**Call up on the lord**

Jeremiah 33:3 Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

Throughout the bible we find God’s people crying out to the Lord in times of distress to receive deliverance. Sometimes this would happen after difficult times and after years of living in bondage and outside of God’s grace.

We find this in the Book of Exodus, where we read about the Israelites, Gods own people, living as slaves to the Egyptians and finally after 400 years they Cried out to God for help.

[Exodus 2:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+2:23&version=NIV) 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 God.

Over and over we read in the Book of Judges that the Israelites would fall away from the LORD, even doing “evil in the eyes of the Lord”, but after they fell into the hands of their enemies they would cry out to the Lord and he would raise up for them a deliverer. (Judges 3:9, 3:15, 4:3, 6:7, 10:10)

in 2 Chronicles 18 we also hear about a King named Jehoshaphat who ruled over Judah. Jehoshaphat was one of the few God-fearing kings but he came together with the wicked king of Israel to fight a battle against Syria. The king of Syria told his men to find and Kill the wicked king of Israel but when they spot king Jehoshaphat they though he was the wicked King and came to kill him but the Bible tells us “**Jehoshaphat cried out, and the Lord helped him and God drew the enemy away** (2Chronicles 18:31).

In 2 Chronicles 20 a great multitude came up against King Jehoshaphat and all of Judah and they were afraid but the King called out to God saying “**We will stand before your house and before you and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save**” (2 chronicles 20:9) So they cried out to the Lord and the Lord respond telling them not to be afraid for they would not have to fight. The next morning, The Bible tells us that their enemies destroyed each other (2 chronicles 20:23) and that for three days the Israelites gathered all the spoils until they could carry no more

In 2 Chronicles 32 a similar situation happened with king Hezekiah who cried out, and God gave him victory:

2 Chronicles 32:20–21 Hezekiah the king, and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven. And the Lord sent an angel, to cut off all the mighty men of valor, and the leaders and captains in the camp of Assyria.

The Book of Psalms tells us over and over that we should cry out to God in our time of need

* Psalm 3:4 I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill.
* Psalm 22:5 They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.
* Psalm 34:17 The righteous cry, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.
* Psalm 56:9 When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me”.

In the Book of Matthew we find the disciples in a boat during a storm. Then Jesus comes out to them walking on the Water. When Peter see this, he ask Jesus “command me to come to you on the water” and Jesus tells Peter to come but when he does, Peter sees the waves and begins to sink

Matthew 14:30-31  But when he (Peter) saw the wind he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him…

Jesus waited for Peter to ask for his help and as soon as he did Jesus immediately reached out his hand and pulled him to safety.

In Matthew we find two blindmen crying out

Matthew 20:30 And behold, there were two blind men sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!”

You may notice a common theme in all of these stories. It wasn't until they realize that their situations were hopeless and they were powerless to do anything about it and only then they would cry out to the Lord. It's sort of like the old saying when you're looking for your keys they are always in the last place you look. It’s the same thing with crying out to the Lord: it's usually the last thing you do before a major breakthrough. We will usually try everything in the world to resolve the problem before we call on God but then when we do we can trust that he will answer.

**What does it mean to Crying out to God?**

First crying out is an act of desperation showing that we are helpless to take care of the situation on our own. Second, it is an expression of faith and trust in God, that His goodness and power will act on your behalf.

Crying out to God expresses the following traits:

* **Humility**

It is hard for people to admit that they cannot solve a problem or overcome an obstacle. It is when we seek God humbly that He help us.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

* **Unconditional surrender**

When a situation becomes so desperate that only God can deliver you, a cry represents total, unconditional surrender.

Luke 9:23-24 “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

* **A plea for mercy**

Apart from Christ, we have no value that merits God’s favor. When driven to a point of despair, your unworthiness before God often becomes more apparent, and it can motivate you to cry out to Him for mercy.

Isaiah 30:19 For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee.

Lamentations 3:22–23 It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

* **Personal helplessness**

Do you tend to believe that you need God’s help with only the really big issues? Remember, Jesus said,

John 15:5 Without me you can do nothing

* **Desperation**

Crying out to God is an admission that you can’t handle it alone and you need God.

