

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team

For the week of September 25, 2016

When You Are Afraid about the Outcome of a Project

The current series of Touch Points is taken from “Time Out in Tough Times,” from the editors of Guide-posts (MIF Books, 2009). The reflections come from a variety of writers.

READ: “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” *John 8:32*

REFLECT: I’ve been afraid about many things as far back as I can remember—even after I became a Christian and asked God to fill me with His Spirit.

For example, one morning I was finishing a book project. I woke up afraid about it. I prayer that God would remove the fear. But He didn’t. In fact, it got worse. So I practically redid the whole thing. When I still felt uneasy, I remembered that Dr. Paul Tournier had once said that fear is sometimes a message from God telling us to listen and find the meaning of it so we can grow spiritually.

So I asked myself, “What am I afraid will happen when this book comes out?” And the answer came almost at once: I’m very open about my imperfections, and I’m afraid that some Christians may reject me.

Although I still felt the fear, I decided that I would rather be rejected by some than not try to help people in pain. I surrendered the outcome to God.

Keith Miller

PRAY: *Lord, thank You that courage is not dependent on our getting rid of all our fear, but on offering it to You and trusting You.*

DO: Ask God the root of your fear and listen for His truth that will set you free.

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. Copies can be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website (evbapt.org/archive). The full Pause to Pray is used in our Wednesday prayer time. An abbreviated version appears in the Sunday bulletin.
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message “On and On” (1 Kings 17:8-16)—that all will help as you go through this week; for your own walk with Christ, and that you may be a blessing and witness to people you have contact with during the week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services and to become engaged in spiritual discovery with the people of Evangel in other ways as well. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection and compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.
- Pray that God will bless our succession planning efforts (Pastor Dave and Jennie anticipate retirement, tentatively late spring 2017). Pray for God’s direction as several people from the Planning Group analyze two recent offers for purchase and as the Search Committee reflects on the discussion at the Planning Group meeting earlier this week; both efforts in preparation for the Open forum to be held October 16. (Note the change in date to accommodate the schedules of key people. October 9 will be used for a Concert of Prayer in preparation for this important Forum).

** A podcast of the sermon and PDF files of other material will be posted on the website by Monday.*

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website (evbapt.org), with printed copies available in the lobby.

To be included in the weekly e-mail, use the Contact Us form on the website and request “add me to the Prayer Vigil list.”