

THE PRAYER OF JABEZ

1 Chronicles 4:10, NKJV

Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain." 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,
that I may not cause pain!***
And God granted him that which he requested."

Introduction

Series: The Presence of God.

Over the next few weeks we are going to be focusing on the Presence of God, specifically, the importance of the "Shekinah" glory, or the manifest presence of God in our lives and in the church.

David expressed it well, "In your presence is fullness of joy." (Psalms 16:11) Adam and Eve experienced God's best of the real Presence of God while He walked with them in the cool of every day. It was for that purpose that man was created. His presence brought fullness of joy to the human existence. Enoch found the secret joy of the manifest presence of God when the Bible says "He walked with God and was not for God took him." (Genesis 5:24) All through the Bible we find men encountering the Presence of God and never being the same. In fact, heaven itself is the restoration or return to the full presence of God for those he created. Here on earth God intends to visit us with his manifest presence and give us a taste of heaven. The whole history of mankind can be summed up as the "lost Presence" (Milton's *Paradise Lost*, or Dante's *Inferno*) and the "found Presence" of God as with Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, and the early church on the Day of Pentecost. God wants us to find him. He longs to reveal his glory to us as he did with Moses. These messages will deal with the Presence of God and rediscovering his presence in two ways:

- ✍️ Personal Presence – God is with me.
- ✍️ Corporate Presence – Shekinah Glory

Let's look this morning at the

Prayer of Jabez in I Chronicles 4:10.

This is nothing less than a cry, a heart-cry for the Presence of God in one's life.

First, Let's look at

I. The Man Who Prayed

His Name:

His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain."

Jabez, the word means, "Pain, sorrow, or grief." We don't know the circumstances of his birth but we know that it brought pain, enough to mark him for life. His mother named him "Pain in the Neck." "You've caused me nothing but pain. I wish you'd never been born. You are nothing but trouble. You have been nothing but a pain since the day you were born." How would you like to grow up with a label like that?

His Character:

Jabez was more honorable than his brothers.

"More honorable." The word means heavy, or weighty. In other words Jabez was weightier than his brothers. He was way better. He was more noble, more serious, more God-centered. He stood head and shoulders above the rest. He was out of the normal, he marched to the beat of a different drum.

Everyone prays. Buddhist pray, Hindu pray, Muslims pray, animists, deists, agnostics, even atheists pray when all else fails. *Praying doesn't set you apart from the crowd. The secret is in what you pray.* This man's prayer set itself above the rest not because he believed in God, but because he believed he was a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

Second, Let's look at

II. The Nature of the Prayer

Jabez called on, or cried out to the Lord,

The word "Call upon" is **Karawh** = to cry out. Like a crow cawing out.

God loves people to cry out to him. He loves to be sought after, pursued, romanced.

The Cry

This was no passing fancy, no hastily uttered prayer, not table grace, no bedtime ditty. This was not some pat platitude, or a copycat catechism, or a vain repetition. It was not trivial pursuit, nor a religious duty, or a roll of beads prayed over and over. This was a HEART-CRY! It was a focused prayer, a sought after passion, a daily discipline, a life-purpose. It became his "moniker" his them song, his longing desire, his total aim, his consuming passion, his only request, his heart's deepest cry...

Oh that You would bless me indeed,

It was not the request that blessed him, but his attitude of heart, his face set like a flint, his singular desire, his willingness to daily, perpetually, unceasingly CALL ON THE LORD. (My help comes from the Lord!)

The Call / Call upon / Cry out to –

The invitation of the Father is always to “call upon Him.”

“Call upon the name of the LORD” is an oft-repeated phrase in the Bible.

- ✍ ~~J~~eremiah 33:3 Call upon me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you know not.

- ✍ ~~I~~saiah 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

- ✍ ~~J~~eremiah 29:11-14 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. 12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. 13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. 14 And I will be found of you, saith the LORD:

- ✍ ~~J~~ames 5:16 "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

- ✍ ~~1~~ Chronicles 16:11 Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually.

- ✍ ~~A~~cts 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

- ✍ ~~I~~saiah 30:18 And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

- ✍ ~~I~~saiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Second, Let's look at

II. The Prayer Itself

1. It is not a typical self-centered, self-seeking prayer. Granted there are those that see this as nothing more than another mantra to grab onto, a fad or easy step to wealth, prosperity, and success. But it is not. It is deeper.
2. It is stubborn, life-long – it is a never-let-go tenacious
3. It is simple – 32 words. Like the Lord's Prayer. Simple, concise, to the point

There is nothing magical about this prayer. Hanging it on you wall of having it on your desk will not make you better. It is not a better prayer than a 1000 others like it. It is a prayer of the heart, which represents a pursuit of the heart.

Jabez's prayer was just one righteous man's prayer, as were many other wonderful prayers in God's Word! God answered it because it was in His will to do so.

Men of God	Simple Prayers	My Simple Prayers
Moses	God show me your glory.	God be merciful to me a sinner.
Jacob	I will not let you go unless you bless me.	Here am I, send me.
Samson	Give me your strength O God.	Teach me to pray as I ought to pray.
David	I want to be a man after you own heart.	Break my heart with the things...
Solomon	Give me your wisdom	Show me the glory of your Presence.
Paul	To know him in the power of his resurrection	

Conclusion: Your Heart-Cry To God

Write out your simple prayer, your heart-cry.



Prayer of Kcid/ Drahcir

Write your heart-crying prayer.

It will turn you life inside out.

He waits to bless you.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. – Hebrews 11:6

AB Simpson's Covenant

He was also moved to give himself to the Lord. At the age of seventeen, he spent a whole day in fasting and prayer and wrote a covenant with God, which he solemnly signed. This covenant was mingled with the word and with hymns he had previously learned. The seeds of his life and service were contained in this covenant.

In it he asked the Lord to give him a double portion of the Spirit to proclaim Him to transgressors. He asked the Lord to sanctify him, and declared that he was now a soldier of the cross. As he put it, "I have one King, even Jesus." He concluded his covenant with the following prayer: "Now give me Thy Spirit and Thy protection in my heart at all times, and then I shall drink of the rivers of salvation, lie down by still waters, and be infinitely happy in the favor of God."

He renewed this covenant at the age of nineteen, after a period of backsliding and restoration, and once again when he was 34.