

**General Topics :: Groaning in the spirit****Groaning in the spirit - posted by learn (), on: 2008/9/20 15:26**

While I was on my way home, I had a thought that I should be on my knees and praying. Not sure whether it was mine or God asking me to do so. Anyway, on arrival, started praying. Instead I started weeping and groaning. (Except for 1 previous occasion, I don't recall making any audible loud sounds when weeping). There were audible sounds to the groaning but no words formed (the sound is not a wailing sound, nor is it a loud audible sigh). There is no physical pain.

My question is is that groaning in the spirit?

Has anyone experienced groaning in the spirit before and how is it like for you?

Thanks.

Have read some articles and few really describe how to tell whether its groaning in the spirit. Some say that there should be physical pain while some say its not necessary. Some say its an inner groaning (giving me the impression that no sounds are heard). Some says its like a sigh or groan. But I have yet to see an article mentioning the word 'AUDIBLE' groaning.

Re: Groaning in the spirit - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2008/9/20 16:20

This is from C.H. Spurgeon:

We Should Groan Because of Our Spiritual Condition

I can almost hear one professor saying, "Sir, I need no revival in my heart; I am everything I wish to be." Down on your knees, my brethren! Down on your knees for him! He is the man that most needs to be prayed for. He says that he needs no revival in his soul, but he needs a revival of his humility at any rate. Those are in the best condition who, while they know they need reviving, yet feel their condition and groan under it.

Habakkuk knew how to groan about his spiritual condition. "O Lord," said he, "revive thy work!" Alas, many of us lack revival, but few of us feel that we lack it. It is a blessed sign of life within when we know how to groan over our departures from the living God. It is easy to find hundreds who have departed, but you must count by ones those who know how to groan over their departures.

What have you been doing about your own spiritual declension? What has been your way of life? Have you been groaning every day? Have you been weeping every minute? I cannot understand how your piety can be of any brilliance if you can live without the sunlight of Christ and yet be happy. Christians will sometimes lose a sense of intimate fellowship with Jesus, but they will always groan and cry when they lose Him. The true believer, when he discovers that he needs revival, will not be happy. He will begin at once that incessant and continuous strain of cries and groans that will at last prevail with God and bring the blessing of revival down. He will, days and nights in succession, cry, "O Lord, revive Thy work!"

Let me mention some groaning times that will always occur to the Christian who needs revival:

1. A Christian will always groan when he looks upon what the Lord has done for him in the past. If he is what he should be, he will always weep when he remembers God's lovingkindness of old. Whenever the soul has lost fellowship with Jesus, it cannot bear to think of "the banqueting house" without saying,

The peaceful hours I then enjoyed,
How sweet their memory still.

But they have left an aching void
The world can never fill.

When he hears a sermon that relates the glorious experience of the believer who is in a healthy state, he will put his hand upon his heart and say, "Such was my experience once, but those happy days are gone. O that I might again behold Him! O that I might once more see His face!" He will weep when he remembers how the Lord was precious to him, how He laid bare His heart and was pleased to fill his heart with the fullness of His love. Such times will be groaning times, when Christian remembers "the years of the right hand of the most High" (Ps. 77:10).

2. A Christian who lacks revival will groan during participation in religious exercises. He will go up to the house of God, but he will say to himself,

Ah! How changed! When I once went with the congregation to keep the holy day, every word was precious. When the song ascended, my soul had wings. When the prayer was offered, I could devoutly say amen. Now the preacher preaches as he did before, but the sermon is dry and dull to me. I know the fault is in myself. The song is just the same, but my heart is heavy. My harp strings are broken and I cannot sing.

The Christian will return from those blessed means of grace sighing and sobbing because he knows he needs revival.

The same will be especially true during the Lord's Supper. When he sits at the table, the unrevived Christian will think,

O! What seasons I once had here! In breaking the bread and drinking the wine my Master was present, but now it is dry bread to me. It is tasteless wine with none of the sweetness of paradise in it. I drink, but all in vain. No thoughts of Christ. My heart will not rise. My soul cannot heave a thought halfway to Him!

And then the Christian will begin to groan again, "O Lord, revive Thy work!"

from: <https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?view=article&aid=2564>

Re: - posted by learn (), on: 2008/9/20 17:36

Thanks but its not what I'm looking for as the reasons for groaning I'm aware of.

Most articles are saying that its inaudible (ie one cannot hear it) based on those that had it or through explanation based on the bible or they are silent as to whether its audible or not. I have yet to come across an article (except 1 short article which may not necessarily be trustworthy which I just read) that says it may be audible.

That's why my questions are as repeated below.

My question is that groaning in the spirit (please see my first post where I mentioned the groaning was audible)? Has anyone experienced groaning in the spirit before and how is it like for you?

Basically my groans were audible--so is that really groaning as classified in the bible?
Thanks.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2008/9/20 21:52

Quote:

-----My question is that groaning in the spirit (please see my first post where I mentioned the groaning was audible)? Has anyone experienced groaning in the spirit before and how is it like for you?

I personally have and yes it begins inside. Scripture speaks of childbirth as a physical illustration of this. This is a very special experience from God that we can share His burdens. It is "God praying to God" what a wonder to be involved. Ravenhill spoke much of groaning, travailing, praying through the burden of God.

Here is a excellent teaching on this subject:

The Burden of God brings brokenness by Gerhard Du Toit

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=9129&commentView=itemComments>

Re: - posted by learn (), on: 2008/9/21 1:32

Thanks. Will see the sermon.

But is yours audible ie others can hear it? Mine is audible

Mine does not seem to originate from inside like what most describe and there is no pain except for sadness (which most weeping there will be sadness). Its more like when I'm weeping, I'm also producing the sounds which comes from my mouth. The sounds are identical and basically only 1 or 2 varieties and I can produce this sound now if I want to (of course its just the sound that I can produce). I guess it sounds like somewhere in between deep audible sighs and childbearing groans????

