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to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to them
that are bound. (ISAIAH 61:1)*



g r e a t e r
ANOINTING
b i g h e r
PURPOSE



BENNY HINN MINISTRIES

Harolyn Holley Phillip grew up in Hawaii in a family well known for the bars they owned.

Harolyn worked most of her life in those bars, and life was one long party, or so it seemed. The effect on her life was disastrous. In her own words, "I drank a beer when I woke up, and I drank all day, often going to bed drunk."

Then something happened. She got up one morning and switched on the television. It was "one of those religious programs" (This Is Your Day), but before she could change the channel, she heard, "The Lord can heal you right where you're at."

As Harolyn wondered who that preacher was, she heard him add: "You at home ... lady, you! The one sitting on the edge of the bed. You know who you are!"

Inwardly, she realized that the word was for her.

"You at home, pray!"

Though she didn't know much about prayer, she asked God to help her and felt a sudden calmness. Still stunned, she got up and went to the bar for a drink and a cigarette. The desire for either one was no longer there.

"I stood there in a daze," she says. "I literally stood there staring at my bar. It was well supplied and had been the center of activity for my family for as long as I could remember. I took pride in the fact that it rivaled many commercial bars. But I looked at the bar and felt really lost. I looked at my cigarettes, but didn't touch them. I looked at the alcohol, but didn't fix a drink. Instead, I decided to go back in the other room and turn my television set on again."

She never met her friends to go out drinking and partying that day. Instead she sat on her bed for four days and watched a steady stream of Christian television.

"I can't explain what happened," Harolyn relates, "except to say that it was an instant deliverance. I prayed a simple prayer, asking God for help, and His free gift of salvation suddenly changed my life from profanity, parties, and addictions to being completely in love with Jesus."

It's been over a decade since she drank or smoked.

The following Sunday, she publicly gave her life to Jesus Christ. Yet that's not the end of the story—not by a long shot! From that day, Harolyne has become an amazing soul-winner. First her sister received the Savior after hearing her testimony. Others followed. She began witnessing to her partying friends. More received salvation. Today she shares the Gospel with anyone who will listen.

What happened? Harolyne learned that no bondage is greater than the power of Jesus Christ. She discovered in a glorious moment that the blood of Jesus Christ is able to save to the uttermost. That growing knowledge and deepening anointing propelled her toward an even greater purpose.

KEYS OF UNDERSTANDING

God's power to save is beyond human understanding.

We can participate in His grace, but we will not fully comprehend it until we reach Heaven. Likewise, we cannot truly fathom how He can take a life of bondage and turn it into a tool for sharing the Gospel with others.

Since Calvary the history of Christianity has shown that the Holy Spirit is able to anoint believers from all backgrounds to demonstrate His power to draw the lost to the Savior. Best of all, every believer can be effective for the kingdom if we understand two major keys.

KEY ONE: A GREATER ANOINTING

he Bible speaks of this knowledge and anointing in TIsaiah 61:1:

The Spirit of the Lord God *is* upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound. (Isa. 61:1)

The Holy Spirit is moving in a more powerful dimension than at any time in my memory. Every crusade brings more amazing testimonies of people being delivered and healed. It's happening around the world!

And I believe the glory of the Lord will rest more mightily on believers during coming months and years.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me ...

A greater anointing changes everything. Let me quickly share a portion of Scripture, Psalm 89, in which David explains what the Father has taught the psalmist about the anointing.

To begin with, **a greater anointing strengthens you** for what lies ahead. The Lord wants you to have strength in the power of His might: "I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him. With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him" (Ps. 89:20-21). God's touch gives you the energy and might to stand against any challenge.

A greater anointing gives you protection against the enemy of your soul: "The enemy shall not exact upon him; nor the son of wickedness afflict him" (Ps. 89:22). Satan's blows hit God's wall of defense. Even sickness will flee in the presence of the anointing.

A greater anointing also moves you from a defensive position to an offensive one. Victories are won when you go on the offense. God says if the anointing is active in your life, He will devastate the wicked: "And I will beat down his foes before his face, and plague them that hate him" (Ps. 89:23). Through you He will "... bruise Satan under your feet ..." (Rom. 16:20). That kind of victory only takes place when there is a God-given covering flowing over your life.

A greater anointing establishes God's authority in your life: "But my faithfulness and my mercy shall be with him: and in my name shall his horn be exalted" (Ps. 89:24).

