

*The Power Behind*  
*Anger Resolution*

**The Power of  
Crying Out**

**Session Six**

# Examples of Crying Out to God

## • A Company President With a Failing Business

After several months of declining sales, a business owner in the state of Washington became alarmed by the prospects of his company going under. He heard the teaching of crying out and since nothing else had worked, he decided that this was the only answer. He cried out with his voice that God would reverse the trend of his business. From that day forward, things began to change. The clear hand of God's blessing was upon him and his company. One month later, he wrote a testimonial of the power of crying out to God.

## • A Mother With a Runaway Daughter

In the spring of 1999, a mother in Australia was shocked when her seventeen-year-old daughter ran away from their home with her boyfriend. She knew that this young man had stolen her daughter's heart and that there was no way to recover it. To make matters worse, the government of Australia provides subsidies for teenagers who leave their homes. The mother was desperate and knew that the only answer was to cry out to God. She went into her room and got a towel to partially muffle her voice and with all her strength, she cried out to God to deliver her daughter from this young man. Within a few weeks, the young man became a believer and the daughter rededicated her life to the Lord. They both asked her parents to forgive them and entered separate discipleship programs to grow in their walks with the Lord.

## • A Farmer in the Grip of Death

A prosperous farmer in Michigan was quite pleased with his success, but with it had come a coldness toward the Lord. He decided to use some of his wealth to purchase a brand-new tractor. He bought one larger than he needed, with many extra features to ensure its reliability and efficiency. One day he had this powerful tractor hooked up to a conveyor belt and was putting hay bales in his barn. Suddenly, his arm got caught in the wheel. He was yanked into the machine and in a few seconds would be crushed to death. He remembered that a neighbor had experienced death this way just a few weeks earlier. He cried out for God to deliver him, and suddenly the tractor motor stalled. There was no mechanical reason for the stalling. The farmer knew that God had graciously spared his life. He rededicated his life to God and views every day as a gift of mercy.

## • A Pastor Who Was Embarrassingly Obese

A pastor in Michigan believed in self-control. He even preached sermons on it. But his congregation and his doctor knew he did not have this quality. One day he went to a birthday party for his mother-in-law and gave her a scale. They all had fun weighing themselves, but when he got on the scale, it read "error"! After taking things out of his pockets and removing his belt and shoes, he finally got it to read "300." He had tried every conceivable weight-loss program and was an expert in nutrition, but he just did not have the willpower to control his diet. He did try a forty-day fast and lost forty pounds, but in a few weeks he regained what he had lost. Finally, one morning he thought about the instruction he had received on crying out. That morning he cried out to God, asking God

to give him self-control. God heard his cry. That was seven months ago. At every meal since then, he has had self-control. He has lost over 105 pounds and is now maintaining his normal weight.

### • **An Expectant Mother With a Baby in the Wrong Position**

A mother of five children had experienced good success with home births, so she was confident that the sixth birth would also be without incident. However, after five hours of hard labor, there were no results. Actually, the baby was face-up and not able to be delivered. The baby boy was also twenty-three and a half inches long. Suddenly, the attending nurse was not able to record a heartbeat and realized that the mother of the baby needed to be rushed to the hospital. This meant an automatic caesarean-section delivery and the possibility of a stillbirth. While the mother and baby were on the way to the nearby hospital, a group gathered to cry out. Their cry was, "Lord God, you have said to call upon you in the day of trouble, and this is a day of trouble. Would you keep the mother safe and deliver a healthy baby." God heard that cry. The attending physician used a technique to turn the head, and the baby boy came out healthy without a caesarean-section delivery. This caused great rejoicing.

### **Why Does God Give Us \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> Trials?**

God created man to have fellowship with Him. However, He also gave us a free will because He wants us to voluntarily return the love that He has for us. Love cannot be demanded. It must be based on a genuine fellowship of spirit and recognition of need.

Every day, God protects us from the intense assault of Satan to destroy those that are Godly. "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" (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Because of God's continual protection and provision, we tend to think that we do not need Him, and we begin to trust in ourselves. Therefore, our love grows cold and we turn our hearts away from the Lord.

It is therefore needful for our sake that we have regular reminders of our desperate need for the Lord and His mighty power to care for us. God warned Israel that when they entered the Promised Land they would dwell in houses they did not build, enjoy crops they did not plant, and have possessions they did not buy. They would soon become self-sufficient and forget the Lord Who brought them out of the slavery of Egypt so that they could be a nation that would demonstrate His ways to the world.

