

# *The Jabez Prayer* prayer guide *Praying an Extraordinary Prayer!*

Jabez was an *ordinary man* who prayed an *extraordinary prayer* to an *extraordinary God* and got *extraordinary results!* This pamphlet, *The Jabez Prayer* is not designed to be merely read through. It has been planned as a prayer guide to pray through. Set aside at least one hour where you can be alone with God in an undistracted setting. Follow the directions and pray out loud as you work through the entire pamphlet.

*1 Chronicles 4:9-10 “And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.”*

Jabez’ past was less than the best. His mother named him “Sorrowful.” His mother, through his name, designated his life would be filled with pain and sorrow. Jabez desperately wanted to rise above his name.

Who was Jabez?

He was an honorable man

- This is the only time he is mentioned in Scripture
- Jabez was “More honourable than his brethren”

He was loved of his mother – She named him, not his father

- Perhaps father had died
- Maybe his father had abandoned his mother

He had obstacles to overcome

Jabez means “sorrowful”

- Perhaps it was a difficult birth
- Maybe his mother was mourning the loss or death of her husband
- Maybe Jabez was born with a birth defect
- Though his mother named him “sorrowful,” he wanted to rise above his name!
- He did not want his name to describe his biography
- He did not want to be bound by the designation his mother had given him

He stood out from the crowd

- His biography occupies less than 80 words, yet it speaks volumes to us today
- His example calls us from the “sickening sameness” of our day
- Jabez was not “one of the gang”
- He stood alone “out front”
- He was more honorable than his brethren

He was a man of prayer – “He called on the God of Israel”

A man is known for what he does most. If a man does not do much of anything, he is known for nothing. But if a man is known for something he must do more of it than anyone else.

Jabez is known exclusively because of his prayer.

- He prayed intelligently – “He called on *the God of Israel*”
- He prayed fervently – “*Oh* that thou wouldest bless me”
- He prayed specifically – “*Oh* that thou wouldest bless me *indeed*”
- He prayed ambitiously – “*Enlarge* my coast”
- He prayed effectually – “*God granted his request*”

As we examine the four great petitions of Jabez, pray through each of these requests as they relate to your life and circumstances. God invites us to approach Him boldly. This is a courageous prayer

and can only be prayed by one who dares to believe God. There is no merit in merely repeating words that you do not mean. This prayer is for the person who wants his life to count for God and is concerned about his future here on planet earth and in eternity. As you pray remember the following:

1. Pray in faith - “Without faith it is impossible to please God”
2. Pour out your soul - “The effectual fervent (boiling over) prayer of a righteous man availeth much”
3. Pray because your future depends upon it - “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord”

## **Petition # 1 *“Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed”***

Bless = “to convey God’s favor”  
= “to impart supernatural favor”

Spiritual blessings are the best blessings and those who are blessed with them are blessed indeed!

To pray to be blessed “indeed” is like putting five exclamation points after the request.

When we pray for God’s blessing, we are not asking God to overlook or override our disobedience and lack of discipline. As you pray through these categories be honest with God about any weaknesses or deficiencies. Ask God NOW to reveal anything in your life that would inhibit God’s blessing.

Spend time now asking God to bless you “indeed.”

- Ask God’s blessing on your spiritual life.
- Ask God’s blessing on your marriage.
- Ask God’s blessing on your leadership in your home.
- Ask God’s blessing on your wife.
- Ask God’s blessing on your children.
- Ask God’s blessing upon your ministry.

- Ask God's blessing on your work/business.
- Ask God's blessing on your employer/employees.
- Ask God's blessing upon your pastor.
- Ask God's blessing on your church.

## **Petition # 2 “*Enlarge my coast*”**

Jabez wanted more territory, more influence, more responsibility, and more opportunity.

He wanted a larger sphere of influence  
He wanted a larger sphere of responsibility  
He wanted a larger sphere of ministry

The psalmist prayed, “Enlarge my heart, and then I will run the way of thy commandments.”

Most of us who are eager to be used by God are likely to start by listing our deficiencies in skill, talent, resources, boldness, opportunities, etc. It is good and right to realize our weaknesses and humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. Recognizing our limitations and humbling ourselves is proper, but don't let that cause you to limit God! In his prayer Jabez skipped all the negatives and went straight for the positive. He didn't focus on what he didn't have; he prayed for what he wanted! God already knows we don't have what it takes, but He does!

