

Kev's Guys eGroup Sermon Notes  
Elevation Ballantyne Campus  
Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019  
Pastor Steven Furtick  
Sermon Title: *"The Mystery of Potential"*

#### Elevation Worship

- Won't Stop Now - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wedYKosEe9k>
- Overcome - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvF9Hc5XZOo>
- King of My Heart - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pomqi7acJc4>
- Never Lost – new song and not yet released
- Resurrecting - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rf8Zzn4nOzc>

#### Scripture:

- **Acts 16: 25-26:** 25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. 27 The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"
- **Ec 11: 5-6:** Invest in Many Ventures - 11 Ship your grain across the sea; after many days you may receive a return. 2 Invest in seven ventures, yes, in eight; you do not know what disaster may come upon the land. 3 If clouds are full of water, they pour rain on the earth. Whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where it falls, there it will lie. 4 Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap. 5 As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things. 6 Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.
- **Ezekiel 37** New International Version (NIV) - The Valley of Dry Bones
- **1 Kings 19:19 – 20:** The Call of Elisha - 19 So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. 20 Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye," he said, "and then I will come with you." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?" 21 So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.
- **1 John 3:2:** 1 John 3 New International Version (NIV) - 3 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.
- **2 Kings 2** New International Version (NIV) - Elijah Taken Up to Heaven
- **2 Kings 13: 20:** Jehoash King of Israel - 10 In the thirty-seventh year of Joash king of Judah, Jehoash son of Jehoahaz became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned sixteen years. 11 He did evil in the eyes of the Lord and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit; he continued in them. 12 As for the other events of the reign of Jehoash, all he did and his achievements,

including his war against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel? 13 Jehoash rested with his ancestors, and Jeroboam succeeded him on the throne. Jehoash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. 14 Now Elisha had been suffering from the illness from which he died. Jehoash king of Israel went down to see him and wept over him. "My father! My father!" he cried. "The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" 15 Elisha said, "Get a bow and some arrows," and he did so. 16 "Take the bow in your hands," he said to the king of Israel. When he had taken it, Elisha put his hands on the king's hands. 17 "Open the east window," he said, and he opened it. "Shoot!" Elisha said, and he shot. "The Lord's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Aram!" Elisha declared. "You will completely destroy the Arameans at Aphek." 18 Then he said, "Take the arrows," and the king took them. Elisha told him, "Strike the ground." He struck it three times and stopped. 19 The man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck the ground five or six times; then you would have defeated Aram and completely destroyed it. But now you will defeat it only three times." 20 Elisha died and was buried. Now Moabite raiders used to enter the country every spring. 21 Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders; so they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet.

#### Sermon notes – The Mystery of Potential by Pastor Furtick

- Elevation at Midnight on Aug. 30, 2019 – You do not want to miss this. New songs getting released this week.
- Opening comments: We are taking our queue from those trumpet players in Joshua chapter 6. They did not wait for the walls to start falling before they shouted - they just shouted until the walls fell. Let's give Him our greatest praise today. Stand next to someone here today and sing the following duet: "You never Lost a battle – You never lost a battle – And You never will." Did I tell you that I have an almanac that can see into the future? (holding up bible) – and I know that we all have a lot going on in our lives - and we are all in progress – with conclusions not totally decided yet. But I did flip to the back of my almanac – I found out that in the end - He is still reigning and ruling.
- I would like to continue my conversation from Thursday night where we celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mathew's Campus.
- Let's talk about the "Mystery of Potential"
- Let's go back to Ec 11: 5-6.
- Today's message is a sequel to my prior message called "The Blessings of Both"
- We do not know the breath of God and we do not know how life starts.
- **Solomon says that he had riches, women, and, all of these things – but there are elements of our lives that we cannot predict or control – and then Solomon gives some good advice – we don't know what will prosper.**
- Are there any first-born children in the house today?
- We get extra credit because we were the lab rats.
- Parents set up a college fund for their kids – Parents should also set up a therapy fund for their first born kids – I was just thinking about this – think about all of the stuff that parents learn when raising their first child – the first to do everything – the first drive home from the hospital going 20 mph on I-485 because we were obsessed with safety. And Elijah was our first child to pay organized sports and during a baseball game a former pro-scout told me that my son had a good swing of the bat. My response was – really? How good? Should I plan for college scholarship offers and Pro baseball cities to live at? And when asking about my son's potential, this former scout said – it is too soon to tell. Even with all this man's experience, he can't really judge baseball potential at age 8 – and we can't assess one's potential and trajectory so early in development.

