

demands a shift of center from self to God. One cannot praise God without relinquishing occupation with self. Praise produces forgetfulness of self and forgetfulness of self is health." When we worship God, it sets the order of things right. After all, we worship God, not because He's blessed us, but because He is God and is worthy of all praise.

Prayer has become an inseparable part of my life and the reason for any success I've achieved. Every major milestone of growth I've experienced has come as the result of God touching me during times of prayer. I believe those milestones never would have happened had I not been spending regular times alone with God.

As you know, finding a good place to be alone with God was an important step for me in developing a strong devotional life, and I had great success in finding good spots, until I moved on to my second pastorate in Lancaster, Ohio. I couldn't find anyplace like the Hillham rock near my home. The best I could find was a place in Rising Park, which was a fifteen-minute drive from where we lived. Because of the distance, I couldn't go there every day. But whenever I could, I'd drive across to the park and spend the whole afternoon sitting on a rocky ledge with a view of the entire city of Lancaster. I had some wonderful times with God in that park.

During those years, I often prayed for my brother, Larry. He lived nearby right in Lancaster, and I talked to God about him constantly. He wasn't walking with the Lord back in those days, and I was worried about him.

Early one morning before I left to go to work, I heard a truck rumble up the street and stop in front of our house, and then there was a knock at the door. When I opened it, I was surprised to see Larry standing there grinning.

"I want you to see something, John," he said. "Come on."
He turned around and I followed him out into the front yard.