



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

Moving Beyond

(A New You for a New Year Series, Part 5)

Aug 31, 2022

God encourages us to ask for great things. He wants to bless us in ways that we have not even thought of yet (Jer. 33:2-3). He desires to be part of our life and to do wonderful, incredible things if we will only trust and obey Him. He wants us to pray for mighty things because He is our creator and nothing is impossible with Him.

1. It is perfectly appropriate to ask God for blessings.

1.1 He will do for us what He did for Jabez. He prayed to God to bless him and to extend his boundaries; God granted his prayer (1Chron. 4:9-10). We just need to step up and take His Word.

1.2 We should always pray and never give up (Lk. 18:1; Lk. 11). Two kinds of prayer are:

1.2.1 Prayer that most people pray. We ask Him for something that we think He may not want to answer. As long as our prayer is in line with the Scripture and we meet the conditions of His promises, He will grant our petitions.

1.2.2 Prayer that God wants to answer. He wants us to be used through the answer that He gives to us.

1.3 Let us not fear disgrace. We need to enhance the place of our tent, spread out to the right and to the left (Isa. 54: 1-5).

1.4 We need to have a close personal attachment with God. If we abide in Him, we can ask anything and it will be given to us. We cannot ask any favor from someone with whom we are not close. Our relationship cannot be infrequent, or on an off and on basis. If we are children of God, there is no darkness in us (Jn. 8:12).

1.5 Ask great things from God. Jabez rose above the meaning of his name and brought honor to his family. His distinguished talents compensated for all his mother's trials during his birth. When we fall, we should rise and confidently learn the lessons from those failures.

2. How can we "move beyond" like Jabez?

2.1 **Have a desire for enlargement** (Ps. 37:4). He asked for expanded territory (Josh 1:2) so that they will have a home and will not be disturbed (1Chron. 17:9).

2.2 **Pray.** Jabez made a desperate plea to God. And God granted his request. Let us be consistent in our commitment to talk to God all the time.

2.3 **Be a channel for blessings.** Let us be "blessors" rather than "borrowers" (Deut. 28:12) by sharing our time, talent, and treasures. Let us be willing channels/vessels of God blessings. Jabez asked God for blessings for others, not for himself.

2.3.1 **Be thankful always.** (Ps. 103:2). All we have belongs to God. Often, we forget to thank Him when we receive the blessings that we asked for (1Thess. 5:17-18).

2.3.2 **Do not complain or grumble** (Phil 2:14).

2.3.3 **Be good stewards.** Let us make the most of our time, talents, and resources. We should acknowledge that we are His managers (not owners); we are accountable to Him for all the resources we have been given. Let us put our hope in God who richly provides us with everything we need. Lastly, let us be generous, and be willing to share (1 Tim 6:17-19).

Conclusion:

Let us acknowledge that everything comes from God and let us use them carefully. Share with those who are in need of the word of God and of our counsel. Pray that we become channels of God's blessings.

REFLECTION:

1. How close is your relationship with the Lord?
2. How can you become a channel of blessings?
3. Are you causing pain to others?

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