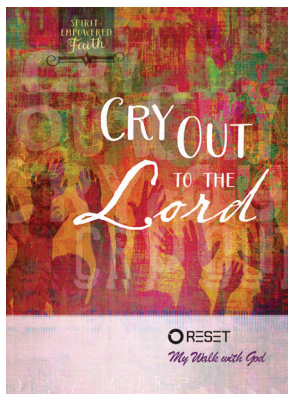




When Should You Call Upon the Lord?

This article is from *Cry Out to the Lord*. It is an excerpt from *How To Pray* by **Ronnie Floyd**.

Scripture is clear that every Christian should practice calling upon the Lord in prayer. Like the psalmist David, we're encouraged to pray personally: *"I cried out to the LORD; yes, I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; my cry to him reached his ears"* (Psalm 18:6). And Joel 1:14 reminds us to pray corporately: *"Bring the leaders and all the people of the land into the Temple of the LORD your God, and cry out to him there."* When should believers call upon the Lord? Here are five situations in which Christians should call upon the Lord.



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CALL UPON THE LORD ALL THE TIME

Do you call upon the Lord all the time or only when you need something? Do you call upon Him out of conviction or out of crisis? Is your life organized enough so that you can spend time daily time with Him in prayer? Do you have a plan that allows time for you to call upon the Lord in prayer? Your spiritual life should not have to be in an intensive care unit for you to pray. Calling upon the Lord continually demonstrates that we are depending upon the Lord rather than ourselves. Call upon the Lord all the time, every day.

CALL UPON THE LORD IN A TIME OF NEED

Just as parents love for their children to call on them in a time of need, God loves for His children to do the same. Calling upon the Lord in a time of need does not indicate a lack of faith but an understanding that God is the ultimate object of our faith. God can do anything, anywhere, and at any time. He can provide for your need.

What kind of need do you have today? I do not believe God categorizes our needs as big or small. At times, we may be tempted to handle the small things and let God handle just the





big things. It is as if we are saying “God, we know You are so busy that we will bother You with just the things that we know we cannot handle by ourselves.” Prayerlessness indicates dependence upon ourselves. This attitude is wrong. God wants us to come to Him in prayer about all of our needs.

What is your need today? Do you need healing? All healing takes place because of God. Do you need money? Honor Him with what you have, and He will provide for your need. Do you have a relationship that is strained? Only God can bring two hostile or opposing persons together. Do you have a material need? Call upon the Lord! He is able to meet even your material needs. I believe that God creates needs in your life for the purpose of causing you to depend upon Him. He wants you to rely upon Him. He wants to do the impossible. He loves to show others that with Him all things are possible. Even before your need exists, God already has the supply.



L8. Disciplined, bold, and believing prayer

LEARN to Encounter Jesus

“He always lives to make intercession for [you]” (Hebrews 7:25 NASB).

Imagine that you walk into a room and find Jesus engaged in prayer. You may not hear the specific words He is using, but you are confident that Christ is praying for someone He dearly loves. You peer over Jesus’ shoulder and, to your surprise, your own prayer list is lying in front of Him. Jesus is praying for you—the Savior is praying for your needs, your temptations, and your heartfelt struggles. He is praying for the very vision, ministry, and calling that you hope to pursue.

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus intercedes on your behalf? He spends time talking to His Father about you—not judging you or condemning you, not in criticism or in ridicule. Jesus speaks to the Father and reminds Him of your needs, and He reminds Him of the price He paid on the cross so that you might have abundant life both now and forever.

How does it make you feel to reflect on Jesus’ prayers for you?
As I reflect on how Jesus prays for me, I am filled with _____.

Finally, consider the reality that Jesus often prays to the Father about your needs, but He does so without you. Jesus prays alone. Is there something in your spirit that is prompted to join Him more often? Tell Jesus about that now.

Jesus, as I imagine You interceding for me—often without me—I feel _____.

I want You to hear the feelings of my heart concerning _____.

I am so grateful for You _____.





CALL UPON THE LORD IN A TIME OF PURSUING THE FUTURE

Some of the most important decisions you will make in life have to do with planning your future. When pursuing what lies ahead, call upon the Lord. He is able to give to you guidance and wisdom in regard to your future. The Bible promises you a great life, wonderful welfare, and God's peace as you call upon the Lord in prayer (see Jeremiah 29:11).

One of the pivotal questions each person must ask pertaining to his or her future is, God, what do You want me to do? My life is not my own; I belong to God. I am not owned by any man or any system. I am not the property of this world. I am God's property. Since He owns the title to my life, I must take directions pertaining to my future from Him.

CALL UPON THE LORD IN A TIME OF WORSHIP

In moments of public worship, are you calling upon the Lord? Is your day for worship set aside for the purpose of worshipping Him? Before you go to worship at your church, talk to God. Summon Him to meet with you and the entire body of Christ that is sharing the experience with you.

Much of the worship in church life today is stale and powerless. As a result, lives are left unchanged. Could this be happening because we do not spend time calling upon the Lord in worship? Much of worship today centers on personalities and performance, rather than the Lord and His work in the lives of people. Worship should never be about the people in attendance. Worship should exalt the Lord Jesus and be focused on calling upon Him in prayer. Call upon the Lord in a time of worship.

PRAY and Experience Scripture

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us... (Ephesians 1:5-6).

Take a few moments to consider the incredible truth that you have been brought into a relationship with the One of whom all these things are true. How does it make you feel to realize that you have the privilege to know, love, and be loved by such a Savior? What does it do to your heart to imagine that God smiles with pleasure when He thinks about you being a part of His family? Take a few moments to praise Him now for His gracious gift found in Christ Jesus.

Lord Jesus, as I think about the incredible privilege of having a relationship with You, my heart is filled with _____.
(For example, gratitude, love, joy, praise, a sense of unworthiness, peace, awe, or wonder.)

I feel _____ when I imagine Your smile, because I'm a part of Your family. I praise You for loving me.



L7. Entering often into Spirit-led praise and worship

