

CALL – Lord, Bless Me

Text: 1 Chronicles 4:9–10

Theme: God honors those who call upon Him with humble hearts and a desire to live for His glory.

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Last Sunday we began our new sermon series called CALL – God Hears You. We learned from the life of Job that even when life is full of pain, we should never stop calling on God. Today we continue our series by looking at one of the shortest prayers recorded in the Bible. Although only two verses are written about Jabez, his prayer has inspired believers for generations. When we come to the book of 1 Chronicles, we find many genealogies. One name follows another, and at first it may seem like there is nothing special about these chapters. But suddenly God pauses the genealogy and gives us the story of one man. That man is Jabez. God did not stop because Jabez was the richest man or the most powerful man. God stopped because Jabez was a man who knew where to take his life. Instead of trusting himself, he called upon the God of Israel.

The Bible tells us that Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother named him Jabez because she gave birth to him in pain. The name Jabez means "pain" or "sorrow." Imagine growing up with a name that constantly reminded you of suffering. Many people allow their past to define their future, but Jabez refused to let his painful beginning determine his destiny. Instead of complaining about his circumstances, he prayed. Instead of blaming others, he

trusted God. Church, this teaches us that our past does not have to control our future when we place our lives in God's hands.

Today we will learn four important requests from the prayer of Jabez.

I. "Oh, That You Would Bless Me Indeed"

The first request of Jabez was, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed." Notice that he begins with God. He does not depend on his family, his abilities, or his circumstances. He understands that every good and perfect gift comes from the Lord. This is where every prayer should begin. Prayer begins by recognizing God as the source of every blessing. Many people today spend their lives chasing blessings without seeking the One who gives them. They work hard for success, security, and comfort, but forget that without God every blessing is temporary.

When Jabez asked God to bless him, he was not asking only for material things. The word "bless" in the Bible speaks about God's favor, His approval, and His presence upon a person's life. Jabez desired a life that pleased God. As believers, we should also seek God's blessing, not so we can become greater, but so that God's name may be glorified through our lives. The greatest blessing God has ever given us is His Son, Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:3 says that God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Before we ask for earthly blessings, we should thank God for the eternal blessing we already have in Jesus.

Application: Ask yourself today, "Am I seeking God's hand or am I seeking God's heart?" God's greatest blessing is a life lived in fellowship with Him.

II. "Enlarge My Territory"

The second request was, Enlarge my territory. This verse has often been misunderstood as a prayer for more land, more money, or greater success. But the heart of Jabez was much deeper than that. In the Old Testament, territory represented responsibility, influence, and opportunity. Jabez was asking God to increase his usefulness. He wanted God to entrust him with greater opportunities to serve and honor Him.

God never enlarges our influence simply for our own benefit. He enlarges it so we may become a blessing to others. Abraham was blessed so that all nations would be blessed through him. In the New Testament, Jesus commands His followers to go into all the world and make disciples. Our prayer should not be, "Lord, make my kingdom bigger," but "Lord, use my life to build Your Kingdom." Whether God gives us influence in our family, workplace, church, or community, it should always be used to point people to Christ.

Application: Instead of asking God to make your life more comfortable, ask Him to make your life more useful for His Kingdom.

III. "That Your Hand Would Be With Me"

Jabez continues by praying, "That Your hand would be with me." Throughout the Bible, God's hand represents His presence, His guidance, His strength, and His protection. Moses depended on God's presence. David experienced victory because God's hand was upon him. Ezra declared that the gracious hand of the Lord was upon him.

Jabez understood that God's blessings without God's presence would never satisfy him. He did not simply want gifts from God; he wanted God Himself. This should also be our desire. Many people pray for open doors, better jobs, healthier lives, and financial provision, but they neglect to ask for God's presence. Jesus

gave us the greatest promise when He said, "Surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age." The greatest blessing in the Christian life is not what God gives us but that Christ walks with us every day through the Holy Spirit.

Application: Make God's presence your greatest priority. Success without Christ is failure, but walking with Christ is the greatest success a believer can experience.

IV. "Keep Me From Evil"

The final request of Jabez was, "Keep me from evil, so that I may not cause pain." This is a beautiful ending to his prayer. After asking for blessing, greater influence, and God's presence, Jabez asked God to protect his heart. He understood that success without holiness could destroy everything God had given him. He did not want sin to ruin God's purpose for his life.

This prayer reminds us of the words of Jesus in the Lord's Prayer: "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Every believer faces temptation, but God is faithful to protect those who trust Him. Jesus defeated sin, Satan, and death through His death and resurrection. Because of Christ, we are no longer slaves to sin but are called to live holy lives that bring glory to God.

Application: Every day ask God to guard your heart, your mind, your family, and your testimony. The greatest victory is not gaining the whole world but remaining faithful to Christ until the end.

Conclusion

The prayer of Jabez is not a formula for prosperity. It is a prayer of dependence. Jabez teaches us to seek God's blessing, God's purpose, God's presence, and God's

protection. Every one of these requests finds its complete fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Through Christ we receive every spiritual blessing. Through Christ our influence expands as we make disciples. Through Christ God is always with us. Through Christ we have victory over sin and evil.

As we continue our “CALL” series, let this become our prayer: “Lord, bless me indeed—not so that I may become greater, but so that Christ may be glorified through my life. Expand my influence for Your Kingdom. Keep Your hand upon me every day. Protect me from evil and help me remain faithful until the end.”

The Bible closes this passage with these wonderful words: “And God granted him what he requested.” God did not answer Jabez because his prayer was perfect. God answered Jabez because his heart surrendered. God is not searching for perfect words; He is looking for faithful hearts. May God also hear our prayers as we seek Him with humble hearts, faith, and complete dependence upon Him. Amen.