### **Overwhelming "Storms"**

The pattern that God uses to create a crisis or to allow Satan to produce one, and then to deliver us only when we cry out to Him, is dramatically illustrated in Psalm 107:23-29.

They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep. For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end. **Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble**, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.

This passage is an accurate picture of how Christ's power was demonstrated to the disciples when He told them to row across the Sea of Galilee. He knew when He gave them this instruction that they would face a violent storm and would not be able to cross the sea in their own strength. Yet Jesus got in the boat with His disciples and found a place to go to sleep. The disciples were seasoned fishermen, so when they saw the clouds gathering and the wind increasing, they simply rowed harder.

Soon the waves became threatening and finally crashed over the boat. No longer was it a matter of reaching the other shore; it was now a matter of survival. Only at this point did the disciples cry out to the Lord, and only in this moment did Jesus act. "And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm" (Luke 8:24).

Had they cried out earlier, they could have saved themselves some hard labor. But Jesus waits for us to labor to the point of realizing that we cannot accomplish a task in ourselves and finally become willing to cry out to Him for deliverance. The labor is not wrong, because the disciples were doing what Jesus told them to do. The problem would have been a failure to cry out when they realized their labor was not sufficient.

## The Power of Crying Out

A growing number of believers are discovering the neglected teaching on crying out to God in times of great distress. They are amazed that after years of praying, a single cry will often bring instantaneous direction or deliverance. They wonder why there are such powerful results from something so simple, yet the promise is very clear: "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me" (Psalm 50:15).

### Commands to Cry Out

Throughout Scripture there are clear instructions to cry out to God in times of trouble. There is also a multitude of testimonies about how God heard the cries of His people and delivered them from all their distresses.

- **"Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me" (Psalm 50:15).**
- **"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3).**
- **"The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles" (Psalm 34:17).**
- **"When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me" (Psalm 56:9).**
- **"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15).**

## The Distinction Between \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup>

Most people who read Scripture assume that *crying out* is a synonym for *praying*. However, the two are distinctly different and are often mentioned side by side.

- “Hearken unto the voice of my **cry**, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I **pray**” (Psalm 5:2).
- “Attend unto my **cry**, give ear unto my **prayer**, that goeth not out of feigned lips” (Psalm 17:1).
- “Hear my **prayer** . . . and give ear unto my **cry**” (Psalm 39:12).
- “Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I **pray**, and **cry aloud**: and he shall hear my voice” (Psalm 55:17).
- “Hear my **cry**, O God; attend unto my **prayer**” (Psalm 61:1).
- “Hearken unto the **cry** and to the **prayer**, which thy servant prayeth before thee to-day” (I Kings 8:28).
- “Let my **prayer** come before thee: incline thine ear unto my **cry**” (Psalm 88:2).
- “Hear my **prayer**, O LORD, and let my **cry** come unto thee” (Psalm 102:1).

The effectiveness of both a prayer and a cry are indicated by God’s instruction to Jeremiah. This instruction also indicates that there are certain conditions under which God will not hear our cries. “Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee” (Jeremiah 7:16).

## What It Means to Cry Out

The following list of words and how they are used gives a clear picture of the importance of crying out.

1. **A cry of deep distress—Za`aq**  
“And didst see the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heardest their cry [za`aq] by the Red sea” (Nehemiah 9:9).
2. **To cry out for help—Tsa`aq**  
Moses “cried [tsa`aq] unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet” (Exodus 15:25).
3. **To call with a loud sound—Qara’**  
“Jabez called [qara’] on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed . . . . And God granted him that which he requested” (I Chronicles 4:10).
4. **To shout a war cry—Ruwa`**  
“Then the men of Judah gave a shout [ruwa`]: and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel” (II Chronicles 13:15).
5. **A cry for help—Shav`ah**  
“He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry [shav`ah], and will save them” (Psalm 145:19).
6. **A cry of deep distress—Tsa`aqah**  
“He forgetteth not the cry [tsa`aqah] of the humble” (Psalm 9:12).
7. **To cry out—Krazo**  
Peter was “afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried [krazo], saying, Lord, save me” (Matthew 14:30).
8. **To implore with strong voice—Boao**  
“And he cried [boao], saying, Jesus thou son of David, have mercy on me” (Luke 18:38).

