

[00:00:00] <music>

Annie: Hi friends! Welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I'm so happy to be here with you today as we kick off a new series. I've got a great show in store for you. In the month of July, we are calling it the That Sounds Fun Hall of Fun series. We're bringing back some of our favorite episodes from over the years for you to listen to.

Some of you have been around since day one, you OGs, and I love you, since back in 2014 and we'll remember these conversations. Maybe they're some of your favorites as well. But there are lots of you who are new around here, so we thought this month would be a great opportunity to highlight some episodes that we hope you won't miss.

Before we dive into today's conversation, I want to tell you about one of our incredible sponsors. This episode is sponsored by [BetterHelp](#). Whether you're dealing with decisions around your career, relationships, or anything else in your life, therapy helps you stay connected to what you really want while you navigate life, so you can move forward with confidence and understanding.

Last month as we talked about dating in our Summer Lovin series, you heard from some incredible therapists. Plus, you heard the impact therapy has had on a lot of our guests' lives, myself included. Trusting yourself to make decisions that align with your values is like anything. The more you practice it, the easier it gets.

If you're thinking of starting therapy, give BetterHelp a try. They make it so easy. You just fill out a brief questionnaire, we love a quiz, plus, your session can be done right from home. It's entirely online and designed to be convenient, flexible, and fit in your schedule. Finding a therapist that is the right fit for you is so important. And you can switch therapists at any time for no additional charge, so you're just sure to be working with someone who is a good match.

So overlay therapy on the map of your life with BetterHelp. Visit betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun to get 10% off your first month. That's betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun.

Intro: Today on this first Hall of Fun episode, you get to hear my first conversation from Episode 48 with Pastor Kevin Queen who has come to be known as Pastor of the pod. So this is the first time I've had Kevin on. This one is so special to me. It makes me emotional thinking about you hearing this. At the time, Kevin was the brand new pastor at my church, Cross Point Church, and he tells the story of how he got to Nashville and Cross Point, and it is legitimately miraculous. Even now I still can't get over it.

When we first aired this, I told y'all I wanted Kevin to tell the entire story of how God called him and his family to Nashville and to Cross Point, because I wanted to look back on it and 1015 and 20 years down the road and just remember what God did. Well, it's only been six years since this aired, but I'm still so grateful we captured this.

This story just speaks to God's kindness, provision, and plan. It's pretty incredible. And whether you've heard it before or this is your first time, I think you're really going to love it. So here's my Hall of Fun conversation from July 27, 2017, with pastor Kevin Queen.

[00:03:09] <music>

Annie: Kevin, welcome. I don't even know what to welcome you to. Nashville? Cross Point? The podcast? All of it.

Ptr. Kevin: Everything.

Annie: I welcome you to all of it. I was thinking today that we have communicated more in three weeks than we have in a decade.

Ptr. Kevin: Yes, absolutely.

Annie: Right?

Ptr. Kevin: In 20 years, right, more conversation. But it's been so good.

Annie: It's crazy. Does it still feel crazy to you at all that y'all are in Nashville?

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah. I mean, today I went and got a Tennessee tag.

Annie: Oh, you didn't waste any time.

Ptr. Kevin: I didn't waste any time. So I got the-

Annie: Why? Why did you go so fast?

Ptr. Kevin: I want to get things done before we start at the church.

Annie: Okay.

Ptr. Kevin: But they asked me, they're like, "Do you want the tag that says 'In God We Trust' or the tag that doesn't say 'In God We Trust'?" I'm like, "I don't have an option. I'm going with 'In God we trust.'" They're like, "These are new. These are new tags." I want the new tag. But it's surreal. I mean, everything is just happening... It's happening so fast and so good.

Annie: I didn't get my tag or license until I got pulled over.

Ptr. Kevin: Really?

Annie: I mean, I'd been here... I think I just told the story. I don't think I've told it on the podcast. Maybe I did. But I was cheering for a Vanderbilt baseball game on the radio. So it was 2012. I moved here in 2008.

Ptr. Kevin: Wow.

Annie: And I get pulled over and the guy says, "Do you know why I pulled you over?" And I said, "Because I was cheering." And he's like, "No. Because you were speeding." And he says, "Give me your license." I give it to him and he says, "How long have you lived here?" Real casual, he so suckered me. And I was like, "Oh, since like 2008." And he was like, "Then why do you have a Georgia license?"

Ptr. Kevin: Gotcha.

Annie: Nailed me. So well done. You don't even have your permanent address and you've got... Did you put the church as your address?

Ptr. Kevin: No.

Annie: "I'm probably gonna live at Cross Point."

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah. We're in a house and so we got everything... Rea started getting decor.

Annie: I was gonna say it's starting to feel like-

Ptr. Kevin: It really is. A lot of people jump in this week and help us out.

Annie: Really?

Ptr. Kevin: It's good. Yeah.

Annie: Like family people?

Ptr. Kevin: Family people. My mother and father-in-law came in and my sister-in-law. They've been all hands-on in the setup.

Annie: I bet it's cool for your sister-in-law and brother-in-law to have you guys here since... because historically your whole family is concentrated in one area that is not here. And then they were here.

Ptr. Kevin: Everybody in an eight-mile radius and then and then [Rain?] and Zach are up in Nashville. They've been here for six years.

Annie: Because he's in A Thousand Horses.

Ptr. Kevin: A Thousand Horses.

Annie: Which is such a good band.

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah, we saw him last night at the Opry.

Annie: At the Opry. Was it fun?

Ptr. Kevin: It was. I got to see The Oak Ridge Boys at the end.

Annie: [singing]

Ptr. Kevin: Music city. We're here, right?

Annie: Oh, that's awesome. That's how it goes. I love the Opry. This podcast comes out on Thursday, and Saturday night I'm going. It's one of my very favorite things. You're gonna get to do all sorts of stuff like that.

Ptr. Kevin: My boy got a... Bolton got a picture and he's got Flat Stanley. So he's getting through that for school this little, you know, cut out and you got a picture with the band at the Opry with Flat Stanley. I mean, it's the best Flat Stanley picture ever.

Annie: Are you serious? Only a brother-in-law is gonna get an entire band and Flat Stanley.

Ptr. Kevin: That's it.

Annie: Speaking of Flat Stanley, Flat Kevin?

Ptr. Kevin: I know. I didn't want to speak about that.

Annie: They've really slowed it down this week. I think you put some pressure on, didn't you?

Ptr. Kevin: I didn't say a thing.

Annie: I texted him yesterday and I said to the girls who work at Cross Point and run a social media, and I said, "Where has Flat Kevin been all week?" They're like, "He's coming back tonight. He took a break."

Ptr. Kevin: That was it. It's been classic. Thank you for that, Annie.

Annie: I mean, your entire vacation, you are getting tagged multiple times a day as a Flat version of you traveling around the city.

Ptr. Kevin: Face on a stick.

Annie: I mean, they made like 10 of them.

Ptr. Kevin: They did. So I've started going all the places that have already been.

Annie: Really?

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah.

Annie: Did you go to...?

Ptr. Kevin: I went to Franklin Juice. I got the-

Annie: Yes. Did the guy see you?

Ptr. Kevin: He did.

Annie: I can't believe you haven't told me this yet.

Ptr. Kevin: Jacob. I talked with Jacob.

Annie: So when I took him out... we should tell our listeners in case they didn't see it. When I took your flat face and a float, a mini pearl to Franklin Juice, as soon as I walked in the door, he said, "I know who that is," and then sent a message to you. So you went back already to see him.

Ptr. Kevin: I went back and saw him and we had a conversation.

Annie: He's a nice dude. Right?

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah, he is.

Annie: A youth pastor in town.

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah. Fourth and fifth-grade boys, teach them some stuff.

Annie: What a hero! Was he excited when you walked in?

Ptr. Kevin: Oh, he was. Yeah, we had a good little convo.

Annie: It's run.

Ptr. Kevin: I went backstage at the Opry with Flat Kevin. So I went there last night. So I'm just checking off the list. Just running through-

Annie: Yeah. We really led you. We didn't even realize you were predicting you gotta go jump off a diving board in Cottonwood next because that's what I made you do on Friday night. Okay. So you actually start on August 6th?

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah, August 6th is first Sunday. We've got a night of worship on August 2nd. So August 1st is my first day in the office.

Annie: Wow.

Ptr. Kevin: It's good.

Annie: So between now and then, it's setting up your house, and then it's getting to work.

Ptr. Kevin: Let's go.

Annie: Yeah. Taking the temperature of everything, learning the city.

Ptr. Kevin: I love it.

Annie: Learning it all. Okay, let's back up. One of the things I told you from the beginning is I want this to be... this is for... you know, when I spoke at Cross Point last week, one of the things I talked about was like recording who God's been to you. And the beautiful thing about this podcast for me is I go back and listen to some of the things I process with people and realize they came to happen or that God changed my desires or I remember a conversation I had, I think, specifically of our worship leader, Mike Grayson, Mike and Molly were on. Mike and Molly and I had this

really interesting conversation in the podcast and then it continued after that has really impacted me since then.

So for me, these episodes, a lot of them are for me recording what God's done for me. So I want you to do that for us too, record what God's done for you a little bit in this because the story's unbelievable

Ptr. Kevin: Yes, it is.

Annie: Right?

Ptr. Kevin: It really is.

Annie: Back up to a year ago last summer. Let's back up even farther. We went to Georgia together.

Ptr. Kevin: Right.

Annie: Go Dawgs Sic 'em.

Ptr. Kevin: Mm.

Annie: One of my former roommates, I won't say her name because then everybody knows, every one of her passwords, Go Dawgs Sic 'em. I mean, I can break into anything because everything is Go Dawgs Sic 'em. What happened after you graduated college?

Ptr. Kevin: I graduated college and then went to work for my dad in the family business.

Annie: What is that?

Ptr. Kevin: He sells construction supplies. He's an inventor and invents in construction. So I started working-

Annie: He's an inventor.

Ptr. Kevin: He is, yeah.

Annie: He invents construction supplies.

Ptr. Kevin: He has 13 patents, yeah.

Annie: You are lying. How have I never known this?

Ptr. Kevin: I don't know. I actually have a patent. When I was 12 years old, I had an idea for a disposable kitty litter box. Seriously. Like you just threw the whole thing away. So we got a patent. He walked me through the patent process, wrote the patent. That's my dad.

Annie: Are you a millionaire?

Ptr. Kevin: No, no. Somebody stole the patent. It wasn't written that good. So I have nothing. I've got a patent and I've got some prototypes.

Annie: Did each of the siblings in your family have a patent? Is that like a thing? Does Christie have one too and I don't know?

