



ChristCare Study

4 weeks

Prayer of Jabez
By: Bruce Wilkenson

Bruce Wilkenson's Prayer of Jabez
February 12, 2006

“You Shall Receive Power...”

According to the following passages, what supernatural resources are available to every believer through the Holy Spirit?

Acts 1:8 Supernatural power to be a _____ for Christ.

Acts 16:6,7 Supernatural _____.

Romans 8:11 Supernatural power to put _____.

Romans 8:16 Supernatural confirmation that we are _____.

Romans 8:26,27 Supernatural _____ on our behalf.

1 Corinthians 2:10-12 Supernatural understanding of the _____.

1 Corinthians 12:7-9 Supernatural _____ for ministry.

Galatians 5:22,23 Supernatural _____ in our character.

My Prayer for Power

Dear Lord,

*When your hand has moved in my life
I have seen a glimpse of heaven on earth.
Forgive me for my independent attitude
Of believing that I have the power to do your work.
I ask you to reach down from the heavens
And put your mighty hand upon me.
I need and earnestly desire your strength
Working in me, through me, and around me to do your work.
So I empty myself and ask you to lavishly fill me
With the full power of your spirit and the glory of your presence.
By your hand, I will walk boldly today,
Carrying your light in this dark world. Amen.*

My Prayer for Protection

Dear Lord,

*Thank you for the priceless gift
Of knowing and serving the Lord, Jesus.
Forgive me for my frivolous attitude about sin
And my insensitivity to the things that grieve your heart.
How deeply I desire to live a life of holiness
And to please you in every way.
Today I echo the words of Jesus when I say,
"Lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from evil."
Please, Lord, keep me from evil,
That I may not cause pain to you, or others, or myself.
Instead, may I bring delight to you
And may your will be done on earth
As it is in heaven, beginning here with me. Amen.*

My Prayer for Blessing

*Dear Lord,
I want every single blessing
That you would love to give me.
Forgive me for not desiring
These enough to ask for them.
Please open your heart, and be gracious to me.
You are good, and everything You do is good.
So let me experience You today,
In all of Your abundant loving kindness,
Even though I am in all of my unworthiness.
Touch my life in ways that are very personal
So that I don't miss your fingerprints.
Bless me, Lord, I pray-Bless me, indeed!
And I will praise you, from whom all blessings flow.
Amen*

My Prayer for Territory

*Dear Lord, Thank you for making me in Your Image
And for preparing me for a wonderful and important destiny.
Forgive me for withdrawing into my own meager and limiting dreams.
When I do this, I deny You the freedom
To use me as Your mouth, hands, and heart.
I want to fulfill Your world-sized dream for me
Every day of my life.
And in eternity, I want to run into Your arms
Hearing the words, "Well done!"
Please expand my influence and impact for You
Beyond all I can imagine.
I am Your devoted servant.
Here I am, Lord, please send me!
Amen*

Bruce Wilkenson's Prayer of Jabez
February 5, 2006

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for bringing us together this morning. Thank you for the blessings that you bring us daily. Please bless our time together this morning and be here with us as we worship you and study your word. Amen

Biblical Equipping

Volunteer to read 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

Share

Please reflect back on your week and try to remember if your own life has been touched this week in a personal way and if you would like to share please do:

I have been blessed this week with God's healing touch. He has also blessed me with supportive helpful family, skilled doctors and nurses. As well as blessed me with caring, praying friends. So personally, I have felt God's handiwork in my life this week.

Anyone else?

Biblical equipping, Chapter 3 "oh that you would enlarge my territory!"

If your circumstances seem ordinary and your horizons small, you will love this next part of the Jabez prayer. For the second request Jabez pleaded for more territory. More influence and more responsibility. Jabez wanted to make a greater mark for the God of Israel. He wanted a larger opportunity, so he asked for more.

Many Christians aren't sure that they are called to be a strategic part of what God is doing in the world. In quiet moments of introspection, we wonder if maybe we were born benchwarmers instead of boundary busters. What if we all became convinced that we are boundary busters, how would this change our lives?

My territory inventory

Ruth's score 14, I am not opposed to a walk around the block

Anyone else want to share their thoughts

What are some areas of influence that you might have?

Family, church, business, school, community

New places, new people, new cultures, planet earth

Acts 1:7-8

The plan that we are talking about is described for the early church. We can count on the Holy Spirit to be with us, giving us power to witness.

How could God work through me to reach others?

God has plans to help you reach across boundary lines and touch lives for Him. Bruce Wilkinson calls them JABEZ APPOINTMENTS. They occur when you respond to what

seems to be a divinely arranged encounter.. and you invite God to act. Often, your appointment starts with a simple question, “how may I help you?”

Let’s look at a Jabez appointment in the book of Acts , Acts 8 26-39

What can you learn from Philip’s response to the angel’s message?

How did Philip’s willingness to keep his appointment affect the Ethiopian?

Can you find Philip’s How may I help you question?

Page 43 of our book

To pray for larger borders is to ask for a miracle-it’s that simple. A miracle is an intervention by God to make something happen that would not normally happen. Miracles aren’t magic and don’t always break the laws of nature, but always require God’s intervention. For example when Christ provided Peter with a huge catch of fish, no law of nature was broken, but God supernaturally brought fish and Peter’s net together.

God is ready to answer your prayer for a Jabez Miracle, He will

- arrange your day so you connect with the right person
- give you the words to say when you can’t think of any
- provide wisdom you didn’t know you had
- give you boldness when you feel fear
- bring to mind key scripture related to the situation

Knowing all this, are you ready for a JABEZ APPOINTMENT?

Can you think of any JABEZ APPOINTMENTS that you have had?

Prepare Read Chapter 4 The Touch of Greatness

Prayer Requests, Journals

Close with My Prayer of Territory

Bruce Wilkenson's Prayer of Jabez
February 11, 2006

Opening Prayer – Prayer for Territory

Share: Have you had any Jabez appointments this past week? I have seen the Lord expand my territory this week. In addition to my usual spheres of influence, I have been able to be the mouth, hands and heart of Jesus with several strangers this week. I tried to be kind and patient with all the people who I've been on the phone with as well as those who have been coming into my home in our latest kitchen disaster.

I also received an email from my aunt Ingrid in Sweden letting us know about my uncle jans death this past week. My uncle jans health has not been good the past several years and two weeks ago he was hospitalized with breathing difficulties. He was expected to recover but died instead. I know my territory includes Sweden over the next several weeks.

It has been interesting to be **aware** of the territories that are being expanded for me. Anyone else want to share any experiences this past week?

This week, Chapter four "oh that your hand would be with me"

Have you ever taken on a big task only to discover too late that you have gotten in way over your head? When we ask God for more BLESSINGS and more TERRITORY, we'll find that to be the case.

Jabez knew that feeling. That is why in the 3rd part of his prayer he cried out "oh, that Your hand would be with me!"

Power Inventory

I'll share my score 16, the difficult one for me was "I ask fervently and often for God to fill me with His Spirit and power"

People place a high value on being self-sufficient. Do you sense that this attitude affects how you live out your faith? How?

What does God's Hand Upon me Mean?

Explore several new testament passages

Have you personally been aware of any one of these Holy Spirit gifts more than any of the others?

Which suprizes you the most?

Which do you think you will be asking more of?

Prepare:

Have a wonderful president's weekend with your families!

Read the rest of the book for 2/26, we'll meet here at 11:00 am Youth Talent Show in the evening of 2/26

Prayer Requests and Journals

Close with Prayer for Power

Bruce Wilkenson's The Prayer of Jabez

February 21, 2006

Opening Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for bringing us together tonight. Thank you for helping each one of us make time to spend with you. Please bless our time together this evening and be here with us as we worship you and study your word. Amen

Community Building Two Truths and a Fib

Biblical Equipping Introduction, Little Prayer, Giant Prize, So why not ask?

1. My Blessing Inventory

Add scores

21-25 You are flying high on the blessings of God.

16-20 You are a frequent flyer

11-15 You are hoping to lift off soon

5-10 You need to spread your wings

Discuss How would you pray differently if you genuinely believed that there are many blessings God gives only those who ask?

2. What does God's Blessing Mean?

Forms of the verb to bless (barak in Hebrew) appear nearly four hundred times in the Old testament. To Bless means to favor, honor, or bestow special gift or status. In the Bible, for example fathers pronounced blessings on their sons to pass along the family birthrite or inheritance. People blessed God in their worship-"Bless the Lord, o my soul, and forget not all his benefits"

But the kind of blessing we are talking about here is God's favor on us---His supernatural gifts that we don't earn and that we can't receive from any one else. That is why the bible says, "IT is the LORD's blessing that makes you wealthy. Hard work can make you no richer:"Proverbs 10:22

The Bible clearly teaches that God cares about all our needs, material, emotional and spiritual.

Where do you think your blessings come from? Family, marriage, job, hard work, mere chance?

James 1:16-17

Why is it so easy to become deceived and think we are the source of our blessings?

Do you think everyone who prospers is being blessed by God? Evildoers?

Does God guarantee material blessings and prosperity to believers?

Might there be good reasons to withhold them? Yes, waste squander

Ephesians 1:3-14

When you receive eternal salvation, God gives you what Paul calls “every spiritual blessing...in Christ” What are some of the spiritual blessings Paul Mentions?

(he chose us to be holy and blameless, he adopted us to be as his sons thru JC, for his will and pleasure, redemption, forgiveness, salvation)

3. How do I maximize God’s blessing?

For many Christians the whole idea of praying for personal blessings sounds wrong. Aren’t we supposed to pray for others, not ourselves? Isn’t it SELFISH to ask for me? Asking for blessing isn’t the only way to pray. We are taught to intercede for others, to confess, to worship and to give thanks. The Jabez prayer simply starts with our urgent desire to receive God’s special favor. It is based on a radical trust that God will answer in great love.

God is please when, like Jabez, we trustingly ask Him for his best without specifying exactly how we want Him to bless us. But it is okay to go beyond the Jabez prayer and ask God to bless us in a specific way. Those prayers please the Lord, also. Just be careful to check your motives, and to keep your eyes open for God’s surprising answers. So how do we pray for generous blessing without crossing over into God-dishonoring prayer?

James 4:3

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

1 John 5:14

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

1 John 2:15-17

1 Timothy 2:1

1 Corinthians 10:31

Philippians 3:8-10

4. How do I receive God’s Blessings in my Life?

5. What would my life look like if I asked for Blessing?

Prepare Read Chapter 3 only
A Prayer for Blessing – Daily

Prayer and Worship

Prayer Journals

Closing Prayers

Missional Service and *visiting*