

Power of Crying Out to the Lord

Messianic Rabbi Eric Walker

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Every day for the past few years I have seen the title of a book that someone had given to me. The Power of Crying Out by Bill Gothard. I walked by that book well over 100 times and read the title, but never once read it. I was scheduled to teach and this title kept jumping into my spirit. I opened my Bible, launched my PC Study Bible and began to study and prepare. Any similarities to the book are purely a matter of us using the same reference work, the Word!!

When a child is too young to speak they cry – there are many reasons sometimes they are hungry or wet so they cry from the discomfort. We feed them or change them and they stop crying. A baby may cry because they are trying to shut out something that is bothering them like noise or light and when we finally figure out what it was that was making them cry – we fix it and they stop. Over time we get to know our child and you can often hear a mother or father say oh, little Abraham is tired, or hungry, because they can recognize the cry. They don't panic and they don't over react because the cry is familiar. But, there is one cry, that cry that sends the heart racing and the adrenalin flowing, that cry that stands out above all other cries and that is the distress call that sends a parent into high speed.

1989 Earthquake – I was home alone in California and Amanda was just a few months old. The house started to shake and the chandeliers started swinging. Glasses fell off the shelves and water began sloshing out of the pool. Amanda was in her crib and I heard her cry out – that cry of distress. I lived in a two story home at the time and do not ever remember having my feet touch the steps. There was power in her crying out – It was that cry – that distress call – that required a response that was different than all other responses might have been – It was not a “let her cry kind of cry” or that releasing energy kind of cry so she could go to sleep – it was that certain cry that demanded a response.

And just as it is revealed to us in the natural so it exists in the super-natural. When we cry out to the Lord it is different than when we offer up our regular prayers.

There are many examples in the scriptures and I am going to share some of those with you tonight. There are several reasons – first, to give you comfort that even if your regular pray life is not what you want it to be or you have not been living the life that you could be living for the Lord – He hears your cry – and there is Power in Crying out to the Lord.

Ex 2:23 “During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and **cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to G-D.** ²⁴ G-D heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. ²⁵ So G-D looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.”

Ex 3:1 “Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of G-D. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight — why the bush does not burn up." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, G-D called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." ⁵ "Do not come any closer," G-D said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ Then he said, "I am the G-D of your

father, the G-D of Abraham, the G-D of Isaac and the G-D of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at G-D. ⁷ The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. **I have heard them crying out** because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey — the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ **And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me**, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

How long were the Israelite people in bondage – 430 years to the day of the Exodus.

How long was it that the Israelites were laboring before they cried out – we know that G-d must have seen what they were going through and knew of their suffering, but was it coincidence that He chose to reference their crying out – not once but 3 times – you make the call.

G-D is faithful to honor his covenants even when we are not in right standing with Him.. Judges 3:7 "The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD; they forgot the LORD their G-D and served the Baals and the Asherahs. ⁸ The anger of the LORD burned against Israel so that he sold them into the hands of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram Naharaim, to whom the Israelites were subject for eight years. ⁹ **But when they cried out to the LORD, he raised up for them a deliverer**, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, who saved them. ¹⁰ The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, so that he became Israel's judge and went to war. The LORD gave Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram into the hands of Othniel, who overpowered him. ¹¹ So the land had peace for forty years, until Othniel son of Kenaz died. ¹² Once again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and because they did this evil the LORD gave Eglon king of Moab power over Israel. ¹³ Getting the Ammonites and Amalekites to join him, Eglon came and attacked Israel, and they took possession of the City of Palms. ¹⁴ The Israelites were subject to Eglon king of Moab for eighteen years. ¹⁵ **Again the Israelites cried out to the LORD, and he gave them a deliverer.**"

Crying out to the Lord is a symptom of our condition and G-D's response is that of a father hearing the distress call of His child. Even when we are doing wrong – It is not an endorsement of our behavior, but a delivering from our distress. But if we continue to repeat the same behavior and assume that the solution is in the crying out think again and read: Judg 10:6 "Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD. They served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and the G-Ds of Aram, the G-Ds of Sidon, the G-Ds of Moab, the G-Ds of the Ammonites and the G-Ds of the Philistines. And because the Israelites forsook the LORD and no longer served him, ⁷ he became angry with them. He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and the Ammonites, ⁸ who that year shattered and crushed them. For eighteen years they oppressed all the Israelites on the east side of the Jordan in Gilead, the land of the Amorites. ⁹ The Ammonites also crossed the Jordan to fight against Judah, Benjamin and the house of Ephraim; and Israel was in great distress. ¹⁰ Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD, "We have sinned against you, forsaking our G-D and serving the Baals." ¹¹ The LORD replied, "When the Egyptians, the Amorites, the Ammonites, the Philistines, ¹² the Sidonians, the Amalekites and the Maonites oppressed you and you cried to me for help, did I not save you from their hands? ¹³ But you have forsaken me and served other G-Ds, so I will no longer save you. ¹⁴ Go and cry out to the G-Ds you have chosen. Let them save you when you are in trouble!" ¹⁵ But the Israelites said to the LORD, "We have sinned. Do with us whatever you think best, but please rescue us now." ¹⁶ Then they got rid of the foreign G-Ds among them and served the LORD. And he could bear Israel's misery no longer."

