

Kev's Guy's eGroup sermon notes
Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019
Pastor Steven Furtick
Sermon Title: "Wind vs. Word"

Elevation Worship

- Raise a hallelujah (Bethel Church): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2XtRuPfaAU>
- Love Won't Give Up: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkObVlj-BY8>
- It Is So: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiuOTC1ucY0>
- See a Victory: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNd-PbVhmvA>

Scripture:

- Ec 11:4: Ecclesiastes 11 New International Version (NIV) - 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[a] 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.
- Mathew 14: 22 to 32: Jesus Walks on the Water - 22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. 25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" 32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." 34 When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. 35 And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him 36 and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.
- John 1:1: John 1 New International Version (NIV) - The Word Became Flesh - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- Romans 8 - More Than Conquerors - 31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more

than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.

Sermon notes – “Wind vs. Word” by Pastor Furtick

- Over 1200 people attending the first worship experience at the new Greenville-SC campus.
- Hello and greetings to a contingent of 77 US Navy Seal Elevators visiting Elevation Ballantyne this evening.
- **JJ's opening prayer: “God has been great allowing us to multiply in places like Greenville - South Carolina. We want to be that kind of church - that does everything we can to reach people far from God. Isaiah 53 is the Scripture that the song “It Is So” is based on. By his wounds we are healed - is this ultimate sacrifice that Christ made for us so that we can be healed - it's a promise that He is so faithful - so faithful - to fulfill everything that he has spoken - where we have deliverance - we have healing - so today we remind ourselves that God is with us - and Father - as one people & in one body - and one Lord and one Christ - we come together - to express our gratitude - you are so grateful Lord - while we didn't deserve it and while we were still sinners you died for us - we thank you - as we worship you today - and we don't come before you today shamed or enslaved – without fear – and without condemnation - that we come before you boldly to your throne of praise - and receive mercy in a time of need - we need your healing - we need your grace - we need your presence in this moment - and we thank you for what you did on the cross - the veil has been torn - we worship you in your presence - in Jesus name we pray Amen.”**
- **Pastor Furtick opening prayer: Thank you God for your incredible power. We ask that you help our unbelief today - sometimes we get discouraged and become weary in our souls - sometimes we get wounded and is hard for us to hope again - so we come into your presence - Oh great healer - great physician - we ask that you fill every empty space - heal every broken place - do the surgery that only you can do in your presence - if we go to people to try to get fixed, they will not have the medicine and they won't know what is wrong - by his stripes we are made whole - and we ask you great God - that you would touch every heart - you are God over every situation - you are God over our depression - you are God over our despair - I pray now in this moment that we worship you with the kind of open heart that invites an open heaven to do a miracle. Magnify the Lord with me and exalt his name. Amen.**
- See Ec 11:4
- Here Solomon is taking us back to the school of wisdom – where he teaches us that if you are successful but unfulfilled - or if you are succeed and don't have peace - if you succeed and are successful in things that don't have real meaning - you'll come up empty in the end.
- **I know you want me to preach today - however today is sort of an announcement of a fight - a fight between the wind vs the word.**
- The title of tonight's fight is “Wind vs. Word.”
- Today's message is for someone that is conflicted between the wind and the word.
- **When your spirit makes a decision to do something, your mind will find reasons not to do it.**
- If you decide to do something like on a diet - your mind will immediately calculate reasons why it's not a good idea to go on a diet.
- **It is easy to find a reason not to do something.**
- **Our human minds work in such a way as to conflict with the spirit - which is divine.**
- Recall the limitations of Paul: What I want to do - I don't do - and what I don't want to do - I do.

