

Kev's sermon notes for eGroups

Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021

Elevation Church - Broadcasting from Ballantyne Campus – Charlotte, NC USA

### Happy Valentines Day

Pastor: Steven Furtick

Sermon Title: "Built Different – First we need to get rid of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. A Time Lapse testimony – We have to get Rid to Get Ready - God selects what man rejects - Don't judge your transformation based on somebody else's time lapse video - Don't comply with a vote from a committee of cynics - Jesus is the stone that we build on and we are the stone that he builds on – Yes you!

Elevation Worship + Joe L Barnes from Maverick City Music

- Won't Stop Now –  
[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=won%27t+stop+now+elevation+worship](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=won%27t+stop+now+elevation+worship)
- Dang!! - Happy Valentine's Day tribute – "Dancing" - "You Are my Paradise – To the left and to the right and I Won't Stop dancing" – no YouTube video available.
- Worthy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ak5WTb-mgeA>
- Here Again - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfLcdBuB7NY>
- I am Confident Through Seasons Change – He Will Always Remain
- God of My Storm and My Future – You Hold it All Together

Also see: <https://www.maverickcitymusic.com/>

Scripture for this week:

- Philippians 1: Thanksgiving and Prayer - 3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, **6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.** 7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. 8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.
- **1 Peter 2: 1 to 9:** "Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. The Living Stone and a Chosen People 4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," 8 and, "A stone that

causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

- **Exodus 25:** *New International Version - Offerings for the Tabernacle - 25 The Lord said to Moses, 2 “Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give. 3 These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze; 4 blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; 5 ram skins dyed red and another type of durable leather[a]; acacia wood; 6 olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; 7 and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. 8 “Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. 9 Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you. The Ark 10 “Have them make an ark[b] of acacia wood—two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. 11 Overlay it with pure gold, both inside and out, and make a gold molding around it. 12 Cast four gold rings for it and fasten them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. 13 Then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. 14 Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry it. 15 The poles are to remain in the rings of this ark; they are not to be removed. 16 Then put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law, which I will give you. 17 “Make an atonement cover of pure gold—two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. 18 And make two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. 19 Make one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; make the cherubim of one piece with the cover, at the two ends. 20 The cherubim are to have their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the cover. 21 Place the cover on top of the ark and put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law that I will give you. 22 There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the covenant law, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites. The Table 23 “Make a table of acacia wood—two cubits long, a cubit wide and a cubit and a half high.[d] 24 Overlay it with pure gold and make a gold molding around it. 25 Also make around it a rim a handbreadth[e] wide and put a gold molding on the rim. 26 Make four gold rings for the table and fasten them to the four corners, where the four legs are. 27 The rings are to be close to the rim to hold the poles used in carrying the table. 28 Make the poles of acacia wood, overlay them with gold and carry the table with them. 29 And make its plates and dishes of pure gold, as well as its pitchers and bowls for the pouring out of offerings. 30 Put the bread of the Presence on this table to be before me at all times. The Lampstand 31 “Make a lampstand of pure gold. Hammer out its base and shaft, and make its flowerlike cups, buds and blossoms of one piece with them. 32 Six branches are to extend from the sides of the lampstand—three on one side and three on the other. 33 Three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms are to be on one branch, three on the next branch, and the same for all six branches extending from the lampstand. 34 And on the lampstand there are to be four cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms. 35 One bud shall be under the first pair of branches extending from the lampstand, a second bud under the second pair, and a third bud under the third pair—six branches in all. 36 The buds and branches shall all be of one piece with the lampstand, hammered out of pure gold. 37 “Then make its seven lamps and set them up on it so that they light the space in front of it. 38 Its wick trimmers and trays are to be of pure gold. 39 A*

*talent of pure gold is to be used for the lampstand and all these accessories. 40 See that you make them according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.*

Sermon Title: “Built Different – First we need to get rid of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. A Time Lapse testimony – We have to get Rid to Get Ready - God selects what man rejects - Don’t judge your transformation based on somebody else’s time lapse video - Don’t comply with a vote from a committee of cynics - Jesus is the stone that we build on and we are the stone that he builds on – Yes you!