Ptr. Kevin: No, no. I think after that process he was like, I'm gonna stick... And he just writes patents for construction. So he did that. So I started working for him. I knew of like three, four months that that wasn't my calling. That that was-

Annie: Were you married yet?

Ptr. Kevin: Rea and I were engaged at that time and I started working... It was one of the hardest conversations I ever had to have, where I was sitting across the desk from my dad and I said, "I can't do this anymore." And he got up and he walked around the desk and came, put his hand on my shoulder and he said, "I bless you."

Annie: Uh-uh.

Ptr. Kevin: So after that, I started going to seminary and working for him full-time. So did that and-

Annie: Where'd you go to seminary?

Ptr. Kevin: In New Orleans.

Annie: Oh, yeah,

Ptr. Kevin: So they had an extension in Decatur. So I knocked that out there. But no churches would hire me unless I had a seminary degree.

Annie: The good old days.

Ptr. Kevin: Those were the days, right?

Annie: Those were the days.

Ptr. Kevin: So I don't know if I felt called to that degree. It was just as much, how do I get into vocational ministry? And then ended up working there, finishing there, and got hired at my home church, which was in Hebron and in Dacula, Georgia.

Annie: Read your Bible, come on.

Ptr. Kevin: That's it.

Annie: I love it.

Ptr. Kevin: So I worked there for a year and a half, and I knew God was calling me to a next. I just didn't know what it was. I thought Rea and I were gonna go plant a church in Seattle.

Annie: Did you?

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah. So that was where we were-

Annie: Why? Why'd you think Seattle?

Ptr. Kevin: I was drawn to that city, to just kind of the progressive. And also I knew that transitioning from a home church was hard and it kind of seemed like, Well, if I go to Seattle, that'll go...

Annie: I can't get mad.

Ptr. Kevin: I mean, it's kind of a noble like-

Annie: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Ptr. Kevin: And really started praying through. And I met the senior pastor at 12Stone, where I was before. Met him at a Starbucks, and come to find out that-

Annie: Just casually or did you set up a meeting?

Ptr. Kevin: I knew who he was. He didn't know who I was. Just casually. I told him I'm a church planner and he said, "Well, we're looking for a high school pastor." I said, well, I'm not interested. I'm a church planner, you know? He said, Well, if you are interested, you should talk to Dan Reiland. And the day before that, I listened to a John Maxwell tape where he talked about Dan Reiland, who was the executive

pastor. And I'm like, "That's crazy." So I was like, "Well, maybe I need to talk to Dan Reiland.

We met at that Starbucks. Crazy deal. He looked at a picture of my wife and I and he said, "You've lost some weight?" And was like, "Yeah." What I didn't tell you is that I was 30 days into a 40-day fast." Later he said, "You look like Gandhi with a smile." That's what he said. Can I say that? Oh, no, I just did.

I was like, Man, I lost 30 pounds. So he is looking at the picture, he goes, "What's the deal?" And he said, "Are you fasting?" Now I'm like, "What do I say?" I'm like, "Do I lie or do I tell him the truth?" So I told him the truth. So I said I'm fasting. He said, "What are you fasting for?" I said, "That God would prepare me to be a daddy and he would prepare me to be a husband and a daddy because I've never done both those things at the same time and that He would change me or change where I'm at. So this was 14 years ago.

Annie: Was Rea pregnant?

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah, she was pregnant with Raleigh. So Raleigh was our first born. He said, well, what are the dates of your fast? I said, "September 1 to October 10th." And he jaw dropped a little bit. He said, "Kevin, the elders and the pastors of our church are fasting and praying September 1 to October 10th.

Annie: No.

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah. So they were fasting and praying for a high school pastor the same 40 days that I was fasting about those things. So it was at that moment I just-

Annie: And you were like, "Did you hear me say church planter or high school pastor?"

Ptr. Kevin: That's right. So it was like God just said, okay. And leaving my home church and going eight miles down the road in some ways it would've been easier to go to Seattle-

Annie: For sure.

Ptr. Kevin: ...than go eight miles down the road. So got to be a part of an incredible church, 12Stone, had a great leadership. So was there for 14 years. And I thought, you know, Gwinnett County, grew up 40 years there. I thought we're gonna spend another 40 years here. I was immersed in that community so much and just deep, deep roots. That's what led me up to this point. So a year ago I'm thinking, Hey, this is it, this is where we're at. And then I started to sense transition.

Annie: That's how you got to this point of transition. I want you to talk about one thing real quick in this, because I think it's so important. People freak out. I freak out. I won't talk about our friends who are listening. I freak out when I think God has told me to go somewhere and the road turns. When you think Seattle and it's eight miles down the road, when you think you're at 12Stone or in that area for the rest of your life and a new path comes, can you just talk for a minute about-

Ptr. Kevin: New path being Cross Point, right?

Annie: Yeah. Yeah.

Ptr. Kevin: Okay.

Annie: Can you just talk for a minute about how can both those things be true? Because I think God can say Seattle and you go, Okay, Seattle, here we go, here we go. And then He always meant for you to turn before that, but that was part of the path.

Ptr. Kevin: Right. So when I think about that call to Seattle, I don't know that it was as much a call to a specific place as it was a surrender to God. I'd go wherever. Because I think sometimes we, at least I know, I wanna know, I wanna know long term. I wanna know what the picture looks like. But it was just more surrender to God. And I think it was a surrender to Seattle and that moment that opened up the opportunity eight miles down the road.

Annie: Right. That's it. That's the thing.

Ptr. Kevin: So here we are, I've been at 12Stone for a long time. I had a commitment there that I would be there for a certain amount of time because we built a building and I didn't, you know... So I made a commitment. This summer was on the end of that commitment.

Annie: Oh my gosh.

Ptr. Kevin: And I didn't know what was gonna happen at the end of that commitment. I didn't know if the church had plans for me. I didn't know what God's plans were for me. So really, I'm at a place that when I say transition, it was like, God, what do you want me to do? I was still thinking that, man, I'd be somewhere that I was familiar with.

Annie: I think that happens a lot too when people have breakups or lose jobs or change cities where they think, I thought I was gonna live in Marietta until I die. And you have to live like that is true until God changes your path.

Ptr. Kevin: That's right. In order for us to make a difference where we're at, we have to be committed where we're at. If we're constantly looking to the future, we're constantly looking to the next, we miss the now. So it was that commitment and it was that faithfulness. I think God blesses faithfulness. So when I go, campus pastor for 10 years, that was the calling then. But when I started to get to the end of that, I'm going, Okay, God. I knew there was a next.

Annie: Yeah. Okay.

Ptr. Kevin: We were sitting in a-

Annie: Have you ever thought about moving to Nashville?

Ptr. Kevin: Never thought about moving to Nashville.

Annie: Me neither.

Ptr. Kevin: I mean, I'd been there for vacation.

Annie: Sure.

Ptr. Kevin: Great place for vacation. I just never imagined vocation. I never imagined that "Okay, I'm gonna live there and have a job."

Annie: Yeah, yeah, yeah. The Lord's like, I gotta switch the vowel. Hang on.

Ptr. Kevin: That's right. So it was one of those things that when I started to sense like, Okay, God, you're calling us to something new-

Annie: What did that feel like on your inside?

Ptr. Kevin: I was at a staff meeting and the pastor was talking about taking care of our souls and soul care. And he was talking about some of the transitions that had happened in church leadership. He mentioned a transition that happened at Cross Point. So he's like, We gotta take care of our souls if we want to go the distance. It was at that point that a guy leaned over and he tapped me on the knee and he said, Man, hey, they need a pastor. So when he said that, he was saying it just as a joke, right?

Annie: Yeah.

Ptr. Kevin: But at that moment I was like, Huh, and I just kind of filed it away. Well, that week it was Catalyst. So it was October 6th-

Annie: Tyler Reagan.

Ptr. Kevin: Tyler Reagan. Right?

Annie: Yeah.

Ptr. Kevin: So I was sitting by myself at Catalyst and the team was... I was sitting by myself and Andy Stanley had finished a first talk and they went into worship. And after that talk, I just felt... I had moved from wondering about the future to worrying about the future. So I found that it was like eating up all of my mental real estate. Like, okay, where am I gonna go? What am I going to do? What's next for me?

And that was a moment of surrender to say, "God, I'm not going to let this dominate my life and my disposition and the way... I'm gonna surrender to you." And in that moment it was like, God, I'll go anywhere, I'll do whatever. And it was a messy surrender ride. I mean, I'm wiping my face. I'm on my knees. And it was like one of those things where I think what God want to know is, will you trust me? Like, will you just give it to me?

Annie: I think getting on your knees is more powerful than people realize.

Ptr. Kevin: I do. Because I think it makes a statement. You know, a lot of times that posture is to me.

Annie: To you, as much as anybody else.

Ptr. Kevin: Right. The girl next to me is going, what's wrong with this guy? Right.

Annie: They're like, This 12Stone guy is a mess. I mean, to me, when I feel like the next right thing for me to do is get on my knees at my house, at church, whatever, it is, 48% about God and 52% about me.

Ptr. Kevin: That's right.

Annie: About me going like, "Annie, look at what you're supposed to be..." Like this is to remind yourself that you're surrendering.

Ptr. Kevin: Yes. So it was a surrender to I don't know what. And then throughout the fall-

Annie: So you're not even thinking about Cross Point as far as like, poor Cross Point?

Ptr. Kevin: No. So I start praying for Cross Point. Like at that point, I started praying for Cross Point because Cross Point didn't have a pastor.

Annie: So I should line up all the single guys and start praying for their lives. You're the answer to your own prayer.

Ptr. Kevin: Yes. So I am praying. And I think it was because Rain and Zach are in Nashville. I knew that if they were looking for church or I knew that if they were gonna find a church, I put it that way, it'd be a church a lot like Cross Point. So I wanted Cross Point to have a pastor for that. But I'm just praying. And just being a pastor for 16 years, I know what happens when a church doesn't have a pastor. So starting to pray like, God, for the people of Cross Point, would you remember...? And it wasn't like every day, every week. It was like once a month.

Annie: When it came to your mind.

Ptr. Kevin: When it comes to my mind.

Annie: Did you ever think that I was here? Did that ever cross your mind?

Ptr. Kevin: Well, yes, because I'd see things on social media-

Annie: Oh, sure, sure.

Ptr. Kevin: ...and I'll follow along. That was really a relational connection to, but other than that I didn't really know people at Cross Point. I knew Annie.

Annie: That's right. That's all you got, brother.

Ptr. Kevin: So then we get around the beginning of the year, and this is where it gets a little weird.

Annie: Oh, I mean, it's where it gets great.

Ptr. Kevin: I kinda have my morning rhythm, I go down to the basement and I have a study and I have a big, dry-erase wall down in the basement. And I just write out things that I'm praying. And I started to sense... and I write it in Evernote. And I started to sense God was calling me to Cross Point. Now, this messed with me because I knew all that would require, right?

