



Sunday January 28, 2018
Raising Your Game

Today - a simple motivational message from God's Word

"Raising Your Game". This is a term borrowed from the sports world and essentially refers to making an effort to improve the way we do something so that we can have better outcomes...improve results, achieve more, have greater impact, etc.

Think of two teams that have defeated other teams to enter into the final game (e.g. Barcelona and Real Madrid in soccer, or India and Australia in cricket, etc.). Now that they are in the finals they have to raise their game to win. They've got to play better than ever before. They've got to bring all they have into the final game.

While "raising your game" will mean different things to each of us, take some time to think what raising your game would mean to you, given where you are in life, currently.

- ✓ As a student raising your game could mean increasing your learning in some area, doing better in your classes, improving performance in some activities, developing specific skills you would need for the workplace, etc.
- ✓ As a working professional raising your game could mean improving your current performance, acquiring new skills, etc.

Today, we consider some simple lessons from Scripture how each of us can raise our game in whatever God has called us to do.

#1, ASK GOD FOR INCREASE

Some of us may be hesitant asking God for whatever is required to raise our game. We may feel that God does not want us to do better....or maybe God wants me to stay where I am to "keep me humble", ...

But remember God is for us. God is the One who seeks for us to do well, so He can be glorified through our lives.

Consider Jabez's prayer:

1 Chronicles 4:9-10

9 Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain."

10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.



Even though Jabez was given a 'not so pleasant' name (Jabez meaning sorrow)...he still chose to pray and ask God for blessing and increase...he prayed 'enlarge my territory'...and God granted him his request.

Our God is the God of 'much more'. Consider what He told king David through prophet Nathan:

2 Samuel 12:7-8

7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.

8 I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more!

God was willing to give David much more!

So don't hesitate to pray and ask God to enlarge your territory or give you much more...whatever that would mean in your own life today.

Similarly for our locations (e.g. APC North, APC South....) we can pray and ask God to give us increase in the number of people attending here.

Many of you would be familiar with the story of Yonggi Cho, pastor of the world's largest church. He was healed from tuberculosis supernaturally when he was about 19 years of age, and started preaching about Jesus. He began his ministry in 1958. Here is what he wrote in his book "The Fourth Dimension":

"When I started my ministry in 1958, I had a burning desire in my soul to build the largest church in Korea. It was a goal that I desired so much that it burned in my soul. It was burning in me so steadily that I was living with it, sleeping with it and walking with it all the time.

...Do not just say, "Oh God, bless me, bless me!" Do you know how many blessings the Bible has? There are 8,000 promises. If you say, "Oh God, bless me," then God would ask you, "Out of the 8,000 promises, what kind of blessing do you want?" Though He knows your heart, the Bible says you must ask: "Ask and it shall be given you..." (Matt. 7:7) and this includes asking specifically. So be very definite. Take out your notebook, write it down, and see it clearly.

I always ask God to give revival to my church and I ask according to a definite number. In 1960, I began to pray, "God, give us one thousand more members each year." And until 1969, one thousand members were added to my church each and every year.

But in 1969 I changed my mind and thought, "If God could give one thousand members per year, why shouldn't I ask God to give one thousand members per month?"

So since 1979 I started praying, "Father, give us one thousand members per month."



At first God gave 600, then began to give more than 1,000 per month. In one year, we received 12,000 new members in our church. Then I increased my goal and we had 15,000 additional members by the end of that year. The following year I asked for 20,000 more members. If you have a definite request you want to place before the Lord in prayer, if you can really see it, then you will have faith to receive it." (The Fourth Dimension, Dr. David Yonggi Cho, 1989)

Can we start praying like this for each of our locations.
Can we ask God for an increase at each of our locations.

#2, SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS

Ecclesiastes 10:10

If the ax is dull, And one does not sharpen the edge, Then he must use more strength; But wisdom brings success.