- And I did not mean to turn this in to a parenting seminar at all – but some of us parents need to lay off our kids when they are so small.
- **The mystery of potential is so difficult that Solomon compares it to a pregnancy - it's like that combination of embryonic development of human life - where there is a developmental process in a woman's womb - where the Spirit enters the bones - the Hebrew term is Ruah that literally means breath – Ruah and breath are not only synonymous, they are the exact same word.**
- **Recall that the spirit of God blew into us. Act 2.**
- In the image here is important - because if God breathes on something dirty - it becomes empowered by the divine - and I just completed a whole sermon.
- **There are things about human physiology and human life that can be explained by a textbook - and can be shown in terms of anatomy - but the other part that Solomon calls “the breath” - where life is sprung forth - this animating life force - we do not understand this.**
- When you talk to somebody that has accomplished a great thing in life - whether they are successful in business – or have a great marriage - or that they are the kind person and have a tremendous ability to deal with offenses in an admirable way - and if they're honest - they will say there are things that they did that they'll talk about. For example: we were disciplined and we saved our money and didn't spend our hard earned dollars on stupid stuff – and they will also say that there was this X factor - this other thing that they can't explain - this other part that I believe to be God - or God's protection - or the favor of God - because we know that if God doesn't breath into it, the bones can't spring to life.
- **Ezekiel know this - see Ezekiel 37 - where he sees a pile of bones in the Valley - and this represents the house of Israel - and God asks Ezekiel a question - can these bones live? And what Ezekiel says in response is the reality of my message today - only you know Lord.**
- God speaks spirit in my life – not me – because I tend to judge my potential as a human according to the flesh – I would rather know what God knows about me - and not whether I grew up in a subdivision - or in another part of town where people would wrongfully predict a limited trajectory in my life.
- **I want to know what God knows about me – because what I think might be dead - God sees this as future potential. It is the mystery of potential. And with this mystery - we must learn how to relinquish certain amount of control. Because there are gifts and experiences that God gave you – there is a certain weird way that your mind is wired - that enables you to see angles that no one else can see - in all of this is a part of what God is giving you - yet this gift that's given to you and deposited in you - this unique expression that resides in your body - the tangible - the bones of it - has to be touched by the divine - or the breath - for the supernatural to occur.**
- Can I preach a little bit about Elijah and Elisha?
- Elisha was going through his life at a certain pace - in a slow pace at that. The Bible says that he was plowing with 12 yokes of oxen.
- And along comes Elijah - the prophet is a rock star - who had the ability to command the rains as if it was a showerhead. This was the kind of power and potential that resided in Elijah.
- See I Kings 19: 19 to 20.
- I love the fact that Elisha's potential caught up to him while he was plowing - in the place of his assignment.

Kev's bonus study from Pastor Furtick's book [Greater](#):

- Page 5 of Greater: Meant for more - “As I tried to process the brain-bending implications of that claim, I thought through some of the conversations I had recently with people who were feeling disappointment and stuck in their relationship with God and their place in life. I am meeting more and more believers who are satisfied with the kind of Christians they are becoming and the version of the Christian life they're

experiencing. These are not bad people. They aren't gangbangers and ungodly pagans. If they were, then their discontent would make more sense. The thing is, most believers aren't in imminent danger of ruining their lives. They're facing a danger that is far greater: wasting them."

