

RAISE THE MARK

February 2005

SHOUT FOR JOY

to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is He, who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

PSALM 100

Choosing Joy on the Journey...

We always thank God for all of you, mention you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. Thes. 1:2-3

*Be **joyful** always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Thes. 5:16*

*Shout with **joy** to God, all the earth! Psalm 66:1*

*I have told you this so that my **joy** may be in you and that your **joy** may be complete. John 15:11*

*Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my **joy** and my delight. I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God. Psalm 43:4*

*Surely you have granted him eternal blessings and made him glad with the **joy** of your presence. Psalm 21:6*

*Consider it pure **joy**, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. James 1:2-5*

*Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious **joy**. 1 Peter 1:8*

*If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my **joy** complete by being likeminded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Phil. 2: 1-5*

- Praise god for the specific ways He has cared for you these last few weeks.
- Pray that we would choose joy and faithful obedience in the midst of trial.
- Praise God for specific ways you are seeing Him perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.
- Ask god to expose pride in your life and confess areas He shows you.
- Thank God for specific ways that He has “pruned your branches” as He increasingly conforms you to His image.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, *holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col. 3:8-17

- Ask God to reveal to you areas where your mind is set on things on the earth and not above.
- Acknowledge and confess ways you are walking in immorality, impurity, worldly passion, evil desire, and greed.
- Confess ways you have allowed anger to rule you.
- Confess any bitterness, gossip, slander, or people pleasing He is exposing in your life.

Rejoice in the Lord always. *I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* Phil 4:4-7

- Pray for compassion, wisdom, and sensitivity to the people God puts in our midst that don't know Him (your top 10)
- Pray for those in our body with special needs that you are aware of (marriages, health, family, personal lives).

- Pray that God would have our hearts and we would be people completely yielded to him.
- Pray that you would increasingly share life with others in authentic relationships where encouragement, reproof, correction, celebration and love are present.
- Pray that you would more fully discover, develop, and deploy the spiritual gift given you and pray that you would increasingly use your gift to encourage and edify others.

Everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit moved him came and brought the Lord's contributions for the work of the tent of meeting and for all its service and for the holy garment. Exodus 35:21

- Pray that everyone around this local body would avail their hearts to Christ that He might fully direct them in their consideration of our facility opportunity.
- Pray that we would soon have to, as Moses did, issue “a command, and a proclamation throughout the camp, saying ‘Lord no man or woman any longer perform work for the contributions of the sanctuary’. Thus the people were restrained from bringing any more, for the material they had was more than enough for all of the work, to perform it.”
- Pray that while we wait for the property to be built we would not wait in our passion for ministry.

If we claim to be without sin, *we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* 1 John 1:8-9

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob. Psalm 24: 3-6

Do not participate in the unfruitful deed of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. Ephesians 5:11-13

- Our time for you to share specific areas in which you personally are struggling.
- Time for you to openly confess and “expose to the light” any area you are entangled in sin and for the body to pray for you.

