
“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team

For the week of October 7, 2012

Share with others on the Prayer Vigil throughout the week, during our Connections time on Sundays, or using our FaceBook group “First Watch Prayer Vigil.” www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=63044309096 .

31 Prayers - #5

From *31 Days of Prayer* by Ruth and Warren Myers (Multnomah, 1997) – each week, use the prayer and “As You Have Time” features to reflect on the focus for the week.

Pray about your trials and testings

Father, I worship before You as the sovereign God, the Blessed Controller of all things. You always want what is best. You always know what is best, and You’re always able to do what is best for Your obedient, trusting children. Nothing is too hard for You.

I rejoice that You promise to cause all things—even things that are contrary to Your ideal will—to fit into a pattern for good for those who love You. And that this “good” includes becoming more like Jesus! And that somehow my prayers can make a difference in how things turn out and how much I benefit from all that comes my way. Thank You for Your promise, “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you and you will honor Me.”

Give me grace, Lord, to trust You in each of my trials, large or small—to accept each one and cooperate with You so that I’ll grow through it.

Guide me as I bring each problem area to You—my pressures, my finances, my uncertainties, my disappointments and failures (including my failures in relating to people). I trust You to work in my situations and give me practical wisdom in how to handle them. And even more, work in me. I lack power and I don’t know what to do, but my eyes are on You.

Do these same things for _____ and _____ in their trials.

Amen

But I call to God, and the Lord saves me. Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice.

Psalm 55:16-17 NIV

As You Have Time

DON’T BE SURPRISED OR BEWILDERED. Trials are not abnormal experiences (1 Peter 4:12). Whether God actually sends them or simply allows them to happen, they are part of His plan for removing ugly qualities from us and developing beautiful, Christlike lives. That’s why Job could say in the midst of devastating trials, “When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold” (Job 23:10). Centuries later James wrote, “You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful” (James 5:11).

PRAYING IN JESUS’ NAME AND MERITS. “God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name” (Philippians 2:9, NIV). Only through Jesus’ name can we approach God. He died on the cross to pay the full penalty for all our sins and make us acceptable to God. And we received these benefits by faith alone, what Jesus did was enough. Now we do not pray in our own name or worth.

Instead, we approach Him solely in His name, trusting in who He is and what He has done: “Thank You, Lord Jesus, that as a ‘Christ-follower’ I am called by Your noble and wonderful name. By Your undeserved favor, I have been made a member of Your royal family. Now I can approach You boldly, in Your merits alone. What a privileged beggar I am!”

In Coming Weeks: Built Up by the Word of God, Lordship and Protection from Evil, For Love and Against Hindrances.

The Prayer of Expectancy

Remember to use this each week. It is included in the version posted on the [Prayer Vigil](#) page of the website.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray for the Lord to teach you to be more trusting in your own trials and pray specifically for one or two others.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message, “God Doesn’t Believe in Atheists.” Pray specifically for those you know who need to make the “consequential choice” of life with or without God.
- Pray for the practical demonstration of lessons learned from Lon Allison’s LIF@E Time presentations and the current four-week video series on personal evangelism, “Just Walk Across the Room” that started this week. Pray that our witness will increase and that God will produce a harvest as a result.

*Materials from the sermon (podcast, plus pdf versions of sermon outline and PowerPoint notes) are available on the website by Monday

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website (www.evbapt.org) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.