- **Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don’t have to walk this walk alone? – See [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc).**
- **Interested in joining Elevation Church: See: [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc)**
- **Interested in leading an eGroup? See: [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc)**
- **Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc)**
- Here Comes Church:
  - Holly Furtick has launched a new YouTube channel
  - New Rhythm signal released this week – “If You Know.”
  - Rhythm was birthed out of our Youth ministry – we have a record number of eGroups and eGroup leaders – and we celebrate this.
  - See Ep 3:24 – God says we have only seen the foundation – Carve out time to recognize what God can do anything in your life.
  - A 6<sup>th</sup> watch party in MD has been launched – a long with many other watch parties all over the world.
  - We celebrate Black History Month
  - Elevation Worship and Maverick City Music have collaborated on a new album that will be released in the Spring of 2021 – called “The Heart of God” – a new season and new sound.
  - Interested in serving or volunteering? See [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc)
- Opening Prayer #1 by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/14/2021: Let us continue to be living in the same Grace that brought us salvation to begin with – the one thing I know and the one thing that I trust in is Him - that He who began a good work in me will be faithful to complete it – Even when I am faithless, He is faithful – so let’s come into agreement with everyone here today that is feeling faithless – Although we do not want to admit skepticism and cynicism – all of these things we use as a protective mechanism to keep us from being disappointed again – might have crept in to a point where we don’t feel much like ourselves today – let the anointing of worship break through – to remind ourselves that we do not have to depend on our own moods – we do not have to look to our own behaviors to justify ourselves – I think that in Jesus Christ the righteous, we are fully justified – and fully accepted – and we look to the favor, abundance and vision of God. The final word has already been spoken over our lives – we just need to receive it – remind ourselves who he is – what he was – and what is real. Let every man be a liar – Things are different with repentance – He loves you and He wants you – If He is with you, no one can be against you. Our God is stretching his arms to reach you right now – are you thankful for the hand of God on your life – He is the hand of an artist and a potter – the hand that knows exactly where to press and how

to shape – to exactly confirm the plan that He has for your life. God has something for us to do in our lives today – thank you Lord.

- Thank you for Holly's sermon last week during our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Do you remember our conversation about the glitter and the glue? God holds our life together and there are people that God uses to hold his ministry together (eGroup leaders) – a special thanks to our eGroup leaders.
- When you look into a mirror next, say you are the miracle in the mirror – when you look at yourself and think about all of the things that you have been through – and it wasn't that you were so wise that you made it – but rather it was due to the grace of God.
- See 1 Peter 2: 1 to 9.
- This is powerful scripture.
- **Vs. 1 "Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Translation by Pastor Furtick: Delete all of your social media accounts. If you can't say Amen, say Ouch instead! Some of us have to make decisions as to who is going to have access to us – the first step in getting ready is getting rid of something – and none of the things that Peter talks about our direct behaviors – their attitudes.**
- **A Pastor Furtick classic: In this season we're talking about asking God for us make room to receive – and how can we make room for the heart of God if we are full of malice? How can we receive the revelation of the real me if we are living a life of hypocrisy? Because we are so determined to look better than we really are – hypocrisy is not that you're struggling with something, it is pretending that you don't.**
- **We have plenty to do in verse 1 of 1 Peter 2 – getting rid of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.**
- **Get verse 1 down before you consult with the pastor about the book of Daniel or the book of Revelation.**
- Get rid in order to get ready to make space with what God is going to fill our hearts with.
- The Living Stone is Jesus.
- The topic of this sermon is "Built Different."
- **What you are getting from Peter here is a synopsis of a salvation experience – similar to the time lapse videos of watching someone build a complicated Star wars Legos structure on a 10 min YouTube video.**
- When things don't look like they do on the box, we almost want to take it back to God in frustration – it has to be built – and this is the whole point of the exercise.
- **When someone shares their testimony with you – and how they were set free – this is typically a time lapse testimony – where they are fast forwarding through all of life's stumbles – and they fast forward through the 3 years of utter toil - which is what Peter is doing here – what Peter says sounds so simple – and the manner in which Peter says it sounds so sudden.**
- In the first two verses, Peter tells us to get rid of all the bad things in our lives and grow up – however he uses the image of a baby to let us know that God's kingdom – and the way God's kingdom is built – will be different than the time lapse video that we watched on YouTube.
- A time lapse testimony is not untrue – it's just that it happened so quick – and the hard part comes when we compare our real-life process with somebody else's ESPN highlight reel or time lapse testimony.