Annie: Yeah.

Ptr. Kevin: So I wrestled with it. It was February I started to write, I started to journal things down. I didn't even tell Rea. But in January, I'm writing things down and I wrote,

"God, that's a big door. I'm not gonna knock on that door. God, you'll have to send them here to get me." That was an honest prayer.

Annie: Meanwhile, can I tell you what we are praying here?

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah.

Annie: Because I think that'll be really interesting to people. Because I originally was on a team to help hire a new pastor. And what we were praying is for David in the field. Do you know that? That is what we were praying. We were asking God to show us David in the field because we didn't want... Because there's a story in the Bible of when Samuel is going to pick the next king of Israel that God wants to make the king, he goes to Jesse and Jesse lines up all the brothers, and none of them fit. And we kept meeting really good men who were lining up and we kept going, "We need David in the field. We need David in the field." So while you're praying for us to find you, we are praying for us to find you too.

Ptr. Kevin: So crazy.

Annie: Ain't that crazy?

Ptr. Kevin: It is. And it just began to grow, that thing inside, like, oh, the compelling sense that I'll go... And I was doing the He Reads Truth Lent study leading into Easter. We were going through Isaiah, and it got to Isaiah's-

Annie: Yeah. People know a lot about Isaiah.

Ptr. Kevin: And got to Isaiah 6. And so Isaiah 6 was, "Here I am, send me." So I wrote in my journal that day. I wrote, "God, here I am, send me." I said, "I don't know if I could do that Cross Point job but God, you know if I could do that job. I don't know if I have what it takes, but God you know if I have what it takes. So if you believe I have what it takes, then have them come get me. Here I am. Send me." So that was in my journal. Right?

Annie: Aren't you glad you wrote all this down?

Ptr. Kevin: I am.

Annie: Because people would never believe you.

Ptr. Kevin: Never. But I spelled Cross Point wrong. I spelled it with an E. So I had no idea. Right? I knew Annie with an E and I knew it was there but I didn't know-

Annie: Close one. You almost got sent to the wrong place.

Ptr. Kevin: So at that point, well then-

Annie: That's so funny that you spelled it wrong.

Ptr. Kevin: Ain't that crazy? I did spell it wrong.

Annie: That's brilliant.

Ptr. Kevin: But that's as much as I knew.

Annie: Yeah. I mean, that's just such a great part of the story of you're like, I don't even know how to spell the place. I just feel called to it.

Ptr. Kevin: I had never experienced a service there. Actually, the service where you introduced me, that was the first time I'd ever been to Cross Point on a Sunday.

Annie: Really? Oh my gosh.

Ptr. Kevin: So I'm in this journey of just carrying this burden. Well, around the middle of March, I tell my wife, Rea. I say, "Rea, I feel like God's calling me, calling us, I feel like He's calling us to go to Cross Point." So we just kinda had a conversation about that, but really her heart was in a place of surrender. And God had been working transition us for a while. Not that we knew what the next was, but to get us to the place of surrender. Because if it was a year before that, two years before that, we were locked in, we had our future already mapped out.

Annie: And again, I want people to hear that that is the right way to live. You don't need to live like in any minute God could rip you out of what you're in. You need to be all in where He has you. Relationship, job, church, ministry city, be all in and be faithful and then let Him turn the page.

Ptr. Kevin: And then at that moment, in His tenderness, right?

Annie: Mm-Hmm.

Ptr. Kevin: I mean like a master gardener with their hands down. Rea just gave me this picture. She said, "Kevin, God has just lifted us up out of the soil carefully. He hasn't ripped us up but He works over time and he gets us to a place of..."

Annie: So y'all were there. Yeah.

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah. So we're in that place. Well, March 19th, I had a clip from a teaching that I taught sometime earlier. I taught about experience at Chipotle. And the clip started to get some traction on Facebook.

Annie: Oh, yeah. I was on the phone with a pastor in Texas last night, and he said, "Wait, your pastor's the Chipotle guy?"

Ptr. Kevin: That's right.

Annie: I said, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Ptr. Kevin: You know, it's crazy. It's one of those moments where you just taught it and not having any idea. Our social media guy at the church, 12Stone, took it, posted it up, and it just started to get traction. And I prayed on March 19th, I said, "God," I said, "If you want to take that video and you want to use that to get somebody's attention, then do that." They would ask me to come and se-

Annie: Because you hadn't reached out.

Ptr. Kevin: I hadn't reached out.

Annie: You hadn't told anybody except Rea and your tightest people.

Ptr. Kevin: Nobody. And there was a conviction that I wasn't to. Right?

Annie: Mm-Hmm.

Ptr. Kevin: Because that's how I would know, right?

Annie: Right.

Ptr. Kevin: Be because listen, I've been a pastor for 16 years, I've never been approached about a senior pastor job. I've been approached about one or two other jobs. But over the past even 10 years, I haven't even been... So this is completely...

Annie: Right.

Ptr. Kevin: I am out at the pasture.

Annie: You're tending the sheep.

Ptr. Kevin: I'm maybe in the wilderness, you know? So I prayed that on March 19th. On March 20th, I was down the stage on Monday morning and I kind of... the Monday ministry hangover, you know?

Annie: Listen, I felt it.

Ptr. Kevin: Right. You got it.

Annie: I felt it last week. I was like, You guys.

Ptr. Kevin: So I'm down in the study, you know, it's maybe nine o'clock, at eight o'clock in the morning, and I get a text from a friend named Zach, and he said, "Hey," he said, "I've got some friends that are Cross Point, they want to talk with you about the senior pastor job. Are you interested?"

Annie: I mean-

Ptr. Kevin: Oh, and I just played it super cool. I said, man, I love where I'm at, love what I'm doing... I mean, at that moment, I'm-

Annie: I mean, how you didn't launch your phone across the room and shatter it.

Ptr. Kevin: I ran upstairs. I ran upstairs and I showed it to Rea. She's getting ready for the day. I'm like, "Rea!" I feel like a little kid on Christmas morning except I'm running up the stairs, you know?

Annie: Right.

Ptr. Kevin: I'm like, "Rea, you got to see this." It was one of those moments where like, Okay, God is moving." So I played off super cool. I said, "But if they want to have a conversation, I'm willing to see what God's gonna do." Be because it was early on that God was saying, "Kevin, you're not supposed to tell them." Don't tell them about the journals. Don't tell them about any of the backstory. They have to choose you." Because I didn't want to manipulate the process.

Annie: Gosh.

Ptr. Kevin: Because I'm like, "If I tell them all the... if I play the God card, then it's like... But if I go, okay, we're just gonna trust that if God's in this, they'll choose me too. Well, I had a conversation with one guy on staff. He called me the next day and we started talking. And it was clear. It went from an interview to an encounter. You know, those moments in a phone conversation where you're like, Okay. God's... I had a chance to pray for him and he was just like, Man-

Annie: All of a sudden this friendship or this conversation goes to like, oh, this is about God and He's shown up and has something for us here. Yeah. Yeah.

Ptr. Kevin: He does. You could just sense God's presence in the call.

Annie: And not even about the job necessarily.

Ptr. Kevin: No, no. It was about this pastor and his life... okay. So He-

Annie: At any point did you start going, this may fall apart, this may not work?

Ptr. Kevin: No.

Annie: No. You knew it.

Ptr. Kevin: I knew it. I knew it. Hmm. Yeah, I knew. So when he said, Hey, we would like to meet with you in Chattanooga with our search team, would you be interested? I said, Yeah.

Annie: Which they then kicked me off of, understandably.

Ptr. Kevin: So I'm meeting with the search team, minus Annie-

Annie: No, I'm just kidding. They kicked me off before that.

Ptr. Kevin: So I'm at a restaurant up in Chattanooga with them. Oh, that Wednesday before I went up, I had a conversation at 12Stone about a future opportunity there. So the day that I'm going up to meet with Chattanooga about an opportunity in the... I called Rea after I found out about that opportunity, I said, Rea, do I need to even go and meet with the people at Chattanooga? Because like, this is a dream job, dream church, dream location, dream family, my brother's building a house next door to me. So I'm going-

Annie: Mm-mm.

Ptr. Kevin: Yes.

Annie: I did not know that. Your brother's literally building the house next door to the house.

Ptr. Kevin: Yes.

Annie: You don't own anymore.

Ptr. Kevin: I don't own anymore. But crazy things. So he actually wasn't able to build the house, but he didn't tell me that he wasn't able to build the house until I told him that I'd accepted the job at Cross Point.

Annie: Uh-uh.

Ptr. Kevin: He said, I didn't want to tell you-

Annie: What a little brother.

Ptr. Kevin: ...but the soil testings didn't come back. And I was like, "I didn't want to tell you, but I'm moving to Nashville." But it was like all these things God wanted to say, will you trust Me? Yeah. Are you willing to choose what I have for you more than this dream that you already had? Will you trust me with a new dream? Rea said, You need to go to Nashville.

Annie: Chattanooga.

Ptr. Kevin: I mean, you need to go Chattanooga because-

Annie: That's midway just for people who live in Seattle. For the Seattle people who didn't get you as a pastor, Chattanooga is midway between Nashville and where you are in Atlanta.

Ptr. Kevin: So she said, "God's moving. You need to go." So I went up there, had a conversation with them. It was just clear from the conversation we need to keep taking next steps. Well, they said, "Let's put it on hold until after Easter." So that was like maybe wait two weeks. Well, after Easter, that Sunday at like eight o'clock, right after Easter services they call.

Annie: 8:00 pm?

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah. I'm like, "They showed their hand."

Annie: You're like, "God showed me his hand a long time ago."

Ptr. Kevin: That's Right.

Annie: Cross Point didn't show theirs. Oh, that's great.

Ptr. Kevin: So they said, "Can you come up here and meet?"

Annie: What were those two weeks like for you, though?" Because you say two weeks real casually and that's like 15 days.

Ptr. Kevin: Well, I ran a marathon, right?

Annie: Oh, sure, you did.

Ptr. Kevin: I ran a marathon. And right after I met with them, and then I had spring break. So those were the two weeks. So a lot of time to process-

Annie: Were you just asking God? I mean, you're sitting down to pray and you're going, God, I know I'm not gonna hear anything till Easter, but this is right? Or God, prepare me for what's happening? What are you saying?

Ptr. Kevin: I'm playing games with the kids. I'm like, would you rather move to Orlando or Nashville? They're like, "Nashville." Would you rather move to Seattle or Nashville? They're like Nashville. I mean, they see it then, but I'm playing seeds. Because I just knew. So Rea and I began... that's when we began to dream toward Nashville.

Annie: Even though you hadn't gotten the yes.

Ptr. Kevin: I had already gotten it.

