

RAISE THE MARK

November 2005

I will extol You, my God, O King, and I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of Your majesty and on Your wonderful works, I will meditate. Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts, and I will tell of Your greatness. They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness and will shout joyfully of Your righteousness. The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and great in loving kindness. The Lord is good to all, and His mercies are over all His works. All Your works shall give thanks to You, O Lord and your godly ones shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and talk of Your power; to make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts and the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord sustains all who fall and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His deeds. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them. The Lord keeps all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.

PSALM 145

AS YOU CONTINUE TO MEDITATE ON THIS PSALM:

- Praise God for specific ways you have experienced His greatness, His power, and His grace and mercy.
- Acknowledge ways He is directing your life.
- Praise Him for areas where He is challenging and growing you.
- Praise for His provision in your life.
- Ask God to show you people to whom you can tell Him about.

CONFESSION/EVALUATION

O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my every thought when far away. You chart the path ahead of me and tell me where to stop and rest. Every moment you know where I am. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. You both precede and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to know! I can never escape from your spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the place of the dead, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night—but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are both alike to you. You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—and how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. How precious are your thoughts about me, O God! They are innumerable! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up in the morning, you are still with me! —PSALM 139: 1-18

ASK GOD TO SHOW YOU IF THERE ARE ANY WAYS IN WHICH:

- You may not be trusting in His plan.
- You are not responding to Christ's call on your life for obedience.
- You are staying on the fringe and not connecting, serving or stepping forward.
- You call yourself a follower but not studying or growing.
- You are not being intentional to tell others of God's grace.
- You are valuing yourself based on what you have, your position, or status in the world.
- You should have pride, bitterness, gossip, or people pleasing exposed to others in your life.

How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit! When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;" and You forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him. You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. —PSALM 32: 1-7

SUPPLICATION

For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

—EPHESIANS 1:15-19

- Pray for marriages in our Body that they would be growing in oneness, intimacy, and commitment to love (as an action).
- Pray for singles in our Body that they would be full of His joy, passionate in their commitment to Christ, and content in their circumstances.
- Pray for our kids that "the eyes of their hearts will be enlightened" and they will be drawn to Christ and deepen in their passion to pursue Him. They would take this faith as their own and parents would model it well.
- Pray specifically and by name for your top-10 that the Lord would be adding to our number day-by-day those who are being saved.
- Pray for our elders, staff, and leaders for wisdom, protection, discipline, purity, humility, and patience.
- Pray for God's continued direction and leading for use of our property.
- Spend time in prayer and praise for those in our Body with specific needs and praises for which you are aware.

FAMILY TIME