Remember when I... They said that Jesus was from Nazareth and they were surprised because they said, can anything good come from Nazareth? They were surprised that something so powerful came from somewhere so small. They were surprised that something so wise came from somewhere so remote. They were surprised at something so wonderful and so amazing. And I think we need to stay surprised and stay amazed because if you actually look at your life, it makes no sense that you should be married today. If you actually look at your life, it makes no sense. You should be in a mental institution today.
- All the weapons that were formed against you, it is a wonder that you're paying your bills. It's a wonder you're living in doors. It's a wonder you're standing upright. It's a wonder you're sane. It's a wonder you're here. It's a wonder you're praising. Some of you had a health issue and you didn't even know if you'd be alive to see the end of 2025. But it's amazing. High five three people saying it's amazing. It's amazing. It might not mean much to you, but it's amazing to me. It might be little to you, but it's a big thing to me. I'm praising God for my smile. I'm praising God with the teeth that are still in my mouth. I'm praising God that I have food to digest. I'm praising God. It's amazing. Now the fact that it's amazing doesn't mean that everything is going great.
- Jesus is going to a festival, but he's in the middle of a fight. It's a festival and a fight in the same passage. Told him I was going to whisper. Look what a hypocrite I am. And not only is he going to a festival where his brothers are trying to pressure him, but he is in a vulnerable moment himself. A pop quiz. What comes before John chapter seven in the Bible? Yeah, John chapter six. So see how amazing that is? Look at that Bible knowledge you stored up there. And you think John chapter six is a happy chapter? And do not even make a six, seven joke right now. You will not slow down the momentum of my message with that silly music. But he fed the 5,000 with a little bit of food in John chapter 6. Remember, Jesus has been doing miracles, and that's why they're persecuting him. Jesus has been working, and that's why they are forming the weapon against him.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

- Write this down. No work, no weapon. If Jesus doesn't do anything, they don't do anything. If Jesus doesn't threaten the establishment, there will be no reaction from the establishment. If Jesus is not moving, there will be no resistance to his movement. The devil does not attack you when you're doing nothing for God. The devil attacks you when you're advancing. So, Jesus is doing an amazing thing. Not only turning water into wine, not only healing a royal official's son, he actually healed Peter's mother-in-law. Many scholars believe that's why Peter denied him. Doing an amazing thing. But the big one that's in all four of the Gospels that everybody's talking about, he turned a little boy's lunch into enough to feed a multitude. And he did that. That's amazing.
- How can he do so much with so little? It's amazing. How can he know so much when he was exposed to so little religious tradition? It's amazing. That's how God gets glory out of your life, when he does so much with so little. When he takes a little bit of oil and fills every jar you bring him. When he takes a little stone and knocks down a big giant. When he takes a little step and splits a big seed. When God takes the little bit that you do know, the little bit of clarity that you do have, the little bit of strength that you do have, the little bit of time that you do have, the little bit of wisdom that you do have, the little bit of experience that you do have.
- When he takes a fig, the size of a mustard seed, and he moves it around with it, and people say, that's amazing. And when he takes a little boy's lunch and breaks it and blesses it and gives it to the people, and they all go home with leftovers, and the disciples are like, wow, that's amazing. You know, the Bible says in John chapter six that the crowds followed him the next day, expecting him to do it again. And he didn't because the pressure of being amazing is that you have to sustain. And we all know what it feels like to feel like that. What we do is taken for granted. I mean, I don't want to call her out, but I think about Holly all the time. I think about how amazing it is just stuff that she does naturally for our family. It's absolutely incredible. I'm trying to convince her to not cook for us for a month. Just to make us appreciate how amazing her food is. I'm like, just put us on a fast. Just put us on a 30 day fast. We are not grateful enough. You know how I know that? Because we invite other people over to our house and they're like, ah, this is amazing! This is incredible. And we're all sitting there like, yeah, yeah, I guess it is. It is amazing. I don't want anybody to out-compliment my wife. It's amazing. I'll tell you it's amazing. And sometimes it takes someone else to come in and taste it to realize how amazing it is.
- Especially when the kids bring over somebody and their mom doesn't. My mom hasn't cooked for us in six months. I'm like, maybe you should try that. I was thinking that the other day. I was like, maybe I should just be a bad dad for like a year. You know what I mean? Just like lower the bar for a little while. And then they'd be like, dad, that was amazing how you actually texted me back. I think about sometimes I should come preach and not study for like a month. Like just get up here and go, what y'all wanna talk about today? Y'all talk about the Panthers? You want to talk about the teddy bears at Starbucks? What you want to talk about today? You got anything? Maybe we can make that a sermon. I'm sure we can preach that. Somebody give me a Bible verse. Revelation? Nah, let's try something else. But see, it shouldn't have to go away to get me not to take it for granted. I should be mature enough to be able to say, Thank you, Lord, for this meal. Thank you, Lord, for this bread.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

