

June 29, 2019 – Kev’s eGroup Sermon Notes

Ballantyne Campus

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See: <https://lifepoint.org/about/> and <https://lifepoint.org/sermonspeakers/pastor-daniel-floyd/>

Sermon Title: Work It Out

Youtube video of sermon: <https://lifepoint.org/sermon/work-it-out/>

Scripture:

- James 2: 25 and 26: Faith and Deeds: 14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. 18 But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. 20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. 24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. **25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.**
- 1 Samuel 1 New International Version (NIV): The Birth of Samuel - 3 Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord. 4 Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb. 6 Because the Lord had closed Hannah’s womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. 7 This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. 8 Her husband Elkanah would say to her, “Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don’t you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don’t I mean more to you than ten sons?” 9 Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord’s house. 10 In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. 11 And she made a vow, saying, “Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.” 16 Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.” **17 Eli answered, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.”**18 She said, “May your servant find favor in your eyes.” **Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.** 19 Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the Lord and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. 20 So in the course

of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, “Because I asked the Lord for him.”

- Acts 3 New International Version (NIV) - Peter Heals a Lame Beggar: 3 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. **6 Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. 9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.**

Sermon Notes:

- Open prayer and comments: What’s up Elevation? Please give Jesus your very best today. His is our Lord and is greatly to be praised - and it is an honor to be with you today. We are also broadcasting to all VA church locations at Life Point Church this weekend. When I was started my church in 2007, I was told to go to Charlotte- NC because there was something going on in Charlotte – where I attended a worship experience at Providence Hight School. After meeting Pastor Steven for the first time, I was convinced that my life had to aligned with this man – because we all know that alignment comes before assignment. With Pastor Steven, he created an environment that gave me a revelation that got me through the season that was before me. When you are in an environment like Elevation Church, it can become common to you – and you did not know common is the opposite of honor? Don’t let this environment become common and more importantly never let your church leadership become merely common in your life – **how you perceive someone is how you will receive someone** – and I hope that you will always perceive them as the gift that they are. Ep 4 says He gives gifts to the body – and one form of this gift is a great Pastor.
- Greetings from VA on behalf of my wife Tammi and my 4 children.
- Let’s get into the word today.
- See James 2:25 to 26.
- Faith without deeds = faith without words, action, and activity.
- Say this: Work It Out.
- I came from a family of 5 – I am on the only boy with two older sisters - and naturally I am the favorite.
- And with siblings, there is always conflict – and then we would go see Mom – and we knew that Mom would take sides and solve it. Well not exactly.
- She was the type of Mom that would say: You guys need to work it out.
- At school, she would not be one of those parents that would fix things for me – rather she would tell me to back to school and resolve the situation myself.
- And now I have four children - and now I tell them to work it out when they’re in conflict with each other.

- What my mom was trying to teach me and what I'm trying to teach my children is that there is a skill set gained - and strength gained - and ability gained - when you have to figure something out on your own – so my children will eventually have the ability to thrive in the real world - and have the skills to deal with conflict – and the skills to know how to resolve a situation - and not to go through their lives saying it was their parents fault (or someone else's fault) as to why they did not succeed.
- The goal is to take personal responsibility and work it out.
- Some think we should shelter our children from this - rather than sending them back into situations - and we all know that there are some things in life we just have to work out.
- There are some challenging and difficult situations that we encounter in life.
- Whether you believe in Jesus or don't believe in Jesus - we all experience life.
- And life can be difficult - and it can throw some things at you.
- **And this difficulty comes from two different angles: a. We do it ourselves - let's be honest - sometimes we make some dumb choices and b. Things that happen to us that we had no control over - the phone call or the person that walked out on us. In either situation - if we assume that God is good - which he is – and we also assume that he will shelter us from everything - we are going to be sorely disappointed.**
- **Rather than sheltering us God will often leverage the situation to develop something in us.**
- Whenever we face challenges or hard times in our lives we typically have three responses: a. We try to fix it ourselves - and you will find that no matter how much effort you put into a situation the matter will not be resolved, b. We attempt to find a solution from everyone around us – we seek crowd-sourced counseling on social media - please stop this by the way - yes there is wisdom in a multitude of counselors - however this should probably not be step #1, and c. We give-up and say well - this is my lot in life - and I am just going to have to just deal with it.
- The one thing I love best about Elevation Church is Pastor Steven's message that you don't have to remain stuck in life - that God has a plan for your life - that he does have a good purpose for your life - and you don't have to live stuck in a current situation – and life doesn't have to be a merry-go-round we have to feel like you you're dealing with the same thing over and over - and this is not God's plan for you.
- So, we can't fix it ourselves, we can't fix things by leveraging the wisdom of others, and we can't remain stuck in a situation – so then what are we supposed to do?
- Here's what I like to say about this: These challenging situations can be leveraged for God to increase the one thing that pleases him - and that is faith. The Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God - your performance will not please God - your best day will not please God - not I'll try harder or do better.
- Recall humorous story of a conflicting issue with Pastor Floyd's two-year-old daughter in a swimming diaper.
- **When faced with a challenging situation we often asked the question: God, what are you doing to me? However, the right question is: God what are you trying to do within me?**
- **God wants us to do something within us so that God can do something through us - simply stated God is trying to elevate our faith.**
- And here's what I have found: faith does not grow in comfort.
- And if you want just a comfortable life, then you might not have faith that can be grown - and elevated to another level. It requires discomfort for faith to grow.

