

TWO REASONS WE SHOULD PRAY (Updated)
Jeremiah 33:3

Scripture Reading :

Jeremiah 33: 1: While Jeremiah was still confined in the courtyard of the guard, the word of the LORD came to him a second time: 2 "This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it—the LORD is his name: 3 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

Prayer : Our Father in heaven, help us see the importance of praying through Your Word today. In Your Son's Name our Lord Jesus. Amen.

INTRODUCTION :

A tale is told about a small town that had historically been "dry," but then a local businessman decided to build a tavern. A group of Christians from a local church were concerned and planned an all-night prayer meeting to ask God to intervene. It just so happened that shortly thereafter lightning struck the bar and it burned to the ground. The owner of the bar sued the church, claiming that the prayers of the congregation were responsible, but the church hired a lawyer to argue in court that they were not responsible. The presiding judge, after his initial review of the case, stated that "no matter how this case comes out, one thing is clear. The tavern owner believes in prayer and the Christians do not."

Background :

- Jeremiah was under like a house arrest under King Zedekiah
- The reason why he was confined is because he was accused of conniving with the Babylonians.
- King Zedekiah broke treaty with King Nebuchadnezzar by secretly conniving with the King of Egypt to overthrow them.
- Jeremiah informed them what the Lord said that they will not succeed and the Israelites would be taken captive and brought to Babylon.
- The reason why God allowed it is because the Israelites did not listen to God

Jeremiah 32 : 29 The Babylonians who are attacking this city will come in and set it on fire; they will burn it down, along with the houses where the people aroused my anger by burning incense on the roofs to Baal and by pouring out drink offerings to other gods.

30 "The people of Israel and Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight from their youth; indeed, the people of Israel have done nothing but arouse my anger with what their hands have made, declares the Lord. 31 From the day it was built until now, this city has so aroused my anger and wrath that I must remove it from my sight.

People of God, if we are in sin, do not think that God just ignores it.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Illustration : Remember my illustration about Ocean Gate on how it imploded. I was reading about it again and learned that implosion happens suddenly that people inside don't even know it's going to happen. One time, they think they're okay and then suddenly, they're done.

Again, we have to remember that several warnings were given to them not to engage but still they insisted. What killed them again? Hubris – excessive pride

Now even though the Israelites disobeyed Him and is now going to experience His judgement, here's what the Lord says :

Jeremiah 32: 36 "You are saying about this city, 'By the sword, famine and plague it will be given into the hands of the king of Babylon'; but this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 37 I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. 38 They will be my people, and I will be their God. 39 I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them. 40 I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. 41 I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul. 42 "This is what the Lord says: As I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will give them all the prosperity I have promised them

And this is when He said to Jeremiah

'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'

QUOTE : PRAYER UNLOCKS THE PROMISES OF GOD.

TWO SIMPLE BUT POWERFUL REASONS WHY WE SHOULD CALL UPON THE LORD

I. OUR LORD COMMANDED IT.

² *"This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it—the LORD is his name: CALL TO ME*

Note : It is an act of love, grace and mercy that God asks us to call Him. It just shows that He care for us.

Illustration : Have you said to somebody before or somebody told you before when they are in need and you helped them, "If you need anything, just give me a call. Don't hesitate." It just means that person cares for you. Because if he doesn't care for you, he will just ignore you.

The Word of God is full of commandments that we should be calling on the Lord. In fact, it is expected of us.

Matthew 6: And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Our Lord did not say, "If", He says "when". The question is "when" should you pray.

Of course, we know that we should be praying always.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray continually,

Ephesians 6:18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion

To pray is to connect with God. But there will be times that God will ask us to “call” unto Him.

*Psalm 50:15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble;
I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me.”*

And of course, on what we are studying today....call to Me.

a.) How are we to call

Call to me

Etymology : call “qara” to cry out; utter a loud sound

Question : Why is God asking us to do that specially when it comes to impending trouble or when you are in trouble?

a.1. When we call, it shows the sincerity of our hearts

BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION :

Remember Hannah in Samuel 1 when she was asking for a son from the Lord.

1 Samuel 1: 10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly

Eli the priest saw her

13 Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. 14 And Eli said to her, “How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.”

and then 15 Not so, my lord,” Hannah replied, “I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD.

Note : I see no other way for us when we pray but to pour our soul out to the Lord. Some of us are too formal when it comes to God.

Important : Pouring out your soul to God doesn't only mean crying out to Him when we are in trouble but also showing our great affection to Him, or praising Him from our hearts when everything is doing great and good.

QUOTE : Remember when we call on God, we must pour out our heart and soul.

Why? It's our way of giving it up to God.

Poem:

Lord, I'm so discouraged
I don't know what to do
I have so many burdens
And I gave them all to you.

But you didn't take them Jesus
Will you tell me why that's so?
The answer's simply little one
Because you won't let go.

a.2. When we call, it shows our dependence on Him.

When you are drowning, you call out for help simply because you are desperate because you know you can't save yourself.

