



God Grants Requests

Pray Your Pain Away: The Prayer of Jabez Series

Part 4

1 Chronicles 4:10 NIV

Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request.

It can be observed that the chronicler in 1 Chronicles breaks his line of thought when, after enumerating so many names, he paused to give a brief comment about Jabez. This suggests that Jabez, as explicitly mentioned in v. 9, is really a popular man. However, his answered prayer is what could have made him popular.

The chronicler does not only remember the man of pain Jabez, he remembers that God granted Jabez' request. Could it be that Jabez is remembered for his answered prayer? If so, would you desire the same: that you will be remembered for all the requests that God granted?

WHAT GOD LOOKS FOR IN THE HEART OF THE PRAY-ER?

The power of prayer is really in the God who answers them. However, there are certain qualities that God looks for in the heart of a man whose prayer would touch His.

- **God grants the prayer of a broken heart:** The experiences of Jabez must have broken and humbled Him. "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18)

- **God grants the prayer of a believing heart:** And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him (Hebrews 11:1)
- **God grants the prayer of a seeking heart:** But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul (Deut. 4:29). **12** Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. **13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:12-13)**

REVERSALS: WHEN GOD GRANTS OUR REQUESTS

God granted Jabez' requests and reversed his situations. He can still do the same for us now.

- Reversed his hurt into healing. Jabez started in pain and ended in prosperity.
- Reversed his poverty into prosperity.
- Reversed his shame into honor
- Reversed from giving up to being guided by God's hand.

CHALLENGE:

- Pray to God and rise from your pain
- Pray your pain away and believe that God can give you a future different from your past.
- Pray to God who can grant increase in your life even when you have limited resources
- Pray to God and entrust your life to Him.

FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Reflect: The chronicler does not only remember the man of pain Jabez, he remembers that God granted Jabez' request.
2. Would you desire the same: that you will be remembered for all the requests that God granted?
3. Reflect: The power of prayer is really in the God who answers them.
4. Reflect: "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18)
5. Reflect: And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him (Hebrews 11:1)
6. Reflect: But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul (Deut. 4:29). **12** Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. **13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:12-13)**
7. Which among the four reversals do you pray that God would do in your behalf? Why?
8. In what ways is your life similar to the life of Jabez? How does his life and prayer affect you in your situation now?