

---

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

### For the week of September 8, 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](http://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](http://www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf) )

---

### **A Listening Heart**

Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy. So he said to Samuel, “Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, ‘Yes, Lord, your servant is listening,’” So Samuel went back to bed. And the Lord came and called as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel replied, “Yes, your servant is listening.”

*1 Samuel 3:8-10*

---

#### **Prayer for the Week**

Lord, quiet my heart so that I can hear you. Remove any distractions that would keep me from being open and attentive to what your Spirit might be impressing on my heart and mind. Please make me humble and receptive and willing to answer obediently when you call on me. Your servant is listening.

#### **Notable Quote**

A man prayed and at first he thought prayer lies in talking. But he became more and more quiet until in the end he realized prayer is listening.

*Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855)*

#### **Reflection**

Listening does not come as naturally to many of us as it did to young Samuel. In fact, listening isn’t what we do best. We much prefer to do the talking! It has been estimated that the average woman spends one-fifth of her life talking and speaks about three thousand words a day. For men, the number is less, but not significantly. Yet if we want miracles in our lives and in our loved ones’ lives, if we want God to direct our steps, we need to listen to God’s leading and follow it. The good news is that hearing God isn’t a special privilege reserved only for pastor, priests, or seminary graduates. It’s not just for those who are highly intelligent or especially gifted. You don’t even have to be a grown-up to hear the voice of the Lord if their hearts are willing, humble, and receptive. God has many things to say to you and wants to bless your life with direction and purpose as you hear his voice and follow. All it takes is a listening heart. Ask God for help you tune in to his Spirit’s leading today.

---

#### **PRAYER PROMPTS**

- How would you characterize your prayers? When you talk, are you always asking for something, or also using it to offer praise and adoration? And, as this week’s topics stresses, have you learned the power of prayer as listening? How can your understanding and practice of prayer impact your witness to those who do not yet know Jesus?
- 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!
- Pray for the meeting on Wednesday between several from Evangel and Mark Albrecht, church planting director for our region of Converge MidAmerica. Pray for a unity of purpose and understanding that will prosper Evangel and ensure success for the church plant.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message on “The Church: Beginning and Becoming” as he continues with the eleventh part of this series, this week looking at the letter to the church at Thyatira in Revelation 2.\* Reflect on the letter that Jesus would write to the church in America today—as Pastor Dave suggested, write a letter to Evangel before our next “Conversation with Council” on September 29.

*\*A podcast of the sermon will be posted on the website by Monday, along with pdf’s of the sermon outline and PowerPoint notes*

---

*Touch Points* is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website ([www.evbapt.org](http://www.evbapt.org)) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.