Annie: You had, I know.

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah. Here's the thing. Even if Cross Point didn't choose me, I knew that I was being faithful to what God had called me to do. And this doesn't happen with every decision. This didn't happen when we were trying to find a house. I mean, God provided, but it's rare that things are this clear. But when they are-

Annie: Yeah, they really are.

Ptr. Kevin: ...they really are.

Annie: And I really believe that there is something super spiritual... I mean, when it is the fall, we buy sweaters and jackets for the winter. Even though we don't see the winter, we know it is coming. We just know. And we're so good at preparing for seasons in the physical, but we won't prepare for seasons in the spiritual because we don't want to look dumb.

So I love hearing you go like, no, we just started talking about Nashville because the next season was Nashville. And we just lived like winter was coming or summer was coming or whatever because we knew the next season.

Ptr. Kevin: And when you get that word, right, and I believe that God speaks, and I believe that there are providential circumstances and I believe that He reinforces through His word, and I believe that there are other things that just continue to affirm and line up and spirit of God stirs back and you go, Okay, this is... and then you hit words from other people, encouragement from other people that lines up, all these things begin to build, right and-

Annie: And are you writing everything down as you go?

Ptr. Kevin: Everything down. Evernote has been like my archive, you know, my history with God. I'm so grateful that Rea helped make me discipline like 10 years ago in really to begin to journal these things

[00:30:46] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends! Just interrupting this conversation to share about our amazing partner, [Indeed](#). Whenever we're hiring here at Downs Books Inc. or at the That Sounds Fun Network, we hire using Indeed. And we've always found the right person for our team. They are the experts at helping us find the best fit for the roles we want to build our companies with.

If you're hiring, you need Indeed. Hiring can be a challenge, but Indeed helps you rise to that challenge. With instant match, over 80% of employers get quality candidates whose resumes on Indeed match their job description the moment they sponsor a job, according to Indeed Data US.

Indeed is the hiring platform where you can attract, interview, and hire all in one place. Instead of spending hours on multiple job sites searching for candidates with the right skills, Indeed's a powerful hiring platform that can help you do it all. Plus, what's even better, Indeed's the only job site where you only pay for applications that meet your must-have requirements.

Start hiring now with a \$75 sponsored job credit to upgrade your job post at indeed.com/soundsfun. The offer is good for a limited time. So claim your \$75 credit now at indeed.com/soundsfun. Terms and conditions apply. If you need to hire, you need Indeed.

That link and pretty much every other link you could ever hope for are in the show notes or in Friday's AFD week in review. So be sure to check those out.

Sponsor: And I have one more amazing partner to tell you about, [Raycon](#). Do you have any fun trips planned this summer? You know that our staff has been on staff Sabbath, I am out doing a little bit of traveling. But even if you're not going on any vacation, summer is still all about a vacation state of mind. Correct? Staycations forever.

Whether I want to listen to Lady A or Davy Flowers or Drew Holcomb on repeat, or if I'm listening to a podcast on the go, I love popping in my Raycon wireless earbuds and having a good soundtrack to my summer. Raycons are the best way to listen. If you're using them at the gym or have them in while you're getting things done around the house, you can use their earbud tap function and toggle between three customizable sound profiles and noise isolation and awareness mode. Yes and amen.

Raycons have a 32-hour battery life, including eight hours of playtime. Seriously, they last so long. And you can listen to what you want when you want for a really long time. They come with custom gel tips for the most comfortable in-ear fit, and they start at half the price of the other premium audio brands. But they sound just as great. Plus Raycon's come with a 45-day happiness guarantee. So you really cannot lose.

Create your own soundtrack with Raycon. Right now my friends can get 15% off their Rayconorder at buyraycon.com/thatsoundsfun. That's buyraycon.com/thatsoundsfun to save 15% on your Raycons. Buyraycon.com/thatsoundsfun.

Okay, now back to our Hall of Fun conversation with Pastor Kevin.

[00:33:39] <music>

Annie: So Easter night, somebody called you.

Ptr. Kevin: Easter night they say, "Hey, can you come meet?"

Annie: Can you tell who called you?

Ptr. Kevin: Matt Warren.

Annie: Matt Warren. What a hero! Our campus pastor currently for the Nashville campus.

Ptr. Kevin: So he calls and says, can you come up to Nashville? Well, at this point I'm like, Yeah, but we look at our next three weeks, we didn't have any time except that week, Tuesday and a Wednesday. Well, it just so happened that everything aligned

so that their board and so that the elders just happened to be in town. So was able to come up and meet that Tuesday and Wednesday, meet with everybody.

And even in those conversations you sense connection. It felt like family. And for Rea and her conversations and for both of us with some of the other-

Annie: Because they met with Rea as well, which is great.

Ptr. Kevin: They Did.

Annie: I think all churches do that. But I still highly respect it, that if anybody's coming on staff and they have a spouse, everybody should be talked to.

Ptr. Kevin: And I had a moment where they're asking Rea questions where she's answering their questions with just a sense of boldness and courage, where I'm just like, "that's my girl." I mean, it was as if God's hand on this whole thing... I was able to see her in a new light, in a new giftings and callings coming together. So that was special for both of us.

Well, here's the cool thing happened. When we were driving out, she was like, "You know what? I would love to meet... If I got a chance in Nashville to meet Raechel and Amanda from She Reads Truth" because that's been such a big part of her journey. She's like, "I'd love to just tell them thank you." Well, one of our meetings just happened to be at Pinewood Social, this cool place with a bowling alley and with breakfast shop. Just super cool place. We go in and as we're walking together, we walk by a table and she goes, "There was Amanda and Raechel was sitting at the table." And I was like, "You better go over there."

Annie: Yeah, serious.

Ptr. Kevin: You better go.

Annie: The Lord put 'em in here.

Ptr. Kevin: And she did. So here's what I say, it was just even the little things like that, that God did just to give glimmers and reflections of, okay, my hand that's in this, for both of us.

Annie: But there is a moment where y'all had to say, Hey God, I'd love to see Amanda and Rachel. Sometimes I think that these little glimmers that "I want" are stupid and then the Lord goes, Or you could just ask Me. And if I can do it, I can do it. If there's not traffic, I can get 'em there. Right. You know? So she had to say that to God and she had to say that to you. She had to have a person that she went, "I'm

willing to say this little bit tiny crazy thing out loud. What are the chances at the same time on the same day in the same restaurant, 35 miles from their office y'all would be."

Ptr. Kevin: And I think for those things, if it matters to us, it matters to God. I think those are just those sticky note moments that God just goes, I have you. So we had enough of those when we met up here, we drove back, we're like, Okay, this... But they still had to choose us. They said, "Hey, we want to interview a couple more people just for due process."

Annie: Were you dying?

Ptr. Kevin: No. Here's what I said.

Annie: Jesus, you're so much more faithful than me.

Ptr. Kevin: I was like, interview everybody. I was like, have all the conversations. Because I really wanted them to-

Annie: To know what you knew.

Ptr. Kevin: To know what I knew and to choose me. I didn't want to manipulate the process at all because I needed to know that they were choosing me. So we ended up... oh, crazy. Some crazy stuff happened. So on Easter weekend on that Saturday-

Annie: I like that you're acting like, now's when the crazy stuff starts like the rest of the story is super normal for everybody.

Ptr. Kevin: So on Easter weekend, my dad pulls our family... because we have to do brunch. As a pastor, you have to do brunch on Saturday, you know?

Annie: Sure.

Ptr. Kevin: So we get everybody together.

Annie: Because you have 94 services on Sunday.

Ptr. Kevin: And my dad said, "Hey, I want to show you a painting." So my dad pulls this painting out and shows us a painting. He said, back in November, I had a dream three nights in a row. And my dad's an engineer. My dad-

Annie: An inventor, if you will.

Ptr. Kevin: Inventor, yeah. You know, the bridge down in Atlanta that goes benom benom benom?

Annie: Oh yeah.

Ptr. Kevin: That's the bridge that my dad was the project manager for back in the 80s.

Annie: Oh, my gosh.

Ptr. Kevin: So every time... I don't know if it's good that it goes benom benom benom. But it may have broken. That was actually the bridge that burned down. One of those sections... My dad didn't burn it down. That wasn't my dad.

Annie: My dad did that.

Ptr. Kevin: My dad built the bridge.

Annie: We had that recorded.

Ptr. Kevin: So my dad's this engineer, but he had this dream three nights in a row and he has this dream painted from an artist friend of our family, and he's showing it to the family, and he's like, "Let me walk you through the dream." And down in the bottom corner, I wish I could put it up for you. But there were 12Stone and then there was a bridge that wasn't finished and then he said what he said.

He and my mom walked across that bridge, left the 12Stones, walked across the bridge, and they were walking up these stairs to this huge temple-looking structure. He said there was an arc, like Noah arc and then there was a cross. And he said that I ran up to them and with tearful, you know, kind of weeping goodbye, I said, "I gotta go." And I ran down to a baptismal and started baptizing people.

He said there was rain coming down over the baptismal. And he said, "I had the same dream." He said, "I've never had a dream three nights in a row."

Annie: I've Never had a dream three nights in a row. Have you?

Ptr. Kevin: No, never.

Annie: No. I never have either.

Ptr. Kevin: And this is back in November before any of this happened. It's a tearful goodbye. He said, I ran back down that baptismal. Well, the crazy thing, he shows us this painting and the baptismal, when I look at the baptismal in the painting, it's this

wooden baptismal, blue inside, wooden, on the outside kind of distressed wood. And I look up online the Cross Point baptismal, it's the same baptismal as Cross Point. So I'm like, this was back in November that he had the dream. So I'm looking at this in the moment.

Well, I said, "Dad, somebody's gonna give you a word for this painting." Somebody's gonna see it and they're gonna go, Okay, this is what that means." In their small group, they lead a young married small group from the church that I'm a pastor—at 12Stone at that time. They're leading the small group and a girl in the small group, dad shows the painting. He said, "I got this painting."

Well, a girl comes up and she says, "The rain over Kevin that means change. That means change is coming." A girl has said this. Like, what in the world? What universe? I mean, it was like the universe was conspiring to get us to Nashville. And that still wasn't enough. So I'm still going, "God, I need confirmation. I need confirmation, I need affirmation."

Annie: And that's Easter day before they call you Easter night or the day before.

Ptr. Kevin: Right.

Annie: And just for our friends who are listening, a baptismal is the pool that people get into when they get baptized at church. In a lot of older churches, it's a pool that's built-in. At Cross Point, we wheel it onto the stage. It's a massive pool. They wheeled on the stage and fill it with water. And by the evening service, it's crusty. Those people who get baptized at night.

Ptr. Kevin: Well last week after you taught, there was a guy that came up to me and said, "I want to get baptized."

