



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“BLESSED BEYOND FAITH”

(A New You for a New Year Series, Part 4)

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It is appropriate to ask God to bless us with great things. However, most of us struggle with experiencing the power and presence of God. We should reflect on the prayer of Jabez to move closer to God and to receive His grace and power (1 Chron. 4:9). We can use this prayer to be near to God and experience Him drawing nearer to us as well (Jas. 4:8).

1. What makes Jabez’ prayer special?

- 1.1 His prayer was based on something God already wanted us to have. Jabez who had not received the promise cried out to God in faith, and He granted Jabez’ request. Jesus came so that we could have abundant life not only in heaven but on earth (Jn. 10:10). Moreover, the word blessed was mentioned in the Bible more than 500 times. God truly wants to bless us (to have it all) which is contrary to the world’s belief & opinion.
- 1.2 Jabez asked to be blessed by God (1 Cor:9). Jabez admitted that all blessings come from God according to His discretion. God can give us more than we are expecting (Eph. 3). He encourages us to ask Him for great things (Jer. 33:2-3). He wants us to make our personal requests known to Him. We just need to humble ourselves as we lift up our petitions to Him (1 Pt. 5:6-7).
- 1.3 It is a matter of the heart. The character of Jabez speaks volume, not just with the world but with God. Jabez could go to God in prayer because he had a great character. Hence, the prayer of a righteous person avails much (Jas .5:16). God did not have to search who Jabez was. It is all about perception.

Whatever people think about others is true to them.

- 1.4 Persistent prayer corresponds to the same degree of faith (Lk. 18:1-8; 11:5-9). Jabez prayed his personal request to God and trusted in God’s response to his prayers. Some of us pray feeling like we are imposing on God. We are not convinced He would answer our petitions due to lack of faith. Jesus instructed His disciples that they should always pray and not give up (1 Thes. 5:17-18).

Conclusion

What God did to Jabez, He will also do for us. God wants to bless us in ways we have not even thought of. He desires to enter our lives and do wonderful and incredible things if we only ask, trust and obey Him (Jn. 15:7). Finally, He is in control; He is the owner and sovereign ruler of heaven and earth.

Reflection:

1. How do you pray? Do you believe that God will grant your request?
2. Who are you when nobody is looking or when people are around you? Are you different?
3. If people were to say your name, what would be their first comments about you?
4. Do you honor your promises and commitments to God? Do you finish them with excellence?

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