

# RAISE THE MARK

JULY 2006

## REFINING OUR FOCUS

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* **ROMANS 5:1-5**

## PRAISE GOD FOR:

- Hope we have through Jesus Christ.
- Trials in your life God is using to refine your character.
- Specific ways God has protected, guided, and directed you.
- Specific ways God has provided for us as a church and ways He is refining us.
- God's provision for a facility and the imminent ground breaking of Phase 2.

## RECONCILED

*For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.* **ROMANS 5:6-11**

*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.* **ROMANS 12:1-2**

- Examine and confess ways your heart strays from walking with Christ.
- Confess any bitterness, gossip, or people pleasing God is exposing in your life.
- Acknowledge any conflict you are avoiding or forgiveness you need to seek.
- Acknowledge & confess ways you are caught up in the "busyness" of life.

## USEFUL

*Let love be without hypocrisy; abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.* **ROMANS 12:9-13**

- Pray that our marriages would honor Christ.
- Pray that our singles would be encouraged and nourished in their walk with Christ .
- Pray for those around the world experiencing persecution and hardship.
- Pray for those in your midst that do not know Christ (Top 10).
- Pray for those in our body experiencing physical or financial struggles.

## COMMUNION

*For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ. So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous.* **ROMANS 5:17-19**

*Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your loving kindness; according to the greatness of your compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness, let the bones which You have broken rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.* **PSALMS 51:1-10**

## TRANSPARENT

*Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds 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**

*Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."* **JAMES 4:13**

**THIS IS OUR TIME FOR YOU TO SHARE SPECIFIC AREAS IN WHICH YOU ARE PERSONALLY STRUGGLING OR EXPERIENCING VICTORY.**