

- *Pitfalls to avoid: A case study of the mother of Jabez*
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Jabez

Deeper Life Bible Church, North East & Cumbria Region, United Kingdom

A WORD FROM THE WOMEN LEADER

Jabez was a man described as honourable yet written off by his mother, life chances, and opportunities. His name constantly reminded him about his sorrowful identity and pitiable heritage. Does this describe your perception about your own self? Cheer up! The GOD of Jabez is still alive! Jabez called upon the GOD of Israel. The GOD that changed the circumstance of Jabez will do a new thing in your life in JESUS Name (AMEN).

This great project was embarked upon by our Women's Group within Deeper Life Bible Church, North East and Cumbria Region, England to encourage all readers of these Christian articles. May you be mightily blessed as you read them. Remember, prayer changes things. Prayer in the Name of JESUS and you will never be the same again.
Sister Christiana Ohiomokhare

Pitfalls to avoid: the case study of the mother of Jabez

Women generally have a lot of demands and pressures to contend with in life, despite all our challenges we must learn to rely upon, and rest in God who loves for us, and his unfailing promises for our lives. Although the mother of Jabez may have bore him in sorrow but what she did not realise was that sorrow has an expiry date (Proverbs 23:18). Also, the names given to a child or they are called by, could possibly or completely have negative effects on their lives. As daughters of the Almighty God, we must know that we are precious and peculiar in the sight of God. So whatever the challenges or problems that come to us, our God will deliver us (1 Peter 2:9; Deuteronomy. 14:2). We must not allow our present unpleasant situation, to inform our decision, utterances and actions, particularly the way we use our tongue, or call our loved ones and children (Ephesians 4:29). We must know that in all our circumstances,

GOD IS WITH US (Isaiah 43:2-3). We must not allow our emotions to control us, but every part of our lives must be surrendered to the control of the Holy Spirit, then take our worries and concerns to God in prayer (Philippians 4: 6-8). We must not forget that the Lord has promised to deliver us from all our troubles (Psalm 34:19).

Sister Asisatu

As mothers, we must come to terms with the fact that our experiences cannot define our children. We should also be positive when we speak to our children and never call them names because of our past experiences. Even though Satan attempts to get involved and take us captive, let us remember God's Word and speak it over our children and ourselves. God said even the captive of the mighty shall be taken away, the prey of the terrible shall be delivered. Most importantly he said He will always contend with him that contends with us and save our children (Isa 49:25). Thank God for Jabez. With his wealth of knowledge about the God of Israel, he decided to take his God's given destiny back.

Crying out he said, "... *oh that thou would bless me indeed and enlarge my coast and that thine hand might be with me from evil, that it may not grieve me ...*". This teaches us that we should know the God that we serve; How that he is able to and will always come to our aid when we call on Him. Faith and trust are important every time we expect God to come to our aid no matter what challenges we face, which is what Jabez did. If Jabez had not trusted in the God of Israel, he would have settled with an unfortunate end.

Sister Preye

*Life and
Death are the
power of the
tongue*

She ordained her son based on the situation surrounding his birth not knowing she was already laying a bad start-up or foundation for him. She failed to realise that the power of our tongue. (Proverbs 18:21)

Note: No matter the situation, we should confess positively for our words carry potent and the efficacy of bringing to pass whatever we utter whether concerning one's self or others.

Parents should name their children based on the future they anticipate for that child. Because names are powerful.

Sister Faith

1 Chro 4:9-10

The woman - a mother has great influence and responsibility to those who she has brought into the world through the help of God. The confessions of a mother are powerful especially as it relates to the children from her womb. The words of a mother to her children that God has blessed her with can either make or mar them.

Jabez's mother called her son - the gift from God, sorrow because she bore him in pain

(probably childbirth pangs). Remember, children are the heritage of God and the fruit of the womb is His reward (Psalm 127:3) and blessing of God makes rich and adds no sorrow (Pro. 10:22). Yes, children are from God and it is God's divine purpose that they should be a blessing.

However, what should have been a source of joy to the life of Jabez's mother became a source of sorrow because she focused on the challenges she had which made her to reason on the contrary. Meditating on the pain influenced her to speak negatively about her child to the extent of naming him, Jabez. This child grew up with the mental perception of being called sorrow and all that was associated with pain and sorrow. Instead of growing with the mental perception of greatness.

Children are the heritage of God and the fruit of the womb is His reward Psalm 127:3

We should not declare negative things on our children, families, or ourselves because of challenges of life or what they do. These negative confessions could be likened to seeds down in their lives and would eventually yield fruits in due season. God's word tells us that "life and death are in the power of the tongue"(Pro 18:21). We see from the scriptures what befell the children of Israel in the wilderness as they journeyed from Egypt to Canaan, the promised land. They spoke negatively at a time they ought to have confessed the promises of God to them. And God confirmed what they confessed (Num 14:2, 28). It is encouraging to know that the confessions of mothers upon their children can build their children spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. We can choose to bless, pray and encourage our children as God-fearing mothers who have been transformed by the power of the gospel. And God will confirm our positive declarations upon our children in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sister Ekeke

The mother said, she bore him in sorrow, that was why she named him SORROW. While the bible says in Prov 18:21 that "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof." Jabez's mother would have chosen life and called her boy GLADNESS, JOY or HAPPINESS, instead of sorrow.

Moreover, Rom 4:17 says I have made thee a father of many nations before he whom I believed, even God, who quickened the dead and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Even, Prov22:1 & Eccl 7:1 reveal that a good name is better than riches. Did she mean something good could not come out of her

Nazareth? SHE DID NOT WELL AT ALL.