Peter J. Daniels (born in 1932 in Adelaide, Australia) was illiterate and worked as a brick-layer's assistant. He came from a disadvantaged background and was challenged with illiteracy in his early years. His family was third generation welfare recipients, he has two alcoholic brothers, 4 fathers and 2 mothers. Many of his relatives have been in jail. He failed at every grade in school, became a bricklayer, and at 26 years of age was hopelessly in debt.

All through his school years he was told by his teachers, particularly Miss Phillips, that he was a stupid boy and would never amount to anything. Not knowing anything different, and having to endure undiagnosed dyslexia, Mr Daniels went to a Billy Graham meeting in the late 1950s in Adelaide where his life was forever changed. From that point, Peter Daniels taught himself English by reading several dictionaries and getting help from people on how to read and put this new found skill into practice by reading over 6,000 biographies of successful people.

He then learned the secrets of wealth-creation and through many trials (having failed in business 3 times over and each time becoming bankrupt) eventually went on to become a multi-millionaire businessman whose motivational services are to this day in high demand around the world. He successfully managed to build a large real estate business in Australia and South East Asia and serves as a director and chairman on a range of international boards. Soon the leaders of 'Third-World' countries were calling on Mr Daniels and his corporation to help turn their nations from bankruptcy and poverty to wellness and prosperity.

[References:

peterjdaniels.com

giantsforgod.com/peter-j-daniels/

[motivationalmemo.com/from-illiterate-bricklayer-to-international-business-statesman/ \]](http://motivationalmemo.com/from-illiterate-bricklayer-to-international-business-statesman/)

What if Peter did not do what he did at 26? Would he have become the success that he is today?

What are skills you need to sharpen to raise your game?



Will you work on sharpening your skills.

#3, SET AND PURSUE SMART GOALS

Proverbs 4:26 (NKJV)

Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established.

"Know where you are headed,..(Contemporary English Version)

"Plan carefully what you do,..(Good News Bible)

God wants us to think about the way we are going, the path we are taking.

This involves having a dream (a destination), setting some goals and working towards them.

To achieve a **dream**, (or to reach a destination) we need to set **goals** (or some milestones).

To achieve a goal, we need consistent and disciplined **work**.

The following about setting SMART goals is common knowledge, but thought we'd just mention this here as it will be useful for all of us:

The goals we set, must be S.M.A.R.T goals:

S : Specific (describe in clear terms what you will do, e.g. read one Christian book a month)

M : Measurable (e.g. 'one' book)

A : Achievable (or Attainable, i.e. it should be doable or practical)

R : Relevant (it should take you towards your objectives or dreams..)

T : Time bound (e.g. 'every month')

It is a good idea to write down your goals.

This helps in reviewing your goals and monitoring how you are doing.

Write down your SMART goals for different areas of your life :

- ✓ Personal Spiritual Life
- ✓ Personal Health
- ✓ Personal Learning/Skills
- ✓ Marriage
- ✓ Ministry/Church
- ✓ Other Areas (e.g. Writing, Mentoring, Missions)

Then start working towards these goals.

Proverbs 14:23 In all labor there is profit, But idle chatter leads only to poverty.

Ministry Time



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Sunday January 28, 2018
Raising Your Game**

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passage: *1 Chronicles 4:9-10; 2 Samuel 12:7-8; Ecclesiastes 10:10; Proverbs 4:26*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

#1, Why should we even consider "raising our game" in various areas of life?

#2, Review the 3 simple pointers to "Raising your game" that were presented: (A) Ask God For Increase; (B) Sharpen Your Skills; (C) Set And Pursue Smart Goals

#3, Share (if you will) some goals you will pursue for few areas of your life. This will help to hold each other 'accountable' (in an informal way) and stay motivated as the year progresses.

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two main learnings today and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Within the group, feel free to share areas of emotional healing that may be needed. (Keep all matters confidential).



Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

Close by thanking God together.