The word "horn" speaks of authority. As a Christian there is one name that establishes your authority. It is the powerful name of Jesus. You no longer have to fight your battles with your own wiles and strength. As an ambassador of the Lord, you learn to use His name. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe" (Prov. 18:10). Jesus told us to use His name: "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13). And it's why the Apostle Peter, just after the anointing covered the people gathered for Pentecost, spoke to a lame beggar: "... Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk" (Acts 3:6). Great power

comes through the anointing when you use His authority and His name.

KEY TWO: A HIGHER PURPOSE

remember the time early in my ministry when I was invited to speak at a youth rally in Pennsylvania. These were not ordinary teens, but a large crowd of young adults who just a few months earlier were involved in drugs, crime, prostitution—every vice imaginable. If you had bumped into these same individuals six months earlier on the streets of Brooklyn or Philadelphia, you'd probably run for your life. These young people had one common denominator—each had recently given his heart to Christ and was now at the Teen Challenge rehabilitation center on a farm in Pennsylvania.

I spoke, I talked with one young man who had just been released from prison. The scars of sin were etched deeply on his face. Yet as he spoke, a smile broke across his face that emerged from deep within. "For the first time in my life I have something to live for," he beamed. "God has shown me His purpose for my life.

When I leave here I'm going back to Brooklyn to preach the Gospel."

The service was outdoors and it began to rain. It wasn't just a little shower. It was a downpour! Soon my clothes were soaked and my shoes were muddy and sodden. I didn't care. Everywhere I looked there were transformed young people weeping and singing praises to God. They even danced before the Lord in that mud! They had a direction, a higher purpose. What's a little rain to lives suddenly full of faith, hope, and vision?

I've never forgotten what I learned that day. Many years later, the healing power we see in crusades is wonderful, yet more than ever I believe the most dramatic miracle in the world is a demonstration to draw the lost to Him. That must be our constant, driving desire. Even in the midst of a heavy anointing for healing, I'm always reminded of the most necessary purpose for all believers who seek to be used by God—to be used to help others see that they can also be saved from their sins and given eternal life:

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Let's refer back to Psalm 89, where David continues to explain the purpose when the anointing comes upon a believer's life. You remember that **the anointing strengthens you for challenges, gives protection against the enemy of your soul, moves you from a defensive stance to one of offense and victory, and establishes God's authority in your life.** What a blessed set of promises, yet that's not the end of the benefits.

As part of the greater anointing for a higher purpose, **you will begin to influence others:** "I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers." (Ps. 89:25).

This promise referred to the anointing which was beginning to flow through David to others. Yet it was not for him alone. David was to take God's touch and influence the world. When the Bible talks about the sea it is really talking about geography and people. It is His anointing, flowing through you, reaching out to the men, women, and children around the globe.

Also, as part of His higher purpose, **God's love remains steadfast in your life,** so you never have to wonder or doubt His purpose: "My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him" (Ps. 89:28). The Lord's abundant mercy will be with you continuously. Thank God for the anointing of the Holy Spirit that keeps God's love and mercy on your life!

Finally, according to the psalmist, **the anointing and purpose will endure through your household to future generations:** "His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven" (Ps. 89:29). This promise may be the most precious of all. It is for you, and your children, and their children. It is the anointing and awareness of a higher purpose in your home that will keep your children and children's children aware of God and His presence. And should your sons or daughters ever stray, there is something about an atmosphere saturated with the touch of God that will draw them back:

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). Even if your children are no longer in your home, it is never too late to claim an anointing. I've seen the Spirit repair and mend families that had been tattered and torn beyond human hope, and I've also seen those same families ignited by a shared passion for souls—the greatest shared purpose of all.

WINNING SOULS

In my first days as a Christian, I became very aware of the need for soul-winning. One scene is indelibly etched in my mind. I was having a wonderful time of prayer in my bedroom, totally enjoying God's presence when suddenly I had a vision. In it I felt as if I were being drawn up in the Spirit and carried away. As I looked down I saw what appeared to be an endless line of people, slowly walking forward. Their faces seemed empty and somewhat confused. I didn't understand what I saw, so I asked, "What does this mean?"

"Come closer," a piercing Voice said. I looked at the scene before me and saw the unending line of people advancing slowly. To my horror, as the shuffling throng moved forward, I saw the person at the front of the line pushed over a precipice, disappearing from sight. I continued watching in dismay, my soul chilled to the core.

Then I heard the Voice say, "If you don't preach the gospel, every person that falls over the edge will be YOUR

responsibility." The words cut through me like a jagged sword. I knew, from that moment, I had to preach the gospel."

And from that time forward, almost every time I knelt before the Lord, one prayer continually flooded through me: "Souls, Lord, souls! Open the doors for me to preach the Word so people everywhere will come to know You as their Savior and Lord."