- Thank you, Lord, for this day. But the crowds were never like that, see? Jesus could have, by the way, provided bread for them every day. He is the bread of life. So he didn't refuse to repeat the miracle because he was incapable of performing. He refused to repeat the miracle because he didn't want them to get addicted to that particular miracle. And so when they came and said, Do the bread thing again. That was awesome. This time, could you make it even softer? This time, could you bring butter with it too? This time, I appreciate the pescatarian miracle, but this time, could we get a ribeye, Jesus? Could you find somebody with a hamburger and touch that? And Jesus said, no, I'm not doing it. Eat my flesh and drink my blood or you have no part in me. You came because you had the miracles and you got your fill, but the work of God is to believe. Look at one of the saddest verses in the Bible. In the Bible after one of the happiest miracles. John chapter 6, verse 66. Look at this. From this time, many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. So, Jesus was amazing, but he was also abandoned. Abandoned. As amazing as he was, there were disciples who said, we don't want to follow you where you're going next.
- Now, this is the question I want to ask you. If Jesus had people leave his life, and he was perfect, if Jesus had people leave his life, and he was all-knowing, if Jesus had people leave his life, and he was the savior of the world. How do we expect that we're going to make it through our life without ever being betrayed, abandoned, rejected? And I know this really hurts to put it here, but I felt the Lord speaking to me that there is a whisper he wants to give you about the people who have abandoned you. Now, as I step on this, I tread tenderly because it's one thing to talk about the people who were in your life in high school, that are not in your life now that you're 73. It is one thing to talk about abandonment in a theological capacity that will help you to understand how it relates to God who will never leave us or forsake us. But there are some times where the fact that people are leaving you causes you to feel as if God did too. And we don't say that.
- But we begin to feel that way. Think about Jesus. Bread multiplying, water to whining, healing Jesus, who was trying to be killed by the leaders. So he's got leaders that are trying to kill him. He's being consumed by the crowd because they only want what he has to give, not what he has to teach. He's trying to be killed by the leaders, consumed by the crowd, But verse 5 really got me. It said, even his own brothers did not believe in him. So he's got a crowd trying to kill him. He's got leaders that are trying to crucify him. He's got disciples who don't really get him. The disciples never fully got Jesus. I'll prove it to you. Lazarus died. Jesus said, he's sleeping. I'm going to wake him up. He was speaking in code.
- The disciples said that, well, Lord, if he sleeps, he'll get better. And the Bible says then Jesus told them plainly, Lazarus is dead. Have you ever had to explain things to people more than you should at this point? That's John chapter 11. By John chapter 11, I should not have to tell you everything. But Jesus has got a leadership team that's trying to kill him. A crowd that's consuming and taking from him. And disciples who don't get him. And even his own brothers don't believe in him. So I'll share it with you like this. When I was preparing for ministry, they prepared me to preach the Bible and how to take a text and how to get the history of it. They taught me how to even grow a ministry and how to have strategic initiatives so that you get out ahead of the plateaus and create new growth surges. And you get out of this and you get out of that. I even had one professor. Who took us to a church and taught us how to baptize. He made us do it in the water. He made us get in the tank.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