Illustration : Some of you know the recent news of a person stabbed several times in the TTC last week. I saw the video in the internet. It started out as a fight between two men. First, it was just fisticuffs and then kicking. But then the other person pulled out a knife and so the other man started to run and you can hear his desperate cry, shouting, "HELP! HELP!" It's because he knew that he can't do anything anymore. He needed somebody to help him.

Chuck Swindoll said, that the most powerful prayer is "Lord, help!" (We'll study that next week)

b.) Who we should call

Call to me

Note : This word "me" refers to the Lord.

Who is He as He asked Jeremiah to call to Him.

"This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it—the LORD is his name

Note : The Lord is saying I made the earth, I developed it and made it secure, my name is the Lord.

In short : He is saying, everything comes from me, I will be the one to see this through and I am the one that will make you secure. My very name shows this : LORD!

Jeremiah 32:27 "I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?

In short : Calling shows our complete dependence on a God whom we can depend on.

Note : Everytime we pray, **it shows our faith in Him.**

And if there's something that pleases God is our faith.

II. OUR LORD WILL ANSWER.

:³ 'Call to me and I will answer

Super Note : This is such a great promise. It's simple but what a great promise.

You call to him with sincerity of heart and with faith and He will answer. What a wonderful thing!

Note : He did not say "Call to me and I will send someone to answer." No, He said, "Call to Me and I will answer"

People who trust and obey the Lord knows that :

2 Samuel 22:4 and Psalm 18:3

*"I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
And I am saved from my enemies.*

*Psalm 55:16 As for me, I shall call upon God,
And the Lord will save me.*

*Psalm 91:15 "He will call upon Me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.*

*Psalm 120:1 In my trouble I cried to the Lord,
And He answered me.*

Note : That's how God loves His children. He is concerned with us personally that He takes care of us personally.

Quote : "The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity. If we want to see mighty wonders of divine power and grace wrought in the place of weakness, failure and disappointment, let us answer God's standing challenge, 'Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not!'"—Hudson Taylor

What kind of answer can we expect from the Lord?

1. Expect something great.

³ *'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great
Call to me and I will answer thee, and shew (show) thee great KJV*

Etymology : great "gadowl" large, but it is also used to describe God

Root word : gadal which means to magnify

Quote : When we call to God, He will show you who He is and how great He is.

Illustration : Sis. Virgie and Sis Vicky and their family just came from Alberta, I'm pretty sure, they were awed by the majestic mountains and the scenery and how great and how grandiose is the sight and I'm sure they got an idea on how great and glorious our God is through these mountains. When we call on the Lord from our hearts, expect that same kind of answer where you will be awed and you will just give glory to God.

Note : He will answer in such a way that will magnify His name!!!!

Illustration : Among those in the court of Alexander the Great was a philosopher of outstanding ability but little money. He asked Alexander for financial help and was told to draw whatever he needed from the imperial treasury. But when the man requested an amount equal to \$50,000, he was refused; the treasurer needing to verify that such a large sum was authorized. When he asked Alexander, the ruler replied, "Pay the money at once. The philosopher has done me a singular honor. **By the largeness of his request he shows that he has understood both my wealth and generosity.**"

Expect a great answer from our great God.

2. Expect the unexpected.

and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

Etymology : unsearchable; mighty “batsar” to fortify; made inaccessible; mysteries; enclose;

In short : It's something that hasn't been known before.

Quote : We have 1,2, or 3 solutions to a problem, God has a gazillion solutions to a problem.

Biblical Illustration : The Israelites, they were trapped between the Egyptians and the Red Sea, they cried out to God. You would just expect Him to blast out the Egyptians or ask the Israelites to fight but He parted the Red Sea...ONLY HE CAN DO IT. When they were looking for food, God rained manna from heaven...ONLY HE CAN DO IT. My wife had cancer, I was only expecting the chemo or the right diet or nutrition to heal her...but no, in His perfect timing, she got in a clinical trial that was going to be done for the first time, in the lottery, she did not get the placebo. And in the next lottery, she got the recommended dosage. Everyone else in the trial, unfortunately, passed away but now she's still here and we are getting this medicine for free for life which costs \$10k a month if you will purchase this outside. ONLY HE CAN DO IT.

Note : You can expect something new in His answer. Something you haven't seen or known before.

Ephesians 3: ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

The reason why you can expect the unexpected from God is because You will give Him the glory.

Psalm 50:15 Then call on me when you are in trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory."

CONCLUSION :

One time, my son was stuck in a situation and he didn't know what will happen next. He began to become anxious about it and his friend noticed it. He already called out to the Lord about it. His friend then said to him, “Aren't you excited?”

My son asked looked at him a little bit confused and then his friend said, “It's because it's in God's hands now.”

When you prayed sincerely about something and it is according to God's will, tell yourself, “I am excited because it's in God's hands now.”

Now, the Bible also says that the only way we would be saved. It means escape the wrath and punishment of God and go to heaven is to believe in what Jesus Christ has done on the cross.

We show our belief in that by calling on Jesus to save us.

Romans 10 : 9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. 11 As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

EVANGELISTIC : OH HOLY SPIRIT HELP ME PLEASE

S.G.D.