Since that moment, I can honestly say the intensity of my prayer has not wavered. Though it's been nearly three decades since then, the reality of that terrible vision is still as vivid to me as the day it happened. It is there when I preach to tens of thousands in coliseums and stadiums around the world.

"An entirely new world opens to you when you begin praying earnestly for the lost!"

LETTER NO. 99

Penny Grunwald has one of the most precious testimonies I've heard. For years she's been called "The No. 99 Lady" in our ministry, and for good reason.

Every day, for ninety-nine days, she mailed letters to us.

She even numbered each one consecutively on the return address corner of her envelope. We responded to her letters with letters, but that's not what she was praying for. Let her tell the story:

I grew up in a Holy Spirit-filled, Bible-believing home. My father was a pastor in a well-respected denomination. My mother was his loving co-worker. I grew up knowing who God was. As a child, I loved going to church and I gave my life to the Lord when I was eight.

Although I felt the presence of God when I was young and my parents taught me about Jesus, I eventually questioned everything and as a teenager I started to rebel. I neglected my relationship with the Lord and grew bored with church. That battle raged for the next thirty years.

I got involved, willingly, with the wrong crowd in high school. I wanted to be accepted and popular. I got into sin and started taking drugs. I even prided myself on my ability to hide what I was doing (or so I thought) from my parents.

Then things started going bad for me. One event really stands out. When my daughter was two, she drank poison. As she lay unconscious in the intensive care unit, I cried out to the Lord.

When I went back into her room, she was sitting up and talking. God had healed her! Still, my rebellion didn't end.

My son was born with a horrible lung problem. Once again I prayed. He recovered quickly. I knew God had worked a miracle, but I couldn't let go of my sinful life.

It continued that way for some time.

Whenever I was in trouble, I called out to God, but I never surrendered my life to Him. I knew God was real, but I wanted to do what I wanted to do. Ironically, the more I did things my way and allowed sin to dominate my life, the more unworthy I felt of what God had done for my children.

My marriage started falling apart. My heart grew harder. I became a bitter, angry person.

Satan's voice taunted me continually, telling me that no one really loved me or cared about me. He tormented my mind continually, and each night when I closed my eyes to go to sleep, I could hear the enemy of my soul laughing at me.

As the years passed, I began to believe more and more that no one did care about me. I had made the choices that had destroyed my life, yet I was a bundle of self-centeredness, hurt, and rage.

Worse, I had fallen into a state of deep depression.

One day, while sitting in our family room, I switched my television to TBN and as I watched the program, I felt a "presence" sitting beside me, and then I heard a familiar voice chiding me,

"You'll never have what they have. You're too bad!"

When I couldn't sleep at night, I watched TBN again out of desperation. This time it was the program, "This Is Your Day." Again, as I listened to Benny Hinn, I heard the devil say, "You'll never have what he is talking about. You have sinned too much."

I started watching the programs more and more, even though Satan kept taunting me. "All they want is your money!" I heard. "Turn it off!"

But I didn't switch it off. I kept watching.

Then one day I was in a car accident. A semi-truck hit my little Nissan. I heard Satan's voice distinctly as the vehicles crashed together: "You're going to die, and go to hell and live with me forever!" Terrified, I cried out to the Lord, yelling, "Jesus, save me!"

I didn't die, as the enemy of my soul taunted, but I did end up with a neck fracture and back injuries. As a result, all I could do was sit at home and watch Benny Hinn on television.

One day as I looked at the TV set, I spoke out loud out of my misery and hurt: "Maybe you really do just want my money" At that very moment, Benny Hinn pointed his finger at me through the television and said, "I don't take the glory for any of this. This is all Jesus' doing." I was stunned! The timing couldn't have been a coincidence, or was it? It was as though Pastor Benny had heard me and

answered back.

Then Steve Brock began singing the words, "He'll never give up on you!" Overcome, I began to cry. Then I heard another voice—not the tormenting one, but a tender voice which said, "Penny, write him a letter and never give up." I knew it was the Lord, for the devil had never used my name, so I sat down and wrote an eight-page letter to Benny Hinn. Surprisingly, I felt better by the time I finished it. Hope came back . . . a little.

The next day I sat at my table again and wrote a second letter. I even wrote a very large "2" on the return address corner. I thought, "I was told to never give up."

I continued to watch "This Is Your Day"

because I felt increasingly drawn to the message I was hearing. I kept writing, too, every day. My husband asked, "Are you writing to Benny Hinn again?" But he didn't laugh because he saw a change coming over me day by day. I kept watching the program. I kept writing a letter every day. I kept feeling better and better. Sadly, I also kept living a sinful lifestyle.

