

RAISE THE MARK

MAY 2008

Welcome to Raise the Mark! Please introduce yourself to those around you.

HE IS GOD AND NOT LIKE ME

Praise the LORD. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him! The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. The LORD sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground. Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music to our God on the harp. He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

PSALM 147: 1-11

- Thank God that He is not like us.
- Thank God for His creation. Thank God that He knows everything.
- Thank God and acknowledge that He knows where you are and that everyone is broken and in pain.
- Ask God to help you trust in no other provision other than the provision of His action.
- Thank God for how in past days He has cared for you.
- Thank God for your salvation.
- Ask God to help you have wisdom to never move where you know He cannot bless and provide for your needs

WISDOM BRINGS TREASURE

Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud: "To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all

*mankind. You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding. Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness. All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse. To the discerning all of them are right; they are faultless to those who have knowledge. Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her. "I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power. By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just; by me princes govern, and all nobles who rule on earth. I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity. My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full. **PROVERBS 8:1-21***

- Ask God to fill your heart with His wisdom.
- Admit and declare your need for God and His truth.
- Ask that you would remove all barriers to spending time with God in His Word.
- Confess the barriers that have taken the place of running to God's truth in the Bible.
- Thank God that His promises are not empty words.
- Thank God for the promise that "He is better than gold"
- Ask God to instruct your heart and that you would listen.
- Ask God to counsel you in the areas of greatest rebellion and pride.
- Trust that God has your interest in mind as He calls you to full devotion.
- Admit where you have lived without God's instruction being active.

YOU HEAR ME

*I cry to you, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living." Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need; rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me. Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name. Then the righteous will gather about me because of your goodness to me. **PSALM 142:5-7***

- Thank God that He listens to you.
- Thank God that you can speak honestly and He can handle the truth.
- Thank God for how He knows and understands persecution, hurt, and loneliness.
- Thank God that He is the answer and bring Him your needs.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

SPEAK

*One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. **PSALM 145:4-7***

- Declare His goodness in recent days, and confess the needs in your life.