- Lots of people live in mediocrity – others live in condemnation
- Elisha was not qualified to do what God asked him to do. The first step Elisha made to be used by God for greater things was to surrender from the past.
- The first thing God is calling in your life is a greater posture towards God.
- Before you go onto greater things, are you surrendered and sacrificed to God? Have you honestly given control over to God?
- Jesus has filled the Gap between us and God.
- See Mathew 14:22-36. God and Jesus did not need a boat. He wanted to test Peter's faith.
- God will always call different people to different things. Regardless, whatever God calls you for, it is always greater. Sometimes God will call you to continue to do what you are doing only greater with a greater dependence on him. The ringing in your ears is a good thing. It means that you can still hear. Can you hear what God is telling you?
- Are you a living sacrifice and ready to have God use your life for greater things?
- **You never really know when God is going to breathe onto your bones.**
- **You never really know when you are going to show up to church – with the things that you've been stressing about – Yet, God finds a way to speak to it - and five seconds God can give you the wisdom that can override your worry.**
- **We humans are bad predictors of potential.**
- I will prove it to you.
- Israel picked Saul to be the king of Israel.
- We always pick people as to how they stack up to our human ideals - people always pick what is tall - people will always pick what is physically impressive – people would never have picked Peter to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. People would never have picked Judas to be a disciple – yet Jesus did.
- **People would never have picked some of us - yet how many know - that God sees something - that our eyes cannot see - and watch this – God does not need to get a committee together to assert His will on this earth.**
- **It is the mystery of potential.**
- **Can I be honest? I have no idea why God chose me to preach to you - I used to think that when God calls somebody, God would perfect them - then I found out that God uses imperfection - because the cracks allow the oil to leak out – and the glory to get through – and the cracks allow the light to get in.**
- The fact that Elisha's plowing was quite interesting - since Solomon tells us the seed needs to be sewn in order produce something great.
- For a seed to reach its potential, it needs good ground - because the ground is not necessarily inherently good - it must undergo a process that makes it ready to reproduce - something that Elisha was plowing - but not only was the ground being plowed - but Elisha's heart was as well.
- **And I'm also thinking that some of the things that are going on in our lives right now - is not something that God needs to protect us from - but is actually the hand of God plowing our hearts to prepare us.**
- **This is what I learned: What is around you really affects how much within you comes out.**
- This is the power of environment - the soil is the environment - and the seed is the potential.

- Pastor Steven classic: I think you are capable of higher-level thought here – and I want to approach this like a senior level seminary class – since you are beyond the point where I have to teach the Bible like it was green eggs & ham by Dr. Seuss.
- **Here's what I want you to know: you never know the potential of the seed by praying about it. You never know the potential of the seed - or a life - or a gift - or a dream - or whatever God put in your heart - by praying about it - or pondering - or pontificating about it. We live in a time where we are obsessed with self-discovery - no offense to Myers-Briggs or the India-gram - those are all helpful tools - but to really know what is inside of you - not the bones - not the height - we can see that with her eyes - but to really know the heart of what is in you - and really understand what you can be - and to really understand what God can do if you really got a hold of all of you - you can't just pray about that - you can take a test to figure that out - there is no personality test that can fully reveal the potential that you have inside of you.**
- The book Mindset is a simple idea discovered by Stanford University psychologist Carol Dweck in decades of research on achievement and success—a simple idea that makes all the difference. Teaching a growth mindset creates motivation and productivity in the worlds of business, education, and sports. See: <https://mindsetonline.com>
- Dr. Dweck says there are two types of people: those with a fixed mindset and those with a growth mindset. Fixed mindset says that all you will ever be what you have right now. The growth mindset not only believes in addition and subtraction also believes in multiplication.
- Many of us have a fixed mindset regarding her potential.
- **Dr. Dweck says when you have fixed mindset as to the kind of person you want to be - or how patient you can be - or how bold you can be - or how courageous you can be - or how creative you can be - when you have fixed mindset, you see effort as an indication of immaturity.**
- So - it goes like this: you know how we raise our kids - oh you're so special! You're such a genius! You're so smart! – Dr. Dweck says that when you excessively praise talent, who undermine effort.
- **Talent is given by God - and is the seed of potential.**
- **A Pastor Steven classic: And I want to talk to everyone that every auditioned for American Idol - you can put in what God left out - I appreciate the celebration of the modern age where we all get 6<sup>th</sup> place trophies - but you can put in what God left out.**
- **God will not breathe on bones that are not there.**
- And so, what Solomon says is very practical - you only know what the seed contains when you sow it.
- You can't pray about seed to see what's in it.
- **The only way that potential is proven is when the seed is planted. It has to be planted to be proven.**
- And this is why we can sit around all day long - and wonder about God's will - and get more and more confused by comparing ourselves to others - because potential is only proven when the seed is planted. This is the only way you know what is in the seed - or to see the potential in your life to be revealed. it must be planted - in other words - for the seed to be shown, it must be sowed.
- **What has God invested into you that you have not invested back to him for the potential of a seed to be proven?**
- And some of us make judgments about the significance of our life based on the size of the seed - I am not a farmer nor I am a son of a farmer - so bear with me on my agricultural analogies – and I thought about you here - and I thought about what seed has to do in order to be planted - and I thought about what the sower has to do to ensure the seed is planted correctly. Two things came to my mind: the sowers perspective and the seeds perspective.

