

The Power of Crying Out Part I

This material is taken from *The Power of Crying Out: When Prayer Becomes Mighty* by Bill Gothard.

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Page 12 – "...I recently made what was for me a life-changing discovery. I saw that the Bible makes a distinction between "prayer" and "crying out to God." What I have noticed since that time is that He will arrange or allow circumstances to arise that seem to have no solution – and then do nothing to remove the problem. Until I cry out."

Page 13-14 "All of this may be something of a surprise to you. 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 or mind, surely there's no critical need to express aloud what God already knows. That's all true, of course. He does know our hearts. And He can hear the faintest whisper for help raising from the deepest places of our spirit. And yet it's strange...."

As we survey the Bible with our eyes and hearts wide open, we can't help seeing an unmistakable principle and pattern. God's people, in their time of need, cry out with their voices for His help, and He promptly answers with His saving power. This doesn't happen once or twice, but over and over again."

Let's look at six Hebrews words and one Greek word to help us understand what it means "to cry out."

Jeremiah 33:3 "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."

Qara (687 times used) which generally carries the meaning of calling aloud or crying out.

"I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill..." Psalms 3:4

"The Lord will hear when I call to Him...To You I will cry, O Lord my Rock...Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry to You." Psalms 4:3; 28:1-2

Psalms 50:15 "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Psalm 145:18 "The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth."

Hamah (31 times used) has the connotation of a loud humming or murmuring –even to a growl, roar, moan, clamor, be troubled.

"Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice." Psalm 55:17

Shava (21 times) is a high-pitched shout for help.

"In my distress I called upon the Lord and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry came before Him, even to His ears." Psalm 18:6

"The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry." Psalm 34:15

O Lord my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me." Psalms 30:2

Tsa'ag (53 times) is an actual shriek, as if in grief.

"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles." Psalm 34:17

Rinnah (33 times) is a ringing or shrill sound

“Hear my cry, O God.” Psalm 61:1

“Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need; rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.” Psalm 142:6

Hagah (24 times) is the word for “meditate” and “meditation” and it refers to a low murmur, to ponder. It means “to talk to yourself.” It is used for the low rumbling growl of a lion after catching its prey (Isaiah 31:4) for moan of a dove (Isaiah 38:14, 59:11) and for the sound of a human mourning. Jeremiah 48:31; Isaiah 16:7

Also translated “speak.”

“And my tongue shall speak of Your righteousness” Psalms 35:28

“The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom” Psalms 37:30

“For my mouth will speak truth.” Proverbs 8:7

It is not the word for normal speaking, but implied a lower, repetitive sound.

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night.” Joshua 1:8

This is an actual sounding out of the Scriptures from his mouth with mental attention.

Same word in Psalm 1:2 “delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.”

Then in the New Testament, the Greek word is **krazo** (56 times) and it is a strong word with meanings such as to croak as a raven, or scream, exclaim, shout.

“God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father.’” Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:15

“As we call aloud our prayers, we can more easily recognize our

heart’s condition before God. Hearing our own spoken words, we quickly detect any lack of fervency or humility or reverence. Listening to ourselves, we’re forced to examine our hearts. And this is good.” (page 26)