- He was like, this is important. This is somebody's life that's being represented. You don't need to be practicing on somebody, so practice on each other. And when I did, I did the first one, and I dropped the guy in the water, and I never dropped anybody again in any baptism because I learned so much that if I'm baptizing you, you are coming up out of this one way or the other. If I have to knock the tank over. I am not dropping you in this water. They taught me how to baptize. They taught me how to contextualize. They taught me how to theologize. They taught me all of that. But one class I do not remember getting is this. They never told me what to do when the people who are supposed to believe in me be leaving me. Yeah I used to think that if they left me, they were leaving the Lord. I don't think that anymore. I think that God moves people along.
- I also learned that sometimes, I allow the fact that they left me. I would say like this. The Lord said, don't let them believe in you, keep you from believing in me. Amen. It's significant to me that at this moment in Jesus' life, when his brothers are like, hey, you need to go do something. You need to show how powerful you are. You need to go to Jerusalem at the festival and make a show. Because, you know, you want to be this big public figure. You want to be a big deal. Isn't this something that they're trying to teach Jesus how to be a big deal? They're trying to teach the Alpha and Omega how to make a statement.
- They're trying to take the one who published the sunrise how to run a PR team. They're trying to teach the one who was in the beginning with God how to make a splash when he gets on the scene. They're trying to get the one who chose to descend from a throne to a cross to die for our sin how to be more like the people and how to be amongst the people and how to make a statement. They are trying to teach the word of God how to make a statement. And they do it at his most vulnerable time. Remember this. The enemy will come to try to push you out of your position at the times where you feel lonely and vulnerable. And he would use those moments when you feel abandoned to get you to feel bitter and to get you to start doing things that aren't even you. And if possible, the enemy will use people who disappointed you to cause you to doubt the God who never will. Amen. Who am I preaching to? I refuse to just preach this like it was just for me and Jonathan Josephs.
- Who am I preaching to? The other day we were out on Elevation Night's tour, and the Lord really gave me this beautiful picture that I wanted to share with you. I was watching one of our sermons from back when the church was pretty empty during the pandemic. And I was looking at how, you know, back in those days, the church, I felt very abandoned by you during that time. Like, it's your fault. You wouldn't let us come to church. I know, but it was still lonely. And yet in the middle of that preaching, now listen, get this picture. In the middle of that preaching, I looked up there on that stage, and I was just going for it like if it was 2,000 people in the room. But up on the stage was, you know, you had Chris and Jenna and John Sal, LJ, Scotty, all the team members.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