## The Sowers perspective

- From the sower's perspective - for the seed to be planted it means the seed is released. When God does something new in your life - or when God answers prayers – or when God shows you something - usually it will be in response to something that you have released. Solomon says in the morning sow your seeds and in the evening let not your hand be idle - it always begins with something that we release - and we see things upside down – we typically are waiting for God to release something - God is waiting for me to release something. I will never know what is in me until I release what God has deposited in me. Some days I don't know what I'm going to say until I get up and preach it - Think about all the letters that Paul wrote that were carried around on the back of a donkey - scripture tells us that someone lost. What a gift I have as a preacher – where I can look into the camera lens - and impact someone thousands of miles away in hospital bed or a prison cell - or a bad marriage - or a dark night of the soul - or in a dark season.
- And when the seed hits the soil - and the soil of your heart is ready - God can produce a harvest - even in the hardest ground. Now you have to master the process of plowing and planting – and planting and plowing - that is for your heart to be receptive to what you have to release - and sometimes what we do not release is the very reason we are unfulfilled.
- There are words of encouragement that we should have spoken.
- If the enemy has any strategy it must be this: He can't do anything that subtracts what God put in you - so the only thing that the enemy can do - since it's God's breath that is you and it's God's spirit that is in you - the only thing the enemy can do to keep God's gift from multiplying in your life is to discourage you to the point where you no longer sow what you have.
- You need to release the seed to see what it can become. Sometimes you have to release bitterness in order to receive a blessing. If we sow a seed of goodness, we would harvest a season of peace. If we settle for hardened heart - or unplowed ground - that we settle in on - and we say God - I don't know why my life is like this? Ask this question: Is there something that needs to be released to prepare the ground in your heart?
- Control freaks don't like the word release - however we all need to let something go - to let it grow.
- Sometimes control is the enemy of our spiritual growth.
- Every single person that has a death grip on a situation - this is your revelation - you going to have to release it for it to become what already is.
- See 1 John 3:2.
- This is the paradox of potential - God is working in your life to make you more of what you already are - God is not trying to turn an apple tree into an orange grove - God knows what you put in you - he knows the genetic code of the seed - and the seed must combine with the nutrients of the soil - in order for it to become something that it already is.
- We are already God's children right now - say now! It's not like there's a future version of you that eventually God will get around to blessing. It's not like you are trying to strive to obtain something by works - this is what grace is all about. We are loved by the father now! We are blessed by the Holy Spirit now! We have everything we need because of this inheritance now! We are the children of the most-high God - free from sin and walking in the fullness of life.
- We have the Holy Spirit of God in abundant supply now! - Now watch this: what we will be has not yet appeared - that means that everything that God is going to make me - is already inside of me - but in order for that to grow - I am going to have to let go of some things - I'm going to have to give up my need to control - it looks like this: **God I need your breath on my bones - I need your soil - I need your process - because process reveals potential - nothing else - nothing else will reveal potential in your life like process - and once the seed is in the process, it doesn't become something else - it just changes form in a place where it can be developed. In this is what God has been doing in some of our lives.**