## How God \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> to Crying Out

**The children of Israel cried out, and God delivered them \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup>.**

“And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters” (Exodus 3:7).

**The nation of Israel cried out, and God delivered them from \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup>.**

“Behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD” (Exodus 14:10, Joshua 24:7).

**They cried out in the wilderness, and God delivered them \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup>.**

“Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses” (Psalm 107:5–6).

**Backsliding Israel cried out, and God delivered them \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup>.**

“And they cried unto the LORD, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth: but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee” (I Samuel 12:10–11).

**The Israelite army cried out, and God gave \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup>.**

“And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all that were with them: for they cried to God in the battle, and he was entreated of them; because they put their trust in him” (I Chronicles 5:20).

**Samuel cried out, and God delivered \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup>.**

“The children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines. . . . and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD heard him” (I Samuel 7:8–9).

**Elijah cried out, and God revived \_\_\_\_\_<sup>11</sup>.**

“He cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child’s soul come into him again. And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived” (I Kings 17:20–22).

**Asa cried out, and God \_\_\_\_\_<sup>12</sup>.**

“Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let

not man prevail against thee. So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled" (II Chronicles 14:11-12).

### **Jehoshaphat cried out, and God delivered him \_\_\_\_\_<sup>13</sup>.**

"It came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, It is the king of Israel. Therefore they compassed about him to fight: but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; and God moved them to depart from him" (II Chronicles 18:31).

### **Hezekiah cried out, and God gave \_\_\_\_\_<sup>14</sup>.**

"Hezekiah the king, and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven. And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land" (II Chronicles 32:20-21).

### **David cried out, and God delivered him from \_\_\_\_\_<sup>15</sup>.**

"This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles" (Psalm 34:6). "In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul" (Psalm 138:3).

## **What a Cry Represents**

The power of a cry is in what it represents. Prayers can be insincere, casual, or lacking in fervency. This cannot be so with a cry. Crying out to God is an act of desperation and total concentration. It is a fervent expression of faith, as in the case of the blind man who was by the side of the road and heard that Jesus was coming. He cried out with a loud voice and bystanders tried to quiet him down. But he cried even louder, because he knew that this was his one chance to become healed of his blindness. When Jesus heard his cry and told him to come to Him, he quickly went to Jesus, leaving his cloak behind him. "And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging" (Mark 10:46).

#### **• A cry is genuine \_\_\_\_\_<sup>16</sup>.**

It is very hard for us to admit that we cannot solve a problem or overcome an obstacle. Yet God delights in a broken and contrite heart, and he despises a prideful attitude. Anyone who cries out for God's help must come to a point of humility in order to do it. But God hears the cry of the humble.

#### **• A cry is unconditional \_\_\_\_\_<sup>17</sup>.**

In our prayers, we may tend to make bargains with God or overlook secret sins that cause Him to not hear our prayers. We are warned, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Psalm 66:18). When a situation becomes so desperate that only God can deliver us, the cry must represent total, unconditional surrender.

- **A cry is a plea for** \_\_\_\_\_<sup>18</sup>.

It is easy for us to believe that we have some worth or value in ourselves apart from Christ. But when we are driven to the point of despair or destruction, we suddenly recognize our unworthiness. This is especially true as God reveals to us our failure to measure up to His holy standards.

- **A cry expresses personal** \_\_\_\_\_<sup>19</sup>.

We have a natural tendency to believe that we can accomplish certain things with our own abilities and that we need God to help us with only the really hard things. Jesus taught that “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5).

- **A cry confirms faith in God’s** \_\_\_\_\_<sup>20</sup>.

If we did not believe that God had the power to deliver us or the resources to help us, we would not cry out to Him at a time of desperation. Our very cry confirms our trust in God’s ability to do what no one else can do. This was the cry of the disciples when they said, “Lord, save us: we perish!” (See Matthew 8:25.)

- **A cry declares** \_\_\_\_\_<sup>21</sup>.

“When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and bitter cry” (Esther 4:1). “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” (Psalm 18:6).

## What to Cry Out For

1. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>22</sup>

The Holy Spirit draws people to salvation by convicting them of sin and unrighteousness and judgment to come, and “no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost” (I Corinthians 12:3). The Holy Spirit understands the sincerity of a person’s heart, and He is the only One Who can judge true repentance and true conversion. Salvation also involves receiving a free gift by faith through the grace of the Lord. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8–9). “As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God” (John 1:12).

