

HEART2HEART



Being a Father Successful Father

In honor of
Father's Day, I want
to share four keys to
being a successful
father. These are four
things that my father did
as he raised me and that I
tried to do when raising my
own children.

The first key to being a successful father is *to be a father of*

prayer. Your prayers help give direction to your children's lives. Prayer helps keep your children open to talk to God themselves, to confess their sins to Him, and to repent. Prayer helps keep children pure in the midst of a promiscuous society. And being a father who prays with his family is the greatest legacy you can leave your children.

If you're going to teach your children how to pray, you need to have a devotional time in your home. Someone once said, "A family *altar* would *alter* many families," and I believe that is true.

When my children were young, we had a devotional time — a time when we read the Bible together and prayed together as a family. I know my children have read through the Bible at least five times, because they did that with us during our devotions. Bringing the family together to read the Bible and pray is one key to being a successful father.

A second key to being a successful father is *to be a father of play*. I once saw a cartoon in which a boy in a baseball uniform, holding a bat and a ball in each hand, said to his father, "Either play with me or trade me." Sometimes fathers get so wrapped up in providing for the family and in administering discipline that they never stop to play with the family.

Playtime is important. During playtime, you can teach valuable character lessons to your children. Playtime can teach them how to have self-esteem and respect for other people. Playtime can teach them to have a good attitude even when things in life don't go their way or when things in life seem unfair.

Playing with your children can also make life fun. You can teach your children how to laugh and enjoy life. The Word of God says that laughter does good like a medicine (Prov. 17:22). And, of course, playing with your children creates good memories for them and you that will last a lifetime.

A third key to being a successful father is *to be a father of purpose*. Teach your children the importance of reaching their highest potential. Show them the consequences of making wrong choices and right choices, and teach them not to blame others for their own mistakes. Helping your children understand their eternal purpose and the plan God has for their life is one of the most important things you can do as a father.

A fourth key to being a successful father is *to be a father of praise*. Affirm your children regularly. Tell them they're valuable and that you believe in them.

Keep in mind that some children need more praise than other children. If you have more than one child, you must realize that they won't be alike. Each child has his own set of talents and abilities. No child should have to measure up to another child. Instead, each should measure up to his own potential. And praise will bring out the best in each child.

Encourage your children to be the best they can be. When my kids were growing up, I always told them, "Daddy loves you and Jesus loves you. And with you and God together, you can be whatever you want to be."

A little boy went to his father one day and said, "Daddy, what's God like?" His father said, "God's like love, sunshine, and all the good things you know." And the little boy smiled, looked up at his dad, and said, "Then, Daddy, God must be a lot like you." No sweeter words could be spoken to a father, because a child's view of God will largely be a reflection of how he views his own father.

Sadly, some people have a problem trusting their Heavenly Father because they never had an earthly father they could trust. Some people have a problem believing the good things the Word of God says about them because their earthly father never praised them.

I encourage and challenge you to be a father of *prayer*, a father of *play*, a father of *purpose*, and a father of *praise*. If you follow these four simple keys, your children will see their Heavenly Father in the things you do and say, and you will truly be a successful father.

Kennet Hagin N

— Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr.

Kenneth E. Hagin Tap Into the Healing Flow!

God has the power to heal. Learn how to activate that healing power by using your faith to tap into the healing flow!

Kenneth Hagin Jr.

Obtaining the Full Measure of God's **Blessing**

If someone told you that praising God was a key to receiving increased blessings in your life, would you begin to praise God consistently — on a con-

tinual basis? It's time to discover the power of praise!



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Seed Thoughts

Lynette Hagin shares from her heart as she answers questions from readers concerning the issues many of us face in life.

From the Archives

Brother Hagin continues his account of how he was healed by the power of God.

F.A.I.T.H. Academy Kids' Page

(F-earless, A-nointed, I-nward-Led, T-rustworthy H-eirs of God)

