

## God Hears Our "Crying Out!"

**What does it mean to "Cry Out"?** 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", or the word "cry" in the noun and verb form, one finds something we rarely think about. I am amazed that the Word of God gives specific purposes and potential for crying out -- and how this is emphasized time and again.

Many believers today seem unaware of this consistent pattern in God's Word. It could even be said that the most significant difference between the prayers of God's saints in Scripture (so powerfully effective) and our prayers today (so seemingly ineffective) is this: ***There was a fervency in the prayers of biblical saints -- a fervency that is inherent in crying out!***

***When we grasp this truth, then the prayer life of Christ becomes more real, and we understand more about Gethsemane.*** (See Hebrews 5:7-9) We encounter men and women in the Bible truly trusting that *God hears*, and gives voice to their requests and praises. Earnestly believing that God hears the cry of His own, these Old Testament believers filled His ears with the cries from their hearts that flowed out through their lips. Maybe you ought to use a good concordance and check on every verse that speaks of ***crying out***, or the word, ***cried***, or ***cry*** in the noun and verb forms.

***A great variety of words are evident in the Scriptures to describe crying out or praying loud.***

In each case the inherent meaning of these words includes some audible sound -- an aspect that doesn't always come across strongly in the English translation. *The kinds of sound* implied by these varies are anything from a low whisper or moan all the way to earsplitting shouts. In approaching God, these saints of old had a wide range of emotions and mindsets that were reflected in the tone and pitch and volume of their freely spoken prayers.

In the Scriptures, words for prayer have a built-in meaning of audible sound. These are particularly evident in passages that promise God's hearing. I have often claimed Jer. 33:3. "***Call unto me and I will answer thee and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not.***" Now reader, the first word here is the Hebrew *gara*, which generally carries the meaning of "*calling aloud or crying out.*" God gives an invitation and promise to those who cry out to Him in times of need. We see this again in

Psa. 50:15: "And **call** upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." David often used this Hebrew word, *gara*, such as found in Psa. 145:18. "The Lord is nigh unto all them that **call** upon Him, to all that **call** upon Him in truth."

***These are an outflow from the heart, not just some formula for praying.***

There are many different words used in the Word of God that gives us varied pictures of all prayer ought to be. Possibly David in the Scriptures shows more vital faith in the God who hears than any other Old Testament person. He was a man after God's own heart. In one Psalm David states: "Evening and morning and at noon will I pray, and **cry** aloud: and He shall hear my voice" (Psa. 55:17). Note David speaks of prayer and crying out.

Another place David says: "In my distress I **called** upon the Lord and **cried** unto my God: He heard my voice out of His temple, and my **cry** came before Him, even into His ears" (Psa. 18:6). Here the word for David's outcry is the Hebrew, *shava*, which gives us the meaning of a higher-pitched shout for help. David assures us, "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their **cry**" (Psa. 34:15). An actual shriek, as if in great grief, is the root meaning of the word, *tsa'aq*, which David uses in Psalm 34:17. "The righteous **cry**, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles."

***Let's consider some thoughts in closing:***

1. Repeatedly David found in his experience that what he uttered aloud with such deep and sincere emotion, God heard. David reveals to us a picture of crying out to God that we seldom consider.

2. Maybe we would have to admit that our prayer life is without passion or deep concern? Maybe we just go through the motions of prayer with little heart? Maybe we even think that such "crying out" to God is not biblical?

3. These instances in David's life was the crying out of a son to a Father. The more we believe in the ongoing miracle that **God actually hears us** -- through the way opened up for us into His sanctuary by Christ's blood -- the more freely and fervently we will voice our prayers. . . and this will bring delight to the Father.

4. We know from our own families that a true father's heart hears his children's cries, and that the children naturally cry to him. In the same way,

crying out to God should be our child-to-Father impulse, which is planted in our hearts by the Holy Spirit within. (Gal. 4:6)

***This is a series I expect to continue. . . hope they are an encouragement!***