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

For the week of July 14, 2013

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 .

This series—aimed to support our “Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel” initiative—is based on *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible* by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale House, 2003). We will focus on specific topics that relate to faith, witness and outreach. “The driving force behind this proposal is to increase our evangelistic witness and the impact on our neighborhood and community.” (From the overview document, available at www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf)

Strength of My Heart

Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.

Psalm 73:25-26

Prayer for the Week

Lord, I want to know, see, and experience you in fresh ways so I can truly say that I desire you more than anything on earth! You and you alone are the strength of my heart. You are all that I need, and I am so thankful that you are mine forever. Nothing can separate me from your love. Open my eyes, and grant me fresh vision to constantly see your beauty and your love for me.

Notable Quote

Jesus intends for you to experience the pleasure and reassuring peace of his presence at the core of your life.

Joseph Stowell

Reflection

The psalmist had tested and experienced the beauty, glory, and excellency of the Lord; that is why he could proclaim that there was nothing or no one in all the earth that he wanted or treasured more than God. He had seen God as he truly was—as his shepherd, his counselor, his victory, his refuge, and his sustainer. Therefore, he knew that all his needs and desires were fulfilled in God and that he would always be the strength of his heart and life, even when his health failed or the aging process brought weakness.

If we see and experience Jesus as he is, we, too will value him above every earthly pleasure, possession, or relationship. Though our vision of God is often dim and “we see things imperfectly as in a poor mirror” (1 Corinthians 13:12), we can ask for the spiritual eyes to see the Lord and for our hearts to so experience his presence that we will treasure him and be more thrilled by him than by anything on earth. Dedicate some time [this week] for praising and thanking God that he is and always will be the strength of your heart and yours forever.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Who do you know who needs to take to heart this week’s message as expressed by Joe Stowell? Don’t just keep it to yourself...it is such good news, it **must** be shared with others.
- Continue to pray for our “Stepping Out in Faith” initiative: for the identification of a church planter, for unity and commitment as we seek to bring success to this evangelistic effort by growing ourselves. Take seriously Bill France’s challenge to pray that God will lead 25 adults and 50 children to Evangel by year’s end—a seemingly impossible task. It has already started. Pray that more individuals will visit Evangel and decide to return after their initial visit. Be ready to extend an invitation yourself as we seek the Lord’s blessing to be seed-sowing kingdom builders!
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message from Acts 2* in his series on the church, specifically his suggestions on becoming an “attractive community,” the role that small groups play in that, and your part in the process.
- Pray for the ministry of Vacation Bible School this week, directed this year by Bridgette Ecklund. Pray for God’s blessing each day—for smooth execution of each day’s events, for good health through the week for staff, and particularly for the impact on the children and their families, first that there will be kingdom impact, secondly that some would be attracted to Evangel (as part of the 25/50 challenge).

**A podcast of the sermon will be posted on the website by Monday, as well as PDFs of the sermon notes and PowerPoint.*

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.