

The Prayer That Will Change Your Life.

1 Chronicles 4:9-10

Introduction:

Today we are going to look at a character in the Bible that is mentioned only once but is very key in showing us how to pray. This person's name is Jabez. Jabez prayed a prayer to God and God granted all that he asked. A Book was written about this prayer. I had read the book and was convicted by it and I started reading this prayer and was convicted by it. I prayed this prayer and it has changed my life. Today we are going to look at that prayer and I pray that it might convict you as it did me and that you will rise to the challenge of asking of God in the right way and see if your life changes. I know that it will.

Scripture:

9 Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." 10 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.

Key Points:

1. Who is Jabez?
2. What is Jabez praying for?

Outline:

1. Who is Jabez?
 - a. Jabez' name means "sorrow," "burden" or "miserable."
 - b. How would you feel if your name was Misery?
 - c. The Bible says that he was honorable.
2. What is Jabez praying for?
 - a. Grace "Oh that you would bless me"
 - i. God blesses us through HIS grace.
 - (1) 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb 4:16)
 - (2) 1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Romans 5:1-2)
 - ii. Grace is simply being in the presence of God.
 - (1) Jabez starts out by asking God to be present with him as he seeks HIM.
 - b. Growth "Enlarge my territory"
 - i. 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby (I Peter 2:2)

- ii. 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; (Colossians 1: 10)
- iii. As we grow we will then start to take steps of faith.
- c. Guidance “That your hand would be with me”
 - i. Guidance for his life.
 - (1) 23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his. (Psalm 37:23)
 - (2) 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; (Proverbs 3:5)
 - (3) Jabez prayed for God’s guidance
 - ii. The Hand of God
 - (1) speaks of power.
 - (a) The God of creation wants to work through us, so HE needs our availability and dependability and not our ability.
- d. Godliness “You would keep me from evil”
 - i. 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, (Titus 2:12)
 - (1) We need to live in a way that reflects God.
 - ii. Our scripture ends like this: “ So God granted him what he requested. “
 - iii. The bible says in James 4:2,
 - (1) 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. (James 4:2)
 - (a) God wants to bless us, but He wants us to ask, and to ask from the right heart out of the right motive.

Conclusion:

I would like to challenge you today to pray this prayer earnestly and see how this prayer from this simple unknown man can change your life just as it did his. If we pray this prayer as a church we will see that the church will change, our faith will become stronger and we will be able to do greater things even though we are small in number. It is time to stop limiting ourselves and let GOD out of the box that we keep HIM in.