- Because our mind will always contradict our spirit.
- **Here's how it works in daily life: Your heart reaches a verdict – and your mind gives evidence to support the verdict - whether or not the verdict is true.**
- **In a court of law, this would be a mistrial.**
- **But in our lives, this is just standard operating procedure.**
- We come to a conclusion - and once we come to that conclusion - our mind is like some \$400 per hour attorney attempting to find evidence to support the conclusion.
- In so many times in our lives, we seek a reason to support any conclusion.
- This is what Solomon says – we can find a reason for anything.
- **You can always find a reason not to sow and not to reap.**
- **Your mind can always find a reason to complain - even though your spirit knows that God has been good to you.**
- Do you want a reason to complain today? I'll give you one: For some of you this auditorium is too cold and for others this auditorium is too hot. For some this sermon is going to be too long.
- If you wanted, you can find a reason to descend into a deep depression.
- In fact, you could be distracted to such an extent - that you will hear another word I say for the rest of this sermon.
- **Your mind has a tendency to collect evidence to support a verdict that you've already decided on.**
- If you want a reason to be tired - you cultivate a reason to be tired.
- Here's an example of this: Sit around and watch the weather.
- A Pastor Steven classic: As a pastor I have a new definition of perfect church whether: Where it's not too beautiful out where people skip church to enjoy the nice weather - and it's not too cold out so that people retrain from leaving their homes. It is particularly difficult for pastors when the weatherman forecasts torrential weather - that may or may not affect us.
- The forecast created fear – for something that might never be in our future.
- Recall humorous story of Pastor Furtick talking about his dad cussing out the TV while listening to the weatherman. What upset my dad the most was watching the weatherman going to a frenzy over something that was in the forecast.
- **It's frustrating when people skip church not because it's rainy or treacherous - but that it might. Think about all the other things the devil has put in front of you that form barriers to your spiritual growth - based on what might happen.**
- **The enemy doesn't even have to fight us with real events or circumstances - only the mere suggestion of a disaster can send some of us into a full retreat.**
- What if they don't like you? Is enough to keep you from going out.
- What if they break my heart? Is enough to prevent you from extending yourself in a meaningful relationship.
- Or delay becoming active in the church because of a previous bad church experience.
- And when a storm does arrive - it can still rage on inside of you.
- **It is sad to see a Christian that is been set free by the love of Christ (See Romans 8: 38-39) – and still be in despair.**
- **Some of us need to fire the devil is a weatherman. This is consulting the wrong source find out what our future holds. Instead we stay in fear - we stay in paranoia - and we stay indoors. And we never plant and we never reap.**
- Solomon says that because we watched the wind, we don't reap.
- This is an interesting analogy: we can't see the wind and can only see the effects of the wind.

- Think of it this way: when the sower wants to sow, he wants the wind to work with him. If the sower throw seed against the wind, it might smack him in the face.
- For some of you, the wind has been against you your whole life – and you learn how to survive the storms.
- **And sometimes the wind isn't even against you however sometimes you think it is - because your mind is collecting evidence in support of a verdict that is no longer accurate.**
- **And some of us watch the wind to see what is popular. Watching the wind is like trying to determine what is going to gain you clout - and then we let clout overrule character.**
- Watching the wind is sort of like asking the perpetual question - do they like me?
- **Here another wind: Needing to be in a good mood as a condition for meeting your commitments.**
- Some of our weather systems are internal.
- Often the mood we were in when we made a commitment is not the same mood we are in when we must keep the commitment.
- **Watching the wind also comes another form: Having to feel it before we fulfill it.**
- And Solomon says that some of our endeavors are like chasing the wind.
- **Solomon says if you're always checking to see how you feel, you will always find a reason to contradict your responsibility.**
- **There will always be a reason when you don't feel like forgiving people.**
- **But if you want to be free, you might have to go against your feelings in order to live in freedom.**
- What I'm saying here is you might have to walk against the wind.
- You might have to forgive against the wind.
- Especially in marriage.
- Pastor Steven classic: my wife reached the verdict on Furtick early in our relationship - before she even took my name as her own - now she collects evidence to confirm the verdict that you made many years ago. My wife can find 15 reasons as to cultivate an alternate narrative.
- **Commitment means facing resistance - with resolve in your heart.**
- You can even find a reason to leave this church in the next three days.
- We can watch the forecast rather than consulting or faith.
- When you look at the clouds, it always looks like it's going to rain some of the time.
- Solomon was attempting to deal with people that were consulting conditions over there commitments.
- How many here have stopped doing what God told you to start because they were too busy watching the wind?
- Watching the wind is wishing you had a different life versus loving the one that you got.
- Peter knew something about watching the wind.
- And as we know Peter was always a bit compulsive - and sometimes it worked and sometimes it did not.
- One thing you got to love about Peter is he never waited for the perfect circumstances to do something.
- Peter didn't wait for knowledge before he gave an opinion.
- **The real thing of faith is to trust God's timing.**
- Are you going to trust when God is going to do it? Not just that God will do it.
- You can trust someone's attention and not trust their time.
- Recall the humorous story of punctuality in Pastor Furtick's family.
- **Yes, we trust that Jesus died on the cross for us. However, we should not demand that God do something the minute we wanted Him to do it. Trusting God with His timing is an important aspect of Christian maturity.**
- And Jesus is always doing stuff at a bad time.
- He was always going to Jerusalem at the time and they all want to kill him.