- He's been fertilizing us - he's been hiding us - he's been protecting us - he's been covering us - he's been nurturing us - he's been changing us - from the inside out.
- This is the sower's perspective
- When we asked the question, God is there more to me? The next step is to sow something in your life - And one of the things we might have to release is the expectation of doing what we think we are supposed to do.
- Recall the humorous story of his barber meeting JZ in 1999 during a half-full concert hall where they were performing with a new group called Destiny's Child. And his barber asked this question: I am the same age as Jay-Z – and look at what he has become - and what have I done with my life?
- Pastor Steven's response: This is the dumbest anecdote that I've ever heard in my life. Of all human beings you want to compare yourself to the known world you pick Jay-Z to gauge your level of success as a person? You pick the single most talented musician in the last 50 years? And, you compare your life to Jay-Z? Is that how you want to play it? Of all the measuring sticks to gauge your potential, you pick Jay-Z?
- **Turn to your neighbor and say: you're not Jay-Z – and nor are you Beyoncé. A Pastor Steven classic: However, you are Destiny's Child.**
- if you choose this artificial standard to compare yourself to - you are not Chip and she is not Joanna (Texas based home improvement show) – A Pastor Steven classic: And if you tried to do it to yourself, you would probably will end up in divorce - pay somebody to repair your house.
- You have to release what is in - your gifts in your talents.
- **When you measure your potential against your projection of what you think God wants you to be - the kind of parent - the kind of wife - the kind of husband - that we see around us. You don't know. Appearances aren't that reliable. It is too early to tell.** And every time that you judge the process, you interrupt what God is doing in your life - and while the seed is growing – you do the wrong thing - you pull the seed out of the soil to check to see if it's growing.

From the perspective of the seeds:

- From the seed's perspective, in order to become what already is - the seed did not become anything different when it was put into the soil - it just released what it had been all along - and for the seed to become that, sower has to release it.
- **So, what is the seed's job? The remain. To stay in the soil.**
- **We always preach how Peter had to step out in faith - yet he ran away when it was time for Jesus to be crucified - sometimes we undervalue the wisdom of staying put - when we over emphasize the benefits of stepping out. Some seeds don't grow because we church-hope every two years. Some seeds don't grow because we move out every time the relationship gets hard. Some seeds don't grow because after we wore out our reputation at work – and we move to another job - rather than dealing with trust & character issues.**
- **Some seeds don't grow because we don't do the fundamental thing that is required - for a plan to reach his potential - to remain planted - to abide in Christ - to let the Holy Spirit do his work that he's doing in your life.** To let the water help grow the seed - to let the sunlight help grow seed – to let the soil provide the nutrients for the seed to grow - from God to let you grow to become we are - and God doesn't need you to become a different type of seed - and God doesn't need you to have a different type of personality - and God doesn't need you to transplant characteristics that do not belong to you.
- Some of us have more on our device than we are accessing.
- Recall the funny story on an airplane when Pastor Steven was showing off his brand-new iPad - where he was told by another passenger that was disappointed that Pastor Steven was using his iPads far below its potential – since there was so much more that could be accessed on the iPad – than more that what was being utilized.