The thing that preceded his prayer for divine enlargement was a “divine” discontentment. The Bible says, “Godliness with contentment is great gain.” Contentment is a virtue—but contentment with spiritual mediocrity is a sin! Jabez was dissatisfied in his present attainments. He wisely appealed to God for more. “For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.”

Desire is the genesis of all improvement. The people who accomplish great things are those who dream dreams and see

visions. If you are satisfied with where you are spiritually, you will go no further. The greatest tragedy today is the lack of vision and desire for God!

Pray now and ask God to enlarge your coasts:

- Ask God to increase your opportunities.
- Ask God to bring prepared people your way to whom you can minister.
- Ask God to make you “soul-conscious.”
- Ask God to bring you in contact with people you can influence for God.
- Ask God to open up the ministry contacts that will benefit both others and yourself spiritually.
- Ask God to use your family in a profound way.
- Ask God to lead you strategically this coming year.
- Consider your vocation a “calling” from God. Tell the Lord your business/work belongs to Him and you want Him to use it for His glory.
- Ask God to bless your business so His kingdom can be advanced.
- Pray about your job. Ask God to lead you vocationally.
- Pray that your workplace will be blessed because of your presence.
- Ask God to bless your pastor.
- Ask God to pour out His blessing on your local church.
- Ask God to make your home a lighthouse.
- Ask God to make your church a “soul-saving” station in your community.

### **Petition #3 “*that thine hand might be with me*”**

Jabez wanted God’s presence. Abraham was the friend of God and no doubt Jabez desired this sense of divine companionship. Duncan Campbell defined revival as “an awareness of the presence of God.” Jabez wanted this *awareness of God* in his life. The hand of God signifies fellowship, empowerment, and protection. Pray through the following areas:

### Companionship:

- Do you read the Word of God daily?
- Are you walking with God in the light of His Word?
- Are you consciously aware of the presence in your life?
- Do you walk in the fullness of the Spirit?
- Are you meeting God daily in the secret place of prayer?
- Is your conscience clear before the Lord?
- Is there any area in your life in which you are not living in total obedience?
- Have you neglected God?
- Are you habitually praising and thanking the Lord?
- The psalmist blessed the Lord at all times - Do you?
- Spend time now thanking, praising, and blessing God.

### Empowerment:

- Is God's power evident in your life?
- Is the Lord able to use you as a witness?
- Do you long for a fresh touch of God?
- Do you long to bring forth more fruit for God?
- Ask the Lord to empower you to live above sin.
- Ask God to anoint you so you can be the husband that God has ordained you to be.
- Ask God to anoint you so you can be the father that God has ordained you to be.
- Ask God to anoint you so you can be the leader that God has ordained you to be.
- There is victory in Christ! By faith you received salvation. By faith claim victory!

## **Petition #4 “*that thou wouldst keep me from evil*”**

Jabez was a godly man and he did not want to be grieved because of his transgressions. Here he is praying a preventative prayer.

This is similar to the way Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

- Is there any sin you have not confessed to God?
- Have you dabbled in inappropriate or ungodly television, internet, magazines?
- Be “judgment day honest” and side with God by acknowledging all sin.
- Ask God to keep you from evil.
- Ask God to give you true (not self-sustained struggle)victory over besetting sins.
- Accept your death union (co-crucifixion) with Christ and thank God for the reality of it.
- Thank the Father for Christ and the victory He gives.
- Pray that the Lord would keep you from circumstances and people that would draw you into sin.
- Victory over sin requires joint participation:
  - “Make no provision for the flesh to fulfil the lusts thereof”
  - “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes” (Get rid of anything in your home that causes you to stumble.)
- Ask God to cleanse your mind as you daily “gird up the loins” of your mind.
- Sin grieves God and true believers. Tell God that you do not want to grieve Him or your own heart because of sin.
- Ask God to quicken you to keep “short accounts.”
- Ask the Lord to protect your family from evil. (Eliminate all sources of corrupt media from your home.)
- Pray for God’s protection over your brethren.
  
- Thank the Lord NOW for answering your prayer!

God answered Jabez’ prayer and granted him his requests. God is a prayer answering God and He will answer your prayer as well! You may want to pray this extraordinary prayer regularly in the days and weeks to come. Spend time now asking God to lead you in your prayer life.

For a complete listing of revival literature and cassettes write:  
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