

The Prayer of Jabez – Part IV

“ Oh that you would keep me from evil ”

And Jabez was more honorable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bore him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying,

*Oh that you would bless me indeed,
and enlarge my territory,
and that your hand might be with me,
and that you would keep me from evil,
(so) that it may not grieve me!* (that I cause no pain/grief)

And God granted him that which he requested. – 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

Introduction/Review

This prayer is nothing less than one man’s cry for the Presence of God in his life.

Review: Jabez, name for pain, prayer for double blessing, calling on the Lord to reverse, turn upside down and inside out the fortunes of his life.

- ?? It is an exceptional prayer that made him more honorable than his brothers.
- ?? It is interpretation, the meaning cannot be found by cynical theologians, to whom everyone is as carnal and selfish as they are.
- ?? Flesh and blood cannot inherit the promises of God, so too, the carnal mind cannot comprehend the things of the Spirit of God, for they are strange to him. (1 Cor. 2:14)
- ?? So today there is a rash of outcries against Bruce Wilkerson’s spiritual interpretation of this obscure prayer. They prefer a neutered, powerless, self-centered interpretation.
- ?? They do not want to hear that God answers the heart-cry of his people.

We must grasp that it is an exceptional prayer, or God would not have seen fit to highlight it with honor in Scripture.

This morning, open your Bibles, as we look at the 4th and last of his requests:

“Keep me from evil, that I might not cause pain”

“Keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.” (NIV)

Correct your NIV in the margin, you can do this, and it’s your Bible and the interpretation of many godly men over the centuries.

“Keep me from evil, that I might be a blessing”

The Origin of this Portion of the Prayer

The Lord's Prayer – Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen. (KJV)

NIV

Matthew 6:9 "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10. your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11. Give us today our daily bread. 12. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. ' "

The Lord seems to have gotten his inspiration, as he often did, from this obscure Old Testament passage.

Psalm 66:18

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

The sin of Achan – hiding sin under your tent.

Hymn: Nothing between my soul and my Savior.

Nothing between my soul and my Savior,
Naught of this world's delusive dream;
I have renounced all sinful pleasure;
Jesus is mine, there's nothing between.

Nothing between my soul and my Savior,
so that his blessed face may be seen;
nothing preventing the least of his favor;
Keep the Way Clear there's nothing between.



“Keep me from evil, that I might not cause pain”

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Sin/Evil - Returning from church one day, Calvin Coolidge's father asked him on what topic the minister had preached. "Sin," he said. "And what did he say about sin?" his father asked. Replied Coolidge: "He was against it."

I. Keep me from the Evil Within

(ie) Spurgeon – the Sin Within the Armor

Job 40:3-4 "Then Job answered the Lord and said, Behold, I am vile."

Psalms 66:18 **If I regard** iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear **me**:

Sins of the Heart - attitudes

Jeremiah 17:9 **The heart is** deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who knows it?

Matthew 15:19 For **out of the heart proceed** evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Proverbs 4:23 **Keep thy heart** with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

Sins of the Mind – Thot life

Proverbs 23:7 For as he **thinketh in** his heart, so *is* he:

Matthew 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman **to lust after** her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Presumptuous Sins – secret sins, deliberate sins

Psalms 19:13 Keep back thy servant also from **presumptuous sins**; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

Marital Sins – Conflict, relational

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your **prayers be not hindered**.

Roots of Bitterness

Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any **root of bitterness** springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

Sins of Words

James 3:2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend **not in word**, the same *is* a perfect man, *and* able also to bridle the whole body.

James 3:6 And the tongue *is* a fire, a **world of iniquity**: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

Spell EVIL backwards = LIVE

Words, Attitudes, Thoughts, Actions (WATA)

W.A.T.A.

- Words - *have you spoken evil of anyone, criticized, sharp words*
- Attitudes - *complaining spirit, depressed, grouchy, know-it-all*
- Thoughts - *evil desires, lusts, doubts, fears, hatred, bitterness*
- Actions - *broken God's laws, trespassed on forbidden ground*

I Peter 3:12 – Right Speech

8 Finally, *be ye* all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, *be pitiful, be courteous*: 9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. **12 For the eyes of the Lord *are over the righteous*, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is against them that do evil*.**

I Peter 3: 7 – Right Relationships

7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; **that your prayers be not hindered.**

Mark 11:25-26 – Right Attitudes

25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

II. Keep Me From The Evil Around Me

External Sins – affect, harm, and influence others

Romans 12:1-2 – The world squeezing me into its mold.

2 Peter 2:7 And delivered just Lot, **vexed** with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

Luke 17:32 **Remember Lot's** wife.

Genesis 13:12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and **pitched his tent** toward Sodom.

Sodom and Gomorrah

Days of Noah – has pleasure in them that do them. Rom 1:32

~~✍~~ Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom – attitude – Genesis 13:12

~~✍~~ He vexed his soul daily – evil influence rubs off – 2 Peter 2:7

~~✍~~ Remember Lot's Wife! – she wouldn't let go – Luke 17:32

Verbal Sins - Violent Sins - Sexual Sins

Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but **have pleasure in** them that do them.

2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore **come out from** among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

Luke 17:26 As it was in the **days of Noe**, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

2 Timothy 3:1-7

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:3-7

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation. 5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

III. Keep me from the Evil One.

The Evil One

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

Eternal Refuge & Protection

I John 2:14, 3:8, 4:4, 5:4, 5:18

Kept by the power of God

1 Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

John 10:10, 28-29 no man can pluck them out

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

2 Timothy 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

The wicked one touches him not

1 John 5:18 We know that whosoever is born of God sins not; but he that is begotten of God keeps himself, and that wicked one touches him not.

Psalm 91 – The Secret Place of the Most High God

1 He that dwells in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. 3 Surely he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. 4 He shall cover you with his feathers, and under his wings shall you trust: his truth shall be your shield and buckler.

Closing Song: Purify My Heart

Closing Song: Refiner's Fire - Purify My Heart

Refiner's Fire

(Brian Doerksen)

Purify my heart
Let me be as gold and precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold, pure gold

Refiner's Fire
My heart's one desire is to be holy
Set apart for You Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You my master
Ready to do Your will

Purify my heart
Cleanse me from within and make me holy
Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin, deep within

Refiner's Fire
My heart's one desire is to be holy
Set apart for You Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You my master
Ready to do Your will

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