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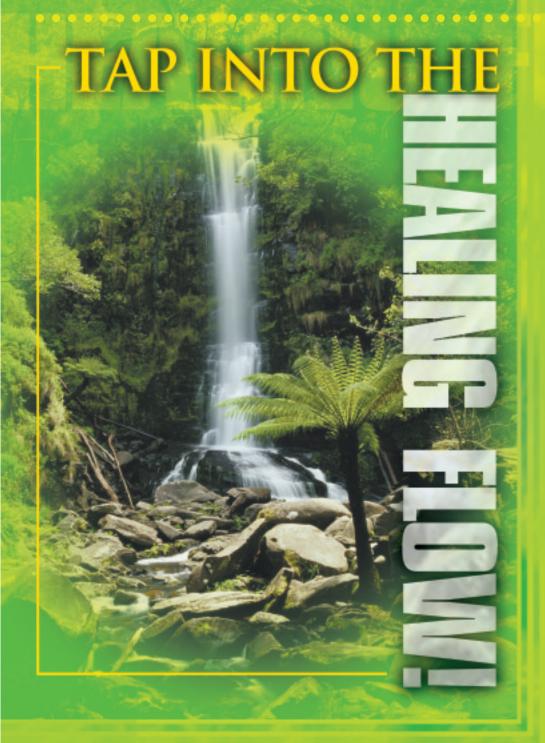
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If you have a need and would like to have a concerned prayer partner agree with you for your need to be met according to the Word of God, call Kenneth Hagin Ministries, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (CST) at (918) 258-1588, Ext. 2280.

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If you believe God has the power to heal, and are wondering how to activate that healing power, it's time for you to discover how to use your faith to tap into the healing flow!

Kenneth E. Hagin

he healing power of God is a tangible anointing, and certain spiritual laws govern the operation of this power. Faith plays an important part in activating the power and receiving healing through the healing anointing. Faith enables you to tap into the healing flow!

In this article, we'll look at activating the anointing and tapping into the healing flow of God's divine power.

Many times we have formed our own opinion of how we thought the anointing should work. But the only way to find out how this anointing to heal operates and how it is activated is to study the ministry of Jesus and see what happened concerning the healing anointing in His ministry.

Mark's Gospel gives a clear, concise picture of Jesus ministering with the anointing and how the anointing works.

MARK 5:25-30

25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that VIRTUE HAD GONE OUT OF HIM....

The King James Version says "virtue" had gone out of Jesus. Well, Jesus wasn't anointed with virtue; Acts 10:38 tells us that Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power! In most translations, the word "power" is used instead of "virtue." Even some margins of the King James Version list the word "power" as another word for "virtue."

We realize that the New Testament wasn't originally written in English; it was written in Greek.

And the Greek word for *virtue* in Mark 5:30 is "dunamis" and is translated as *power* in other places throughout the New Testament. That's where we get our English word "dynamite."

Power went out of Jesus when the woman with the issue of blood touched the hem of His garment! It was "dynamite" power! So it wouldn't do any harm to the Scripture to read Mark 5:30 this way: "Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him. . . ."

Let's look again at the text in Mark chapter 5.

MARK 5:30-34

30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue [power] had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? 31 And his disciples said unto him,

Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? 32 And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.

33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Verse 30 says that power had gone out of Jesus. But what caused that power to go out of Him? That healing power, or the healing anointing, didn't just flow out to anyone and everyone. For example, Mark Chapter 5 says a multitude was present, thronging (or crowding around) Jesus. A multitude was touching Jesus, pressing in round about Him, yet the power didn't flow out to them.

But when the woman pressed in through the crowd and touched the hem of Jesus' garment, the power did flow out to her. Jesus asked, "Who touched My clothes?" The disciples answered Jesus, "... Thou seest the MULTITUDE THRONGING THEE..." (v. 31).

So we know the anointing didn't flow out from Jesus just because someone touched Him, because a multitude was thronging Him, and the power didn't flow out from Jesus into them. Then what caused the power to flow out of Jesus into this woman? The Bible said it was her *faith*. Jesus said, "... Daughter, thy FAITH hath made thee whole..." (v. 34).

Out of the more than fifteen documented healings under the ministry of Jesus in the four Gospels, this account of the woman with the issue of blood is the only one that specifically talks about the power, or the healing anointing, flowing out of Jesus to heal an *individual*.

Yet on the other hand, it is either stated or implied *many* times that power flowed from Jesus into the sick and *they* — multitudes or crowds — were made well. Matthew chapter 14 says that a crowd of diseased people sought to touch the hem of Jesus' garment, and "... as many as touched were made perfectly whole" (v. 36).

MATTHEW 14:34-36

34 And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret.
35 And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all

Jesus, they came to Him seeking to touch the hem of His garment" (Matt. 14:35.36).

Well, what did they know about Him? They knew that Jesus was anointed! In Luke 4, we see Jesus reading from Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me..." (v. 18). Jesus had announced publicly that He was anointed to preach and to heal.