Annie: Uh-uh.

Ptr. Kevin: Yes! He said, "I want to get baptized." He said, "Can I be baptized next week?" He said, "I just moved here from Charlotte." He said, "God's working in my life, doing new thing. Can I be baptized?" So I was like, "Well, I'm kind of new here. I don't know. Yes, we can, but I don't know how-

Annie: I don't know how to get the pool out.

Ptr. Kevin: So I connected him with one of the other pastors there, and he said, "Well, can I be baptized? Can I be baptized in the river next week?" He was like, "You might want to be careful being baptized in the Cumberland.

Annie: Serious. The Cumberland is not the place.

Ptr. Kevin: But that was after the teacher. I didn't even get to tell you that.

Annie: I didn't know that. That was really sweet.

Ptr. Kevin: That's cool.

Annie: Okay, so the baptism. At this point you're like-

Ptr. Kevin: But I'm still like, "God, I need more confirmation, affirmation. Before I give the... you know-

Annie: Before you give what? What were you... I mean, because they have to offer you the job before you tell.

Ptr. Kevin: But I already knew. I mean they hadn't offered yet, but I already knew. Well, on April 20th, I get a text from a lady who I've known, who I haven't gotten a text from, had no record of texts. She's kind of a friend. Her name's Julie. She sends me a text and she basically says... She says, "Kevin, I just want to let you know you're on God's heart and God's mind today. You will get where you want to go. I see you straddling, one foot on the sand, one foot in the water. You will either walk on water or He'll teach you how to swim. Your loss for passion for old things is not disobedience. It's in preparation for the new."

Annie: Oh my gosh.

Ptr. Kevin: I mean, just random text. So I pick up the phone-

Annie: You call her.

Ptr. Kevin: No. Well, at first I text her, I go, "That's an interesting word."

Annie: You play so cool.

Ptr. Kevin: So cool.

Annie: You're the worst. How many times have I asked you to sent a text to a dude and he's like, Yeah, that sounds good. And he's freaking out. I'll never know.

Ptr. Kevin: So I call her, I'm like, "Julie, can you tell me a little bit more?" And she just begins to just unpack that. She said she was going on a mission trip and to get ready for the mission trip. She was fasting. And she said, "What I'm fasting from today is

withholding." She said, "Normally when God tells me something like that, I just pray it." But I'm fasting from withholding so I'm gonna share it. I'm like, phuuu.

So then she sends me... It was April 20th. I know that because she sends me Romans 4:20. Right? Which that was the verse that you shared about plunging into the promises of God. That you shared. So like, even like all these scriptures, when I say God's speaking all over the place.

Annie: Right.

Ptr. Kevin: So that was an important process because it talks about Abraham's faith to take that step and go.

Annie: Fully persuaded. Yeah.

Ptr. Kevin: So then we get a call from Cross Point and they say, "Hey, we've met with these other people and we want to-

Annie: And they suck, and you don't.

Ptr. Kevin: And I'm like, Are you sure?

Annie: None of them are friends of Annie.

Ptr. Kevin: Are you sure? So after that, I mean, it's just been an incredible season of transition. And God's-

Annie: Did you say yes right away or did you wait?

Ptr. Kevin: I did wait. I said, "I need a week to do due diligence." And that was more me just finding out more about Cross Point. Questions I couldn't ask, I couldn't have asked in the interview process. So I drove up, had a couple conversations. I still knew, but I just needed a little more time.

Annie: Because I think an interesting thing you're teaching us is there's a real wisdom moment. And even when you know, be wise. Knowing what God is saying doesn't mean you jump in with both feet. Knowing what God is saying means you walk toward that with wisdom.

Ptr. Kevin: And I think also honoring the church that I was at, honoring 12Stone.

Annie: Sure. Which you've done. I think you've done really beautifully.

Ptr. Kevin: I think Cross Point has done an incredible job. What happened on social medias... Social medias.

Annie: Yeah. Welcome. Welcome to the internet. It's your first time using it.

Ptr. Kevin: That's right. This wi-fi thing.

Annie: The socials.

Ptr. Kevin: But even just to see the way that the churches have...

Annie: It's like they've become friends, the churches. It's like the buildings like each other. It's really. I mean, because when I posted that you were coming, probably because I'm from Georgia, but I had so many 12Stone people. And I've said this to you, but it's been beautiful to watch the 12Stone people hold their grief and their joy at the same time. The ones that have talked to me. So I don't know about all of them. But the ones that have talked to me have done a really beautiful balancing job of going like, We are sad to see him go, and Congratulations. And it's just beautiful that they've been taught... that says a lot about y'all, your senior pastor and y'all as pastors of the churches, those campuses that they've been taught that joy and pain can coexist.

Ptr. Kevin: Mm-Hmm. And it was in the way that they sent us out. It wasn't a leaving, it was ascending. It took a long time. I realize it took a long time for Cross Point, took a long time for Rea and I, for our family. But it's just been a remarkable journey of just God's goes... And it's still happening. I mean, we're still seeing God move. In each step when we need something, He's provided.

Annie: Yesterday when Rea and I were getting coffee, we met a guy that goes to Cross Point. I told you about him. And when he said there was a group of men praying that we would know our pastor by the end of 2016, and then that's when you started to know, I went like, Oh my gosh, God's been doing it on both sides of the borderline.

Ptr. Kevin: I had a girl come up to me on Sunday after service. She came up after the last service and she said, "Kevin," she said, "My name's Erica." And she was like shaking. So I'm like, Okay, she's nervous. She said, my mom goes to 12Stone. I used to go 12Stone. I've been here two years. And when we knew we needed a pastor here, we both started praying that you would come here as a pastor.

Annie: No.

Ptr. Kevin: She said, "I've written you a letter and I've written Rea a letter. And I think she was shaking because she thought, "I caused all this."

Annie: I'm really sorry.

Ptr. Kevin: This is right. So we thought it was our prayers. It was Erica's prayer that whole time.

Annie: It was Erica. Erica and her momma. I'd like to thank Erica and her mama for working this out.

Ptr. Kevin: So it's been things like that, that God has just continued to... He's been so kind and continue to affirm. Because this is big for us.

Annie: I know you're really humble about this and quiet about this, but you need to talk about the loss because y'all are giving up everything.

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah. Yeah. I mean, to have both sets of grandparents five miles from the house. They go over and have... We would have family dinner, every family lunch on Sundays at my in-law's house. 18 cousins all together. And that was every single Sunday.

Annie: Every Sunday.

Ptr. Kevin: My wife has a twin sister, you know, Zoe. So an identical twin and they are together every single day. They work out together every day. I'm like, Rea is the hero. I mean, so to leave her twin where they've never done life apart.

Annie: Ever.

Ptr. Kevin: Ever. I mean, they're 40 years old and they've never done life apart. So I see the sacrifices that she's making and it inspires me. And we know there's gonna be hard days and we know there's gonna be challenges, but I believe that God's grace that we've seen... I don't think it has to stop. Maybe I'm just an eternal optimist, but I don't think it has to stop.

I think we can walk in the spirit and that we can continue to have eyes to see what God's doing. I mean, like, even today, I'm at Smoothie King and I'm getting a smoothie and getting a smoothie for the boys because I had to wait at the bank for a long time to set up an account. So I was rewarding myself for purgatory. So I'm waiting in line, I see this girl in a car in front of us and she's just weeping. And I just knew... you know like that moment, like, Okay. So I go up and I said... I get outta my car up in the drive-thru.

Annie: In the drive-thru, oh my gosh.

Ptr. Kevin: So I said, "Are you okay?" And she said, "I'm just having a really hard morning." I said, "Can I pray with you?" And she had a cross kind of hanging from there. So reach over, grab her hand and we just pray. And even like that moment it was like, okay, that was a setup, right? God said, I prepared good works for you in advance. Like, I've got you set up. Are you gonna take it?

Annie: That's right.

Ptr. Kevin: So we prayed and I said, "Hey, do you have a church?" She said, "Yeah." She told me her church is Bethel. So I said, Man, that's great. That's the second time I've heard that church. You know, because I'm inviting everybody at Cross Point. I was like, That's the second time I've heard that church. I go, "Sounds like it's a great church. I hope you have a great day." Get back to the car. And my son Durham, you know, who's 10, he said, dad, did the spirit tell you to go?

Annie: He's so cute too. They're both cute.

Ptr. Kevin: So they're seeing this. And I think there's something about, I'm like, God, I don't want to stop living on mission. I drop off the U-Haul trailer yesterday at Tito's. It was down in an interesting part of town, but it was... I drop off the U-Haul trailer at Tito's seafood market. And they also have a U-Haul-

Annie: That's right. I know exactly what you're talking about.

Ptr. Kevin: You know what it is.

Annie: Yeah.

Ptr. Kevin: So I'm dropping it off and I walk in and I'm talking with Tito and I keep calling him Tito, and he said, "My name is Ajas." And he said, "I just came up with a name Titos. I thought that's brilliant. But he's telling me about his dream to have a gas station there and just be able to say, "Hey, I want to pray for you and I'm gonna pray that you have this gas station." And you could just see him light up. And I'm like, "God, I don't want to stop. I don't want to stop walking. Would you continue to open up?"

I think they're all around us. I think that's what it means. The kingdom of God is at hand, that God is moving at all times. But I think sometimes we get so locked into our little kingdoms that we miss the big picture. So it's been an amazing three days in Nashville so far.

Annie: So far. You got outta your car to drive through.

Ptr. Kevin: That's Right.

Annie: And Tito... don't know his real name. Tell me what you know about God that you didn't know a year ago. Because you know, so many of our friends that listen, the beautiful thing about this podcast is a lot of people listen who think the way I think, and a lot of people listen who don't think the way I think. And so I would love to know what you know about a God that is real and that we love that you didn't know a year ago,

Ptr. Kevin: That prayer is the most effective force on the planet. It is the most powerful and effective force on the planet. I think before I would say that I thought that, but now I know that. I believe that it's the most important thing that we can do. And it's not that we get God on our agenda. It's how we discover His agenda and how we get on His agenda. I had mental ascent to those things, but I know it experientially in a way that where.. Now prayer is not a last resort. It's the first priority. You know, when we're faced with a need-

Annie: First stop.

Ptr. Kevin: Because I think just as prayer is what God has used to get us here in Nashville, prayer is gonna be what God uses to get us, Cross Point, there to where He like. So then you imagine, okay, what if we're all doing that? What if we're all experiencing this life of prayer following God's lead and praying for other people and seeing those same kind of breakthroughs in all of our lives. That's what stirs in me. A guy named Ian Bounds has... He was from Washington, Georgia.

Annie: Oh, come on.

Ptr. Kevin: And Ian Bounds, he wrote the exhaustive books on prayer. So his writing has... God's used that in this season to really help me.

