
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of December 28, 2014

This will be the last in our series begun in 2013 to support our "Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel" initiative. It has been based on *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible* by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale House, 2003), with themes encouraging prayer, evangelism, and discipleship.

Next week, we'll begin an encore presentation of selections from "A Praying Life" by Paul Miller, which was last used in 2012, to bring us back to focus specifically on developing our prayer lives.

Ending the Year in Praise

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his heavenly dwelling; praise him in his mighty heaven! Praise him for his mighty works; praise his unequalled greatness! Praise him with a blast of the trumpet; praise him with the lyre and harp! . . . Let everything that lives sing praises to the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Psalm 150:1-3, 6

Prayer for the Week

Lord, I join those in your heavenly dwelling to worship you for your mighty works. I praise your unequalled greatness. I praise you with my whole heart for how you've sustained me in the year that is ending, for your faithfulness, love, and provision. Thank you for how you'll be with me each day in the new year. Let everything that lives sing praises to the Lord!

Notable Quote

To the ear of God everything he created makes exquisite music, and man joined in the paean of praise until he fell, then there came in the frantic discord of sin. The realization of redemption brings man by way of the minor note of repentance into tune with praise again.

Oswald Chambers

Reflection

What a way to end the year—praising the Lord for his mighty works, his unequalled greatness. This psalm, also called the last hallelujah, invites us to join the praises to God in the holy place. The praise is not half-hearted; it is full-force praise with musical instruments—tambourine, stringed instruments, the lyre, the cymbals—and dancing, praise from everyone. When we offer God praise, we're doing what we were created for, even if we're not the best musician or dancer. All of us can raise our voices singing hymns, choruses, and new songs to the Lord. How has God blessed you, your family, friends, or church this year? What mighty works has he accomplished? What progress have you made in an area in which you've struggled? What prayers has God answered? What new attributes or aspects of God have you discovered or experienced in the past year? Lift up your voice or whatever instrument you play, and praise the Lord for these specific things as you pray this psalm aloud.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Go through the questions at the end of the reflection and read the psalm aloud each day this week.
 - Reflect on the Christmas Eve service and the music and thoughts from the hymn sign this Sunday. Pray that the Lord will lead you to ways to be filled with praise before the Lord and as you connect with different people this week, all in preparation for the New Year.
 - 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. 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.
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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.