

The Prayer of a Fervent Servant

I Chronicles 4:9-10

God granted Jabez' requests because **he was honourable and his wants were pleasing to God**

What?

God blesses the servant whose prayer for opportunity is fervent

Jabez was passionate for the Lord's blessing—

Overall, Jabez was praying for **more of God**, because God is the greatest blessing

The first part of the prayer prompts us to be passionate about **praying for more of God's presence, more of His leading, more of His Spirit**

Jabez was also asking the Lord to enlarge his borders into more territory that was still dominated by Canaanites

This part of his prayer encourages us to pray for the Lord to **give us more enemy territory in our community**, but it can also apply to enemy territory **in our hearts**

He was conscious of how weak and small he was, and that **the enlargement of territory was up to God**

Isaiah 33:2, ESV—O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble

The Big Question—What does Jabez' final prayer request actually mean?

God does not promise that His people will not suffer pain

I Chronicles 4:10, NKJV—“...that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!”

Jabez' mother cursed him to be a pain all his life

The Chronicler included this detail, because Jabez instead turned out to be honourable, since he followed the Lord

Jabez prayed **that his human, evil nature would not be a source of pain** to others

So What?

We all want our lives to **amount to something “weighty”**

The place to start in applying this is by **turning away from your own efforts to bless yourself**, and receive from God the blessing of salvation from sin and His presence within you

What **drains your passion**, stops you from praying like this?

Jabez prayed his prayer in the context of **the OT faith community** who were taking the land

We need to consider **what part we each play in the “taking of the land”** here in our community

There is also **territory to be claimed in our own hearts, giants that need to be slain**

That can only happen **when the Lord is our “arm every morning”**

As we pray for that, we must also pray that **the Spirit will overcome the besetting sin** that rises up in us sometimes, that is hurtful to others

The final say—James

James 5:16, NKJV—The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much

Again we **have this circle**: the Lord took notice of Jabez' life because his life was noteworthy, but Jabez had a noteworthy life because **he cried out to God for it**

Now What?

Consider how to fit this prayer to your circumstances, and then just start praying it

Come to the Symphony of Prayer next week, and we'll pray this prayer together for our church