It was with a repentant heart that they cried out this 3rd time and it was through this that the Lord showed His compassion.

Who of us can forget the now made famous Prayer of Jabez : 1 Chron 4:10 “Jabez cried out to the G-D of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And G-D granted his request.”

The Prophet Amos had 5 visions about Jerusalem - Amos 7:1 “This is what the Sovereign LORD showed me: He was preparing swarms of locusts after the king's share had been harvested and just as the second crop was coming up. ² When they had stripped the land clean, I cried out , "Sovereign LORD, forgive! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!" ³ So the LORD relented. "This will not happen," the LORD said. ⁴ This is what the Sovereign LORD showed me: The Sovereign LORD was calling for judgment by fire; it dried up the great deep and devoured the land. ⁵ Then I cried out , "Sovereign LORD, I beg you, stop! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!" ⁶ So the LORD relented.”

There is Power in CRYING OUT.

We read in Matthew 14:25 “During the fourth watch of the night Yeshua went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Yeshua immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." ²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Yeshua. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out , "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Yeshua reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Is it that we are too proud to fall to our knees and cry out for the Lord or is it that we fear that He will not answer us because of our disobedience? Or is it truly, as Yeshua said to Peter, Oh You of Little faith.

Mark 10:46 “Then they came to Jericho. As Yeshua and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Yeshua of Nazareth, he began to cry out, "Yeshua, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹ Yeshua stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Yeshua. ⁵¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" Yeshua asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." ⁵² "Go," said Yeshua, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Yeshua along the road.”

There is no record of how long Bartimaeus was blind – but one must suppose that it had been long enough to subject him to a life of begging. There is also no record of him praying that his sight would be restored, but one must suppose that was not by choice he was blind. It was upon hearing it was Yeshua and drawing upon his blind-faith that he cried out and his cry was answered. It was a distress call and G-D answered his cry.

Why don't we cry out to G-D more often?

1. We can handle it on our own – PRIDE
2. We allow anxiety or stress or worry or doubt to enter into the picture and turn to our “support” group for comfort through the difficulty
3. We have a doctor that will write us a prescription and taking a pill is the answer
4. It's just our lot in life and the hand that we were dealt – learn to live with it!
5. We think G-D has given up on us – otherwise we would not be in this situation in the first place!
6. We forget to turn to Him first.

Crying out to G-D:

1. Is a spontaneous response to an urgent need.
2. Centers on one specific need. Not your regular prayer
3. May be motivated by danger, pain or bad news
4. It is a profession of honest, true, deep need that only G-D can meet.
5. Is an act of Humility that cuts through all the pretense and becomes a matter of the heart.
6. It is an incredible faith builder if we recognize where our help came from.

There is no power in crying out to G-D if there is no faith that He will provide the answer – He promises to answer – He does not promise to say yes!

When the Israelites had all they could stand – They cried out!
When Jabez wanted to increase his territory – He cried out!!
When Peter was afraid – He cried out!
When Bartimaeus didn't want to be blind anymore – He cried out.
They all cried out to the One they knew could deliver them from their affliction.

Read what the Psalmists wrote:

Ps 3:4 “To the LORD I **cry aloud**, and he answers me from his holy hill.”

Ps 6:8-10” Away from me, all you who do evil, for the LORD has heard my weeping. ⁹ The LORD has heard my **cry for mercy**; the LORD accepts my prayer. ¹⁰ All my enemies will be ashamed and dismayed; they will turn back in sudden disgrace.”

Ps 10:17 “You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and **you listen to their cry**,¹⁸ defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more.”

Ps 31:22 “In my alarm I said, "I am cut off from your sight!" **Yet you heard my cry for mercy when I called to you for help.**”

Ps 34:17 “The **righteous cry out**, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. ¹⁸ The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

Ps 40:1 “I waited patiently for the LORD; **he turned to me and heard my cry**. ² He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. ³ He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our G-D. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.”

Ps 72:12 “For he will deliver the needy **who cry out**, the afflicted who have no one to help. ¹³ He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. ¹⁴ He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.”

The choice is yours, but as for me – I am going to cry out loud to the Lord in my times of need!

There is power in crying out to the Lord!