The primary verses about receiving this free gift involve calling upon the Lord for His mercy. “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall **call** on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21). “The same Lord over all is rich unto all that **call** upon him. For whosoever shall **call** upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:12–13).

When the Pharisee and the publican went to the Temple, the Pharisee stood and prayed with himself and told God how good he was. However, the publican did not even look up, but smote his chest and cried out, “**God be merciful to me a sinner.**” Jesus affirmed

that the publican went away justified. (See Luke 18:11–14.) Two men were crucified with Jesus. One ridiculed Jesus, but the other cried out, “Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.” Jesus said to him, “To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:42–43).

## 2.

23

One of the great battles in the Christian life involves the flesh warring against the Spirit, and the Spirit warring against the flesh. (See Galatians 5:17.) Based on this, we are to “abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (I Peter 2:11). When we yield the members of the body to the lusts of the flesh, we become slaves to impurity and find ourselves in bondage to addictions. The Holy Spirit is given to us to gain victory if we cry out for it.

“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry [*krazo*—to cry out with a loud voice], Abba, Father” (Romans 8:12–15).

A confirming witness of the work of the Holy Spirit in crying out for moral purity is Galatians 4:6–5:16. “God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying [*krazo*], Abba, Father. . . . Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

## Symptoms of Unclean Spirits

- |                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Attraction to religion | 6. Unpredictable           |
| 2. Fear of God’s judgment | 7. Shameless nakedness     |
| 3. Self-mutilation        | 8. Continual restlessness  |
| 4. Association with death | 9. Unusual strength        |
| 5. Uncontrollable         | 10. Alienation from family |

## Deliverance From Unclean Spirits

### 1. Crying Out

“Behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child. And, lo, a spirit taketh him . . . . And Jesus answering said . . . . Bring thy son hither. And as he was yet a-coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father” (Luke 9:38–42).

### 2. Fasting

“When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting” (Mark 9:25–29).

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>24</sup>

Jesus confirmed the power of crying out in the following illustration about an unjust judge who said, "Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry [*boao*—to cry with a strong voice] day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?" (Luke 18:4-7).

## Why Cries Are Not Heard

After hearing this information, some may say, "I have shed many tears over a situation and nothing has happened." It is therefore important to emphasize factors that will hinder God in responding to our cries. They include the following issues.

### 1. Not crying out with a \_\_\_\_\_<sup>25</sup>

God heard the cries of David, because David cried out with his whole heart. "I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes" (Psalm 119:145). In contrast to David, the people of Hosea's time did not cry out with their whole hearts. "They have not cried unto me with their heart, when they howled upon their beds: they assemble themselves for corn and wine, and they rebel against me" (Hosea 7:14).

### 2. Not crying out with \_\_\_\_\_<sup>26</sup>

Humility is an essential quality for crying out, because "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble" (James 4:6). The promise of God on this point is that "he forgetteth not the cry of the humble" (Psalm 9:12).

### 3. Not crying out \_\_\_\_\_<sup>27</sup>

If a little baby whimpers, the mother will probably look over to see if anything is wrong; but if the baby screams, no doubt the mother will rush over with a readiness to respond. Most of the words for crying out involve a loud, verbal response to a need. David emphasizes this point. "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice" (Psalm 55:17). "I cried unto the LORD with my voice; with my voice unto the LORD did I make my supplication" (Psalm 142:1).

### 4. Not fulfilling \_\_\_\_\_<sup>28</sup>

God refuses to listen to the cries of a man who has broken his marriage vow and not properly repented. "This have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand. Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away" (Malachi 2:13-16).

## 5. Not confessing and \_\_\_\_\_

29

Scripture warns that if we regard iniquity in our hearts, the Lord will not hear (hearken unto) us. (See Psalm 66:18.) This was clearly demonstrated in God's dealings with Israel. "The children of Israel cried unto the LORD, saying, We have sinned against thee, both because we have forsaken our God, and also served Baalim. And the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Did not I deliver you from the Egyptians, and from the Amorites, from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines? The Zidonians also, and the Amalekites, and the Maonites, did oppress you; and ye cried to me, and I delivered you out of their hand. Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more. Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation" (Judges 10:10-14).

