

**“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**  
**For the week of July 2, 2017**

**The Joy of Following God (Psalm 1:1-2)**

*As Evangel faces change in 2017, we recognize how important prayer has been—and will continue to be—as we participate in the unfolding of God’s plan. Our Touch Points reflections come from “The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible” by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale, 2003)..*

**READ:** 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. *Psalm 1:1-2*

**REFLECT:** 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 accomplishing our purpose. 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.

**PRAY:** *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 most want 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.*

**QUOTE:** Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God. *Léon Henri Marie Bloy*

**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](http://evbapt.org/archive)).
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message\* “Let My People Go: I Will Work Through Them” (Exodus 4:10-17)—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.
- Continue to prayer for the succession planning process as we move through the transition of our property from Evangel to Vineyard Church of DuPage in the coming weeks, with the formal transfer on August 1. The Negotiating Team, Church Council, and others are attending to a myriad of details. Pray for wisdom, energy, and attention to detail as there is much to do! This week, pray particularly for preparations for next Sunday’s membership meeting to approve the Bylaws and elect the initial Board of Directors. (We will convert to a foundation to disburse proceeds from the sale to missions over a period of up to ten years).

\* a podcast and other materials from the service will be posted on the website by Monday.

*Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website ([evbapt.org](http://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.”*