# Editorial Desperate Prayer For A Decade Of Harvest

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Psalm 126:5–6 (ESV), “Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

My wife has been on a long journey of suffering from migraine headaches for the last 20yrs. Often she has to be in a dark space, crying out in pain until it passes. We have struggled over the years asking the questions of “why” and “how long.” We know and trust in the goodness of God and continue to believe God, asking for his healing power! My wife is an amazing woman, godly wife and nurturing mom. I often hear her interceding in the midst of her suffering and pain and I know this touches and moves the heart of God. Often the only thing we are left with is desperate prayer. This kind of prayer is born out of human inability to make anything to happen, where we recognize we can do nothing about the situation… But God!

Throughout history, believers have cried out to God in times of distress. Sometimes after years of desperate praying, a single cry brings direction or deliverance instantly. The promise is clear:

“Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me” (Psalm 50:15).

Here are some examples of people crying out to the Lord

• A cry of deep distress “You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, And heard their cry” (Nehemiah 9:9).

• To cry out for help “He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them” (Psalm 145:19).

• To shout a war cry “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).

• A cry of deep distress “When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble” (Psalm 9:12).

• To cry out “But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him” (Matt 14:30-31).

• To implore with strong voice “And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily” (Luke 18:7).

Crying out to God often with tears is an act of desperation and total consecration. It is a fervent expression of faith in God and trust in His goodness and power to act on our behalf. As Spurgeon said, “tears are liquid prayer.”

Jeremiah, often described as the weeping prophet, was a man caught up in the heart of the weeping God. As he walked through the streets and alleys of the Holy City and saw nothing but pain, suffering, and destruction in the wake of the Babylonian invasion of 586 BC, he writes,

“Their heart cried out to the Lord, “O wall of the daughter of Zion, Let tears run down like a river day and night; Give yourself no relief; Give your eyes no rest. 19 “Arise, cry out in the night, At the beginning of the watches; Pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord. Lift your hands toward Him For the life of your young children, Who faint from hunger at the head of every street” (Lam 2:18-19).

Not only do we see believers throughout Scripture crying out to God often with tears, our God is also a ‘weeping God.’ Jesus himself, wept with his grieving friends over Lazarus. Jesus wept over Jerusalem as he rode in on Palm Sunday, and Jesus wept in the agony of prayer at Gethsemane hours before the cross. The author of Hebrews writes,

“In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence” (Hebrews 5:7).

Not only does Jesus weep over the lost and the broken but he also weeps over us with compassion in the midst of our pain and loss. He cares so deeply for each one of us. Only a weeping God can truly wipe away our tears. Think how close Jesus has to be to take his thumb to our face and wipe away the pain, and disappointment in our lives!

It so important for us to slow down, and let our hearts be gripped with the compassionate heart of Jesus. May we take time to watch Jesus weep, crawl under his burden, and cry out for his intervention!

It is this type of intercession, crying out to the Lord that often brings a breakthrough. When Jesus saw Mary weeping over her brother Lazarus, he was moved with compassion and raised him from the dead! God promises that those who ‘weep’ will ‘reap’ a harvest!

“Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! 6 He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him” (Psalm 126:5-6).

The Bible is utterly unfamiliar with casual praying.

Jesus was clear that those who reject him will spend an eternity in hell, ‘weeping and gnashing their teeth’ (Matt 8:12). May God grip us with the reality of millions walking on the broad road that leads to destruction. May we cry out and weep over them for their salvation!

When Jesus taught us to pray to our Father in heaven, He used the Greek word proseuchomai—the common word for prayer in the New Testament. But in Matthew 9:38 and Lk 10:2, Jesus used the Greek word deomai, a much stronger word meaning to ‘plead desperately.’ Also Jesus didn’t simply tell His disciples to pray for laborers to be sent out to the harvest fields. Jesus used a much stronger word—ekballo, meaning to ‘drive out, or hurl forth!’ This same Greek word ekballo is used in Mt 9:34, 10:1 and 10:8 for casting out demons! In both Matthew 9:38 and Lk 10:2, Jesus commands us to deomai (plead desperately) to the Lord of the Harvest to ekballo laborers (thrust them forcefully) into His harvest!

This year we are partnering with Go2020 to see 100 million united in prayer to see 1 billion come to Christ over this next decade! http://www.go2020.world/prayer

As John Robb writes, “No one organization or movement can accomplish such a staggering feat, but if we flow together like tributaries in one unstoppable river, this can be achieved! Getting God’s heart of love for the lost through prayer will lead to our sharing Jesus with them in the power and sensitivity of the Holy Spirit just as the early church experienced” -John Robb

It will truly require desperate prayer to see these outcomes come to pass this next decade!

• 100 million Christians inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit to pray and share the Gospel with as many as possible in their own communities and to the ends of the earth.

• One billion people being reached with the Gospel and millions upon millions getting saved all over the world over the course of this next decade!

• Unreached people groups hearing the Gospel for the first time and planting new churches among them. We have put together a helpful guide to praying for unreached peoples around the world. Here is the link https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EksUzKPVPfkKg8Ki2bLnDaeaCqFa3UZC/view

• 50 million new believers integrated into existing and new churches.

We praise God for the promise that the “effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16).

In our desperation we want to encourage people to Pray God’s Word for the Nations! In 2020 believers and organizations across the globe are celebrating the Year of the Bible! The vision is for 2 million people to pray for renewed Scripture engagement - www.yearofthebible.com .

A great resource we recommend for praying God’s word for the nations is Dick Eastman’s book “A Watchman’s Guide to Praying God’s Promises.” You can request your free copy at www.ehc.org/free-books

May we cry out in 2020 to the Lord of the Harvest in fervent, desperate, Bible-based prayer for a coming ‘Decade of Harvest.’ May the Lamb who was slain receive the due reward for his sufferings!

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing” – Revelation 5:12

For the Glory of the Lamb,

Jason Hubbard - Executive Co-ordinator International Prayer Connect

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Dr Jason Hubbard

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