When the people heard of Jesus, they had knowledge of Jesus, and they believed what they'd heard. Then they "... brought unto him all that were diseased; And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole" (Matt. 14:35,36).

Some people didn't believe that Jesus was anointed to preach and to heal.

MARK 6:1-6

1 And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him.

Faith enables you to tap into the healing flow!

that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased; 36 And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

You see, one individual can tap into the healing anointing by faith, or a whole crowd can tap into that power by faith. I want you to notice again, however, that faith is involved. Notice Matthew 14:35 says, "... WHEN the men of that place had KNOWLEDGE of him. . . ."

You see, you can't believe beyond actual knowledge. That's where so many people miss it. They try to believe beyond their actual knowledge of the Word. Actually, faith begins where the will of God is known. It says, "When they had knowledge of

- 2 And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying....
- 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? AND THEY WERE OFFENDED AT HIM.
- 4 But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.
- 5 AND HE COULD THERE DO NO MIGHTY WORK, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.
- 6 And he marvelled because of their unbelief....

Someone may ask, "Well, if Jesus was anointed with this healing power, why didn't the power just work, any-

way, whether anyone believed it or not?"

Notice verse 5 doesn't say, "Jesus would there do no mighty work." It says, "Jesus could there do no mighty work." Even though Jesus was anointed to heal, He couldn't heal in that situation.

the case, everyone who was in unbelief would be made whole! But, no, Jesus said, "Your *faith* has made you whole; go in peace and be whole of your plague" (Mark 5:34).

There is a close connection between *believing* what Jesus (or

One individual can tap into the healing anointing by faith or a whole crowd can tap into that power by faith.

Why couldn't Jesus heal? Mark 6:6 tells us.

Mark 6:6

6 And he marvelled because of their UNBELIEF.

Unbelief stops the flow of the power of God!

In Mark chapter 5, Jesus didn't say to the woman with the issue of blood, "Woman, your unbelief has made you whole." I mean, if that were

God's Word) says and *receiving* from Him.

We need to establish the fact that the anointing, the healing power of God, doesn't just flow out promiscuously, so to speak. In other words, it doesn't just flow out to anyone. Why? Because *faith* activates the power!

The woman with the issue of blood was instantly healed, but many times healing is gradual. Mark 16:18 says,

"... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they SHALL RECOVER."

If you receive an instant manifestation of healing, thank God for it. But if you don't, don't turn off the switch of faith! Keep saying, "The healing power of God is working in me," and keep the switch of faith turned on!

Notice what Jesus said to the woman with the issue of blood in Mark Chapter 5. Yes, the power, or healing virtue, flowed into her. In fact, she was the only one in the crowd the power flowed into. But Jesus said, "Daughter, *thy faith* has made thee whole" (Mark 5:34).

What caused that power to flow out of Jesus into her? *Her faith!* The woman with the issue of blood learned to tap into the healing flow! Her faith made a demand on the healing power, and that anointing flowed into her and effected healing in her body. Her faith made her whole!

Learn to tap into the healing flow of God's power for yourself and then keep the switch of faith turned on.

Your faith can make you whole too!



What You Don't Know Could Keep You **Needlessly Bound**

Did you know that the healing anointing -

- Is transmitted through various methods, one of which is the laying on of hands?
- Works in conjunction with a person's faith to effect the desired result?
- Is powerful enough to drive out sickness and disease and destroy any yoke of bondage in a person's life?

Read Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin's book *The Healing Anointing* and learn how to cooperate with the healing power of God — then receive what belongs to you!

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SEED THOUGHTS Trom Bynette

The Lord will guide you always: he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

— Isaiah 58:11 (NIV)



Dear Lynette:

A few years ago, my father passed away at an old age. He had a long illness, so we knew it was coming. But I still went through a time of grieving. He had been a Christian for years, so I knew he was in Heaven. But the leaders and people in the church where I was attending at the time thought it was wrong that I wasn't shouting for joy. One person kept saying "hallelujah" every time he heard of my father's death. I know we aren't supposed to stay in a state of grieving, but doesn't God allow us to miss our loved one? I was glad my father was in Heaven, and I knew I would see him again. At the same time, I missed him and couldn't share my feelings with anyone in the church.