- **Shortly after John the Baptist is killed, Jesus finds himself needing to feed 5000 men + woman and children late in the day. It was a bad time for Jesus. Yet Jesus made the decision to bless his people even when there was too little food and it was late in the day.**
- Is this a good time or bad time for you?
- And God likes to bless people in a bad time.
- God likes to raise people on the fourth day like he did with Lazarus.
- Are you living in a bad time this particular season of your life?
- **God wants to bless us - even when we think it is a bad time - so that we are taught how to consult our faith and not our forecast. You got the wrong weatherman.**
- **And you watch the weather now you live in fear of everything that could happen - and everything that has happened - and this is what my father taught me - the weather is meant to be checked and not watched.**
- When you sit around and watch weather all day, it scares you. Yes - it's good to take provision - however it can cultivate feelings that gets you out of your faith - and now the wind will work against you and contradict the faith that God spoke to.
- See Matthew 14: 22 to 32 - where Jesus brought his disciples into a storm.
- Don't confuse wisdom with lack of faith. For example, paying off debt is prudent wisdom.
- But watching the wind is trying to calculate something that you can't control.
- You worried about your kids dropping out of school three months old.
- Immediately after Jesus blessed the 5000, he directed the disciples to go on a boat while he dismissed the crowd.
- See verse 22.
- Jesus gave the disciples his word that he was going to meet them on the other side.
- He gave them his word – "I will see you on the other side."
- Say this: He gave you his word.
- The challenge is not believing that he will see them on the other side - the question is how long it is going to be before Jesus gets there.
- Jesus gave us his word that he would never leave us nor forsake us.
- He gave me his word.
- **In this corner weighing in at unlimited pounds, hailing from eternity, made flesh by the will of the father to redeem humanity - the living breathing spoken word of God - Jesus Christ - in the beginning was the word and the word was with God - and the Word was God - in all things are made by him and for him. In the beginning God gave us his word. In the other corner - his opponent - raging on a storm tossed sea - the wind. And we actually came to church today to find out who was really going to win? - The calling that God put on your life or the circumstances that contradict him. Your faith or your fear? The wind versus the word?**
- The Challenger versus the undisputed undefeated heavyweight champion.
- The wind was against the boat - and the boat didn't necessarily mean disobedience (like Jonah) who was going away from God.
- The disciples were going into their assignment - and going into the storm - which means the disciples had to keep moving forward against the wind.
- Now if you watch the wind, you will never set out.
- If they had a weather app on the phones they might never have gotten in the boat. Sometimes we know too much. Sometimes we overthink things.
- The chronic overthinker is also in wind watcher.
- Jesus showed up in the fourth watch.

