
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of September 14, 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)

A Promised Peace

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Isaiah 26:3

Prayer for the Week

Lord, I am hearing that "list" replaying in my head, and I need your peace for today. I ask you to help me to do these things: to lean on you, to meditate on your character and attributes, and to trust you with all my heart. Thank you for your promise that your perfect peace will guard my heart and mind.

Notable Quote

In Christ we are relaxed and at peace in the midst of the confusions, bewilderments, and perplexities of this life. The storm rages, but our hearts are at rest. We have found peace—at last!

Billy Graham

Reflection

In this verse God's promised peace has two conditions. First, it is for those who trust in him, which means to commit ourselves to the Lord, lean on him, and hope confidently in him. Second, it is for those who fix their thoughts on God. We are often preoccupied and have our minds focused on many other things. Some of us seem to have a tape in our minds that keeps replaying a list of responsibilities, tasks and scheduled activities, problems and burdens, and the tragedies and fearful things going on in the world around us. But when we fix our minds and thoughts on the characters and attributes of the Lord our God, we have something different playing in our minds: the reminder that God is our everlasting rock, our refuge in times of trouble, the Lord Almighty who holds the whole world and each of us individually in his hands. With God as our focus and with our faith firmly fixed on him, we can experience the truth of today's verse: he will keep us in perfect peace and constant peace no matter what happens. It's a promise.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Can you presently claim the peace talked about in this week's selection? If so, praise the Lord for it and pray for the opportunity to tell others how they can also know that peace. If not, ask the Lord to help you do those things mentioned in the prayer: "to lean on you, to meditate on your character and attributes, and to trust you will all heart."
- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Joel Jupp's sermon "After Jesus Left"* (Luke 24:44-53), as he fills in for Pastor Dave. Pray for direction in the application of truths and practical lessons.
- Thank God for Pastor Dave and Jennie, who are away this weekend with their family, celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. Pray for God's blessing on their family at this special time.
- 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 for Joel Jupp as he develops his new role as Worship Leader 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.