C.W

In recent years, there has been a lot of controversy concerning this issue. I believe this controversy originally arose because many people became so distraught at the death of their loved one that a spirit of grief took hold of them, causing them mental, emotional, and physical harm. Certainly, a child of God should not allow a spirit of grief to come upon him or her after the loss of a loved one. First Thessalonians 4:13 says, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." This scripture does not say that we should not sorrow, but that we should not sorrow as those whose loved ones have died not knowing Jesus as their Savior.

Certainly, you will miss a loved one after his or her death. Tears may come at the thought of your not being able to see him or her again on this earth. These are natural and normal God-given emotions. Someone once said, "Tears are God's safety valve." In other words, tears release emotions in a way that nothing else can.

I have observed people who were told that they should not cry at the death of a loved one. I have watched their emotions remain bottled up for many years, causing them severe mental oppression until the emotions were released. I cannot express the relief I witnessed when I told one

individual that it's okay to cry. Tears brought comfort and were a necessary part of the healing process. I even sat and cried with the person because Romans 12:15 says, "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

I'm reminded of a story I heard concerning a husband who had lost his wife of many years. Someone asked him, "Who was of most comfort to you at the loss of your wife?" The man replied, "My neighbor's four-year-old daughter." Puzzled by the answer, the friend asked, "What did the little girl say that comforted you so much?" The husband replied, "She did not say anything. However, she crawled up in my lap and cried with me." In the death of a loved one, sometimes we just need someone to be there for us and cry with us.

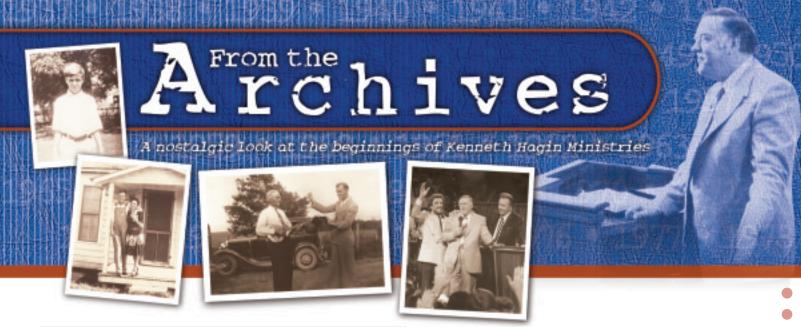
Let me reiterate that we should not let a spirit of grief come upon us, but I believe that many Christians have gone in the ditch on the other side of the road and have put people in bondage over missing their loved ones.

Time will heal the hurt caused by the loss of a loved one. You will never forget your father, but the pain will decrease as the years pass. I would encourage you to think of the good times you spent with your father. Sharing stories and memories often help the healing process as well. And isn't it great that one day you will have a glorious reunion in Heaven!

Lynette

Send your questions to Seed Thoughts, Attention: Lynette Hagin, P.O. Box 50126, Tulsa, OK 74150-0126, or E-mail your questions to: seedthoughts@rhema.org. No personal responses will be given; questions will be addressed in the magazine only. Unfortunately, due to volume, we are unable to answer every question received.





Disappointments

In April 1933, at age fifteen, Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin became bedfast. Doctors said he had to die. Sixteen months later he was healed by the power of God. This month, Rev. Hagin continues an account of his healing.

As I lay bedfast, reading through the Bible, I came to Mark 11:24: "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." My greatest desire was to be well. When I read that verse, it seemed as if someone had turned on a bright light. I had lived with a feeling of utter hopelessness. Now, here was

The devil was right there to plant doubt in my heart, but I didn't know it was him. Subtly the thought came that maybe the words "... what things soever ye desire . . . "applied only to spiritual things, and not to physical things. I believed that thought, and doubt blew out the candle of faith. Once again, I thought I had to die.

I decided to ask my pastor what Mark 11:24 meant. I asked Granny to help, and she walked to the parsonage and spoke with him. He said he would come about 8:30 on Thursday morning.

During the years before I became bedfast, I had never missed a day of Sunday school. Yet in all the time I had been sick, the pastor had not been to see me once.

When Thursday morning came, I eagerly looked forward to seeing him and asking the question that burned on my heart. Eight-thirty came and went, then nine o'clock, then ninethirty, then ten o'clock, and still no word from him. And even though I lay on that bed for another entire year, he never did come to see me.

I was crushed with disappointment and disillusionment. Later, though, I could look back and see that it was best that the pastor did not come, for he would have told me the wrong thing. Rather than inspiring my faith to believe God for my physical healing, he simply would have reinforced my doubts.