- We went out there, we were about to go minister. This is crazy, we were about to minister to 20,000 people or 15,000 people or however many people were there that night. And I realized that the same people that were about to go out there and minister with me in that big arena were the same people that had my back in an empty room. Now, the Lord really checked me on this. Because he said, sometimes you get so sad about who left that you start missing who's left. I know that they left you, but God didn't let go of you. I know that they should have treated you better, but God has treated you better than you could have ever deserved. I know that they didn't give you what you needed or what you could have rightfully expected from them. But you have got to release that now in order to receive that in this season of your life, your wisdom is coming from God. And it's going to be amazing because even though many left Jesus, the ones who stayed ended up building the church to where it parted.
- I can't wait to see what God is going to do through what is left in your life. I can't wait to see when you... Finally forgive the fact that it's not like it used to be when you finally forgive the fact that they were a jerk when you finally admit the fact that you were sometimes too. When you finally forgive the fact that they did not stay for the whole journey. When you finally make peace with the fact that not everybody was meant to be in the whole movie. Some people were there for a scene. Some people were there for a lesson. Some people were there for a blessing. Some people needed to be released because God has something else for them. And when you release that, when you let that go, when you let God be God, and you just follow Jesus with what you have left, you will realize the greatest truth that I ever realized. Is that wherever people leave a space. God does a miracle. Wherever people leave a vacuum. Wherever people leave a need. God steps in to meet it.
- And I can stand before you today. Honestly by the grace of God. And say that some of the greatest times. That I have felt his presence in my life. Is when people were absent. Some of the greatest times. That I have felt his favor over my life. And really experienced. This deep thing with him was in the secret place. Do you know about the secret place? It's when people stop calling you. And people stop texting you. And people stop checking on you. And you can either get bitter about it. Or you can get blessed about it. And realize that this is a season where God is drawing you closer to himself. And when they go quiet, he speaks. And whisper. And Jesus says something all so powerful. What he says to his brothers. He says, you go. I'm good in Galilee. Somebody shout, I'm good in Galilee. Oh, that's the greatest thing you can ever decide in your life. Is that where God has me right now is where I want to be.
- Because if he had wanted me to be somewhere else, I'd be somewhere else. If he wanted me to be someone else, I'd be somewhere else. So somebody declare their sin. I like my life. I like my life. I like all the banged up little things on my car. I like all the scratches on my car. I love all those little marks all around my house where we need to repaint it. I like my life. I like my crooked second toe. I like my life. I like my male pattern baldness. I like my life. I like my braids in my beard. I like my life. I like my free time. I like my life. I like my busy. I like my life. Say it, I like my life. Tell your neighbor, I like my church. Tell them, I like my pastor. I like my son. I like my wife. I like my wife. I love her cooking. It's amazing. Can I talk to you for a moment about arrival? This is our third point is arrival. Because see, they're trying to get Jesus to go somewhere. But he already is what they're trying to be. Look at verse 4. Let me teach this. Say, I like my life. Maybe we'll make that the title of the sermon when we put it on YouTube. I like my life. Clickbait everybody, you know? Rage bait them, you know? I don't like my life.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

- It's easy for you to say. If you like my life, you wouldn't like it either. You know how people want to try to make you be miserable like they are? Right. Say, I like my life. Now Jesus, Jesus had every reason not to like his life. Jesus had every reason to, Jesus had every reason to feel bitter. But he didn't. He is tempted in every way, like how you get bitter, how you start to get mad, that's not fair how they're doing that for me. Jesus had every reason to think that too. But he was tempted in all points as we are, and yet without sin. That's why he's our example. And in verse four, what the brothers said to him, I gotta show you, this is so powerful how it's worded. They said, no one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Jesus, you need that blue check mark in your hand. Right. But for real though, the key word to that, no one who wants to come out of the UX and see, is not secret, is become.
- Jesus doesn't need, can I say it with bad grammar? Jesus doesn't need to become nothing. He was and is and is to come. So when you know that you've already got what they're trying to get you to chase the temptation isn't so great anymore. He's like no I'm good. Y'all go I'm good because Jesus knew what he was so he knew what he didn't have to do. Jesus knew. John's gospel gives the seven I am statements of Jesus I am the bread of life I am the true by I am the gate. I am the good shepherd. I am the resurrection and the life. I am the door. I am. I forgot the seventh one, but y'all can look it up later. I am somebody shout. I am. But I think one of the most powerful things Jesus said in John wasn't one of the seven. I am statements. It's in verse eight. And I want to show it to you so you can say it, too, because when you know who you are, Jesus said. You go to the festival. I am not going. Just encircle that phrase. Because Jesus said, I am the true vine. I am the good shepherd. I am the resurrection and the life. I am the door. I am the way, the truth, and the life. I got the seventh of two.
- I am all that. But since I know who I am, I also know what I am not. And sometimes the power. of knowing your purpose is being able to say, I am not going. Watch this, teenagers. I am not going to that party. I know everybody else is going to be at that party, but I don't care about where everybody else is going because I am not going, because I am a child of God. I don't care if everybody is talking nasty on Facebook. I am not going to talk like the world when I'm a citizen of the kingdom of God. I am not. I don't care if everybody else is having sex before they get married. I am not giving something that was blood-sucked for something that is dirt cheap. I am not. I am not. I know the devil wants me to complain and lay down and die, but I am not going to. I am not going to quit. I am not going to give up on this. I am not going to bury my dream. I am not going to become a cynic. I am not gonna drink the pain away. I am not gonna drum another with another drum. I am not going.
- We can have a whole E group off of this one point. just tell somebody i have not told i'm not going i'm going to go i'm not going to try to prove it i'm not going to try to make you believe it i'm not going to try to make you accept me i'm not compromising my values i feel political annoying you don't remember that you were in canada now tell somebody i am not i am not i am not who sees in secret rewards openly, don't you? You know, you might already be there, but you just don't have anybody to tell you how good you're really doing. So let me be that one today. You're already there. And if you were supposed to be further along, God would have sent you a faster car. You're already there. I know you've got a long way to go. The Bible says Jesus went, but he went when he was supposed to. He went when he was supposed to. And when he got there, look at verse 12, it says, there was widespread whispering about it. And there always is.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

