

8.2 Sermon Notes- The Prayer of Jabez: A Prayer for Today Part 2

The Prayer of Jabez

"Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying: 'Because I bore him in pain.' 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 upon me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!' So God granted him what he requested." (1 Chronicles 4:9,10)

Review of Last week

Miracle- An intervention by God to make something happen that wouldn't normally happen.

It's not the words of the prayer but the heart of the PRAY-ER that makes this prayer significant.

Those honored by God know their limitations.

"Jabez was more honored than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, 'Because I bore him in pain.'"

Those honored by God refuse to focus on their limitations.

Jabez prayed: "Oh, Lord that you would bless me indeed."

Those honored by God are not limited by their limitations

"Oh, Lord that You would enlarge my territory!"

Those honored by God look beyond their limitations to the One without limits.

"Oh, Lord that Your hand would be upon me!"

Jabez was wise.

He knew that once God answered the first two-requests he would really need help.

As God's chosen, blessed sons and daughters we are expected to attempt or ask something large enough that failure is guaranteed...UNLESS GOD STEPS IN-

It goes against common sense.

It contradicts your previous life experience.

It seems to disregard feelings, training, and need for security.

It sets you up to look like a fool and a loser.

Dependence makes heroes out of ordinary people like Jabez and you and me!

If seeking God's blessings is our ultimate act of worship, and asking to do more for Him is our utmost ambition, then asking God's hand upon us is our strategic choice to sustain and continue the great things that God has begun in our lives.

God's hand on you is God's touch of greatness. IT'S ALL GODS! Faith is truly believing that the battle is the Lord's.

"And we have such trust through Christ toward God. 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 of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." (2 Corinthians 3:4-6)

The "hand of the Lord" is a biblical term for God's power and presence in the lives of His people.

"He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God." (Joshua 4:24)

"The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord." (Acts 11:21)

A more specific New Testament description for God's hand is the *"the filling of the Holy Spirit."* The early church continually sought to be filled by the Spirit. (*Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:13, 23-31; 5:29; 9:27*)

When we ask for God's mighty Presence like Jabez and the early church, we will see tremendous results that can only be explained by the hand of God...

When was the last time the church got together to plead for the *"filling of the Holy Spirit?"*

The evil one has most of us stuck in the shallow water. Many of us live as though it all depends on us. The blood of Jesus is sufficient. You have been set free, you are secure and blessed by God to be a blessing to others.

Jesus said that He came so that we may have *"life, abundant life"*. (*John 10:10*). He also says that the *"thief comes to steal, kill and destroy."*

So expand your borders by living abundantly in the *"will of God."* Discipline yourself to *"rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give thanks in all circumstances."* (*1 Thess. 5:16-18*)

Jabez knew that the evil one would be lurking behind the shadows so he prayed; *"And that you would keep me from evil so that I may not cause pain."*

God is pleased with this prayer because it is straight from His heart:

"Lead us not into temptation but keep us from evil." (*Matthew 6*)

"Lord, I don't pray that You will take them out of the world, but that You will keep them from the evil one." (*John 17*)

When was the last time you asked God to keep you from temptation?

It is impossible to tell Satan, 'Get thee behind me' when you are following him.

Your own wisdom cannot defeat temptation.

Your own experience cannot defeat temptation.

Your own feelings cannot defeat temptation.

"...if my people called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land." (*2 Chronicles 7:14*)

- Has that been the main focus of your heart during this time?
- What if this is a time of testing that God is allowing for us as believers?
- What if this is a testing to teach us to trust in Him, His wisdom, His power, over human wisdom and effort?
- What if the lesson, the testing, that we are going through is about humbling ourselves as believers?
- What if God is more concerned with whether or not you are patient and Kind in the way you express your opinion than your opinion itself.
- We don't all have to agree but we do all have to display the "fruit of the Spirit" as believers in Christ.
- Are we more concerned with the character of God or getting our point across?

God's people hold the key to "healing this land." *2 Chronicles 7:14* tells us how.

Healing will not come if we as God's people are more enamored with the voices and opinions of man than the Spirit, character and truth of God!

We need a miracle-

"An intervention by God to make something happen that wouldn't normally happen."

To God, there is no such thing as a miracle. He is not mortified or panicking over our situation.

APPLICATION THIS WEEK- TAKE THE TEST AND CHANGE YOUR FOCUS:

- Spend time in the Word of God this week. (P51 Stories)
- Inquire of the Lord this week. (What are you doing Lord and where do I fit in?)
- Replace the news and social media rants/ opinions with:
 - Practicing God's will- Rejoice Always- Pray without ceasing- Give thanks in All circumstances.
 - DOWNLOAD THE ATTACHMENTS and feed on the all-sufficiency of God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and who He says you are in Christ.
- Flood the social media with good news.
- Join together in setting your alarm for 7:14 P.M. and praying 2 Chronicles 7:14 every night.
 - Humble Yourself
 - Pray
 - Seek His Face
 - Turn From Your Wicked Ways
- Pray the Prayer of Jabez

Those honored by God have their requests granted. "So God granted him what he requested."