When my pastor didn't come to see me, my grandmother walked to another part of town to see yet another preacher in whom she had great confidence. She told him about my condition, and that I had asked to see a preacher. He told her that he would come, but he, too, failed to keep his promise. Again I cried with disappointment, and again it was a blessing that he didn't come. (Many things we cry about happened for our own good, but we don't realize it at the time. We wouldn't be crying if we could just see into the future.)

My aunt, who was a member of another church, said her pastor would come to see me. However, by this time I was certain that he, too, would not come. My aunt was superintendent of the Junior Department in the Sunday school of her church. When I was nine through eleven years of age, I went with her and never missed a Sunday.

I had met her pastor, of course.

One day I heard someone knocking on the front door. A member of my family answered the door, and the minute I heard the voice of the caller, I recognized it as the voice of my aunt's pastor. Suddenly my heart leaped with joy because I thought I could ask him what this Scripture meant. Surely he would know and could clear up this confusion in my mind. I knew if this Scripture meant what I thought it meant, I was coming off of that bed!

At that time only one person at a time was allowed in my room, so the pastor came in alone. Until he stooped over me, I couldn't see him too clearly. Then his face came into focus.

Partially paralyzed in my throat and tongue, I could not speak distinctly, and I would say a lot of things backwards. Sometimes it would take me a long time to get my words out. Often I would have to stumble around for ten minutes before I could ask a question. My brain didn't seem to work right.

I moved my mouth and lips, trying to say something. I tried to call his name. I tried to tell him to get my Bible and turn to Mark 11:24 and tell me what it meant, but I couldn't get the words out. I was just stuttering; I couldn't frame the words.

Before I could say anything, he thought that I was unable to talk. He patted my hand and drawled in his professionally pious voice, "Just be patient, my boy. In a few more days it will ALL be over." Then he laid my hand down and left the room.

(To be continued . . .)



of GOD'S BLESSING

God has given you all things richly to enjoy (1 Tim. 6:17). And He doesn't want you to settle for less! Have you ever wondered if there was some secret to obtaining the full measure of His blessings? There is! And it's something you can put into practice today.



By Kenneth Hagin Jr.

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

— Psalm 67:5,6

f someone told you that praising God was a key to receiving increased blessings in your life, would you begin to praise God consistently — on a continual basis?

I think most of us would praise God more than we have been, and yet that is exactly what the Bible tells us. For one thing, the Bible says God inhabits the praises of His people (Ps. 22:3). Therefore, if you get God on the scene, no matter what you're going through, you'll have the power of God manifested in your life. Wherever the praises of God abound, God's

Presence abounds — and joy and victory!

Praise is the key to receiving increased blessings poured out in our lives. I'm not suggesting that praise is a way to manipulate God into giving us what we want in life. Praise is *not* a way of flattering God so He will give us what we want.

But praise is a lifestyle, demonstrating your continual trust in your Heavenly Father. Because you trust God, you believe that what He promised you, He is also able to perform, and you praise Him for it (Rom. 4:21; Heb. 10:23).

Our praising God regardless of circumstances that come our way is God's means of bringing us increase in every area of our lives. As I said, in praising God for His goodness, we demonstrate our trust in Him.

Sincere praise flows out of a relationship of trust in God, and wholehearted praise produces fruitfulness in our lives. Praise puts us in a position to receive from God all He has for us because *praise* is an expression of faith. Praise is the language of faith!

I am convinced that as we spend quality time fellowshipping with God and praising Him just for who He is, we will find we have more answers to our prayers with less struggle and effort! I'm also convinced that if we would spend more time praising God, we would spend less time praying over and over again about the same situations in our lives.

Think about it: As long as we're praying in line with God's Word, we know God hears us because that's what the Word says. And the Bible also assures us that if we know God hears us, then we know we have the petition we desire of Him (1 John 5:14,15). And if we know God hears our petition, all we need to do is praise Him for the answer!

You can actually hinder your faith by praying over and over again about the same situation in an attitude of doubt and unbelief as if God did not hear you the first time. Stay in faith when you pray! Praise helps to keep you in faith.

I believe if we live a life of praise to God, God will increase our prayer "fruit" — our answers to prayer. God is able to increase our results in prayer, because praising God for the answer before we see it is faith *in action* (Heb. 11:1). Faith is what moves God (Heb. 11:6)! Therefore, living a life of praise is really living a life of faith!

