

PRAYER OF JABEZ

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.
1 CHRONICLES 4:10

The man Jabez was probably unheard of until Bruce Wilkinson wrote his little book, The Prayer of Jabez. The name Jabez is found in the middle of a genealogy listing in 1 Chronicles. That is the only place you will see the name Jabez in the bible, yet he was singled out with the above verse. We are told in verse 9, "Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez saying, "Because I bore him in pain." That could be a hard way to start life being called a pain.

When was the last time God worked in your life in such a way that you knew beyond doubt that God had done it. God wants to bless you; He may be waiting for you to ask for His blessings. So, why are you not asking? Jabez did and God granted him what he requested.

OH, THAT YOU WOULD BLESS ME INDEED.

It is not selfish to ask for God to bless you. It is in and through your blessings that you bless others. Jabez used the word, indeed, which would be like excitedly putting five exclamation points after it. He was

into this prayer with enthusiasm. In biblical terms, bless means to ask for supernatural favor only God can give. It is the awesome intervention of God into our life that we are asking for. Notice the radical trust of Jabez in God to answer his prayer. Jabez left the blessing up to God. He just wanted God to bless him in the way God wanted to bless him. He wanted to be in God's will. Do you want this? If you do, then pray for God's blessing, stand back and watch the miracles God will accomplish in your life. It is God's nature to bless and He has told us, "You do not have because you do not ask." James 4:2

OH, THAT YOU WOULD ENLARGE MY TERRITORY!

Here Jabez is asking God to enlarge his life's influence so he can make a greater impact for God. Jabez wanted more influence, more responsibility and more opportunity to work for God. He wanted to grow in his faith thinking, "God, here I am, surely You can use me in a greater way, so I am surrendering to You, God." This is revolutionary thinking for many of us to ask God to give us more ministry. We think that we are too busy, but what does God think about our busy activities? When we pray for more ministry, it is amazing as we see our opportunities, our abilities and our resources supernaturally increased. Remember, that to be blessed was to experience the supernatural. God works through us to accomplish His will. He tells us in Zechariah 4:6, "Not by might nor by power but by My Spirit." It is through and in God that we accomplish His ministry. You may feel fear in expanding your influence but you will also feel the thrill of God supernaturally working in your life.

THAT YOUR HAND WOULD BE WITH ME,

We have received God's blessings, gone into new territory but at this point we may feel unable to do what God has led us to do, feeling overwhelmed. This is where we pray for God's hand to be upon us. We begin to feel dependent which is good because we know we need God. At this point, we know we cannot accomplish the ministry unless God steps in and works His supernatural wonders to accomplish His will through us. Here we release God's power to accomplish His will and bring Him glory through the seeming impossibilities. Grow dependent on the strong hand of God. At this point, when you see God at work, you will be praising Him, "God did that, He gave me the words or the power, and it is great!" "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves, to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers." 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 Biblically "the hand of God" means His power and presence in the lives of His people. God's hand is the filling of the Holy Spirit. It is a natural progression from more blessing to more territory to the need for supernatural power.

OH THAT YOU WOULD KEEP ME FROM EVIL!

THAT I MAY NOT CAUSE PAIN

Now that we are blessed, have more influence, and God's hand with us the devil appears on the scene. So, our prayer is for God to keep the devil away from us. At this point in your faith growth, the devil is really going to be hitting hard and you will need the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to fight him, but Jabez asked that God just keep the devil away so he would not have to go to battle with the devil. When we are being used by God for successful ministry that is when

the devil wants us to fail. Pray, Pray and Pray that God keep you from evil. Instead of asking God to keep us strong through temptations ask Him to keep the temptation away from us. "Do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one." Matthew 6:13 God wants us to pray for safekeeping. But when we do have to fight the enemy, God does give us weapons. "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds." 2 Corinthians 10:4 When we do sin or participate in evil, we do cause pain to ourselves and to others. Jabez knew that if he avoided the evil one he would not cause pain.

PRAY THE JABEZ PRAYER FOR YOUR LIFE

PRAY THE JABEZ PRAYER FOR THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

PRAY FOR THE FILLING AND LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN
YOUR LIFE

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