## 6. Not giving \_\_\_\_\_

30

God warns that if we fail to hear the cry of the poor, He will not hear our cry. "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard" (Proverbs 21:13). Further warnings on this point are given in the following passage: "Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child. If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry; And my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless" (Exodus 22:22-24).

In addition to being generous to the poor and needy, we are to be just and compassionate to those who work for us. "Thou shalt not oppress an hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, or of thy strangers that are in thy land within thy gates: At his day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it: lest he cry against thee unto the LORD, and it be sin unto thee" (Deuteronomy 24:14-15).

## 7. Not clearing up \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>31</sup> before we cry out

Even the prayers of a married couple will be hindered if there is bitterness. Any presence of bitterness is evidence that we have not fully forgiven our offenders, and therefore, God will neither release us from the consequences of our bitterness, nor will He hear our cries. Instead, He will send tormentors to afflict us so that we will come to the place of forgiveness. It does no good to cry out against these tormentors unless we first forgive our offenders.

Hagar developed a bitter relationship with Sarah, and both Sarah and God determined to send her and her son away. She left with a bottle of water and some bread. When the water was used up, she cast her son under a bush in the wilderness and went on further in order to avoid seeing him die. Then she sat down and wept. As she wept, God said to her, "What aileth thee, Hagar?" He said nothing about her tears, but instead He said He had heard "the voice of the lad" (Genesis 21:14-19).

# The Rewards of Crying Out

- **Deliverance from a situation of danger or damage**—“Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee” (Psalm 50:15). “When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me” (Psalm 56:9).
- **Understanding a problem**—“Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word” (Psalm 119:169).
- **Direction for a course of action**—“The LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward” (Exodus 14:15).
- **Strength for the soul**—“In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul” (Psalm 138:3).
- **Knowledge in the ways of God**—“Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God” (Proverbs 2:3-5).

## The Power of Crying Out for Safety

Following are a few of the many testimonies from those who have cried out to God when they were being attacked by an evil person.

### • How a Woman Received Help When No One Was in Sight

“As I was getting out of my car one afternoon at a Basic Seminar, a young man approached me and asked what convention was going on. I began to tell him it was a Basic Youth Conflicts Seminar, but before I could say any more, he pulled a revolver out of his pocket and started to push me back into my car. He said, ‘You’re not going anywhere. Get back into the car.’ Immediately, the Holy Spirit brought to my mind the principle of loudly calling out to God, and I cried out, ‘O God, help me! Please, Lord Jesus, deliver me!’ God was faithful to His promise. The man backed off as if another power was pushing him away, and he fled.”

### • How a Robbery Stopped When a Woman Cried Out

“Three months ago, I visited a friend. That night a man came to her home, robbed her, and hit her. I was shocked and began pulling on him to stop him, but I could not get him away. So I shouted, ‘O Lord Jesus!’ The man looked at me and stopped. He then apologized, gave back the money he had taken, and left.”

### • How a Mother Was Saved by Crying Out During an Attack

“I went to a self-service car wash, which I would not have thought of as being an unsafe place. It was very well-lit, and there were other businesses on the same block. I had just started washing the car when a man came from behind me and grabbed me around the neck. He began pulling me toward a vacant lot behind the car wash. I began screaming

and yelling. Another man came up and grabbed my feet. I continued screaming for help. They continued dragging me. But then I cried out, 'In the name of Jesus Christ, put me down!' They instantly dropped me and ran away."

## **Why These Results Took Place**

When a person with wicked intentions approaches someone to do harm, he is obviously being motivated, influenced, or controlled by evil powers. Thus, the victim is dealing not only with the attacker but also with the forces of evil behind the attacker. This is consistent with the Biblical fact that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

A second important factor is that the attacker most likely has put thoughts about God far away from his thinking. He is behaving as if there was no God watching him and preparing judgment for his misdeeds. Such a person is described in Psalm 10:4-5: "The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts. His ways are always grievous; thy judgments are far above out of his sight: as for all his enemies, he puffeth at them."

When a victim cries out to God for deliverance, the attacker is suddenly confronted with a powerful awareness of God's presence and his guilty condition before a holy God. Thus, when the women screamed and yelled for help, nothing happened; but when they cried out in the name of Jesus Christ, the attackers obeyed. This cause-and-effect sequence is confirmed by Scripture: "By the fear of the LORD men depart from evil" (Proverbs 16:6).