Praising God actually enables Christians to appropriate by faith and enjoy what already belongs to them in Christ, because it releases God's power to work in our behalf.

I believe Christians have failed to realize the benefits and the fruit that praising God will bring into their lives. We have failed to realize the power of God that is released into our lives when we sincerely praise Him.

PSALM 67:5.6

- 5 Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people PRAISE THEE.
- 6 THEN shall the earth YIELD HER INCREASE; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

Why does the psalmist say that the earth will yield increase and God will bless us? Increase comes as a result of a life of praise! Praise recognizes and gives God the credit and glory even before the answer is manifested in the natural realm. Praise lays hold of the answer in the spiritual realm and receives the answer from God before it is perceived by the natural man or the senses (1 Cor. 2:14).

If you need an increase in your life, begin to praise God! That's what this

trouble and increase in times of lack, no matter what the situation!

Psalm 67:6 doesn't indicate that you won't have any more mountains that will try to hinder you in life and keep you from what God has for you. But it does indicate that when the people of God sincerely praise Him, the earth must grant an increase!

If mountains are in the way, hindering your increase from coming to you, those mountains must move aside by the power of God, which is released by your faith in God's Word and by your praise! Praise will move mountains in your life!

If we're not careful, we can get caught up speaking negative words that can work against us — instead of



Wherever the praises of God abound, God's Presence abounds — and joy and victory!

verse is saying: "THEN shall the earth yield her INCREASE..." (Ps. 67:6). Sincere praise moves God. As I said, praise cannot be used as a mechanical "gimmick" to manipulate God, but when it comes from your heart, praise moves God because you're demonstrating your faith in Him!

If you need an increase in your life of any kind — spiritual, physical, emotional, material, or social — begin to set aside time to seek God and put His Word first. Then begin to praise God as an act of love and trust in Him as your loving Heavenly Father who hears and answers your prayers.

Psalm 67:6 is saying that no matter what your endeavors are on this earth or whatever you have set your hand to, as you sincerely praise God and put Him first in your life, God will make those things which concern you, prosper for you.

In the Old Testament period when these verses were penned, the psalmist was giving the children of Israel a solution to their problems. Notice the Israelites weren't told they wouldn't have any more problems or difficulties. But they were told that God is the One who grants deliverance in times of focusing on God Who can provide anything for us. God alone is our Source.

I'm not saying that we shouldn't recognize facts as they exist in the world. But God is greater than any natural fact! God is our Source, and when we praise Him, we put our focus on Him rather than worrying about the problem. With all our attention on Him and His Word, God can abundantly provide for us — even if He has to create a miracle!

In the Old Testament, when God told the children of Israel to praise Him, their problems still loomed like giants before them. And many times, their problems were literal giants! But God told them to praise Him and not to be moved by their problems — or by those giants; they were only to be moved by God.

One way to get to the place where all your attention is focused on God instead of on your problem is by praising and worshipping God for who *He* is. Then God becomes bigger in your sight than any problem. He was bigger than your problem all the time, but you can get so overwhelmed by problems that it's hard to keep a proper perspective. Praise causes God to

become bigger to you than your problem.

In the Old Testament, when the Israelites praised God as they had been instructed, the earth began to do what it was supposed to do — grant an increase to God's people and bless them. And time and time again, their enemies were put to shame before them!

areas it seems, we've continually experienced a "crop failure."

Try as you might, nothing ever seemed to change those situations or the lack of growth or increase. I believe Psalm 67:5 and 6 addresses those hard-to-produce areas in our lives too.

In other words, even in the hard places — the areas that have resisted change — if we will keep our eyes off

gifts, and talents placed inside us by God. But many of us don't know how to develop our gifts or how to use our talents productively to the glory of God. Many of us have dreams, but we don't know how to practically implement those dreams so that they become a reality in our lives.

I believe that as we learn to live a life of praising God — I don't mean every once in awhile, but consistently — God will see to it that those areas in our lives bring forth fruit to His glory. The earth and everything we set our hand to must prosper as we put God and His Word first and consistently praise Him for His goodness to us.

Do you want an increase in your life? Then begin to draw closer to God and His Word and give Him praise! No matter where you need an increase in your life — whether it's in your health, your finances, your career, or in achieving the potential God has for you — as you praise God from your heart as a lifestyle, whatever you set your hand to must yield its increase to you!