Sorry for being such a pain in the neck. But I do want to be as sure as possible. I know that I usually do not make sounds when I weep, so this is really a new experience for me. I can understand why I would groan as the reasons fit but I really want to make sure that its groaning and not something else. Thanks once again.

I cannot get over the fact that basically pretty much all except 1 article/studies/experiences say the sounds are not audible (ie you can't hear it) or they are silent as to whether its audible or not. Mine is certainly audible and if so would go contrary to what the articles say about 'groaning in the spirit'. Also, mine is not one that originates from the stomach as some have said.

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2008/9/21 8:21

"Likewise the Spirit helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us WITH GROANINGS which cannot be uttered". (Romans 8:26).

Many intercessors have had this experience of groaning in the Spirit which is known as travail. I remember reading "Azusa Street" by Frank Bartleman, who was a intercessor. He had such a burden for revival that many times all he could do was to groan in the Spirit. This is something that cannot be copied or imitated, but is a type of intercession by the Spirit.

The following is an excerpt from Charles Finney on his experience with travail.

Charles Finney's experience...

"A woman with whom he (Charles Finney) had boarded became very sick. She wasn't a Christian, although her husband was a professor of religion. He had come to Finney and told him that he thought his wife was dying. Finney tells how his news affected him:

This seemed to plant an arrow, as it were, in my heart. It came upon me in the sense of a burden that crushed me, the nature of which I could not at all understand; but with it came an intense desire to pray for that woman. The burden was so great that I left the office almost immediately, and went up to the meeting house, to pray for her. There I struggled, but could not say much. I could only groan with groanings loud and deep.

Finney goes on to say that he stayed in the church for some time, but didn't get any relief. He went back and forth from the office to the church several times.

For a long time I (Charles Finney) tried to get my prayer before the Lord; but somehow words could not express it. I could only groan and weep, without being able to express what I wanted in words. I returned to the office again, and still found I was unable to rest; and I returned a third time to the meeting house. At this time the Lord gave me power to prevail. I was enabled to roll the burden upon him; and I obtained the assurance in my own mind that the woman would not die, and indeed that she would never die in her sins.

The following morning the woman's husband came into Finney's office and reported that his wife was much better. Finney assured him that she would not die with this sickness, neither would she die unconverted. She did recover from this ill

ness, and soon after received Christ. This was a new experience for Finney, but one he would experience time and time again.

At first I (Charles Finney) did not understand what this exercise of mind that I had passed through, was. But shortly after in relating it to a Christian brother he said to me, "Why, that was the travail of your soul." A few minutes' conversation, and pointing me to certain scriptures, gave me to understand what it was."

"This was to be the pattern for Finney's ministry: praying by the unction of the Holy Spirit, and not quitting until the assurance came into his heart that the prayer was answered."

It's Time For Revival by Angelo and Christy Mitropoulos

Re: - posted by learn (), on: 2008/9/21 11:39

Thanks.

But the thing is can the groaning be heard?

And also, if it can be heard, can the groaning come from one's mouth?

The scripture says it cannot be uttered. Thus, it could mean, no words are formed but there may be sounds that can be heard? Or could it be no sounds at all?

Most articles are either silent or say that no audible sounds are formed based on certain bible verses (for example creation groaning does not produce sounds). David Wilkerson said that he groaned before but it was inaudible and an inner groaning.

Charles Finney did not explicitly say that it was audible. The closest to audible is the sentence "There I struggled, but could not say much. I could only groan with groanings loud and deep."--which I will not take for granted that its audible.

If so, then mine is certainly not groaning. I'm not willing to assume something which is not but would like to know what it is. Thanks

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2008/9/21 12:57

But the thing is can the groaning be heard?

And also, if it can be heard, can the groaning come from one's mouth?

Brother, I have prayed with intercessors before where the groaning was definitely audible. When a woman is having birth pains, you will know it.

Mike

Re: - posted by learn (), on: 2008/9/21 13:16

Quote:

AbideinHim wrote:

But the thing is can the groaning be heard?

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Brother, I have prayed with intercessors before where the groaning was definitely audible. When a woman is having birth pains, you will know it.

Mike

Thanks very much. BTW, am sister, not brother :)

Re: - posted by FreedbyJesus, on: 2012/2/20 15:54

Awesome, can you please give me some reason to why we do this?

Re: - posted by FreedbyJesus, on: 2012/2/20 16:00

Thank u! So much for this wow!

Re: Groaning in the spirit - posted by SolaVeritas, on: 2012/2/20 18:53

Sister, I can see that you are very serious in getting this right but I believe you already know that it was definitely from the Lord. If so does it matter if it fits the exact experience others have or not? We are individually made and the Bible leaves room for that, there's not necessarily a right or wrong way to groan in the spirit. You responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and that is wonderful.

My personal experience is that sometimes in prayer weeping will come upon me in a way that is very different from natural crying. It feels as if my mind is disconnected in the sense that it is not my own personal pain or sad situation. It almost seems like I am watching myself doing this in amazement, yet I cry hard and sob loud like a little child, something I never do out of my own hurt or grief. Groaning can be part of this too and it is audible. I always interpreted Rom 8:26 as to mean that the groaning are prayers that can not be put into words, audible or not makes no difference if you stop to think about it. Hope this is helpful in some way.

Re: - posted by keepstanding, on: 2012/2/24 5:11

Dear Brother Greg,

I know I'm not the original poster of this thread, but I just wanted to say that I listened to the teaching that you recommended by Gerhard Du Toit and read the article by C.H. Spurgeon, and I found them to be a real blessing, so I just wanted to say thank you.

Blessings to you