



*Prayer  
of Faber*

# The Story of Jabez

- ⌘ “Jabez” means pain
- ⌘ Not all the heroes of the Bible are legendary like Abraham
- ⌘ An extraordinary prayer by an ordinary man
- ⌘ He dared to ask for more
- ⌘ His prayer is a good example
- ⌘ Learning to live beyond human limits

# 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

⌘ 9 Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain." 10 Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request.

⌘ NIV

# "Jabez was more honorable than his brothers."

- ⌘ This is not about how great he was
- ⌘ This is not about what he did for himself
- ⌘ The story of Jabez was about asking for and receiving God's help
- ⌘ How we appear in God's eyes is what really counts

# "Oh, that you would bless me"

- ⌘ It is not selfish to ask for God's blessings
- ⌘ We ask for what only God can do
- ⌘ "Blessing" gets watered down
- ⌘ Jabez left it up to God to decide the blessing, the what, where, when, and how much
- ⌘ Don't limit God's bounty
- ⌘ This is not the gospel of "health and wealth"

⌘ Matt 7:7

⌘ "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

⌘ Eph 3:20

⌘ "...to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine"

⌘ James 4:2

⌘ "...You do not have, because you do not ask God."

# "... and enlarge my territory!"

- ⌘ Let us ask God to enlarge our lives so we can make a greater impact for him
- ⌘ Not just real estate
  - × Influence
  - × Opportunity
  - × Responsibility
- ⌘ May God point us to places and people who need God's help – through us

⌘ Matt 20:28

⌘ “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

⌘ Luke 19:10

⌘ “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

⌘ Acts 14:27

⌘ “On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.”

# “Let your hand be with me”

- ⌘ We must feel our dependence on God
- ⌘ God uses ordinary people as well as heroes
- ⌘ God is looking for dedication, not miracles
- ⌘ The Great Commission would be an *impossible task* without the *incredible blessing* of God
- ⌘ Do we really want God to be with us?

⌘ Matt 28:19-20

⌘ “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

⌘ Acts 11:21

⌘ “The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.”

# “keep me from harm”

- ⌘ It is good to be protected *through difficulties*
- ⌘ Not being tempted? Perhaps Satan feels he already has us
- ⌘ Let us ask God to keep us away from evil and to keep evil away from us
- ⌘ Carelessness, frailty, and even success create opportunities for failure

⌘ Matt 6:13

⌘ “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

⌘ 1 Cor 10:13

⌘ “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

# “And God granted his request.”

- ⌘ God answers prayers to his benefit and to ours
- ⌘ Are you ready to live larger for God?
- ⌘ Do you need to be restored to his favor?
- ⌘ Do you need to obey him that you may be saved from past sins?