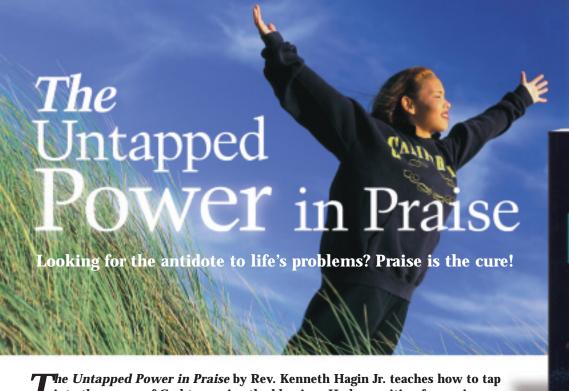
Praise is the key to receiving increased blessings poured out in our lives.



You see, praising God produces an increase in our lives in whatever area we need an increase. Few Christians have realized this. I'm sure many of us have experienced those areas in our lives that have seemed to be resistant to growth or increase. In some of those

the problem and focus only on giving God praise, *God* will cause an increase to come no matter how many crop failures we've had in the past!

There are, no doubt, other areas in which we all need to experience increase in our lives. For example, each one of us has dreams, desires,



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What Do \mathbf{YOU} Do In The

We all go through situations in life that can be very difficult. But the Christian

should have a different response to trouble than other people. Take Paul and Silas for instance. They were put into prison just for being

Christians! How do you think you would act in their situation? Read the story below and see if you can find the **two things** that Paul and Silas did that all Christians should do in their time of trouble. [The following verses are taken from the International Children's Bible].

The crowd joined the attack against them. The Roman officers tore the clothes of Paul and Silas and had them beaten with rods again and again. Then Paul and Silas were thrown into jail. The jailer was ordered to guard them carefully. When he heard this order, he put them far inside the jail. He pinned down their feet between large

blocks of wood. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God. The other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly, there was a big earthquake. It was so strong that it shook the foundation of the jail. Then all the doors of the jail broke open. All the prisoners were freed from their chains. (Acts 16:22-26)

WHEN SHOULD WE PRNISE THE LORD?

King David loved to sing and praise God. In the Book of Psalms he tells us "when" we should praise the Lord. See if you can find the four times

he wrote that we should praise the Lord contained in this spiral of letters. It could be in the form of a single word or a phrase.



Get Those Hands Up!

One way we can show our praise to God is by lifting our hands to Him. King David said "I will lift up my hands in thy name" (Psalm 63:4). Search for 10 pictures in this

magazine where people are lifting their hands in praise to the Lord.

Read this riddle. Then read the alphabet clues below and enter the answer to each clue in the correct yellow box.

When in a battle Each earthly soldier Considers which weapon to choose. But in spiritual battles Christians should remember This weapon Jehoshaphat used.

What was it?



ALPHABET CLUES:

CLUE: Letter 1 is the letter before "Q" and letter 2 is the letter after "Q."

CLUE: Letter 4 is a letter you use when you talk about yourself.

CLUE: Without letter 5 "a pest" becomes "a pet."

CLUE: Letter 3 begins the alphabet CLUE: Letter 6 is the second vowel in the

alphabet

What do you get if you cross an owl with a skunk?

A bird that smells but doesn't give a hoot!

What do you get if you cross a centipede with a parrot?

.

A walkie-talkie!

Why do cows have bells?

Because their horns don't work.

Brother: Wow, sis, you're pretty dirty! Sister: I'm even prettier when I'm clean!

I have 5 eyes, 3 green ears, and a yellow nose. What am I?

Very Ugly!!!!

Why wouldn't the rooster fight?

Because he was a chicken!

ongue

A skunk sat on a stump.

The skunk thunk the stump stunk. The stump thunk the skunk stunk.

Which wrist watches are Swiss wrist watches?

CET THOSE HANDS UP! - Amswers: 1 on page 18 - 1 on page 19 - 2 on page 20 1 on page 18 - 1 on page 19 - 2 on page 20

the Lord - Answers:

(Saling from the Center) Seven Times A DRY
(PSALM 119:164) - ALL DAY LONG (PSALM 35:28)
(PSALM 113:3) - ALL DAY LONG (PSALM 35:28)

When Should We Praise

What Do You Do in the Time of Trouble - Answer: Fraying so Ginging Songs to God

VNRMEBS: