

## ***Christ Crying Out to the Father!***

***My personal testimony:*** After knowing the Lord Jesus Christ and teaching and studying His Word for many years, a renewed conviction about a biblical truth has taken place in my life. I was saved in the fall of 1947, so I have known the Lord for many, many years. And I started to pastor in 1956 at Wheatland, Wyoming, at the First Baptist Church. There are many things the Lord taught me over those early years, one of them was fervent supplication and ***crying out*** to our God. He taught me to claim His promises, and believe Him for spiritual miracles in many lives during my ministry as a pastor. But it is sad that what a person once learns and sees God do can again be neglected. We all easily become careless, indifferent, or just neglectful, failing to continue in what the Lord once taught us.

### ***Let me remind you a bit of what I wrote last week about -- what does it mean to "Cry Out to God"?***

Most of us believe that "***crying out to God***" is simply synonymous with prayer. And yet when one looks into the Hebrew and Greek words that are translated, "***to cry out,***" one finds something we rarely think about. This truth is emphasized time and again in the Word of God.

I see that the Bible makes a distinction between prayer and crying out to God. Consider what we read about the Lord Jesus Christ in Hebrews 5:7, 8. "*Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong **crying** and tears unto Him that was able to saved Him from death, and was heard in that He feared; though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things that He suffered.*"

### ***What do we find in the New Testament?***

I was checking in Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words about the words: "***cry, crying***" in the noun and verb forms. You will find two nouns and eight different verbs. I can't type the correct words as they are in the Greek but I will share some facts about few of them.

1. The first verb means "to raise a cry whether of joy or vexation (Acts 8:7). to speak with a loud voice, (Matt 3:3; Mark 1:3; 15:34) etc., to cry for help," (Luke 18:7, 38).

2. The second verb listed is intensive, meaning "to lift up the voice, to cry out, as it is said of Christ at the moment of His death," (Matt 27:46). Also it is used in the "crying out of a multitude (Luke 9:38)." It is used about

Christ's "crying out unto the Father in prayer and supplication" as we see in Hebrews 5:7.

3. One verb is used again and again in the New Testament, including the "cry of the Canaanitish woman, the shouts of the children in the temple (Matt 21:15), of the people who shouted for Christ to be crucified," (Matt. 27:23; Mark 15:13,14). and of Christ on the cross (Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:39).

If one compared all the eight verbs, we would see that **crying out** denotes to **call out** for any purpose, to **cry out** as an expression of feeling, to **cry out** loudly. And these words are used to teach us about praying with this kind of burden. In the Old Testament, especially in Psalms, we have many references to David **crying out** to God.

### **What does God desire?**

Incredible as it seems, the Creator of the universe desires an intimate, loving fellowship with the people He created. Responding to His love, we ought to long to have "effective, fervent praying" the apostle mentions in James 5:16. But sometimes that fervency is lacking in our prayer life, in our fellowship with God.

In times of fear, anxiety, and trouble, the right step toward experiencing God's powerful deliverance and protection is to simply cry out -- to use voice in fervent appeal for His help. And I feel it is this kind of praying that God desires as we intercede for the lost -- crying out for God to work in the life, for Satan to be defeated, for conviction, for the opening of the heart and understanding of the lost. But this kind of supplication and importunity is lacking in our churches today, for it is lacking in the lives of the individuals who make up the church.

Sometimes a cry will bring freedom from emotional bondage; in other cases, God will provide healing from a dread disease, help in a moment of grave danger, or clear direction in a season of great perplexity. A **crying out** to God shows our deep desire about the lostness of the lost. (Matthew 9:36-38). Paul reveals his heart in Galatians 4:17; and Romans 9:1-3 and 10:1. I wonder if we could say we have that kind of passion for the lost?

### **So why cry out?**

All of this may surprise you and seem to be an excess. You may be thinking, *But why is that necessary? Doesn't Scripture tell us that God knows our hearts? When we utter a prayer in our heart and mind, surely there is no critical need to express aloud what God already knows!* That is all

true, of course. He does know our hearts. And He does hear the faintest whisper, and He does know our inner desires! **So why cry out? -- because God teaches us to do so!**