

# HONEST PRAYERS

## *Bless Me Indeed! 1 Chronicles 4:9-10*

### **Jabez**

**1 Chronicles 4:9 And Jabez was more honorable than his brethren:...**

- There's not a lot written about Jabez
- But what we do know about him is he was an *honorable* man
- Jabez did not come from a family of power, wealth or position
- Yet God says, he was *more honorable* than the people around him
- Jabez didn't *strive* for honor from people, but he *received* honor from God
- One of the ways Jabez was considered honorable was by his *prayer life*
- Prayer is act of *honor and devotion* to God
- Prayer is an act of *dependence*
- Prayer is an act *humility*
- Prayer is an honorable *practice*
- Prayer is not a *one-time* thing, it must be a *life-long* activity
- Jabez became a blessed man, but his life didn't start out that way

### **Jabez's Birth**

**"...and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. "**

- We don't know his parents by name
- What we do know is his mother named him *Jabez*
- Jabez means pain, grief, or sorrow
- She named him Jabez possibly because of the pains of childbirth or the sorrow of the world he was born into
- The name Jabez would be a burden he would have to bear forever
- Every time someone called his name, he would be reminded that he caused pain, grief, and sorrow

### **Jabez Prayed**

**<sup>10</sup>And Jabez called on the God of Israel,**

- Jabez overcame the stigma of his name by turning to God in prayer
- It was his prayer that set him apart in the eyes of his peers and the eyes of God

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- Jabez learned to *call* on God in prayer through the pain and suffering he was experiencing
- Jabez was able to turn his life around because he called on God for help through prayer
- The subject of prayer doesn't get too many people excited and it's a key reason why God may not be *helping* us
- We don't receive God's help for 1 of 2 reasons:
  - 1.** We are *not* living in obedience to God **Psalm 66:18 (KJV) 18**  
***If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:***
  - 2.** We do *not* pray **James 4:2 (KJV)** ***"... ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not."***
- What Jabez did was live a life that pleased God and he went to God in prayer
- Jabez's *devotion* in prayer was the key to his *promotion*
- What Jabez did in his time of trouble was pray, it's that simple
- Jabez called on the God of Israel
- Israel is a *place*, but Israel is also a *person*
- Jabez made prayer *a priority*
- God invites us to ask in prayer **Jeremiah 33:3 (KJV) 3** **Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.**
- God is ready to answer our prayers, but we must ask for his assistance.
- Prayer is critical in the life of a believer
- Jabez is remembered in the Bible, not because he was a hero, a mighty warrior, or some deed he'd done, he's remembered because *he prayed*

### ***The Prayer of Jabez***

- Jabez got past his name, this legacy over his life, and started talking with God
- Jabez refused to let the opinions of people determine the outcome of his life
- Jabez prayed that God would do 4 things for him:

### ***Bless Me Indeed***

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### *Bless Me Indeed! 1 Chronicles 4:9-10*

***<sup>10</sup>And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed,***

- ♦ Jabez asked Oh, that God would bless him, *indeed*
- ♦ Jabez wanted God to bless him a way that *only* God could
- ♦ Some think asking God for a blessing for “yourself” is a sign of greed and arrogance
- ♦ Asking for a blessing is to ask for God’s supernatural favor over your life
- ♦ In fact, God has been wanting and waiting for you to ask

#### ***Enlarge My Territory***

***“..and enlarge my coast, ...”***

- ♦ Jabez asked God to make him *big*
- ♦ Enlarge my coasts, my territory means enlarge what I’m currently working on and future desires
- ♦ Give me more responsibility, influence, and oversight for *Your* glory
- ♦ God remove the limits and boundaries off my life
- ♦ You’re ready to step out do something *big* for God
- ♦ It’s so big that it’s risky, it’s doomed to fail if God does not help you
- ♦ You’re ready to go after your dreams and you need God’s help along the way ***Isaiah 54:2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes;***
- ♦ Don’t let doubt, fear, your peers, or you age stop you from asking for more territory!

#### ***Keep Your Hand on Me***

***“...and that thine hand might be with me, ...”***

- ♦ Jabez asked God to *keep* His hand on him
- ♦ The hand of the Lord is the power and the presence of God at work in our lives
- ♦ Many times, believers pray, and God answers their prayers and then they no longer have any use for God
- ♦ Jabez prayed I need God’s hand to stay *with* him
- ♦ Jabez realized he needed with him for guidance, direction, and even correction

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- ♦ Jabez knew he could not succeed consistently without the daily presence of God in his life
- ♦ Jabez didn't ever want God to be distant from him
- ♦ That must be our prayer as well; praying for God's hand to be with us

#### **Protect Me from Evil**

**"...and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! "**

- ♦ Jabez prayed that God would keep him from evil
- ♦ Jabez realized sin brings sorrow and sadness to life
- ♦ Jabez needed God's help to keep him from evil
- ♦ Jabez believed that hand of God that can bless his life can also protect him from evil
- ♦ Just like God can bless you, give you more territory, more power, God can *also* keep you from sin

#### **God Said, YES!!**

**"...And God granted him that which he requested."**

- ♦ God granted Jabez what he requested in prayer
- ♦ We *do* know God bless him indeed, gave him more territory, kept His hand on his life, and protected him from evil
- ♦ We must believe that prayer works in everyday situations and prayers that seem *radical* and *risky*
- ♦ We must believe that not only does God *answer prayer*, but God wants to answer *your prayer*
- ♦ What's your dream?
- ♦ Have you prayed about it?
- ♦ God is *waiting* for us to pray, *Bless me, Indeed!*
- ♦ God's is *waiting* to say, *YES!!!*