refers to a person turning to God in prayer, especially during times of distress, repentance, or need. It involves more than simply saying words it’s a heartfelt plea for divine intervention, forgiveness, or deliverance.

Biblical Meaning of Calling Upon God

To call upon God is a recurrent theme in Scripture. It signifies:

- Dependence on God
- Recognition of His Sovereignty
- Faith in His mercy and power
- Repentance and humility

The Bible shows that God responds to those who call upon Him sincerely.

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1. The Israelites in Distress

In the time of the Judges, Israel repeatedly turned away from God and suffered oppression. But when they repented and *called upon the Lord*, God, in His mercy, raised up deliverers.

Judges 3:9 (NKJV)

> *“When the children of Israel cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them: Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother.”*

This is a recurring pattern throughout the Book of Judges: sin → suffering → repentance → deliverance. Calling upon God was a key turning point each time.

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2. Jabez’s Prayer of Faith

Jabez is an example of a man who called upon God not out of sin, but out of a desire for God’s blessing and protection.

1 Chronicles 4:10 (NKJV)

> *“And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, ‘Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!’ So God granted him what he requested.”*

Jabez’s prayer is notable for its sincerity and alignment with God’s will. It reflects faith and understanding of God’s character.

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3. God Responds to Sincere Repentance

Even in the face of judgment, God always leaves room for mercy when people call on Him with contrite hearts.

Jeremiah 26:3 (NKJV)

> *“Perhaps everyone will listen and turn from his evil way, that I may relent concerning the calamity which I purpose to bring on them because of the evil of their doings.”*

This echoes the broader biblical teaching that God’s nature is merciful:

Joel 2:32 (NKJV)

> *“And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

This verse, quoted later in Romans 10:13, reinforces the universal scope of God’s grace.

In both the Old and New Testaments, calling upon God is closely tied to salvation, repentance, and worship. It represents:

- Recognition of human weakness and divine strength
- A cry for mercy rather than justice
- A demonstration of covenant relationship between God and His people

To “call upon the Lord” is an act of faith (Hebrews 11:6), obedience (Romans 10:14), and submission.

Application: What About Us Today?

God does not change. Just as He heard the cries of the Israelites and the prayer of Jabez, He will hear you today no matter what your situation is. Whether you’re burdened by sin, struggling with

addiction, dealing with brokenness, or simply desiring a closer walk with Him, God invites you to call upon Him.

Romans 10:13 (NKJV)

> *“For ‘whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”*

No sin is too great for God to forgive. But ignoring His call leads to judgment (John 3:18). If you feel drawn to repentance today, don’t delay.

You can begin by making a sincere prayer. If you need help, click here for a guided Prayer of Repentance.

For Believers: Keep Calling Upon Him

Even after salvation, we are encouraged to continually call upon the Lord in prayer and dependence:

Psalm 50:15 (NKJV)

> *“Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”*

God is deeply involved in the lives of His people. Don’t wait until crisis comes walk with Him daily in prayer and worship.

Maranatha! – The Lord is coming soon.

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