

AND JABEZ CALLED ON GOD

1 CHRONICLES 4

Text: 1 Cor. 4:9-10

1 Chron. 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. [10] 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.

Introduction:

This is a chapter you might skip over in reading through the Bible. But there is a gem among these generations. The gem is a life-changing prayer, and this is a prayer that deserves our study.

The man who prayed this prayer was named Jabez. Jabez' name means "sorrow," "burden" or "miserable." Can you imagine what a hard time this little fellow must have had when he was a boy with a name like sorrow, burden or miserable?

The Bible says that his mother called him Jabez because she had borne him in sorrow (1 Chron. 4:9). A hard time at birth had labeled his name.

But none of us are bound to our upbringing or trapped by former circumstances...with God's help and blessing we can rise from the muck of the pit and be something more for Him!

Notice what Jabez prayed for:

1. GRACE

Jabez called on the God of Israel and asked for the blessing of God (1 Chron. 4:10).

1 Chron. 4:10

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.

Of course, the blessing of God begins with the grace of God.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

2. GROWTH

He was not satisfied to remain the same.

- Sometimes small churches look at themselves and say, “Oh, we can’t do this and we can’t do that because we are too small. We don’t have the resources.” And their vision gets limited by their circumstances and instead of taking giant steps of faith, they take baby steps.

Illustration:

I’m reminded of the story of a man who had done something wonderful and the king called him in and told him he could mark off as much of the kingdom as he wanted and it would be his. The man took his staff and traced a line in the dirt around himself.

The king watched as he finished and said, “Is that all you want? Just what’s in that circle?” The man said, “NO. I want everything OUTSIDE the circle.”

What if we drew a line around this building and said we want to claim all the territory beyond this place for God?

- Jabez looked beyond where he was and what he could do to where God was and what God could do. We can take a lesson from the vision of Jabez. Let’s not sell ourselves short. Don’t put God in a box...think of everything that’s outside these 4 walls!

3. GUIDANCE

Jabez prayed for the hand of the Lord to be upon him. He wanted the guidance and leadership of the Lord.

4. GODLINESS

Jabez prayed that God would deliver him from evil or keep him away from sin. This means godliness.

1 Tim. 4:7

But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

Titus 2:12

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

2 Peter 1:6

And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

Close:

Our text says, "And God granted him that which he requested. The Bible says "ye have not because ye ask not." God wants to bless us, but He wants us to ask, and to ask from the right heart out of the right motive. Not just for financial blessings and enlargement, but for spiritual growth and Godliness, for guidance in all things!