Hagin, Kenneth E.
The Art of Prayer

25. Interceding for the Lost

Hagin argues that real conversions ('births') into the kingdom only happen when someone first travails in prayer for the lost. He defines this travail as intense, Spirit-led intercession, then tells a long personal story to show what it looks like and what it produces.

Key takeaways

- Isaiah 66:8 has a double meaning: Israel reborn naturally, and Zion (the Church) travailing to bring forth spiritual children.
- God wants births, not just 'conversions' — and there are no births without travail, the spiritual equivalent of labor pains.
- Intercession for the lost makes you feel lost yourself; you take on the other person's condition even though you know you're saved. If it hits you in a service, slip away to pray or groan quietly until victory comes.
- A 'note of victory' is when the burden lifts — you feel light, start singing in tongues, or laugh instead of groan.

- Hagin's Phoenix story (1953): an hour of travailing prayer led to a vision of a 72-year-old Universalist man being saved exactly as shown, days later.
- Where travail is shut down (the Grandma Greer story), the births stop and the church shrinks.

Passages worth keeping

> *"The art of intercession is a lost art among us. We'll never really have the depth of the move of the Spirit of God until we have that kind of intercession."*

States the chapter's central warning and plea

> *"When Zion travails, she brings forth her children."*

The thesis, drawn from Isaiah 66:8, that frames the whole chapter

How it connects

The chapter ties childbirth imagery in Scripture to intercessory prayer: just as no baby is born without labor, no soul is born again without someone, somewhere, bearing the burden in travailing prayer.

Scripture referenced

- **Isaiah 66:8** -- Zion travails and brings forth children — the governing text
- **Hebrews 12:18-24** -- Identifies the Church as Mount Zion

- **Galatians 4:19** -- Paul travailing in birth until Christ is formed in them