Annie: Can you order them off Amazon?

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah. Yeah. You can get the compilation of his...

Annie: I was gonna say, is there one we should order? Is there one that stands out?

Ptr. Kevin: There's a book called... I believe it's called Treasury of Prayer by Leonard Ravenhill that is a compilation of the best parts of Bounds' writings.

Annie: That's exactly how I want to read it. That's good. You got it.

Ptr. Kevin: That's right. He whittled it down to 200 pages.

Annie: I have five things I'm kind of praying for 40-ish days. It fits with what you're saying because this morning when I was going through it, I just felt like the Lord went like, you know, I'm taking care of this. This is about me getting you ready for these five things. We're not changing anything. The plan's going, you're in. The Lord was really clear of like, "I don't need you to beg me to turn these ships. They're turned. You just gotta get the sail ready. I need you..." And I was like, Oh, okay, this is gonna be terrible. That's what I thought. I thought, Oh, this is gonna hurt this. You just turned this into a workout instead of you being a genie, now you're my weight instructor, a workout instructor. I was feeling that.

Ptr. Kevin: It's training season.

Annie: But that's it for a prayer, right?

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah.

Annie: Prayer is... it is partly and a good partly, God, I need you to see this and I need us to talk about this and I need some things to change. And then the other part is, God, I need to change.

Ptr. Kevin: Can we talk a little bit about what prayer looks like for me and what I've learned in this season?

Annie: I want you to. Yeah.

Ptr. Kevin: I start out with scripture because scripture helps me pray God's word back to Him. And the reality is-

Annie: With He Read Truth or what do you do?

Ptr. Kevin: Right.

Annie: Do you flip it open?

Ptr. Kevin: I'll go through He Reads Truth. Rea does She Reads Truth and I'll do, He Reads Truth. So it gives us a kind of-

Annie: It's horrible.

Ptr. Kevin: ...a way to have a conversation throughout the day or we see something that we're like, God. So that's the first. We didn't always do that.

Annie: Sure.

Ptr. Kevin: And we don't sit across the table and do that together while I'm holding her hand. I'm down in the basement, she's upstairs, but then, you know, it gives us a common point.

Annie: And accountability probably.

Ptr. Kevin: And accountability.

Annie: "If this dude I live with is keeping up with He Reads Truth, I better keep up with She Reads Truth."

Ptr. Kevin: That's right. And then I pray, Jesus, teach me how to pray. Because I don't know. I feel like a kindergartner when it comes to prayer. So I'm like, teach me how to pray. That was His disciples, what they asked. They could ask for anything, but they were like, "Teach me how to pray." And He's teaching me. He's faithful to teach me because I'll start out with kind of some gratitude. So I do something called First Ten, where I'll write down 10 things that I'm thankful for.

Annie: Every day?

Ptr. Kevin: Every day.

Annie: Every day you sit down.

Ptr. Kevin: Every day. So I go back through the day before. In the morning, I go back through the day before and just make a list of 10. Sometimes I hit 10, sometimes I hit seven, sometimes I hit five and I'm ready to study. But it helps put me in a position of I don't deserve anything. When those good things in my life are turn back to praise, it battles against entitlement. And I have this entitlement spirit that if I'm not diligent in fighting against it, I'll think I deserve something. So all those things. And it can be, man, that was an incredible couple tacos at Bartaco.

Annie: Right.

Ptr. Kevin: Something is-

Annie: It does not take much.

Ptr. Kevin: It doesn't. But just going, Oh, that was a gift. God, thank you for that.

Annie: And we should always thank God for Bartaco. That place-

Ptr. Kevin: Every day.

Annie: ...is the business. I love it. Give me a shrimp taco. It's good. Such a happy one.

Ptr. Kevin: Do you know they have a little hidden menu? They have a special taco that's not on the... it's like a secret taco.

Annie: Wait, excuse you for being here three days and you know more than me. How'd you figure that out?

Ptr. Kevin: I just know things.

Annie: Okay. Okay. The Lord told you.

Ptr. Kevin: No, no. I think his name was... his name was John. He was one of the waiters. But yeah. So you just have to find out what the secret taco is. Just help him.

Annie: Thank you.

[00:54:55] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends! Just interrupting this conversation one more time to share about another amazing partner, [Brooklinen](#). Whether you're a hot sleeper or just like sleep and wear, it's nice and cool after being in the summer heat, Brooklinen is here to help you swap out winter warmth for easy breezy comfort with their award-winning sheets and home essentials. Y'all, I love my Brooklinen sheets. I have three sets that I'm always rotating through and they are so soft and comfortable.

In fact, I left for tour in June with dirty sheets and my friend that helps me in my house, she came and changed them for my sister to stay at my house. And then when I got home from tour, we put on the third set of clean sheets. It was very helpful is what I'm saying. It is very helpful. When you're tired and ready for bed, is there anything better than climbing into your own bed with the softest sheets you can find?

Brooklinen's mission is to provide their customers with hotel-quality, luxury bedding delivered directly to your door at a fair price. And they're winning at it. If you've never tried Brooklinen, their bestselling luxe satin sheets are the perfect place to start. They have an irresistible soft feel and buttery smooth finish. Y'all,

you have got to try them. Listen, you need multiple sets so when people stay with you, you also get clean sheets. Okay?

Brooklinen is the perfect way to build your own indoor oasis to escape the heat. The options are endless and you can even save time and up to 25% when bundling your new favorite home essentials. So shop in-store or online at [Brooklinen.com](https://www.brooklinen.com) today to give yourself the cool cooling sleep you need this summer, use promo code THATSOUNDSFUN for \$20 off your online purchase of a hundred dollars or more, plus free shipping on Brooklinen.com. That's Brooklinen.com and use the promo code THATSOUNDSFUN for \$20 off plus free shipping.

Sponsor: And I have one last amazing partner to share with you, [Rothy's](https://www.rothys.com). I got my Rothy's packed with me while I'm traveling in July. I took them with me on tour in June. I just don't leave home without them, you guys. When it comes to both style and comfort, Rothy's are it for me. No matter where you're going, Rothy's are perfect for travel. All new slides and mules for your beach vacation, cute flats for nights out, and the most comfortable sneakers for exploring. They're lightweight and flexible so they're extra easy to pack. And Rothy's are effortlessly versatile, so you don't need to bring tons of shoes.

And bonus travel tip. If you get your Rothy's dirty during your adventures, you can just clean them so easy with a little bit of clear hand or dish soap and a damp towel. And when you get home, just toss 'em in the washing machine.

I have the Camocat sneakers and their flats. And because I can wash them, they still look like new. Make the swaps to sustainable shoes and bags with Rothy's. Everything at Rothy's is made from their signature thread knit from repurposed single-use plastic water balls, which you know I love. You can sustainably upgrade your closet with cute and comfortable sandals, sneakers, flats, and totes perfect for summer.

For stylish and comfortable shoes, shop Rothy's. Get \$20 off your first purchase at [Rothys.com/soundsfun](https://www.rothys.com/soundsfun). That's [rothys.com/soundsfun](https://www.rothys.com/soundsfun).

And now back to finish up our Hall of Fun conversation with Pastor Kevin.

[00:58:00] <music>

Ptr. Kevin: So back to the secret place. So lists out those 10 things and then and then go to just creating space for listening. And here's what in those moments, just going, okay, God, what are you saying? And then I try to look back over game film the day before and just going, Okay, were there any moments that I'm not real proud of? Like, were there any things... because that's that part of that search me, test me.

And then letting God pull... you know, when you were in a meeting and you kind of postured yourself or you had to have the right answer or you cut that person up-

Annie: It's the Chipotle thing.

Ptr. Kevin: Right.

Annie: Right?

Ptr. Kevin: And that's what that comes from, is creating enough space to go back through game film, just like a football coach, and going, "God, help me see, so I don't repeat." Because I don't want to repeat those things the next day. So really, that's kind of that soul correct. And then spend time. And usually when I'm reading through the scripture, I'll usually pick a section and kind of go through and I'll try to read a chapter in a spiritual book. I just finished Giglio's *Goliath Must Fall*.

Annie: Is it good? I haven't read it yet.

Ptr. Kevin: Yes.

Annie: I want to get him on the podcast. I love him and Shelly so much.

Ptr. Kevin: So strong.

Annie: I think the world. Okay, good, I'll pick it up.

Ptr. Kevin: So strong. It's so strong. I went back and read *Comeback*, so I did that

Annie: Yeah. I love *Comeback*.

Ptr. Kevin: So if you like *Comeback*, you're gonna love it.

Annie: Yeah. Okay.

Ptr. Kevin: So it's a great read. And I consider all of that prayer. Because I think some people, they go, Okay, prayer is only what I do it. But I think study is prayer. I think anytime that we're learning to move through those things and have conversation with God, have listening conversation and also the speaking conversation, that's prayer. So getting out a dry-erase marker and writing on the board and then taking a step... No, I'm just kidding. But writing up on the board, you know, that's prayer. Finding out what works. Here's what I did for a lot of my Christian life, is I did things that didn't work. And I would just keep doing 'em. That's called religion. Right?

Annie: Come on.

Ptr. Kevin: So when you go, okay, what's working? What's setting my soul on fire? What's exciting me about God right now? And then do more of that. I think if we do more of that, like sometimes it's just putting on a worship song and I'm looking at YouTube and I'm singing it, I'm by myself. Then sometimes that's not what I need. So it's spending more time in gratitude.

So I think rather than trying to continue to do old things that just don't have life on them, trying to figure out, okay, God, what's the new thing that you want to do and that you want to start in me?

Annie: We've talked about this a lot on the podcast about coming up with something besides quiet time, because quiet time doesn't work for me. But my roommate and I, we live independent lives. We're two different women, but we'll watch the same shows sometimes and we'll cook at the same time sometimes or something will happen and I'll want to tell her. So much of time, I think quiet time is more like coexisting with God like that of you're living in the same place. And so if you're sitting at the same table, you're gonna talk about what you just read or He's gonna point something out to me that I didn't see. So it's just living together.

Ptr. Kevin: It's good.

Annie: Right? And I love that.

Ptr. Kevin: For me, I have rhythms built into my day and some things are just stupid for anybody else. Right?

Annie: Right

Ptr. Kevin: But for me-

Annie: Give people permission for that.

Ptr. Kevin: ...if I have a moment like where I just sense that God like just showed up, and this is gonna sound really, really crazy. But like I was walking with my boy Bolton, my youngest, and we're walking down the road. We parked our car with a U-Haul and we're walking to the house. And a guy pulls up and he says, "Hey, you're the new pastor at Cross Point?" I said, "Yeah." He said, "Man, I have been praying for you." He said, "I saw you, I thought that was you and I wanted to come back." He said, "I'm a college student, and man, I just want you to know I'm praying for you and

for your family." That was right when we had pulled up with the U-Haul when we got to town.

