
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of June 8, 2014

This series is aimed to support our "Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel" initiative. It 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, prayer 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)

Cling to God in Prayer

I lift my eyes to you, O God, enthroned in heaven. We look to the Lord our God for his mercy, just as servants keep their eyes on their master, as a slave girl watches her mistress for the slightest signal.

Psalm 123:1-2

Prayer for the Week

O God, enthroned in heaven, I long to have my eyes fixed on you as the psalmist did. Draw me to you, Lord, as I lift my eyes to your throne for your mercy and grace today. Keep me from distractions that would take my eyes from you and make my focus fuzzy. And give me attentiveness to your Holy Spirit's "signals" in my heart and life today.

Notable Quote

I don't think there is anyone who needs God's help and grace as much as I do. Sometimes I feel so helpless and weak. I think this is why God uses me. Because I cannot depend on my own strength, I rely on him twenty-four hours a day . . . all of us must cling to God through prayer.

Mother Teresa (1910-1997)

Reflection

This passage gives us a beautiful word picture of focused, single-hearted devotion, of having our attention wholly focused on the Lord of heaven. The psalmist compares his trust in God with the attentiveness of servants or slaves who hang on every word, watching and waiting for even the slightest signal from their master. As I read these verses, I am reminded that some days, my eyes are looking to everything else but the Lord. How thankful we can be that even at those times, the blood of Jesus cleanses us as we humbly acknowledge our lack of focus on God and our total dependence on him. It is his Spirit within us looking to the Father that draws our hearts to him in prayer and a partnership with him in his mission on earth. What a good place that is to be! The next time the Spirit reminds you that your vision is "out of focus," remember this picture of the servant, and ask God to draw your attention back to him.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- How does Mother Teresa's statement compare to your own experience? Pray for the kind of perspective ("focus") that will help you "rely on him twenty-four hours a day" by using the Prayer of the Week each day.
- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "Let My People Go...I AM the Lord" (Exodus 5:1-3). * Pray for direction in the application of truths and practical lessons.
- Continue to remember one family from your circle of influence for intercession. They could be a neighbor, coworker or relative. Pray for their struggles to be resolved, their health improved and their relationships strengthened. Ask the Lord to bring them to a fuller, closer relationship with Himself in faith and obedience.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection or compassion with others to enable an offer of attendance.
- Continue to pray for our "Stepping Out in Faith" initiative: pray especially this week for follow-up to Joel Jupp's visit. Should the results be positive and he takes on the role of Worship Assistant, pray for a successful partnership with Pastor Dave as we move forward. Continue in prayer for the efforts of Mark Albrecht and Converge MidAmerica to secure the right person to lead a church plant from our facilities, aimed at increasing evangelism in our area.

*A podcast of the sermon, along with PDF files of the sermon outline and PowerPoint notes will be posted on the website, normally 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.