- There always is. Some said, Others said, mm, we've seen this before. Mm-mm, he's a deceiver. But what's crazy to me is Jesus didn't respond to either because both were limited. He wasn't a good man, he was the God man. And Jesus did not answer to their whispers because he walked in his Father's will. So what I realize about everyone I'm preaching to today is there is a war happening in your heart. It's not loud, there's no bombs going off, nobody can see it, and you look really beautiful in your church clothes. But underneath that purple sweater, underneath that beautiful smile, underneath those lifted hands that you raised sincerely because you love the Lord and you worship him, there's a war going on. And there's a whisper. A while back Holly was giving me some affirmations. That's my final point. I want to talk about affirmations and agreement. You don't need to sit down and read something. I'll just leave you with anything to talk about. But something very strange happened to me and it took me a few days to analyze it and then it's taken me several months to process it so that I could share it with you. But it came back to my mind when the Lord told me to talk to you about the war of whispers. from the word that you heard, or tells you to obey. And if you obey the word, if you obey the word, peace will be the problem.
- But if the enemy whispers it, the Bible talks about how sometimes the devil will snatch a seed of the word of God that is sung because the enemy will whisper. And so, cotton is in of this fact that as I'm speaking, the enemy is whispering, and so is God. And it's a war of whispers. See, there's two whispers, right? He's a good man. I don't think so, he's a liar. You've got this. You might as well give up, it doesn't matter anyway. You know, you really could confess this. They would forgive you. Yeah, but then they'll think I'm weak and they'll take advantage of me. It's a war of... You don't say that stuff out loud. It just goes on in the night. And the reason I know it is because it happens to me too. When I finish preaching to you, I am in a vulnerable place. Why? Well, you run around the room screaming at the top of your lungs for an hour and see how you feel afterwards and talking to people about abandonment and deep issues and then just come off the stage and try to eat a pancake. The devil comes in behind it and he discourages. So? Holly was sharing with me one time in a particularly vulnerable state some affirmations. She was saying things to me that were so kind and so rooted in Scripture. Very soft-wished, dear man of God. You shared with the Lord, didn't you? God is kind. Now, as she was speaking, I was having thoughts. I believed they were from the enemy. I believed they were from the enemy, but they didn't sound me. like the devil's voice. In fact, it was a thought that came as the exact opposite of everything she was saying to me. So she would say, you're a man of God. And while she was pausing to let that sink in, the enemy was answering.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