Annie: And Bolton saw that too.

Ptr. Kevin: And Bolton saw it too. And that guy drove off and I put both my hands in the air, and I was like, "Man, praise God. Bolton, God sees us." That's the other thing I've learned is that He sees us. And it's not just like a disinterested gaze. He is so intimately involved and He sees every moment and He knows what we need before we even ask. So it's living with that awareness. It's almost like getting, like you said, getting down on your knees. It's marking the moment with a posture of saying, God, you see me, God, because I see you.

Annie: Because you drove a college kid down my street.

Ptr. Kevin: That's right.

Annie: I mean, that has been... I think you're having an extraordinary experience. I also think any of us could see God this much in our lives if we were looking. We've just been, we, you, me, your family, our friends, we've just been really intentionally looking for God to do stuff and He is showing off a little bit, it feels like to me. I'm like, I see you. Okay. Okay. That's my weird thing. That's what I always say. When something happens like that, I go, Okay, I see you, Lord. I see what you're doing. Won't He do it?

I don't think that's crazy at all. I think you raised your hands for you and you raised your hands for God and you raised your hands for Bolton. Because I think what y'all are teaching your kids in this season is so extraordinary of how to because they're sacrificing too. They're giving up cousins and grandparents and aunts and uncles and church and family and they are gonna be the braver for it.

Ptr. Kevin: I was talking with my friend, Ryan Ingram, who pastors a church called Awakening out in California. I was telling him what was going on. He said, "Kevin, he said, it's so important that God's doing this for you so that you don't doubt in the darkness what you've seen clearly in the life."

Annie: That's right.

Ptr. Kevin: And I thought, that's it. And it's like what you were talking about on Sunday, that when the fog comes and you're like, Okay, what in the world... I can go back and say, God, you got me into this. Right?

Annie: Right.

Ptr. Kevin: You're gonna need to get me through this. You're gonna need to get me out of this. So I think God gives us those moments where we can go back and we can remember, we can reflect and we can hold tight too. So I thought that was a good word.

Annie: That's a good word. All right, Ryan. Tell me, Kevin, what you think about Nashville.

Ptr. Kevin: I love it. I love progress. So when I see construction everywhere, that for me... the progress in the natural, the progress in the things we can't see inspires me going, okay, God, you're working in ways that we can't see. What are you building in the kingdom that these eyes can't see? Give me eyes to see that.

So that progress. But then also realizing that there are a lot of people who have a lot and who are doing really well and who are prospering. And we want the city to flourish. We want the city to prosper. But at the same time, you can have a lot and be empty on the inside. So being able to see that even though somebody has all the things, all the stuff that there are things that they long for and that they want, they desire and they don't know it yet, or they do know it, and they're living with this emptiness that only Jesus can fill.

I love this city, but even I was at the Grand Ole Opry last night, had a chance to be back. And I'm sitting backstage and so they have these pews. I don't even know if they're from the Ryman but they have these pews that are sitting back there facing this whole crowd. And I'm looking at-

Annie: For people who haven't been, you're on the stage, the back of the stage they have six or seven pews. They almost have like a choir loft. It looks like a choir loft if you were in a church.

Ptr. Kevin: Mm-hmm. And I'm looking at those pews from the Ryman, and I'm thinking, "God, this is a picture of what you've done in this city before. And then I'm looking at all these people and I'm so dimly lit. Like they can't see me.

Annie: They can't see you.

Ptr. Kevin: But they can see well was The Oakridge Boys and the guy with the big beard. They can see them up on the stage. But I'm having this moment where I'm just going, God this city where you have so gifted and there's so many people who are so talented and so many people who are dreaming to be on platforms and stage and people have an appreciation for the arts. But then at the end of their set, they sing amazing grace, you know?

Annie: Right.

Ptr. Kevin: So I'm going, there is a spiritual hunger that's here and appreciation that's here. And I think people are looking for Jesus. Everybody's looking for Jesus. They just don't know it. I heard one say that every heart desires a king like Jesus. So going, okay, God, how do we communicate this timeless message, this truth about who you are in a way that speaks to hearts and that awakens people to the longings maybe they didn't even know they had?

Annie: I think, you know, so many people make jokes on Facebook and on social media when articles come out about Nashville's the fastest growing city and Nashville's number one this and all these things. And they go, "You don't want to move here. It's terrible. Slow down the progress." And I hear that because I've been here nine years and the traffic is significantly different than when I moved here.

But I think... I mean, the Bible says, pray for the prosperity of the city you live in. And every time I see things get bigger, I go, okay, you're showing off here. There's something you're doing here. You're drawing people here. You're cycloneing something around. Churches are changing, churches are coming... you know, churches that planted in basements are showing out with three services. And churches that started as tiny or taking over these big old churches and blowing up. It's not a butts in seats kind of count, but it is a, Oh, this place is exporting more than we ever have. This place is growing more than we ever have. And God is gonna flourish here too. Flourish.

Ptr. Kevin: I believe it. I'm looking at a hundred thousand college students in this area. I tell you what Nashville has taught me about me is that I'm old. I'm the old guy, you know?

Annie: Where we live, you are. You can go to Franklins and you'll be the kid. But the neighborhood we live in, we are. Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

Ptr. Kevin: But I had a guy tell me, one of my mentors, I was talking to, he said, "Kevin, you're not the Timothy anymore."

Annie: Come on.

Ptr. Kevin: And so the whole Paul-Timothy relationship. I looked in the mirror the other day, we were moving some things out and I took it outside and the sun hit the mirror and it came back and I saw that I have white hairs in my beard. And I thought, Man, he's right. I'm not the Timothy.

I think there comes a point in time where we realize, Okay, God, you're doing a new thing. I'm not the kid anymore. So part of being in the young part of town and looking around with the staff that's in their 20s and 30s and going, Okay, God, you're doing a new thing and it's a new season.

Annie: I had a similar experience not long ago of going like, Oh, suddenly I'm the grownup here. And I didn't know I was gonna be the grownup here. And then you're like, Oh, well actually I have everything I need to be the grownup. Oh, okay. I can be... I mean, we need Jesus and I'm not saying I know everything. But I've been wearing a tool belt a long time.

Ptr. Kevin: Right.

Annie: And the Lord's put a lot of tools in it. So the pressure of being the Paul for you is really relieved when you realize the tool belt you got on, and that you're never alone, that the Holy Spirit's with you at all the times. So what are you excited about Cross Point? Because we have a lot of good churches in this town, so we are really lucky. But what is it for you with Cross Point?

Ptr. Kevin: Excited about the team.

Annie: Yeah, right?

Ptr. Kevin: The table, them sitting at the staff. We had our first staff meeting, they had Chipotle there.

Annie: Yeah, they did.

Ptr. Kevin: That makes me excited.

Annie: Yeah, they did.

Ptr. Kevin: But there is such eagerness and excitement reading through the book of Haggai. I think they're ready-

Annie: So weird of you to pick Haggai. Why'd you pick Haggai? You're like, dear staff, I'm here, I'm gonna pick a super obscure tiny prophetic book for you to read. It's only what? Three chapters?

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah, yeah, three. It's great. It's a book about new beginnings. And it's a book about God's building this... He's restoring the temple. I love the final verse. It talks about Zubabel... he is a signet ring. And I love the thought, like what he's saying is that whatever you do, whatever you sa... there's such a connection where he's like, my

signet ring, which would be a symbol of authority. And it's like my stamp is on that. And I'm like, God, that's what I want. I want to be like that. I want to be so connected with You that that could be said.

And I love this team. There's an excitement. I think nine months, 10 months was a long time to wait for Cross Point. But I think what that's built in the season, the season of expectation, of hunger, of desire for the next to see God move in an incredible way.

Annie: Hey, do you know a beautiful thing that you didn't know has happened for you is we stopped treating our pastor like our savior. We had been doing that. I think. I had. I mean, I knew I had a connection with God, but Cross Point was built around and now Cross Point is built and we have a leader. It's different. And it is healthier. Am I allowed to say that? It's my podcast. I'm allowed to say that. It does not dishonor who I love and the pastors that we've had in the past. But there's something about what we learned as a body. We learned as a body that Jesus was our savior all along and we were never left. And we needed to know that. I think you can only know that through tragedy and you can only know that through a tearing. You can't know that through a leaving. So we learned that through a tearing, that when you're ripped apart from your leader, you still have a savior.

Ptr. Kevin: And I think I was surprised. I thought... I mean, I know there's healing that needs to take place, but I don't think it's gonna be a long time healing. I think there's a hunger. So I think that healing has moved to hunger. And now it's like, Okay, there's a forward-leaning posture.

Annie: I mean, isn't that the truth when you're in the hospital? There's a point where it turns from my body is healing to my body is hungry. Right? And that's when you're starting to get healthy. And I feel that with you. I feel like our body has... we haven't left the hospital, but we're hungry. You know? I think that's really exciting. I think it's gonna be fun.

So for our friends who are listening that don't live in Nashville, that they go, "I'm friends with Annie. I'm listening to a podcast, so now I'm friends with Kevin. When Kevin comes to mind, I want to pray." What do you want them to pray? What do you want?

Ptr. Kevin: I would ask to pray for my kids. Pray that they seek God in this as much as we have and as much as we do. This is so built our faith, my wife Rea and I. It's so built our faith. It's built our relationship even more. But I'm like, I want them to have that same experience. So that when they think of moving to Nashville they don't say it's what my mom and dad did.

Annie: "My parents moved us."

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah.

Annie: Right.

Ptr. Kevin: So this is what God did. And then they have their own stories to share.

Annie: Right.

Ptr. Kevin: They're not just sharing our stories, but they're sharing their stories.

Annie: And then we need to make sure they're journaling too. When they make new friends at school-

Ptr. Kevin: Yes!

Annie: When all that stuff goes down. You know, when I moved here, I did a sticky note on my laptop and I listed every friend I made because I knew what I had left in Atlanta was my people. So for probably a year I wrote down every friend I made because I knew that's what God was giving me. I knew when He asked me to leave my people and my place that He was gonna fill those holes in a different way. Not replace those people, but fill the gap in me. And He did. He did.

So we gotta make sure your kids are writing down their people when they make them. And they will. Your kids are so fun. I was dying to stay yesterday when I interrupted lunch. I was like, "Wait. No. But I want to be friends with them." They are hilarious.

Ptr. Kevin: They are.

Annie: I mean, and then the girls get here. So y'all get back here in a couple weeks for good.

Ptr. Kevin: We'll be back here on the 30th.

Annie: Will you be at church that Sunday? It won't be a surprise.

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah.

Annie: Jason Miller and you.

Ptr. Kevin: That's right. So be...

