

# RAISE MÄRK

April 2006

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Pray that our heart and souls would have a deep and devoted inclination to God and His Word. Pray that we would *know* without that, nothing else will happen of any value in our lives. Pray that we would want to know God, read His Word and draw near to Him. Ask the Father to give you this heart. Psalm 119:36 teaches us to pray, “Incline my heart to Your testimonies and not to gain.”

Ask the Lord to lead you to humble yourself by requesting prayer from others where you are consistently being defeated by sin. Proverbs 28:13 tells us, “He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.” Pray that the Lord would give you humility and boldness to seek prayer from others tonight.

Pray to have the eyes of your heart opened, so that when you go to God’s word you see what is really there and not just your own ideas. Ask the Father to open your eyes. Psalm 119:18 teaches us to pray, “Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law.”

Pray for your heart to be enlightened with the “wonders” God’s word reveals to it. Pray that you would see God’s will in them and not just interesting facts. Ask God to enlighten, lead and stir your heart in all things. Ephesians 1:18 teaches us to pray, “That the eyes of your heart may be enlightened.”

Pray that your heart would not be fragmented and that no part of it would remain in the dark. Pray that your heart would be united for God. Psalm 86:11 teaches us to pray, “O Lord, I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.”

Pray that as the Lord stirs your heart you would respond in obedience. Pray that you would be as Samuel who replied to the Lord’s leading, “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.” (1 Samuel 3:9)

Ask God to allow you to examine yourself, judge yourself rightly, and prepare your heart to receive the Lord’s supper properly. Psalm 139:23-24 teaches us to pray, “Search me O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my anxious thoughts and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.”

Pray that all your engagement with the Word of God and the work of His Spirit in answer to your prayers, would bring transformation in you so that you are satisfied with God alone and not with the world. Psalm 90:14 teaches us to pray, “O satisfy us in the morning with Your lovingkindness, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.”

Ask the Lord to give you boldness in giving testimony to God’s good work, favor and grace in your life so that others might be encouraged and long for intimacy with Him. Psalm 145:6 tells us that “Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts, and I will tell of Your greatness.” Pray that God would give you boldness tonight to share of His awesome acts.

Pray that you would be strong in joy, not just happy with circumstances. Pray that you would have endurance in the face of threats or adversity. Ephesians 3:16 teaches us to pray, “That God would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man.”

Pray that your strength in Christ will produce good deeds for others so that the glory of God will be seen in your life. Colossians 1:10 teaches us to pray, “That we will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord . . . bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

Pray all this “in Jesus’ name,” because God gives these things to your soul only because Jesus died for you and removed the wrath of God so that the Father might “freely give me all things.” (Romans 8:32)

*Thanks to John Piper whose “How to Pray for the Soul” was most helpful as I prepared this guide to prayer. More thanks to the Spirit of God who gave us the Word that instructs the likes of men attentive to Him.*