- We are built different – referencing a prior conversation with my kids.
- Recall the funny story of Buck providing a demanding physical workout to Pastor Steven – “if I tried to do what Buck provided, it would have ended in vomit and injury. Buck is built different.”
- See vs. 3 and 6: “3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. The Living Stone and a Chosen People 4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him - 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”
- This is a time lapse testimony – like it was just one moment.
- Why did Jesus use the symbol of a mustard seed in describing how the kingdom grows in our lives?
- My mother had been planning seeds for years before I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior at age of 16 – yes the salvation decision was a sudden event however my mother had been sewing for many years – even as far back as when she was singing to me when I was a baby.
- **My salvation decision is a time lapse and did not capture all of the work that my mother did on my behalf – my salvation decision at the age of 16 was me catching up toward God I’ve been doing all along – and this really blesses me now as a parent – Scripture tells us to train up a child in the way they should go – so when they are old they will not depart from it. (Kev note: See Proverbs 22:6). And we all want to skip over the stuff that does not make us look so spiritual.**
- Now let’s talk about how God built a nation – with Abraham and Sarah.
- God goes to a woman that could not have children – telling them that this nation is going to be built different – God was sending us a signal from the very beginning – this nation is going to be built different – it will be built in the face of impossible odds – so what even seems to be a physical impossibility – and if this is you today – and you have an impossible situation – this should be a great encouragement to you.
- **God does not need to have the finished product in hand in order to fulfill his promise.**
- Here’s the main point: The way God works is built different.
- Consider Jesus’ 12 disciples – Peter is far off the scouting report while Jesus builds his kingdom – Peter not even in pre-Christian rabbi school – he’s a fisherman – so when Jesus is going to the fishing boat to change the world, he’s not building according to the values in the systems of this world.
- Recall that Holly preached about Gideon last week.
- See Judges 7.
- Gideon had too many men to fight the battles – and God reduced his army to just 300 men to defeat an enemy of 150,000. Typically if you’re reducing an army of thousands to hundreds we call that building backwards – has God been building backwards in your life over the last year – where God is stripping and subtracting and not adding and multiplying?
- Before God builds what he wants to do in your life, you have to “get rid” in order to make room.
- **See 1 Peter 2:4: “4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him.” This living stone who we worship was rejected by humans – but chosen by God. God selects what man rejects. In this verse God project a picture of Jesus – Jesus is what is on the box in order to show us what our lives can look like – being so kind, perfect, and powerful – big enough to do miracles and attentive enough to make time for a child that wants to sit on his**

lap – Jesus is what you might say the blueprint for humanity – Gods 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam – or God uses Jesus as an example – and when God sent perfection into the world, no one recognized him.