- **It hurts me to know that because many people resist the process that produces growth, they come to conclusions about themselves that are not true - and they stop sowing.**
- They stop sowing after disappointments, setbacks, and after seasons of failure - but the best time to sow is during a famine - this is the best time to sow - and you really see God's will accomplished in your life – and you get to do it in the morning – and again in the evening - as Solomon says.
- You have to come home when the candles are lit – and come home when there is a mint on the pillow - and you have to come home when shouting is happening in the kitchen.
- If you wait for the right time to serve God - you know what you doing? - You are forfeiting your opportunity to see what was in the seed.
- And it is so simple to say remain - but it is so hard to do.
- It is very hard to stay in an uncertain place.
- This is what is interesting about Elijah and Elisha - were Elijah was taken up too soon - potential is always uncertain - and when Elisha was interrupted from plowing, he wasn't sure of things. God does not give you every detail - he's too nice to do that - otherwise - all of the ugly details would overwhelm us. A Pastor Steven classic: if you received all of the details, you would have a panic attack like Fred Sanford (Sanford and Son from the 1970s) and go to see Elizabeth. Youth: sorry you for the dated reference.
- See 1 Kings 19:20 - All that Elisha could do in the moment was to plow, get planted, and get ready.
- Regarding the question “what have I done to you?” It would take Elisha many years to realize the answer.
- Because the power of God that was on Elijah's life would be doubled in Elisha's ministry.
- Where Elisha did not know anything in the moment.
- Some scholars believe that Elisha had to wait for the revelation for over 13 years.
- It was not explicit however a lot still went down.
- We don't see Elijah again until 2 Kings 2 - when he dies and ascends to heaven - and Elisha is planted in Bethel. And when Elijah was taken up, the mantle that was planted is now taken up by Elisha.
- The potential that Elisha held in his hands would manifest many miracles.
- **When Elisha parted the waters of the Jordan, people probably said: I didn't know that he had it in him – and Elisha had this potential in him all along.**
- **It is in you right now – the potential has been within you all along.**
- **Now is the time to be a good friend - now is the time to overcome - now is the time to be victorious.**
- Many any miracles were manifested - up until the point Elisha was about to die.
- Up until this point Elisha had performed about twice as many miracles as Elijah did.
- In many accounts we estimate about 15 miracles - to Elijah's eight miracles.
- And all this relates to potential.
- See 2 Kings 13.
- When we release these new songs on Friday, we are releasing a lot of ministry - people have to release a lot of effort and time – many people had to plow ground.
- For Elisha to do what he did - part the waters of the Jordan, heal the waters of Jericho, filling jars for the widow, directing men to dig ditches to capture the rain, calling things out of the woods to kill the little boys - that was a misfired miracle - a Pastor Steven classic: because the flipside of your passion is always destruction because an unguarded strength is a double weakness.
- And, all of the potential in Elisha's life - was revealed as God plowed his heart.
- And this is happening in your life right now.
- Elisha told the King to dig ditches - so that God can bring the rain. This is a miracle of preparation - for potential that they did not see.



- Elisha told the widow to get some jars and God with multiplying what she had. It is not how much oil you have - it's how much faith you have - to fully apply what is planted in yourself.
- Elisha gave a prophecy to woman - the baby died - and Elisha raised the baby from the dead.
- **You never know how God is going to use you in your life and you will never know God will use you - while you are on this side of eternity.**
- We just need to stay in the batter's box and keep swinging the bat - and see what God has in store for us.
- Sometimes we say to ourselves – we are doing badly – or were doing good. Sometimes it's too early to tell.
- **You might still have another miracle of you.**
- It's too soon for you to quit - don't stop sowing now.
- **Start plowing now - and don't let your heart get hardened now – don't let yourself get discouraged now - you may never see what the seed becomes. Because potential is revealed in the process.**
- God has numbered every hair on your head - he cares about everything in your life.
- Elisha performed many miracles – providing the miracle of perspective in so many dangerous situations.
- See 2 Kings 13.
- This was a prophecy victory.
- And Elisha became upset when he saw the king waste his potential - since every arrow was not being used to strike the ground - represented wasted potential.
- The prophecy was that Elisha was to have a double portion of the spirit of Elijah.
- After Elisha admonishes the king, he dies.
- And 15 years later, Elijah has one more miracle in him.
- And the raiders arrive during the harvest - the attack often happens when the harvest is about to arrive.
- This is the pattern.
- When you keep on fighting - when you're getting close to fighting the hardest - this might be an indication of the last round - and when the attack comes, it comes during harvest. You sowed too much to stop now - you showed up too many times to stop now - you will not die - you will live.
- Don't you want to see what happens in your life?
- **We all have things that we have buried. We all have disappointments that we face. There is still potential even in the most painful situations - the residual miracle - the residual potential - dry bones hear this word of the Lord - Elisha's bones still had one more miracle in him. See 2 Kings 13.**
- Praise God for everything in our life that we thought was dead - it's too soon to tell and you don't know. God might turn this thing around. You might be a miracle in the making. Don't limit the potential of what God put inside you.
- The soil is important - and this is what I want to cultivate today - an atmosphere of faith to realize that when our dreams die and then hit Elisha's bones - life happens. And when our disappointments encounter the breath of the Lord (Ruah) - when the breath of God hits the dry bones - we stand up straight.
- **Closing Prayer: God we lift our hands before you today. We are like seeds – and when we reflect the character of Christ - the spirit that raised him from the dead - we are no longer limited or confined when we choose to be at peace & remain. I pray that we enter this fall season like seeds that are planted - that you would grow the right things in our hearts this year – and beat back every seed snatcher & bird the enemy sends our way - I pray that we rest and remain in your presence - I pray for those that stopped sowing - Solomon says that we never know what the seed can become - and if we judge it for what it looks like right now - we might not even sow it - I pray for anyone that is looking at something that seems insignificant – and they feel insecure - and they will only know the truth if they continue to sow – and continue to remain. Thank you for the example of Jesus Christ - who is sown in weakness & wrapped in flesh - to become our**

