

**The Request of Jabez**  
**1 Chronicles 4:9-10**  
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from the humble requests of Jabez.

- Intro:
1. What types of things do you pray for? When you pray for yourself and your family how do you pray?
  2. There are many things we need to consider when it comes to praying to God.

I. Bless Me Indeed

A. To Prosper

1. Physically – asking for such things was not uncommon, Solomon asked for something as well (**1 Kings 4:29**).
  - a. Jabez hoped to be prosperous, which is not a sinful endeavor, as we know this was not all he asked for.
2. Spiritually – Jabez also asked to do nothing to hinder others. Something we should pray for today as well (**1 Cor 8:13**)
  - a. The “it’s talking about you, not me” concept does not work here or anywhere else.

B. True Blessings & Blessings indeed

1. True blessings come from God not man (**Eph 1:3**)
  - a. The best friendships come from fellow Christians.
  - b. The best spouse is a Christian spouse.
  - c. The best family is one that puts God first.
    - i. All of these center around God, they are a result of following Him, thus all these things come from Him.
2. What did Jabez want to be? The best he could be (**1 Chron 4:10b**)
  - A. He did not want to cause pain.

II. Enlarge My Territory

A. Enlarge My possession (Keep your hand with me)

1. **Pro 2:8** – He sought after guidance from God
2. It seems when he asked for something he wanted to make sure God was with him.
  - a. “that your hand would be with me”
3. Solomon had great possessions and wisdom but it didn’t keep him from doing evil (**1 Kings 11:4**)

B. Enlarged Influence

1. Influence for good (**1 Chron 4:10a**)
2. Jabez wanted to be a positive part of God’s family, not a negative.
3. He understood that with more territory came more influence, and he wanted that to be positive (**Ecc 9:18; Mt 5:13**)

### III. Keep From Evil, Cause No Pain

#### A. Keep from Evil

1. David was kept from evil at times and Jabez seems to be asking for the same (**1 Sam 25:39**, “and has kept His servant from evil!”)
2. While God does not act in a miraculous way to keep us from evil today, He does give us the tools to be able to discern between good and evil (**Heb 5:14**).

#### B. Cause no pain

1. ***Pain can be defined in many ways including: worry, anger, grief, hurt, etc.***
2. Jabez did not want to be one to cause such things.

### IV. Lessons for Us Today

#### A. Be recognized for good

1. He was recognized as honorable (**1 Chron 4:9a**)
  - a. Since his honor is mentioned specifically then obviously he had been recognized for it, by God which is obviously a big deal.
2. He stood out over others, particularly his brothers

#### B. Make righteous requests of God (1 Chron 4:10)

1. God granted Jabez his request (**1 Chron 4:10c**) but why?
  - a. Because they were according to the will of God (**1 John 5:14-15**)
2. We should make sure our requests are made in a humble manner and are not according to selfish desires.

### Application & Conclusion:

1. How do your prayers compare to those of Jabez?
2. Is there room for improvement?
3. Full Invitation

### Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

### Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9