

Feb. 22 '09 **Straight Talk** **John 17, Mark 3:13, Matt. 6**

A walk with Jesus begins with prayer. It is sustained and flourishes through prayer. The only recorded thing the disciples asked Jesus to teach them was how to pray. From His example, they saw and understood the power connected to prayer. Jesus prayed for Himself and then for His disciples. He made sure His connection to the Father was strong first. We need to get the signal right between God and us. Rejoice over miracles but rejoice more over a right relationship with Jesus, it is the most valuable thing we have. How are we taking care of it? If we want a closer walk with Him, we need a closer talk. Repetitious prayer won't work. Real communication means we need to listen too. It's not about what we see with our eyes; it's about what we hear with our heart. **2 Cor. 5:7**. Our relationship with God needs to be our whole life, not just a part of it. God wants a relationship with us **2 Peter 3:9**. He calls us to be His friends, to be in relationship with Him to be with Him and then to go out. The order is important. Many of us are going out in Jesus name without first being with Him and we wonder why we aren't getting the results we expect. Talking with Jesus will dictate every aspect of our lives. Are we still enough during our prayer time to hear what He has to say? **Psalms 25** says He will lead us, guide us, and teach us if we will let Him.

Jesus implemented two specific things in His life out of which everything else flowed. 1) He talked to God about people and 2) He talked to people about God. If we would do these two things we would see miracles too. God wants some things for His church. He wants His church to sense His glory, **John 17:22**. It's in our oneness, our unity. (**Psalms 133**). He wants us to follow His word **Jn.17:8**. If we begin to doubt God we need to check the level of input from God's word. (**Rom. 10:17**) God wants His church to become united in His love. Our natural love has a limit. His love is given us through the Holy Spirit. **Rom. 5:5** we need avail ourselves of that supply. He wants His church to go forth in His mission **v.17,18**. We need to talk to people about God and talk to God about people. There needs to be a consistency in our lives in this area. **John 3:16,17**. It's a natural thing to talk about the people who are important to us, if we begin to talk to God about them, we will begin to talk to them about Him; an inflow for an outflow.

God wants His church to experience His joy. **Psalms 16:11**. Where is your joy level?

As Christians we need to reload, reuse, rejoice. We go to church or CARE group to reload, God reuses us when we pour into others and the end result is we rejoice in our relationship with Him. Has God been able to use you? Do you need to be reloaded? Then rejoice!!