



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### **SPEAK GOD'S FAVOR**

#### **A New You for a New Year Series – Part 3**

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In I Chronicles 4: 10, we learn how Jabez cried out for God's blessing and how God granted his prayers. Taking the example of Jabez, we learn how to please God and how to pray for His blessing. Being blessed means being in an enviable position for receiving God's favor and graces. It means that God speaks well of us and looks kindly on us. Blessing is not about wealth, prosperity or comfort, but rather, being made holy by bowing our knees before God in praise and worship.

1. The prayer of Jabez is his recognition that, without the hand of God, he would have had a very tough time. Jabez acknowledged his helplessness. Likewise, we too should admit our dependence on God. Without God's power, we can do nothing.

2. How can we pray as Jabez did and receive God's blessing?

2.1 We must BELIEVE that God wants to bless us. We must study the Scriptures to know more about God. We must recognize who God is in our lives and that He alone is the source of all blessings. It is God's nature to bless His children. The more we read the Bible, the more our faith grows. We must believe that God's plan for us is always the best (ref. Jeremiah 29:11). God's love for us is so great that nothing can separate us from Him. (Romans 8: 38-39). HE knows our “real selves” and loves us anyway.

2.2 We can EXPECT that God wants us to become blessings to others too. As we are being blessed, we must also be channels of God's blessing to others. Proverbs 22:9 reminds us that “The generous will be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.” Helping

others is not just about money though. We can also share our time, our talents, and our love. If we let God take control of our lives, He will orchestrate events where we can be a blessing to others. Let us look for ways and for opportunities to share God's goodness. Proverbs 11: 25 teaches us “Whoever confers benefits will be amply enriched, and whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

2.3 It is perfectly appropriate to ASK God to bless us. In Genesis 32: 25-29, Jacob wrestled all night with the angel just to be blessed. In John 16:24, Jesus encourages us to ask in His Name. In Matthew 7: 7-8, Jesus said, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” Our Heavenly Father enjoys giving good gifts to us, His children (ref. Mt. 7:11).

3. Once we have been blessed, let us be mindful of the “Source”. Let us not be blinded by the good things that we received, and be led astray in our spiritual journey. The only thing that can block our blessings is walking in sin. Therefore, sincere repentance from the heart will open the doors of God's blessings.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

God has a wonderful plan for each one of us and, as His children, we are to make differences in the world. Let's start by being all that God wants us to be and what God wants us to have.

#### **REFLECTION:**

What have you been praying for? How persistent have you been?

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