- And without faith it is impossible to please God.
- **This means that God will allow some uncomfortable situations in your life so that he can elevate your faith - in order to take you to another level.**
- The Bible says that the faith is evidence - with faith, there is substance.
- Faith is not when the hairs on the back of your neck stand up when you hear a great Elevation Worship song. The Bible says that the faith is evidence.
- Consider the courtroom when lawyers will tell you that evidence is needed to plead a particular case - that a lawyer will have to present evidence to back-up his case to support what he believes to be true.
- **When the Bible says that faith is evidence - this means that faith is tangible and observable in our behavior or in our speech.**
- Therefore, I can't say I have faith if my behavior does not follow-up that is consistent with what I believe in. It is the evidence that is the manifestation of faith.
- According to James to faith without evidence of faith without works is not faith at all.
- **So, the challenging situations in your life are not God doing something to us - is God doing something through us that is strengthening us – since the muscle of faith does not grow in comfort.**
- So, you should rejoice if you're not in a state of comfort today - because God is growing something in you – and God is making you do something remarkable through you.
- So, how do we work out our faith?
- So, what is it mean when God has us work it out - and grow this faith muscle?
- **One important caveat: I'm not talking about working out faith for the purposes of salvation - you are saved by faith alone through grace alone.**
- Salvation is not of your works - it is a gift of God - so none of us can boast in it.
- I'm talking about the faith in God to realize greater things in your life.
- See 2 Sam 1:3 to 20 - the story of Hannah - that helps us see how God works out faith.
- Have you so desired something but it seemed impossible to obtain it?
- Some of life's challenges are not only challenging but are impossible.
- For some of you, you probably feel that you are in impossible situations.
- This is where we find Hannah.
- She could not control the outcome of having a child and she had an antagonist that was constantly provoking her.
- **In 1 Samuel 1: Every day that Hannah woke up she lived in the deficit of her experience - the deficit between where she was and where she wanted to be - between what she currently had and what she desperately wanted from God - and there was nothing she could do to change it.**
- Hannah was desperate for a child - see 1 Samuel 1:12.
- Note that Hannah prayed more than once - and she kept on praying. Can you imagine praying so intensely that only your lips move but no sound comes out? This is where she is - and Eli thought she was drunk.
- As we learn to work out our faith – here are some points:
 - **#1: the deficit is faith's opportunity - many of us look at the deficits in our life and consider them the obstacle - however God wants us to understand that this is not an obstacle but an opportunity for our faith to grow – for an opportunity for the muscle**

of faith to get stronger - so that we can carry the weightier thing that God wants to do in our life in the seasons ahead - without the deficit our faith would not grow. When confronted with a deficit - our mind races into many peculiar directions – and bring us to intense prayer - and then we realize that the deficit brought us to the prayers - in the deficit we experience a new level of faith inside of us – **and the deficit can bring a new level of healing inside of us - and prayers becomes the evidence** - when we realize that God is in fact a healer and he makes a way when there is no other way – He opens doors that no man can open - and we have to work it out. The deficit is never God doing something to you - the deficit can be leverage for God to allow us to grow a new muscle of faith on the inside of us.

- **#2: we all say the following: God use me. God grow me. God, I want everything that you have for me. God, I want to fulfill my purpose. God, I want to fulfill my destiny. And God says okay - at your current stage of faith (based on the current measure of faith), you cannot yet handle the weight to do what I want you to do at this season of your life - so God says I need to strengthen you in your spirit to prepare you for the thing that I have for you - then all of a sudden trouble will come your way. See Psalm 119. David says: “I was glad that I was afflicted because I know you in a way I would not have known you otherwise.” I believe you now in a way I would not have believed you otherwise. I walk with an intimacy with you that I would not have had otherwise.** However, we begin to pray this: Hey God use – and when trouble comes our way - and then we begin to pray - God remove the trouble - and I rebuke this trouble in the name of Jesus - and God says – well hold on for a minute - I thought you wanted to be used? I thought you wanted destiny and purpose. God tells us that purpose comes to the conduit of pain - because it is in the middle of pain and discomfort that our faith grows - my faith does not grow on the mountaintop my faith celebrates on the mountaintop - but our faith grows best in the valley moments of our life - where He walks with me and talks to me and tells me that I have I am His own - and we are supposed to develop an intimacy with the father - that we’ve never had before so that we have the strength to stand whenever he puts me on the mountain. So, the deficit is not the obstacle - the deficit is faith’s opportunity in your life to grow to another level.
- **#3 Hannah has been praying out of great anguish and grief.** 18 She said, “May your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast. One sentence from Eli and Eric countenance changes and she’s hungry again. **If the deficit is faith opportunity - the word is faith’s foundation.** The only change in her circumstance from weeping and praying and in her eating in her countenance changing was a word. By word we are referring to a. the Scripture – and we should allocate more than just Sunday for – and b. The Remo word or in-season word - a word that is in season and appropriate for you at this present time. This is how God takes the Word and makes it a word. Hannah got a word in her season - may God grant you your request - and the word changed everything for her. Here’s what I like you to know about this: She did not get a child - she got a word - in the word was enough to change or her countenance and make her want to go eat. **If you’re waiting on God to give you the answer to your prayer before you start walking out in faith - demonstrating evidence that you believe in his word - then you may never get the**