- And everything that would come back through my mind, it wasn't an out loud voice. It was just, it was the space between her words were filled By whispers from the enemy. So if she said, you are a man of God, the thought would come back that was the exact opposite of that. And I won't tell you what those thoughts were. Because honestly, they were so raw and so terrible, I would not repeat them to you. Okay? So, they're coming back to me. And she's saying, God delights in you. And the answer that would come back as a thought, or an impression, an argument with what she just said, would be the exact rhythm of what she just said. It was almost like it was a songwriting session. It was like, ba-ba-ba-ba-ba-ba, ba-ba-ba-ba-ba-ba. Da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da. And it matched it almost exactly, except it was the exact opposite. And it was intense. I've never had anything like this happen before in my life. The next day I was reflecting on it because I didn't even know how to tell her what happened because it was honestly so dark to feel something like that. And I was praying about that and asking God, what was that? What was that thing that was going on in my mind when my wife was speaking such beautiful words over me after? And he said, and these whispers, and it's not important that you get it to go away. It's just important that you never agree with it. It's a war of whispers.
- One is saying God's got you right where he wants you. It's going to be okay to over. The other saying, you screwed up so bad, there's no way that God can redeem this situation in your life, you might as well give up. One whisperer saying, you slipped up, let's get back on track, come on, we can get this back together again, you don't have to go all the way down just because you slipped a little bit. Another saying, well you've already blown it now and you've already broken the streak and you might as well just go all the way. It's a war of whispers. But what was true of Jesus is true of you and me. Because in verse 16, Jesus says, you're amazed by my teaching and you want to know where it came from? My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. Listen to the whisper of the one who sent you. Because God who sent you into this assignment for your life, God who sent you to be the leader of that family, God who... who sent you into this city. God sent you here. God sent you into this church. God sent you to be the teacher in that classroom. God sent you to be the manager of that division.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

- The God who sent you can whisper to you. And he can whisper to you a word that can pivot your whole life. It's a war of whispers right now. They were whispering about Jesus, and they will always be whispering. And the voices will always be speaking opposite things. And one voice will always be telling you you're not going to make it. And another voice will be telling you, come on, God has seen you through this far. And it is not important which voice is the loudest. It's important which one you agree with. And the one that you lean into is the one that will lead you forward. I don't know who I'm prophesying to right now, but it's so strong on me right now. Because it's been back and forth in your mind. And you're like, what is this? And you came to church today. And the whisper has been there the whole time I've been preaching. And you just turn this on and you're like, maybe God can speak to me. I don't know. It's chaotic in my mind right now. I can't make sense out of it right now. And God is saying, go with the whisper of the one who sent you. The one who knows you. The one who died to save you. The one who intricately knit you before you were formed in your mother's womb. The one whose words spoke your life into existence. Listen. When I get done in a minute, the enemy's going to whisper to me, you should have told him that story at the end. That was too personal. I sent him for somebody who has been dealing with it in your own way. Maybe we just ought to call the sermon God is whispering over my life. I cannot afford to get distracted by other people's opinion right now. I cannot even afford to be distracted by my own shame right now because the grace of God. It won't be the only voice you'll hear. Because one voice is going to be telling you, there's your stomach growling. Shh. Stomach, we're going to eat. We're going to eat. You're going to get filled in a few minutes. But right now, I need my soul. It's not important that you get that other whisper to go away. So Lord, fill this space.
- Some people that are listening to me preach today, they've been left by others because they ate the loaves and had their fill and they left. And now they can believe in the whisper, you're all alone. Shh. I'm not alone. God's with me. Say, God's with me. That's the whisper you agree with. If I don't feel him, he's with me. If I don't see him, he's with me. If I can't prove it, he's with me. If it doesn't work out, if it doesn't get better, he's with me. He's with me. That's the whisper that I agree with. I want to speak to the whisper that's been telling you it's too late. Too late. Maybe your kids are grown now. Maybe you're about to graduate high school and you didn't really live for the Lord. It's not too late for anything. God can save the best, the last. And God can give you a fourth quarter, last two minute victory that will shock you. God can knock the devil out and make the last five rounds insignificant. You listen to this one. I want to come against the whisper that's telling you that you'll never change. And you've always been as who you're going to be. I declare over you the greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. Not only are you where you're supposed to be, you are who you are supposed to be. You're not too much, you're not too little. Amen. You are just right for this assignment. Somebody say, I am enough. Now this week, Lord, we're going to listen for your whisper. We're going to resist the whisper that's telling us that this is all ridiculous. We're going to resist the whisper that tells us we might as well stay down. We're going to resist the whisper that tells us that our past is greater than our future. Today, Lord, I believe that as I'm preaching, you are drawing somebody to be saved.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

- This is their day to give their life to Jesus. I believe that you stand at the door and knock, like Revelation 3 and 26, that if anyone will open the door, you will come in, and you will sit down, and you will make your throne in their heart. Right now, if you're here today, and you've never really given your life to Jesus, or maybe you used to be close with the Lord, and lately you've been very far away. And you hear that whisper. The Lord is saying, come back to me. The Lord is saying, give me your life. Give me the broken pieces. Give me all the broken dreams. I see all of it. I'll make you new. I'll turn this broken, all this clay and this broken vessel, and I'll turn it into something amazing. Oh, it's going to be amazing. Today, if that's you, and you're ready to give your life to Christ, I would love to lead you in a prayer. This prayer is not magical. But if you'll pray him from your heart, the Bible says that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart, God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- It's a promise. So right now, as a church family, I want you to repeat after me for the benefit of those who are coming to Jesus for the first time. coming back to God. Repeat after me. Heavenly Father, today is my day of salvation. I am a sinner in need of a Savior. And I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. And today, I make Jesus the Lord of my life. I believe He died That I would be forgiven and rose again to give me life. I receive this new life. This is my new beginning. I am a child of God. On the count of three, if you prayed that, shoot your hand up. One, two, three. I want to celebrate you. God bless you, man. and the black church. God bless you. Come on, let's say a loud voice. Put your hands together and praise the Lord. Come on, praise the Lord, everybody. How many are going to be listening for the whisper this week? Listening for the whisper this week. I'm going to give you a God list or something to do with that. I pray that nothing will be in your way.

Part 2: eGroup study questions

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

Insight in prayer:

“The goal is not to make the opposing whisper disappear, but to never agree with it.”

How does this speak to you this evening?

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “The War Of Whispers” by Pastor Steven Furtick - November 9, 2025

“Align with the Sender’s whisper. It is not which voice is loudest, but which voice you agree with that leads your life.”

Dang this is good!

What do you think?

“Reframing by whisper: God’s whisper can reframe situations without changing circumstances, moving the heart from worry to worship. A single whisper can prevent years of misdirection.”

“Release those who left: Forgive, bless, and trust God to fill vacuums with his presence and provision.”

1978 “The Promise” by Bruce Springsteen:

“I followed that dream like those guys do why up on the screen

Drove my Challenger on Route 9 through all of the dead ends and all the bad scenes

I build that Challenger by myself. I needed money so I sold. Lived the secret that I should have kept to myself. But I got drunk and so I told.

One night I won big, so I hit the coast. So I paid the call. Besides, I felt like I was carrying all of the broken spirits of all the other ones who had lost.

When the promise is broken, you go on liv'en, but it steals something down in your sole. But when the truth is spoken, don't make no difference, something in your heart runs cold.”

Ephesians 4:29-31

New International Version (NIV)

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Un-packing Paul's letter to the Romans 12: 17-21:

Quotes from Pastor Steven's F-Bomb series:

- Paul makes no mention as to the degree of the offense. He only says: do not repay evil with evil.
- “If it is possible, live in peace with everyone” – peace does not equal in partnership with someone. Sometimes, the best form of forgiveness is separation. (Additionally, the wheels of justice still need to happen.)
- Forgiveness is the operating system of Christianity. It is why we got into the game to begin with.
- Key point; Forgiveness is not weakness. It is the ultimate portal to power in Christ.
- The forgiven forgive
- Forgiveness is not about raising the white flag of surrender. It is about dropping the atomic bomb of Christ's glory and appealing your case to a higher court.



Closing prayer:

“The ride didn't change. You changed. You changed. It didn't get easier. You got stronger. And the battles won't get lighter, you'll just get wiser. And circumstances won't change, but you will. You will grow from the inside out. You will win from your mind, and even before you get in the battle, even before it begins, you're walking in with a winning mindset. Deuteronomy chapter 20, verse 4. The Lord your God goes with you. fight for you to give you victory. May you step into this week knowing that you have a God who will fight for you and with you, and he will give you victory. I know it feels like it's been battle after battle, but I think a faith-filled person looks back on their story and says, actually, it's been victory after victory after victory after victory. I'm getting stronger. And if you'll face it, listen to me, if you'll face it, God will fight with you.”

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.”