

have to fight unnecessary temptation. And God offers us His supernatural power to do just that. Remember, even Jesus prayed for deliverance (Matthew 6:13).

Stepping Out

Simply put, God favors those who ask. He holds back nothing from those who want and earnestly long for what He wants. God's "honor roll" (Hebrews 11) contains mostly ordinary, easy-to-overlook people who had faith in an extraordinary, miraculous God and stepped out to act on that faith.

Will you let God work in your life regardless of what He chooses? Will you surrender to His power and love and surpassing plan for you? I hope you choose to do just that. For God will release His miraculous power in your life when you do. And for all eternity, He will lavish on you His honor and delight.

—Bruce Wilkinson

Prayer can only be answered when we personally know the One we are praying to. If you have never put your trust in Jesus Christ to forgive your sins and bring you to a right standing before God, here's a perfect prayer which will do just that.

Dear Jesus, I know I've lived a life that's gone against everything You stand for. I am a sinner, and I am sorry. I want a fresh start. I believe You died to pay the penalty for my sins, and that You rose again to give me a new and eternal life. Thank You for forgiving me. Take charge of my life today. Amen.

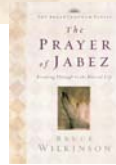
If you prayed this prayer, your sins are forgiven and you are now a child of God. And as God's child, you can ask Him for whatever you like...in prayer.

To receive free material about your new life as a Christian, contact ATS at the address below.

The Jabez Prayer

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 4:10



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ATS • P.O. Box 462008 • Garland, TX 75046
Orders, catalog, samples: 1-800-54-TRACT
www.ATStracts.org • Bible references: NKJV • Printed in USA • ©2001
Cover photograph by Photonica/Tatsuhiko Shimada/ Design by David Carlson Design
ISBN# 1-55837-350-0

31015



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The PRAYER of JABEZ

Breaking Through to the Blessed Life



BRUCE
WILKINSON

When was the last time God worked through you in such a way that you knew beyond a doubt that God had done it? In fact, when was the last time you saw miracles happen on a regular basis in your life? If you're like most believers, you wouldn't know how to ask for that kind of experience, or even if you should.

I want to teach you how to pray a daring prayer that God always answers. It is brief—only one sentence with four parts—and tucked away in the Bible, but I believe it contains the key to a life of extraordinary favor with God. It was prayed by a man named 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.

1 Chronicles 4:9-10

Jabez's simple, direct request to God changed his life and left a permanent mark on the history books of Israel. Let's take a look at this prayer.

1) Oh, that You would bless me indeed!

To bless in the biblical sense means to ask for or to impart supernatural favor. When we ask for God's blessing, we're not asking for more of what we could get for ourselves. We're crying out for the wonderful, unlimited goodness that only God has the power to know about or give to us.

Jabez left it entirely up to God to decide what the blessings would be and where, when, and how Jabez would receive them. When we seek God's blessing as the ultimate value in life, we are throwing ourselves entirely into the river of His will and power and purposes for us. All our other needs become secondary to what we really want—which is to become wholly immersed in what God is trying to do in us, through us, and around us for His glory.

2) Oh, that You would enlarge my territory!

The next part of the Jabez prayer—a plea for more territory—is where you ask God to enlarge your life so you can make a greater impact for Him. There is more here than a simple desire for more real estate. Jabez wanted more influence, more responsibility, and more opportunity to make a mark for the God of Israel.

It's when you thrust yourself into the mainstream of God's plans for this world—which are beyond our ability to accomplish—and plead with Him, *Lord, use me—give me more ministry for You!*—that you release miracles. At that moment, heaven sends angels, resources, strength, and the people you need. God always intervenes when you put His agenda before your own.

3) Oh, that Your hand would be with me!

Tragic as it might sound, the hand of the Lord is so seldom experienced by even mature Christians that they don't miss it and don't ask for it. They hardly know it exists. They think of it as something reserved for prophets and apostles, but not for them.

When we ask for God's mighty presence like Jabez did, we will also see tremendous results that can be explained only as from the hand of God. You and I are always only one plea away from inexplicable, Spirit-enabled exploits.

4) Oh, that You would keep me from evil!

We are redeemed and commissioned for the front lines. As your life transcends the ordinary and starts to encroach on new territory for God, guess whose turf you're invading? That's why praying to be kept from evil is such a vital part of the blessed life.

As we move deeper into the realm of the miraculous, the most effective war against sin that we can wage is to pray that we will not