

## A Call to Pray

Jer 33:3 ... ***“Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”***

This text splits itself up into three distinct parts, each carrying a wonderful truth:

1. Prayer summonsed – ... “Call to Me”...
2. Answer promised – ... “I will answer you”...
3. Faith encouraged – ... “I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know”

### **1. PRAYER SUMMONSED: ... “Call to Me”**

God is not saying “if you pray”, “if you call on Me”, or “when you pray” – no, this is not just a mere recommendation to pray and call on God, this is summons or a command from on high to pray.

Example: If you build a hospital and grant free admission to the sick, they will naturally go there for help when illness or injury strikes. If you open a soup kitchen for the homeless and hungry and offer free meals, they will flock in at meal times. You don’t need an act of Parliament to be passed to force the sick to go to the hospital, or for the hungry to go to the soup kitchen. They just go there naturally when the need arises.

Yet it seems strange that God, who offers us so much more, has to pass an act in heavens parliament which summonses His people to pray.

No one has to cajole us to eat when we are hungry. No one has to remind us to lock up the doors at night before we retire for the night. We don’t have to be forced to go to bed are tired. We automatically get up and go to work each day.

But how much attention do we give to fellowshiping with God in prayer? Are we amongst those who can’t be bothered to pray for the lost or the sick or the needy? Are we regularly taking the time to wrestle with principalities and powers over people, cities and nations that are on a path of destruction?

When we do pray, do we do it for a few moments rather than for hours? Many people have all the time there is for the things of the world but only moments for Christ.

The world gets the best of their time and energy while Christ gets their tiring moments and the dregs of their energy at the end of the day.

Freshness and strength for mammon, and fatigue and lethargy for Christ.

This is a real indictment against God’s people! It’s the sad reality that faces the church today. That’s a huge part of the reason why our nation and the world are in their present poor state of affairs.

**By a poor attitude to prayer we tell God that what was begun in the Spirit we can finish in the flesh.**

Prayer, spending time in the presence of our loving Heavenly Father, should be the believer's greatest joy, the thing he or she longs for each day. Because it's the highest privilege we can encounter and something we should long after. To be in the presence of God Almighty and seeking the help He so longs to provide for us or for those for whom we are praying.

Yet here our loving heavenly Father has to summons us to come to Him in prayer.

He understands we are busy people and that we get tired. He knows we sometimes face difficult circumstances and situations and have heavy hearts and may not be all that well. But He knows all our answers are to be found in Him and in Him alone. He knows we can rise above our hassles or the needs in front of us. He knows we can prevail over all evil. If we but call on Him for help. And so He summons us to call to Him in prayer. He says "you must come to Me for help. You must ... Call on Me".

In other places in the Word we read similar summonses to prayer:

Matt 26:41 ... *"Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak"*.

1 Thess 5:17 ... *"pray without ceasing"*.

**The time and place given to prayer individually and corporately is a certain indicator of the spiritual state of a believer or a local body of believers.**

...Because ...**No person is greater than their prayer life.**

...and also because ...**Prayer is to the believer what capital is to the businessman.**

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So let us pray for all believers, and particularly for those with whom we regularly fellowship, that they may be motivated and stirred up by the Holy Spirit to pray. Focus on this one need. If we can get the church to pray we will usher in the great awakening this city and nation is waiting for.

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**"Call to Me"** ... Jer 33:3

This was written at a time when God's people were in Babylonian captivity. Jeremiah was locked away in prison when God spoke these words to him. It was in this adverse situation that God provided Jeremiah with the very tool he needed to bring himself and God's people to freedom. God said, "PRAY, Jeremiah, PRAY!" ... "Call to Me" ... Why? Because God knows the power of believing prayer.

James 5:17 ... *"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."*

**He who fears God fears no man. He who kneels before God will stand in any situation.**

God has sovereignly chosen that everything He wants to achieve on this earth is to be done by His power working in and through us, His children, His ambassadors, His representatives. He has chosen us to be vessels through which He operates. He wants to love through us, He wants to bless through us, He

wants to reach the lost through us. He will use the substance of our prayers to turn into the answers that we need!

Eph 3:20 ... *“to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,*

*We are partakers of the divine nature and now He wants rivers of living waters flowing out of your and my innermost midsts.*

That’s why Jesus said, (John 14:13-14) ... *“whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son”* and immediately repeats this in the next verse ... *“if you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it”*.

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Are you or your loved ones ‘imprisoned’ with illness? – then heed the Father’s cry ... *“Call to Me”* ...

Are you or your loved ones ‘imprisoned’ with distress? – then heed the Father’s cry ... *“Call to Me”* ...

Are you or your loved ones ‘imprisoned’ with fear? – then heed the Father’s cry ... *“Call to Me”* ...

Are your children or loved ones or friends ‘imprisoned’ in sin and in need of salvation? – then heed the Father’s cry ... *“Call to Me”* ...

