

Crying Out For Great and Mighty Things!

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” (Jeremiah 33:3)

In HIS infinite, wondrous compassion, God answers our cry and meets our needs. In so doing, He often goes far beyond all we could ever ask or imagine. Great is our God! Paul put it this way. “Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.” (Eph. 3:20)

Power in Holy and Righteous Living.

Many men wrestle in particular with two of the enemy's stormy strongholds - the violence of anger and the passion of sexual lust. I am not sure what women wrestle with as their greatest barrier to holy living, but every person has battles.

In one event, in our nation, several thousand men dealt with the situation of their besetting sin by getting on their knees and crying out in one loud voice, “Abba, Father, in the name of Jesus, deliver me from anger and lust.” This effective cry is reported by one man who said, I am overcome with emotion. I walked away from that meeting and felt no immediate change. But as I returned home something was different. There was a measurable decrease in the influence of temptation. I had a new freedom and feeling of victory for the first time in my life. Now I calmly praise the Lord because He has given me the victory this day. My heart is overwhelmed with joy. I have been freed from that prison.

God wants us to cry out to Him for the strength of soul available through His Spirit to break the bonds of unrighteousness in our lives. The Holy Spirit is there in your heart, if you have received Christ as your Lord and Savior. He desires to set you free from anger and lust, or whatever you battle. David said, “In the day when I cried thou answered me, and strengthened me with strength in my soul.” (Psa. 138:3) God waits for us to so hate our sin and bondage that we cry for deliverance. Until then we probably love our sin enough that deliverance is only halfheartedly desired, and we will never be free under those conditions.

Trying to live the Christ life by our own strength is impossible! When we examine just a few of God's commands we are confirmed in this fact:

- Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you...
- Be perfect...
- Walk worthy, with all lowliness, gentleness and long-suffering...
- Be holy as I am holy...
- Pray without ceasing...
- Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, mind...

Yes, truly to live the Christian life in and of ourselves is futile -- apart from the Holy Spirit's enablement as we abide in Christ -- we will utterly fail. We must learn to cry out for the Lord's help in total abandonment unto Him for

what is required of us is vastly beyond our abilities. David cried unto the Lord and God answered him and gave him strength in his soul. My, how we need this today.

Power For Understanding and Wisdom.

Early in the book of Proverbs we are told “Yea, if thou criest after knowledge (discernment) and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou searchest for her as for hid treasures. . . then thou shalt understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God” (Prov. 2:3-5).

In many situations of life we do not know where to turn. We must cry out to the Lord for His will, His understanding and direction. But too often we lean on our own understanding, do our own human reasoning and make decisions based on our own thoughts. If we would only cry out for discernment, and lift up our voice to God, and so desire His wisdom that would search for her as hid treasures -- then God would give us the understanding we need.

Power For Control Over Self.

We all are much aware that we lack self-control, or self-discipline over our lives! It is easy to give into the desires of the flesh, to fulfill the lust of our wicked hearts. (Jer. 17:9) Paul asked a question in Romans 7: “Who can deliver me from the body of this death?” Paul felt the flesh nature pulling him down. He recognized that he did the things he did not want to do, and failed to do the things his new nature (renewed heart) desired to do. He was in despair and cried out to God. Then he answered his own question. . . “I thank God through Jesus Christ.” We are to be more than conquerors through Him that loved us. It is the Father’s desire that we cry out to Him for deliverance from the tyranny of self. (Rom. 8:37)