- So why did no one recognize perfection when it came? People are dumb – because we always look at the wrong stuff – finding a celebrity to emulate – even when that celebrity is secretly miserable. God puts people in our life that are actually good for us – role models in our lives that are actually helpful and we reject them and call them “old heads.” Jesus was rejected – can you imagine that? The eternal Lamb of God that is spotless and without blemish – He was even rejected. The very foundation of the church was rejected – the thing that everything was built on – the word that was eternal and spoken from the portals of eternity - the labor pains of time – yes - that Jesus. What made you think that you would never be?
- Jesus was despised, so what makes us think that we are going to be so well liked? And we don’t typically get this message anymore – we get the message that Jesus was resurrected – the only reason he was resurrect was because he was rejected by the very people he came to save.
- There is not a person present here today that has not been rejected or ignored.
- The popular term now is to be unseen – where no one notices.
- If I examine the theological truth used in the text – it is nothing new – Jesus was even rejected.
- When we come to Christ, we use the term that we “accepted” Jesus – or that is what the preacher told me when I accepted Christ at the age of 16. And this is my time lapse testimony. Accepting Jesus was easy – what is not there to accept? He is going to pay for my sins – my wrongs – he is going to take away my shame – he is going to stand in my place – and he’s going to die for me – and he’s going to put his resurrection power in me – Jesus is going to pray for me to the father when I do not have the words to say – it will take it. This is a good deal. I am accepting Jesus.
- It has been 25 years since I’ve accepted Jesus. When I accepted Jesus it probably took 25 seconds to walk down the aisle at first United Baptist Church of Monks Corner South Carolina – however it has taken me 25 years to accept Steven – this has not been easy – He is not perfect – he is not always forgiving – he is not all wisdom – in fact he does not have a lot of things. Accepting Jesus only took a moment – Accepting me has taken a lifetime. The point I’m trying to make is this: To accept Jesus and not accept Steven – is to miss the gift of salvation where it matters the most.
- And the longer I live with Stephen the sicker of him I get.
- Peter not only says that He is holy – Peter is also saying that the same Him that is holy is making you Holy – not only did Peter say that Jesus was the cornerstone – you also are a stone (see 1 Peter 2:5). I have read the scripture a million times and concluded that the wisdom of men is always faulty and they reject Jesus and the wisdom of God is the only type of wisdom that can be trusted – and here is a deeper level of understanding: Jesus is the stone that we build on and we are the stone that he builds on – Yes you!
- Who better to hear this from then Peter? Yes imperfect Peter – belligerent Peter - Yes the same person that denied Jesus just before Jesus was crucified – and Jesus claims that on this rock Peter a build the church – (Kev note: See Matthew 16:18: *“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”*)
- I’m talking about today what God builds on – baron wombs, virgin girls, people with no business being built on – and the reason you do not know this is because you only heard time lapsed truth and testimony – and we only see what happens in 10 minutes – the Same Peter that tells us that



we are chosen in a royal priesthood – is the same person that told Jesus to “go away Lord and don’t come over to my boat because I am a sinful man.”

- **It’s amazed how far Peter has come - the stone that the builders had rejected – is the same person that preached during Pentecost in the book of Acts – same person who lied about his affiliation with God – yet God says I am going to build on that – God says that his kingdom will not be built on prestige and persona and images – the church will not be built on perfect people.**
- **Recall insight from Jane Williams in a letter from 10 years ago – “I thank God for you – Respectfully, I want to tell you something – what God is doing in you and through you going to look different than any of your present-day heroes – and be open to what the holy spirit wants to do through you – it is going to be different.”**
- We should not try to build on somebody else’s box – with your own pieces. You are built different – and get rid of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander – your timing is going to look different – your seasons are going to look different – how God uses us is going to be different.
- The Jewish people want a king not a Carpenter – and Jesus was both – we should’ve known that the kingdom was going to look different when we crowned a Carpenter to be our savior – this means that through cutting & sanding, the finished product is going to look different – and we have to stay entirely confident in the process – your belief is your blueprint – and all of the behaviors we are trying to change to rebuild our lives – if we don’t first address the beliefs system that caused the behaviors the change will not stick – it will be a time lapse transformation – and real transformation may take years.
- **It took Peter about 25 years to go from telling “Jesus you are the chosen one” to telling the Gentiles “you are the chosen one” – and don’t judge your transformation based on somebody else’s time lapse – and don’t compare your behind the scenes to somebody else’s highlight reel.**
- You are being built.
- We barely made it by the grace of God and you still are not sure that you made it.
- Our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary video clip from last week was a time lapse testimony – and we did not show you the deleted scenes – however, the deleted scenes give confidence for the grace of God – being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Kev note: See Phil 1:6).
- God is building us a stones and we all need each other.
- We cannot isolate ourselves and think we are going to be good at everything.
- **The kingdoms of this (secular world) are built on self-reliance – but God’s kingdom is built different – the kingdom of God is built on imperfect people coming together – the kingdom of God is enhanced by the imperfections – this enables grace – it enables us to fit with one another – and we are not perfect – it is absolutely an amazing thing that I can accept Jesus and not accept me – and Scripture tells us that the process of spiritual maturity is offering to God a spiritual sacrifice acceptable through Jesus – so the real challenge of our faith will not be accepting Jesus – it will be accepting His process in me – and if that means some sanding and some cutting – and if that means that I’m looking at the wrong box – and God wants to build something completely different in my life than what I had in mind – then I am good with it.**
- We are built different – this is a statement of clarity – my life does not look like your life in my gift does not look like your gift – and my timeline does not look like your timeline – our individual beliefs are our blueprints.

