

# The Prayer of Jabez



## Recap

To explain God's blessing on our lives through this series, we're going to be exploring 3 particular blessings from the Bible, beginning with the prayer of Jabez.

Here's what the Bible tells us about 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 with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!' So God granted him what he requested." I Chronicles 4:9-10 NKJV

There are 4 requests to Jabez's prayer that give us a better understanding of the blessing waiting for us if we offer up that same prayer:

1. **Boldly asking God for his blessing (*Oh, that You would bless me indeed*):** Coming right out and asking for God's blessing seems like a selfish thing to us. But that's not how Jabez saw it. His very name meant "pain," and that name wasn't just a name. In his day it foretold your future and your nature. So he turned

to God and asked him to bless him and change his destiny. It's important to note that Jabez didn't specify what he wanted the blessing to be. He left that up to God. Blessing is not about getting more of what you want, but asking for God's favor and trusting he knows what's really needed.

2. **Asking for more influence so he could make a bigger difference for God (*and enlarge my territory*):** Jabez was asking for more influence, hoping that he could expand his territory in order to make a bigger impact for God on the world. It was about asking God to expand the opportunity of his life. A way of saying there has to be something more, and something bigger to this life. What can't be missed is the spirit in which Jabez made the request for more influence. The whole purpose behind it was so that he could impact more lives for God, not just increase his own wealth or status.
3. **Jabez requested God's favor would never leave him (*that Your hand would be with me*):** What he's asking for here is that throughout God's blessing, he would never leave Jabez's side. That he would walk with him and bless his situation in such a divine way that what happened could only be described as being a "God-thing."
4. **Requesting to be kept from evil (*and that You would keep me from evil*):** Jabez knew that success can make us feel selfish and self-sufficient. So he was asking for God to not only protect him from temptation, but to actually shield him from evil in the first place.

This is a healthy and a balanced prayer. What this is not is a health and wealth doctrine that says all you have to do is pray this prayer and God will give you all the material things you want. It's about an impact for Christ, not just an impact for your wallet.

## Go Deeper

The prayer of Jabez is a powerful request for blessing on your life. At the heart of it is a longing for God's divine influence on your life that uses you to impact the world around you for Christ.

### Read the prayer of Jabez one more time:

"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 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 4:9-10 NKJV](#)

(The next 4 questions correspond to the 4 requests mentioned in the recap above.)

1. Have you ever boldly asked God for his blessing on your life? Why or why not? And if you have, what did you ask for?
2. Whenever you've prayed for more influence, a better job, or a larger territory, did you do so with the same heart as Jabez, a heart longing to make a difference for God?
3. Many of us pray for help when we need it. But do you pray for God's hand to be with you even in times of blessing? Do you pray that He would walk with you through good times and bad?
4. Asking God to be kept from evil is probably the most overlooked part of our prayers. Do you pray that you would be kept from evil in your life? Do you pray that your family would be guarded from evil?

Read [Proverbs 10:22 LB](#) (link is for NIV version):

The Lord's blessing is our greatest wealth; all our work adds nothing to it.

We learned that blessing is about asking for God's favor and trusting he knows what we really need. What it's not about is increasing our own wealth, status, and fame for selfish reasons.

1. Do you see God's blessing as the greatest wealth in your life?

Read [II Corinthians 3:4-6 NLT](#):

We are confident...because of our great trust in God through Christ. It is not that we think we can do anything of lasting value by ourselves. Our only power and success come from God. He is the one who has enabled us...

1. Think about the blessings you've asked for in your life or the blessings that you've received without even asking. Do you view those blessings as coming from God?
2. Do you see that your success has not been enabled only by yourself?
3. Is there an example of blessing in your life where you know it was not of your own power, where the only explanation is that God was with you?