Whatever it is that is your burden right now – take it to the Lord in prayer.

Ps 55:22 ... *“Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you”*

Ps 50:15 ... *“Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you”* ...

Ps 62:8 ... *“Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us”*.

Is 55:6 ... *“Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near”*.

Jas 4:8 ... *“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you”*.

Whether you are on the mountain top or in the valley, in the midst of a storm, or in the fiery furnace, or staring into the mouth of hell with its jaws snapping at you; whatever your situation - PRAY to the One who said “Call to Me”. Pray and keep on praying. Don’t cease. Ask and keep on asking, knock and keep on knocking – until heaven’s door opens and God brings you deliverance.

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## **2. ANSWER PROMISED: ... *“I will answer you”***

Don’t for a minute think He will fail you – because – God is Love, He is Truth, He is Grace – it’s in His very nature to mercifully provide loving care and answers to those who call to Him in time of need.

He will never refuse you help. Would He ever summons you to come to Him in prayer only to reject you and leave your cry unresolved? Never!

He has decreed and He will honour His word ... *"I **will** answer you"*.

Rom 8:32 ... *"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?"*

The blood streaming from the wounds of Jesus is the sure guarantee for answered prayer.

If the Lord did not refuse to listen and answer your heart cry when you were a guilty sinner and enemy of the cross, how can He possibly disregard your cry now that you are a justified and saved child of His?

John 14:14 ... *"if you ask Me anything in My name, I **will** do it"*.

Mark 11:24 ... *"Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they **will** be granted you"*.

Heb 11:6 ... *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a **rewarder** of those who diligently seek Him"*.

Heb 4:16 ... *"Let us therefore come **boldly** to the throne of grace, that we may **obtain** mercy and **find** grace to help in time of need."*

Without questioning, we put our trust in the coins and notes the reserve bank issues us as tender for purchasing goods and services. In a similar way, without questioning, we should put our trust in God's promises to the point we treat them as heavens coins and notes as tender for trading in Heaven's market of grace...

...Where our Lord says (Jer 32:27) ... *"Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; **is anything too difficult for Me?**"*

Right now He is saying to you and me ... *"Call on Me and I **will** Answer you"*.

**So go to God in prayer, expect a miracle!"**

**3. FAITH ENCOURAGED – ...*"I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know"***

This word was first spoken to a prophet in prison in a foreign land. It was a promise of liberation when he had no idea of how he was going to get out of this fix. What encouragement at such a dire time!

This is the same thing that happened to Daniel and his friends along with all the other wise men when they were facing death due to the king's wrath when no one could interpret the king's dream (Dan ch2). Daniel asked for a little additional time to pray and asked God for an answer to his prayer concerning Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Daniel did not pray alone, he knew the power of united prayer; he got his friends to join him. They had no idea of what the king had dreamt. But God answered and showed them

that which they did not know. Daniel was able to explain the revelation of the dream to the king and this brought Daniel and his friend's great favour.

Dan 2:48-49 ... *"Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. And Daniel made request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego over the administration of the province of Babylon, while Daniel was at the king's court".*

Later in ch 6 we see again that Daniel was a man of prayer. He refused to stop praying to God and prayed openly regardless of the king's decree. So he was thrown into the lions den but the lions did not touch him. God answered Daniel in a way he could never have dreamt of.

Prov 2:4-5 ... *"If you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will discern the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God".*

Martin Luther said, **"to have prayed well is to have studied well"**.

When we pray earnestly, when we press in we will find that it is then and only then that we will see into the treasure trove of the great and mighty things God has in store for us.

Being diligent in prayer we enter an upper realm of communion and conscious union with Christ, which is far above the normal dwelling place of believers.

The place of prayer is the place of revelation. This is where God will reveal himself to you in a deeper way. This is where the word will open up to you and the Holy Spirit will reveal the hidden truths to you. This is where you grow in Christ as He is revealed to you.

This is why we must continue to pray that the believers will get serious about prayer and drawing near to God in prayer. Because it is in the prayer closet that He will show us the secrets to the great awakening we so desire to see in our land. He will show us His plans; He will release His power through us in ways we never dreamt were possible. This is where He will open the eyes of our hearts to

... *"know what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe"* (Eph 1:19) and where He will bring us to

... *"comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."* (Eph 3:18-19).

E M Bounds so rightly said, **"short, powerful public prayers are the outcome of long secret intercession"**.

Elijah prayed, not for the destruction of the idolatrous priests, nor for thunderbolts from heaven to consume rebellious Israel, but that the glory of God and the power of God might be revealed.

Let us be prayer warriors who see the glory of God revealed in our city, our state and our country! Let us be prayers who grow into full stature in Christ and are used of Him to bring hope and answers to a dying world and strength and encouragement to fellow believers.

So that we can say to our Lord:

*... “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen” .*

As we go let us meditate on our Lord’s words:

... Call on Me”

... “I will answer you”

... “I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know”

AMEN!