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

For the week of December 30, 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 - #17

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 for God’s Purifying Work

Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit—God of awesome holiness and purity, or power and righteous judgment! I stand in awe of You, in holy dread of disobeying You, for You are a blazing, purifying fire. I also thank You that You are eager to consume everything that detracts from my well-being, my relationships, and my nearness to You.

“Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire? He who walks righteously...” Lord, I long to live righteously every day, all day long. How much I need Your purifying presence to reprove me and purge my life of all that grieves You. Many of Your people likewise need refining fires to reveal and burn out sin. Bring release from the things that bind us—compromise, complacency, tolerance of sin, materialism, love of power, infighting, gossip, lack of spiritual depth. Give each of us a spirit of repentance and power to live our lives with reverent fear of You. Implant deep within me a hatred for sin and an enduring longing to be more like You.

Thank You, Father, that You discipline me, because You want to adorn my character with the purity and beauty of Christ. Enable me to trust Your loving intentions and not to resist You. When You as a refiner of silver, use painful, fiery trials to bring the scum to the top in my life, give me grace to cooperate with You in removing it rather than just stirring it back in,

I praise You that You are full of compassion and that the outcome of Your purifying work is more than worth all You let us go through.

Amen

The Lord...will cleanse...by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire.

Isaiah 4:4, NIV

As You Have Time

A CLEAN HEART. “Our power to bless others and to intercede successfully can only flourish as sins are faced and put away. Sanctification begins with troubling awareness of our own sin. Plead with God today for a ‘spirit of fire’ to uncover and burn out sin in His people, so that they will be blessed and become a blessing to the world.” Andrew Murray

THE GOLD IN TRIALS. How often in our trials our plea is “Lord, quick! Change my situation! Make my life easier.” But His love is set on changing us, on bringing us forth as gold (Job 23:10). Instead of pleading for fast relief, we find it helpful to pray, “Father, change me! Don’t end this trial until You’ve done all You want to do in my life through it.” This is not a noble prayer, but simply a sensible one. Who wants added trials to accomplish what God intends to do in the present trial? Pray along with the sentiments of this unknown author:

Purge me, Lord of my follies, an empty cup let me be
Waiting only Thy blessing, hungry only for Thee.

Can even the Lord pour blessing into a cup that is full?
Put treasure into a locked hand be He ever so bountiful?

Empty me, Lord, and make me hungry only for Thee.
Only Thy bread once tasted, can only satisfy me.

In coming weeks: Love in the Church; the World’s Peoples Who are Still in Darkness; for All Who Profess to be Christians.

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 or in the Touch Points for September 9 when we began this series

PRAYER PROMPTS

- This week’s topic is appropriate as we enter a new year. Repeat the prayer several times during the week, concentrating on God’s purifying work in specific areas of your own life during the coming year, as well as specific individuals for whom you feel led to intercede.
- Prayerfully reflect on the reminders of God’s love, grace and mercy—and the awesome meaning of the Incarnation—from the music and thoughts expressed during Sunday’s year end Hymn Sing
- Pray for the practical demonstration of the Christmas message through this week....individually, in our families, among the Evangel family and especially among those who need to claim the hope and salvation offered by Jesus in their own hearts.

*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.