- **Even the term watch has significance - Jesus went up to the mountaintop to pray - and the sea was situated well below him. Which means - as the disciples went to the storm – Jesus saw them in it.**
- Brothers and sisters please be encouraged today - just because the storm is raging doesn't mean that God has left the scene - and just because he hasn't stopped doesn't mean he doesn't see it - just because the devil started it doesn't mean that God will not use it - just because I don't know how long I am going to be there - it doesn't make me doubt the presence of God in the middle of it.
- **Jesus is watching the whole time and knew just when he wanted to step into the situation.**
- I believe this sermon speak to someone here today - Jesus has his eyes on you.
- I believe that all the bad things happen in your life - He keeps it a jar full of your tears.
- And none of these bad things are beyond redemption.
- After the disciples have rode 4 to 5 miles in their own strength, Jesus shows up in the fourth watch.
- And when Jesus shows up on the water, the key issue here is trusting God in the uncertainty.
- It was part of the mythology of the time that evil spirits in the sea produced the bad weather.
- The disciples first thought Jesus was a ghost.
- The Bible says the disciples were not scared all until Jesus showed up.
- Do you see now why we can't depend on our feelings?
- The same moment that Jesus is closest is the same moment with the wind is the strongest.
- In the disciples were terrified - it's a ghost they say - and they cried out in fear.
- Instead of rebuking the disciples for their fear, Jesus response to their initiative.
- Peter in equal parts doubt in equal parts curiosity goes out on the water to be Jesus.
- I used to say Peter walked on water - however if you look at verse 29 - Jesus said come - and Peter got out of the boat to walk on water - but Peter was really walking on the word.
- Have you ever had to walk through something based on sheer faith?
- **Have you ever had to move toward something that scared you to death? Have you ever had to hold onto something real tight on the fourth watch of the night? This is what is meant only say this walking on the word - and against the wind.**
- Jesus didn't stop the wind - he gave the word.
- Come Jesus says. Pastor Steven classic: This is no more instruction that what you give your golden retriever. And maybe a golden retriever is smarter than us - because the golden retriever doesn't question the master - yet some of us - on the first trace of wind - the first trace of disappointment - we chase the wind.
- Verse 30: Peter made a critical mistake when he saw the wind.
- **Which one is stronger - the word or the wind? Answer: It depends on which one you watch.**
- Let's assume that the wind was not strong enough to blow Peter off his feet - the only reason he went down into the water was because he took his eyes off of the word - and start watching the wind.
- **Faith is not an imaginary state - we tend to work ourselves up into a delusion - we assume that nothing bad is ever going to happen again - and then we are surprised when bad stuff happens.**
- **Faith is a focus - faith is the ability to put our eyes on the goodness of God in this moment - and we are not looking back - and we are not looking forward - and were not looking around - our minds have reached a conclusion - God is for me - God is with me.**
- Faith is a focus - and to walk towards the word of God.
- And I want to prophesy over someone today - the wind does not have to stop for you to keep walking towards Jesus – and the situation does not have to get better for you to see the glory of God - even when things get crazy - and everything rises up against you.
- **If your life is filled on the foundation of his word, there is no wind that can rage against you.**
- Because, we are not supposed to be watching the waves and watching the wind.

- I love how the Old Testament prophet Elisha went on top of this mountain – and there had been a drought in the land for three and half years - he heard something - he heard the sound of the abundance of rain - he heard a prophetic indication that God was about to bless the land with rain.
- He then lowered his head while praying and asked another person to the sky. When I read this passage, one thing spoke to me: had Elijah looked at the weather - things at the surface of this situation - or consulted on what he felt or what he saw - he would've lost his faith. And that's why Elijah knew that he couldn't just watch the weather.
- **We need to understand some of the things that stress us out are in fact hypothetical scenarios - that the enemy suggests to try to get you off track - because he knows that if you walk in the word, no wind can knock you off your balance.**
- **We are all in a situation right now that is wind versus word – and which one wins depends on what you focus on. And you can't afford to waste precious time living a life focusing on the wrong thing. Let me explain it this way: I can give you 10 reasons right now to question whether God even exists. Just think about all the horrible things that happen in the world. And I also know that He is with me. So I'm not trying to collect evidence (with my imperfect senses) to see that God is with me. How would I have breath and life if he was not with me?**
- I want us to be very sure in this moment - that if he has spoken - there's nothing that you can see in your situation - your eyes are tricky - your senses are tricky - your ears are tricky - when Peter saw the wind, he trusted his senses and lost control of the situation - your faith will always slip when you consult your feelings.
- And when Peter got back into the boat, there is an interesting little phrase - where Matthew writes that after Peter was pulled back into the boat - Jesus is very gracious - he doesn't hold Peter's head out of the water to punish him - Jesus was right there to catch Peter - see verse 31 - and when Jesus asked Peter why he doubted him - the answer was the wind
- We focus on what we choose to look at.
- It doesn't make anything go away - it just redirects your attention - away from things that you need to be paying attention to - what needs to be considered – that you need to be looking at.
- **So, when Jesus and Peter climbed into the boat, the wind died down. The wind died down so that the miracle could happen. In fact the wind was against them to prove God's word is greater than the wind.**
- Let's praise God on this fact: The wind may be against us - and we need to get back into the boat and worship him - that He is God in this storm.
- Lyrics for "It Is So": By Your stripes, I am healed. With one touch I am made whole. You have spoken, and I know that it is so. In the storm You are peace. And Your love won't let me go. You have spoken, and I know that it is so. In every season, Your purpose is unchanging. In every moment, You're working for my good. Jesus the Rock that never fails. Your kingdom will not be shaken.