
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of August 17, 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)

Who Can Compare?

I will praise him from the bottom of my heart: "Lord, who can compare with you? Who else rescues the weak and helpless from the strong? Who else protects the poor and needy from those who want to rob them?"

Psalm 35:10

Prayer for the Week

Oh, Lord, My God, how worthy of praise you are! I praise you from the bottom of my heart. I lift my voice to proclaim who you are, your character, your mighty deeds, your willingness to rescue those who cannot help themselves. I am one of those, Lord, and so I give you praise. Lord, who can compare with you?

Notable Quote

Most of the verses written about praise in God's Word were penned by men and women who faced crushing heartaches, injustice, treachery, slander, and scores of other intolerable situations.

Joni Eareckson Tada

Reflection

Once again David's enemies were on the attack, trying to destroy him not only with spears or javelins but with slander and accusations. In the earlier verses of Psalm 35 he honestly expresses his fears concerning his foes and cries out to God to rescue him and to defeat those who are opposing him. But then David picks up his best weapon of all—worship. As he praises the Lord from the depths of his heart, his attitude goes from discouragement to hope, from desperation to devotion.

When we praise God from the bottom of our hearts, we, too, are consumed with hope in the Lord, who rescues the weak and helpless, protects the poor and needy, and who will do more than we could ask or think on our behalf. His Spirit can open the eyes of our understanding to see, know, and proclaim, "Lord, who can compare with you?" Truly nothing compares with the love, mercy, and saving power of our God.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- What is your response to the crushing heartache, injustice, treachery, slander and other troubles alluded to by Joni Eareckson Tada? Praise God for the example of David and others throughout Scripture. Pray that God will use David's example to help you turn adversity into praise to the One for whom there is no comparison.
- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "Let My People Go—By These Leaders"* (Exodus 6:13-27), as he returns to his series on Exodus after a break for the summer encore series. Pray for direction in the application of truths and practical lessons.
- Pray for the contacts made by Ginny Jupp during VBS, that they will yield fruitful discussions for spiritual development and the possibility of new families becoming part of Evangel.
- 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: for Joel Jupp as he develops his new role as Worship Assistant in partnership with Pastor Dave. 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.