



Have you heard about the daring prayer that God **always** answers? It's called the "**Jabez Prayer**". It is brief—only one sentence with four parts—and tucked away in the Bible. It contains the key to a life of extraordinary favor with God.

***“And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh Lord, that You would bless me indeed, enlarge my territory, and that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!” So God granted him what he requested.” (1Chronicles 4:10, modified)***

**First**, Jabez asks God to **ble**ss him. **Second**, he asks God to **enlarge** his territory (increase his responsibility or influence) **Third**, he prays that God will be **with him** and **stay close**. **Lastly**, Jabez asks that God keep him from **harm** so he may not cause pain.

The faith that is shown in this prayer **tr**usts that God's desire is to **ble**ss us, keep us from causing pain and increase our **ab**ility to influence others for Him. Jabez **tr**usts God for all these things – and **re**ceives them!

***“Oh Lord, that you would bless me indeed and enlarge my territory...”***

This is a **special** prayer. It is part of my **daily** prayer life. I begin my day by asking God to **ble**ss me and **every**one I meet and to **ex**pand my territory. For me, **ex**panding my territory was when I was able to go to **St. Mary's**, (right now, it's sending **weekly email letters**, shopping, or going to the river!) It means allowing God to work through you in influencing people you encounter throughout your day; making a difference in their lives by what you say or do!

The **Prayer of Jabez** reveals that Jabez **under**stands what many people do not -- there is **only ONE God** and He should be the **center** of our life. God **w**ants to bless us each day. But, there's a **condition**; we must **first** make the **choice** to **invite Him** into our life and ask for His blessings. (“Ask and you will receive”.) Jabez wants to succeed and increase his sphere of **influence for God** (expanding his territory).

Deepening our relationship with God and praising Him more will enable us to **ex**pand our **influence** for Him. The specific sphere of influence is **not** important. **We ask God to decide!** That's why this prayer is **always** answered; we let **God** decide!

**So, what blessing would you like?**

No one knows better than **God** what would **truly** be a **ble**ssing for you. So, open **both hands** to receive the blessings He wants to give you right now. He truly wants to do something **significant** through **you**. Yes, you!

**And, what more would you like to do or be for others?**

Ask God to be aware of the opportunities for touching the lives of family members, co-workers, and others in **un**expected ways!

**Questions for reflection:** Have you ever seen miracles happening on a regular basis in your life? Did you ever think of asking for that kind of experience...or even that you should? Why not? God has unclaimed blessings waiting for you!