
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of July 6, 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)

The Joy of Following God

Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with scoffers. But they delight in doing everything the Lord wants; day and night they think about his law.

Psalms 1:1-2

Prayer for the Week

God, more than anything, I want to make you happy. I want to do and be all that you planned when you created me. It's your counsel I want to follow, your side I want to be on, and your behavior I want most to imitate. Help me to continually think of you and the words you wrote so that I might experience your joy. May you smile when you think of me.

Notable Quote

Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God.

Leon Henri Marie Bloy

Reflection

Awful advice, crushing consequences, and a raunchy reputation—that's what you can get when you follow worldly counsel and people. What do you get when you follow God? Joy! There is delight in doing what God wants because it is only then that we are doing what we were created to do. We are following the counsel of an all-wise, all-knowing God and experiencing the countless benefits that come with that: We're not harming anyone and being eaten alive with guilt. We're not continually embarrassing ourselves (and those who love us) with our behavior. But how in the world can we do *everything* the Lord wants? By surrendering to him and immersing ourselves in his Word, we will begin to delight in doing what he has planned. Thinking about his law day and night is what brings true joy not only to *our* hearts but also to God's.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- If you know the joy of God's presence, praise him for that and ask for opportunities to share your faith story with someone who needs to know that joy. If you have not been experiencing joy, spend time this week allowing room for God's presence...by devoting time to "waiting on the Lord."
- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "Let My People Go..For I Rule and Will Rescue (Exodus 6:6-8). * 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: praise God that Joel Jupp has joined our staff and pray that God will use him as he partners with Pastor Dave in the area of worship. Remember Joel and his family over the next three weeks as he goes to Asbury Seminary for residency work in his doctoral program. 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.