Annie: Another thing that you and I have talked about is, this is more than we could have dreamed of. I mean, if you'd have told us when I was a college freshman and hanging out with your little sister who was my neighbor in the apartments the next year we'd be doing this in 20 years in Nashville, how much bigger is our God as a dreamer than I ever thought?

Ptr. Kevin: He does. What I love about the story and what I love about what it says I think is that faithfulness... It leads to fruitfulness with what God wants. What do you...? Okay. I can trust you with that? See, we talk about trusting God, yes, absolutely. That's first. But then it's saying, Okay, God, I can trust you. But then God's saying, Annie, I can trust you. And Annie, I can trust you with more. And I can trust you... It's that relationship. And yes, we have those moments where we fumble and yes, we have those moments where... but we get up and then we continue pursuing and we say God... And God says, okay, I'll trust you with more and I'll trust you with more.

I just want to continue to trust Him and continue to be faithful to what He gives. He says, I can trust you more. And that's what I've seen from your story. And then for us to be here, I think is a culmination... Not that there's anything good in us, apart from Christ.

Annie: Right.

Ptr. Kevin: Right. I mean, you know. But-

Annie: We know what monsters we are.

Ptr. Kevin: Right. But we're saying, God, I'm gonna trust you, and God, please give me the grace to live in a way where I'll be faithful and you can trust me more and more.

Annie: I just keep saying to the Lord, why did you make me go nine years before Kevin? Why did I have to plow the ground? No, I'm just kidding. I've not been plowing the ground. But I have joked with so many people that you're not Jesus but I've totally felt like John the Baptist. I'm like, you guys, he's coming. I know him. He's coming.

Ptr. Kevin: I'm not Jesus.

Annie: I'm not John the Baptist. I still got my head so far.

Ptr. Kevin: Very good.

Annie: Listen, you know me, I'm not living out in the desert. I'm not eating locust. No. I don't even camp, so don't worry.

Ptr. Kevin: That's good.

Annie: Well, I cannot put words around how thrilled I am in here. I know you know it, but I think for our city, for my life, I mean, selfishly, I cannot believe my pastor is someone that I've trusted since I was 18 years old.

Ptr. Kevin: And then to know that we sh... Tom Tanner.

Annie: Oh, right.

Ptr. Kevin: And the impact and the... I would say this, that what we experienced God do at the University of Georgia Wesley Foundation and seeing God move in a way that was bigger than what we can imagine there, I think that being in our veins here. So I think being able to believe God for more and to be able to... I don't want it to be said in my life, Kevin, you dreamed too small and you prayed too small. It's okay. God. And I think that goes back to the primary influences in both of our lives with Tom.

Annie: Tyler last week on the podcast talked about Melissa's dream. And for some reason that just keeps coming up in Conversa... probably because you moving here and your buddy, David Walters, coming with you last week to church. But just going like, "Man, there are people on this planet who are more influential than this planet will ever know. And it will not be until we get to heaven and God goes, "Hey, everybody, come look at this. This is everybody Tom and Melissa Tanner impacted. And we'll just be a sea of people. And you and I, we'll be holding the doors for the people who've been living in country without air conditioning.

Ptr. Kevin: I'll be cutting the grass. I'll be out there cutting the grass.

Annie: You and me both. I'm like, I love my job and I'm grateful to serve the Lord, it ain't hard compared to what some of our friends are doing.

Ptr. Kevin: No.

Annie: This is not hard. I will hold their doors and make them sandwiches and... We have friends and contemporaries that are doing incredibly sacrificial things for the gospel. But you are too, Kevin. I mean, you really have. You and Rea have done an incredibly sacrificial thing for the gospel. And our city just ain't even ready. It ain't even ready for what the Lord's gonna do. Right? And when our city gets what the

Lord's gonna do, our country... I mean, it just is gonna explode. We export. We export. So, man, I'm thrilled, Kevin.

Usually, I have the guest pray. But can I pray?

Ptr. Kevin: Please.

Annie: And just pray for you and pray for Cross Point and get our friends who are listening just to take a moment on their treadmill or on their walk or in the car and just like... it'll just be a constant flow every time someone listens to the end of this podcast of prayers for you.

Ptr. Kevin: Love it. Please do so.

Annie: Yeah, let me pray for us. Lord, thank you. Thanks for just for how you orchestrate our lives, that even in pain and tragedy and sadness and loss, you're still orchestrating, you're still good and kind and strong and true. And so we thank you for that. God, we as Kevin's friends pray for him as our pastor, as the pastor of Cross Point Church, God, would you just do more than we could have asked or imagined? Would you give him the capacity to learn what Cross Point and Nashville is like to become the leader of our family, to step into a role and understand more than he should know in the natural? Would you just give him supernatural understanding of our church and our people?

And God, for Rea, that you would speak real clearly to her about why you've called her here and how Nashville's gonna benefit from her being here. God would you give her as well just a supernatural capacity to get their home in order and to see the kids and what they're walking through and to help just care for her people, including Kevin?

And God we do pray for the four kids and ask that you would... would this be a Ebenezer stone for them too, a place where they go, God was so faithful to us when we moved to Nashville as kids? Would you do that for them, God? We pray that you would do more in Nashville than we could imagine. We pray that people in our families and in our friend groups and in our city who do not know you will not be able to resist hearing about you. Would you just be too good and too kind and too loud in this town?

God, I know people have said this for generations but I want you to hear me and Kevin say, we welcome you here. We want you here. We want you to change our friends because they're hurting. We want you to heal our friends because they're hurting. We want you to speak to our friends because they're hurting. So we welcome you here, holy Spirit. God, we are in this for the long haul, whatever that

looks like for our lives, for his family's life, and for my life, we're in it. So put us to work. We love you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Ptr. Kevin: Amen.

Annie: What we didn't do... you're supposed to say what sounds fun to you. Well, we're both... So Kevin-

Ptr. Kevin: Yes.

Annie: This podcast is called That Sounds Fun-

Ptr. Kevin: Just messed up.

Annie: I know. Sorry. This podcast is called That Sounds Fun. What sounds fun to you?

Ptr. Kevin: What you sow and weep, you'll reap in joy. Do you see what I did there? I was like, find a verse. Find a verse.

Annie: Very pastoral of you.

Ptr. Kevin: Turn the corner. Turn the corner. Oh, what sounds fun. I tell you what sounds fun is we're gonna be able to walk to Jenny's ice cream.

Annie: Yeah, Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. From your house.

Ptr. Kevin: Yes. I love getting ice cream with the family. That sounds like fun on a summer night. And no matter how hard emotionally a move is, just ice cream makes it bad-

Annie: Just ice cream. And Jenny's, that bramble berry crisp will heal what hurt you.

Ptr. Kevin: That's right. And my boys tonight, we got football practice for the boys.

Annie: At their new school.

Ptr. Kevin: Yeah.

Annie: Already plugged in. That's Brilliant.

Ptr. Kevin: I love watching them play. That's fun

Annie: Because the girls aren't here on this trip. You should say that.

Ptr. Kevin: The girls are not here.

Annie: You're not speaking about them.

Ptr. Kevin: I love the girls. I love to watch them play too, but, you know, I love just being-

Annie: But they're not in town.

Ptr. Kevin: Right. I love just being there and seeing them have fun and already connect there. So I love the kids' sports as well. It's good. That's awesome. Awesome.

Annie: What do you do for fun? Just so people know. What is fun for you?

Ptr. Kevin: I love to run trails. I love to run trails and not run fast enough to where I can't talk, but I like to run at a pace where I can talk and just tell stories and run with friends. That's fun. Running's not good, but running with friends and-

Annie: Sure.

Ptr. Kevin: ...tell stories. Rea and I do CrossFit so we like that. I like to try to keep up with her.

[crosstalk]

Annie: I'm not messing with her. I'm staying on her good side.

Ptr. Kevin: Me too.

Annie: Well done. We're smart people. Well, thanks for being on the podcast.

[01:22:41] <music>

Outro: Oh, you guys, isn't he just the best? He was the exact right episode to start our Hall of Fun. I hope you loved hearing that story again or for the first time as much as I did. It is such a reminder to me of the power of prayer and a reminder to record who God has been to you. Having Kevin as my pastor has been more than I could have asked or imagined. That was true then and it is still true now. And if you're ever in the area, we'd love to have you on Sunday at Cross Point Church. Just come on, see us and say hi.

So we heard what sounds fun to Kevin, now we get to hear what sounds fun to one of our friends who's listening just like you. All right, Liesel, because the show is called that sounds fun, tell me what sounds fun to you.

Liesel: All right, well I'm Liesel Crystal. I live in a suburb of Chicago called St. Charles. And what sounds fun to me is we're on the cusp of a holiday weekend and we're heading up to the lake in Wisconsin.

Annie: Oh man, that's what all of y'all do up there. Everybody goes to lakes.

Liesel: Lakes, yes. So my father-in-law lives near a very small lake right outside Madison. It is superb. It is quiet. We have one grocery store, it's called the Piggly Wiggly. And my son just wants grandpa time, so they go golf carting, they go to the beach and then we just have our little routines. Ice cream, the same pizza place every time.

Annie: I was literally gonna ask you where you go get ice cream. Where's the spot?

Liesel: It's called Pizza Stop. They have ice cream and pizza.

Annie: Oh. I mean, it's heaven. Is that what you're saying? Y'all have a place that is heaven.

Liesel: It's heaven. It is.

Annie: Ice cream and pizza in the same place.

Liesel: Yeah.

Annie: Fantastic. Oh, so how many times will y'all go in the summer?

Liesel: We try to go up there at least once a month, sometimes more. So we're just really fortunate that we have that opportunity. We have a boat, we have jet skis. So it's just our little sanctuary. It's just two hours north of us, so it's real easy for us to get to. It's so much fun, Annie. It's like become our little haven every summer.

Annie: I love it. Oh, I love it. These are the conversations that make me be like, summer is the best. It's just the best.

Liesel: It truly is. Especially up here in the Chicagoland area where winter just gets to you, we live for this.

Annie: Yes, me too. Okay, when you go this summer and you have the ice cream at Pizza Stop, please just tag me once on Instagram so I can see it.

Liesel: Oh, I will. I will. I definitely will.

Annie: Perfect.

All right, if you need anything else from me, you know I'm embarrassingly easy to find most of the time. Annie F. Downs on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook. All the places you may need me, that's how you can find me. Except not this month because I am on my Summer Sabbath, but I will be back in August. And don't forget you can find the That Sounds Fun Podcast on Instagram @thatsoundsfunpodcast.

I think that's it for me today, friends. Go out or stay home and do something that sounds fun to you. I will do the same. Y'all have a great week and we'll see you back here on Thursday as we continue with our Hall of Fun episode featuring my dear friend Christine D'Clario.