Psalm 18:6 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

So many times, we will find ourselves in the midst of a storm and surrounded by troubles but asking God for help is the last thing on our mind instead of our first thought.

Have you ever played a game called Mercy. If you have ever played this game you know there is a point where you have no more strength or will to resist. When there's nothing more to do you cry out for mercy.

So, is God waiting for us to reach that point where we call for Mercy? Why does God wait for us to Cry out to him? It's a lot like the game of Mercy except it is not God who is inflicting the pain. It is God who is waiting for you to cry out to Him so He can step in and take the pain away. It is God who provides the mercy if we ask him.

God finds joy when we cry out in our suffering and troubles because there is sincerity and fervency in those prayers which shows we are expecting a blessing as opposed to meaningless repetition of our daily prayers.

# Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Life is full of pain and suffering and the enemy would love for you to believe it is God delivering the Pain and He would love for you to believe that you don’t need God to deliver you from it. So, he will always tell you “you can handle this” and “God won’t help”

Now we need to keep in mind that we will go through trials in life and God allows us to go through

* There is no testimony without the test

As you read through the Bible it is all about the trials and test each person had to go through during their walk with God. Even Jesus didn’t have and easy life or death. If you have life easy and everything goes your way then how can you relate and tell others about Christ when they are suffering. It is usually through pain and suffering we learn the most (Sad but True). I would love to be able to work out really hard and get supper buff but I don’t want the pain that goes with it. If you think about it everything in life that is worth doing comes with a cost, whether it is hours of practice, studying, trial and error… This is how we grow. God uses trials to build our faith. But if we call on the Lord, when we get to that breaking point where we just can’t go anymore, he will be there to help us through.

In James 1:2-4 We are told to Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

# James 1:12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

God is always there waiting for you to realize how much you need him. We need to get to the point where we finally realize we just can’t do it on our own and when we get there, God is there waiting for us. God wants to help us but he chooses to wait till we are willing to ask and let him in.

🡪 **We need to get to** **the point where we give up all that we can do to receive all that He can do.**

I can think of many times in My life where I was in a situation way over my head and I would never think to ask God for his help until things were absolutely desperate.

* Fixing the Washer or Car.
* Work projects or facing down sizing
* Dealing with Family issues
* Pain or Sickness
* Hearing hopeless issues from friends

For some reason, I always want to feel I can do it on my own. Maybe this is the enemy speaking to me. Sometimes I just didn’t think I needed God to do it or that God would be interested in helping me do it especially if it was something that didn’t relate to reading my Bible or witnessing to others.

I have often told of a time when I was driving down Interstate 10 coming back from San Antonio on a business trip. I was alone in the car and probably going around 70 miles an hour when I rounded the top of an overpass to find all the cars in front of me were at a dead stop. The situation was hopeless. There was less than a few car lengths between me and I was going way to fast to stop. I am not sure why but I immediately closed my eyes and **cried out “oh God”.** there was nothing else I could do but wait for the impact….

But nothing happened! I opened my eyes and somehow, I had made it across several lanes of traffic on to an off ramp, that I didn’t even know existed without even a scratch. God had heard my cry and answered!

God wants to do amazing things in your life but you have to let him in your life first and then ask him to take control of things we can’t handle our selves. This can be anything:

* Relationships, School / Jobs, Family, Addictions, Sin, Sickness

But we have to be willing to give God the steering wheel so he can tack control of our lives. Many times, we will ask God to take control but try to hold certain things back.

God I give you control over my life but I want to keep this area to myself so just stay out of this area. We will put God on the thrown of our life until it gets uncomfortable or we realize what we are missing out.

* God fix my marriage but I am going to continue to look at other girls
* God remove all the sin from my life but I am going to continue to hang out with this bad group of friends.

God wants total control of your life so that he can step in and help in those difficult situations so you experience true Joy and happens not just the shallow temporary thrills the world gives that leaves you empty after they are over

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

So, cry out to God and ask him to come into your life completely to change everything that does not please him and he will do it. You will be amazed by the results! Don’t wait till you are in a desperate place.