answer to the prayer. God is waiting for you to respond in faith before we give you the answer to the prayer

- Think about Peter. He's very bold - he's half hood and half saved. I'd rather reign somebody back vs. having to beat a donkey to go forward.
- See Acts 3.
- The lame beggar asks Peter for money - and the man looked at Peter expecting to receive something.
- Your level of expectation will determine what you receive.
- Peter doesn't have silver & gold - but he does get the man to walk.
- The man had been lame since birth - but a word from the man of God - Peter decided to put evidence to his faith - and put his feet underneath him.
- **Here's my concern: there are too many Christians laying at the center gate - living out their inheritance because they won't work out the word that is God has given them - that has given you so much in Jesus's name - and all you have to do is work it out.**
- Yet we are still laying at the gate saying that healing is mine - deliverance is mine - freedom is mine - but I would rather lay by the gate begging for a little bit of change - while the kingdom in heaven has everything to offer.
- So here's the deal: I don't wait to praise him until the baby is born.
- Get in this house every week and get into the word - and in your particular season - for whatever you're going through - because this word can save your life.
- That word can change your situation.
- **So, let's not wait to praise God until faith is born - God is most impressed when we limp into church - and tell God that were hurting - and were not sure how it's all going to turn out - yet we still profess that God is good anyways - and he is gracious anyway - and he is merciful.**
- And God is good and gracious anyway.
- And His mercies are new every morning.
- And great is His faithfulness.
- And we should give him praise just because He is good.
- So, the word is faith's foundation.
- And you may know the story that Samuel was born - and then she went back to the same place where Samuel born - back to the prophet Eli that gave her the word - and said surely as you live my Lord, I am the woman that stood beside you - praying to God - I prayed for this child - and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him - and so now I give him to the Lord - for his whole life will be given over to the Lord.
- **The deficit is faith's opportunity - and the word is faith's foundation - and the sacrifice is faith's test.**
- The test was not that Hannah could believe God provided for Samuel. The test was once Samuel was in her arms could she give him back to God?
- The test is not your belief that God can put something in your hand - God can do anything - the test is once God puts it in your hand - can you still live with an open hand?
- Because I have found it is the last blessing from God that is keeping you from receiving the next blessing from God.
- Because whatever is in your hand, God put there.

- And too many times we get our grip on it - and God says no - if you release what I gave you before - I will give again.
- So, the test is not can I believe God? The test is once God gives it to me - can I say that everything is from God – and I give it all back to You.
- Can I sacrifice it?
- Since sacrifice is faith's test.
- Because God is not moving me from the place of one blessing - the Bible tells me he's moving me from victory to victory and glory to glory.
- So, the last thing God has done in my life is not the last thing he will do in my life.
- It is a series of events that God wants to bless in my life.
- God wasn't doing something to Hannah – God was doing something through her.
- Because it was Samuel that went on to anoint Saul and it was Samuel who went on to anoint David. It is through David that Jesus would come.
- Can I take this a little deeper?
- The whole thing wasn't even about Samuel.
- The thing you're going through right now isn't about that thing.
- It wasn't about Samuel – it was about God opening Hannah's womb – so she could have five more children.
- Is the thing that God wants to do after you get through dealing with the thing that is in front of you right now.
- The thing you're going through right now is the test to see if you can handle the blessing - on the other side of the thing you're going through right now.
- I came to declare over you today - that the struggle is that facing right now - if you will work it out - and if you lead with an open hand - that God is not going to just give you a blessing - God is going to open things up for you so that you experience multiple blessings.
- God is not just the God of the blessing - he is the God of exceedingly, abundantly, and above all that you can ask or imagine - and if you can live with an open hand - and say this: God whatever you put in my hand I will release it back to you - God will then multiply your blessing with other blessings.
- Work it out.