**living hope - like him, we want to become what we already are. We are your children now - and what we will be -has not yet been revealed. Amen.**

Words for Resurrecting:

The head that once was crowned with thorns  
Is crowned with glory now  
The Savior knelt to wash our feet  
Now at his feet we bow

The one who wore our sin and shame  
Now robed in majesty  
The radiance of perfect love  
Now shines for all to see

Your name  
Your name  
Is victory  
All praise  
Will rise  
To Christ our king  
Your name  
Your name  
Is victory  
All praise  
Will rise  
To Christ our king

The fear that held us now gives way  
To him who is our peace  
His final breath upon the cross  
Is now alive in me

Your name  
Your name  
Is victory  
All praise  
Will rise  
To Christ our king  
Your name  
Your name  
Is victory  
All praise  
Will rise  
To Christ our king

By Your spirit I will rise  
From the ashes of defeat  
The resurrected king  
Is resurrecting me  
In Your name I come alive  
To declare your victory  
The resurrected king  
Is resurrecting me

By Your spirit I will rise  
From the ashes of defeat  
The resurrected king  
Is resurrecting me  
In Your name I come alive  
To declare your victory  
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By Your spirit I will rise  
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The resurrected king  
Is resurrecting me  
In Your name I come alive  
To declare your victory  
The resurrected king  
Is resurrecting me

The tomb where soldiers watched in vain  
Was borrowed for three days  
His body there would not remain  
Our God has robbed the grave  
Our God has robbed the grave

Your name  
Your name  
Is victory  
All praise  
Will rise  
To Christ our king

Your name  
Your name  
Is victory  
All praise  
Will rise

To Christ our king

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Is resurrecting me

Kev's 5 min Act study: Topic for today: Pentecost

Acts 2 New International Version (NIV) The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost - 2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[a] as the Spirit enabled them. 5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

Pentecost defined per Wikipedia: The Christian holy day of Pentecost, which is celebrated fifty days after Easter Sunday, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles. Next date: Sunday, May 31, 2020. Also called: Whitsunday in the UK.

Additional comments – as quoted in our Elevation Church Study: The Acts of the Apostles

- *“At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit fell on the disciples and gave them the ability to speak in foreign languages from every nation “under heaven” – that would come to Jerusalem for the festival.*
- *They accept the truth about Jesus and then brought the gospel back home*
- *The list of places listed in acts two is more than just a roster of nations – It loosely reflects the nations in Genesis 10 that represented entirety of the known world - the translation here is that God began the work of reclaiming the dispersed nations of the world as his own possession.”*