

**Mar. 1 '09 Unpacking our prayers Psalm 25:1-5; Matt. 6:9;14,15**

Have we thrown our lot in with God? Is Jesus our only hope or is He one among many? When was the last time we stepped out in faith believing Him? God touches our heart (show me) in order to touch our mind (teach me) in order to use us (guide me). Is my personal relationship with God wilting or blooming? Prayer is not a one way street or a monologue, it is a dialogue. What is my prayer life like? We need **Relationships** with God and with others. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray because they understood His power was a result of His relationship with the Father. Jesus says our Father not My Father. When a relationship wilts its generally because communication is not happening. Prayer isn't just a private thing; it needs to be corporate thing because there is power in agreement with people of like faith. Sitting in a pew does not guarantee a relationship with Jesus. **Matt.18:19**. Healthy relationships require a forgiving spirit. Sin is a debt; it needs to be handled or it will overtake us. Payment needs to be made. That happens through a born again experience. **2 Cor. 13:5**. Our relationships with other affects our relationship with God **Matt. 5:23,24**. Forgiveness needs to be given before we can receive it. We have **Responsibilities** towards God. All that we do needs to bring honour to His name. **John 12:32**. if what we are doing as born again believers does not honour Christ, we need to either change our character or stop calling ourselves Christian. Are we hastening God's Kingdom by our actions? We need to resign our agenda for His. Are we doing what He has asked us to do? We spend a lot of our prayer-time on **Requests** for what we want. We often seek His hands more than His face. What we need to do is just take His trustworthy hand and follow where He leads. The darkness is getting darker. Many of us are plugged in to Jesus, we are saved, but are we surrendered to Him; is He our Lord? We need to let Him touch us. As the darkness increases we will shine; and we will shine brighter as our relationship with Jesus blossoms, and as we exercise our privilege/responsibility of prayer. Are you in relationship with Jesus? Is it blossoming or wilting? It comes down to dialogue, two-way conversation, intimacy. What a wonderful thing to be known as a man after God's own heart! David won his victories because he inquired of the Lord **1 Sam. 23**. Jesus paid our debt and gives us the victory. Do we even realize we need a bail out? All we have on our own is not enough. **Is. 64:6**. We need Him to bail us out. Exercise your privilege and dialogue with Christ now.