I did get letters of response from the Benny Hinn Ministry, but I kept writing because I needed more, and because I had heard, "Never give up!"

I'll never forget the night I finished writing "Letter No. 99." I became overwhelmed by the battle that was still raging inside—a battle between the voices of God and the devil. I even considered suicide that night, but didn't go through with it.

"Take the pills!" I heard my enemy say.

"No!" I yelled. "Why would I take a chance on spending eternity in hell?"

Little did I know that the worst of my warfare was almost over. I couldn't see it that night, but it really was like the old saying, "It's always darkest before the dawn."

The very next morning I received a telephone call from Pastor David Palmquist, Benny Hinn's associate. His voice was so caring. I had become a very hard person, refusing to let anyone hear me cry, yet within a couple of minutes, I was

weeping over the phone. Pastor Dave kept saying, "Jesus cares about you. Jesus loves you."

Finally, he said, "Penny, go get your Bible." I got one. He directed me to a verse that we read together over the phone. It was John 3:16. God loved me! I literally felt God talking to me as I read each word aloud.

Soon, I began to laugh—something I had not done for a long time. God's love for me was coming through loud and clear. Before long, I prayed the sinner's prayer and was gloriously born again!

When my husband came home from work, I was so full of joy that I couldn't stop myself from saying, "Honey, Jesus is in my heart, and I feel so good!"

I realized, more and more, that the Lord had me write to Benny Hinn for a very different reason than I thought. Those letters weren't to him. They were for me! As I poured out my heart, Jesus was able to soften my hardness and reach inside me.

I don't think it was an accident that the Lord had Benny Hinn's ministry call after I wrote the ninety- ninth letter. For soon after I accepted Jesus into my heart, I was going through my Bible and my eyes fell on this passage from the book of Matthew: "For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? If a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than 19

Greater Anointing ... Higher Purpose of the ninety and nine which went not astray" (Matt. 18:11-15).

Was there some coincidence with the number ninety-nine? Regardless, when I sent Letter 100, it included my report of salvation! I'll always think of myself as the one lost sheep who strayed away, and yet was brought back by Jesus' love."

Today, when Penny Grunwald writes our ministry, she still adds, "The No. 99 Lady" on her return address corner of the envelopes.

Best of all, she has become an amazing soul-winner. It was no surprise, perhaps, that she started witnessing the same afternoon she surrendered her life to the

Lord. Her husband, within a few seconds of entering the house, knew what God had done in her life.

Today she witnesses to everyone she sees. She says, "My main purpose in life is to win souls for the kingdom of God! I know what it's like to let Satan destroy your life, but I also know from personal experience that Jesus' power is stronger."

I never get tired of hearing Penny's story. We serve a Savior who specializes in "impossible" situations. We also serve One who is the Good Shepherd who will leave the ninety-nine sheep and go to find and care for the one who is lost. As His followers, we can do likewise. We must.

STANDING IN THE GAP

Souls for Jesus! Nothing can be more important or urgent. We must see this as the reason for a greater anointing. It must be our highest purpose and priority.

Billions of people stand on the edge of eternity—at this moment as you read these words—without Jesus as Savior. Oh, that we can understand God's desire to reach each one who doesn't know Him! Oh, that we can do our part to help save each lost man, woman, and child from the fate found in Revelation 20:15: "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Soul-winning must become our consuming passion.

When we began the miracle crusades in 1990, it was so souls could be saved. As the crowds increased and the Lord blessed the ministry, my greatest desire was for more and more men, women, and children to respond to the "whosoever will" invitation. That dream continues to motivate me anytime I step in front of a camera and broadcast to audiences over the globe. I've matured in my own understanding of God's Word, yet the desire of my heart is still, "Souls, Lord, souls!" As a young believer, one of the Scriptures the Holy Spirit opened to me was this: And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. (Ezek. 22:30)

Oh, that we would realize that the purpose for our anointing is to stand in the gap, to pray for souls: "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession" (Ps. 2:8).

An entirely new world opens to you when you begin praying earnestly for the lost. It was that way for the Apostles. It has been that way for believers since then. Ask Harolyne Holley Phillip, the wonderful soul-winning woman in Hawaii. Ask Penny Grunwald, "The Letter No. 99 Lady," the lost sheep that was found.

These aren't just testimonies of God's saving grace.

No! They each became so much more. They found a desire that was much larger than each individual, one more important than they could have previously imagined:

"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." (Ps. 126:6)

Each of us can be part of this wonderful, awesome commission:

"And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together." (John 4:36)

For each believer, the greater anointing during this hour is being poured out for the highest purpose of all, winning souls for the kingdom and seeing lives changed for all eternity!

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