- Ask this question: is there a new blueprint that God wants to give your family?
- No one supposed to have a church this diverse in Charlotte, North Carolina. However God had a blueprint – that we were building to before we knew what the blueprint was.
- When Moses was building the tabernacle as a tribute to God in the wilderness, it was a mobile platform – this is good instruction for us – because we have to make our plans in pencil and maybe even have a big fat eraser – because the blueprint might not be what we think it is.
- See Ex 25: 40.
- **See to it that when you come off the mountain and go into life where everybody else is – down in everyday life where all the problems are – everyday life for where all of the confusion is – see to it that the pattern that you build is not the pattern of this world – but rather the pattern that you see in God’s presence.**
- God gives us these great glimpses as to the kind of people we can become – we have to carry that glimpse all the way down into the distractions of your real life – and we have to take the faith of God birthed in us – and live it out loud in the face of people who might not expect - or respect - or accept you at all – But don’t worry about this – because God selects what people reject – don’t reject what makes you special – don’t downplay what makes you destined – don’t discount what God gave you on the mountain that reflects the true you and try to build with somebody else’s blueprint.
- **We have to take what God gives us in the mountain and build it in the valley – we have to take what we know to be real joy – and apply it when we feel depressed – take the blueprint of what God showed you as to what it supposed to like – and maybe even build an ark when you don’t even see rain – don’t comply with a vote from a committee of cynics.**
- **Closing Prayer: Moses got his blueprint and pattern from Mount Sinai – where God gave the law to his people – but that is not where we get our blueprint and pattern from – what Jesus came to inaugurate is built differently – it is not built on Mount Sinai with rolling thunder and flashing lightning and wrath – it was built on a hill far away - where an old rugged cross stood – the pattern we should build our lives is called Calvary – we’re grace is greater than all of our sin and shame – and so - what God is saying more than anything else – to make sure we are really building by grace – so when our faith runs out and we come up a little short – and our answers are not all there – and our explanations fall short, we have a greater grace working in our lives – God is not going to build our lives on what we deserve – it is built on a much true-er foundation than that – this foundation cannot be shaken – because it will have a foundation that is built on solid rock – and this is what we have been learning in this season of our lives – yes doors have been shut and some things have gone wrong – we have been toppled and truths have been tested – and it’s not about the furniture it’s about the foundation – Jesus is our firm foundation – know that you have the right foundation in God – Give God a shout of praise – Lord, I release this word in the spirit that you gave it to me – we are built different – during political division this church still stands united – because we are build different – and upon this rock you are building our lives – and upon this rock you are building an understanding and a revelation – and we praise you for it. Amen**

Kev’s Charles Spurgeon Moment: *“FEBRUARY 18 MORNING “LET ME KNOW WHY YOU CONTEND AGAINST ME. J OB 10:2 Perhaps, weary soul, the Lord is doing this to develop your graces. There are*



*some of your graces that would never be discovered if it were not for your trials. Do you not know that your faith never looks as good in summer as it does in winter? Love is too often like a glowworm, showing but little light unless it is surrounded by darkness. Hope itself is like a star—not to be seen in the sunshine of prosperity, and only to be discovered in the night of adversity. Afflictions are often the black foils in which God sets the jewels of His children's graces, to make them shine brighter. It was only a little while ago that on your knees you were saying, "Lord, I fear I have no faith. Let me know that I have faith." Were you not really, though perhaps unconsciously, praying for trials? For how can you know that you have faith until your faith is exercised? Depend upon it—God often sends us trials so that our graces may be discovered and that we may be convinced of their existence. Besides, it is not merely discovery; real growth in grace is the result of sanctified trials. God often takes away our comforts and our privileges in order to make us better Christians. He trains His soldiers not in tents of ease and luxury, but by turning them out and subjecting them to forced marches and hard service. He makes them ford through streams, and swim through rivers, and climb mountains, and walk many long miles with heavy backpacks of sorrow. Well, Christian, may this not account for the troubles through which you are passing? Is the Lord bringing out your graces and making them grow?"*