Sister Bose M.

***As** MOTHERS no matter what we're going through, we should not do things that can be detrimental to the life of our children.

*See GOOD in every bad situation. *She should have called on God of Israel for that bad situation that surrounded Jabez birth. *As mothers we should know that there is power in the tongue and be careful what we say or call our children. *We should see beyond today but speak positive words into the future of our children.

Deeper Life Bible Church, North East & Cumbria Region, United Kingdom

Worship with us: Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays



" Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.

1 Chronicles 4:9-10

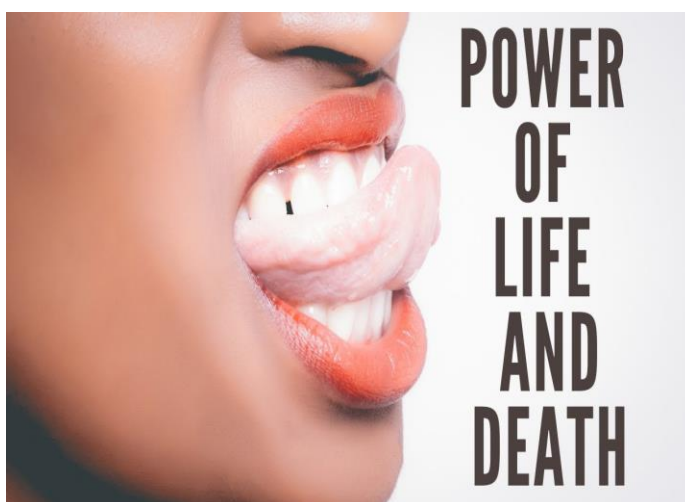


Our Fellowship Days and Times

At Deeper Life Bible Church, North East & Cumbria Region, United Kingdom

	NEWCASTLE St. Philips' Close, Arthur's Hill, NE4 5JE	MIDDLESBROUGH 18 Cambridge Road, Middlesbrough, TS5 5NN	SUNDERLAND Burn Park Methodist Church, 5 Burn Road, SR2 7LS
Tuesday Bible Study	7:00 pm	6:00 pm	6:00 pm
Friday Revival Service	7:00 pm	6:00 pm	6:00 pm
Sunday Service	10:00 am prompt	1 pm prompt	10:00 am prompt

Zoom Meeting ID: 92727665352
Passcode: 369040



Lesson from Jabez

Sister Preye

The prayer he prayed in spite of his circumstances drives home quite a number of lessons. The fact that he was more honourable than his brothers teaches us that irrespective of difficult circumstances, God can lift you up above your fellows if only you can believe and work by faith.

It was bad enough that society gives up on you. The scripture also noted that His mother, even before he could say his first words as a child, had written him off. Owed to what she may have suffered she gave him no chance to make a difference. The scripture said she named him "Jabez" - a name associated with "pain or sorrow". Notice how his story lipped into the scene as we read this focus chapter of the Bible. There was no mention of his name before and after the 2 verses of the chapter. Yet what he did was noted. It implies that no matter how society ignores you or fail to recognise, God can do the impossible to announce you to your world. Instead of seeing failure and retardation mortared on him by his mother, he decided to see his future through the eyes of God. He made a resolve to make a difference by writing his own story and forced it through the lines of history. He had knowledge of his God who said, *"I have loved you with an everlasting love, I have drawn you with unfailing kindness; I will build you up again and you ... will be rebuilt."* Jabez saw God as one who will never change his mind about him no matter his family background. He, therefore, spoke into being what he knew God know of him. Life and death the bible said are in the power of the tongue and that those who love it will eat its fruits (Prov. 18:21). Knowing there is power in the spoken word, God always wants us to speak life into our situations.

Sister Asísatu

Life is full of ups and downs, a moment of joy and sorrow. We must not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed when faced with difficulties. This is because they will not last forever. Jabez mother, named him Jabez meaning in the Hebrew language "He makes sorrowful". Jabez did not bemoan his situation or allow self-pity to weigh him down; rather he took positive decision to bring about a change to his life that look seeming sorrowful and painful, by seeking and calling upon his creator and maker. The Almighty God for a complete change.

His request was clear and specific he knew what he wanted and God granted his request (Matthew 7:7-8). We also as daughters of God must not allow the self-pity, the reproaches of people to cast us down or becloud our vision of a glorious tomorrow that God has for us (Jeremiah 29:11). Hence we must come boldly, to the throne of grace in prayer asking, God for some specific changes and complete turnaround in our lives. We as daughters of the Almighty God must learn to walk and live by faith, not by sight. Jabez became more honourable than his brethren because he believes and called earnestly on the Almighty God as we do the same the Lord Himself will honour us.

Sister Joan

In verse 9, the bible mentions Jabez was an honourable man which means he is trustworthy, faithful and noble.

He was more honourable than his brothers, however, his name meant pain, because his mother bore him in pain. The name given to a child can influence their future and situations. This is shown in verse 10 when Jabez asks God to 'keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain'. Thus, suggesting that Jabez may have felt he was a 'pain' to people like a thorn in the flesh. The full prayer of Jabez is seen in verse 10. In the prayer he asks for blessings, and then continues to be more specific about the kind of blessings like enlargement; God's hand with Him continuously; kept out of evil and to not cause pain. We also see that God granted him his request, thus showing the faithfulness of God continuously (Matthew 7:7). Overall, we see how the name of a child bares an effect on their life. Because his name was Jabez (pain), He believed he caused pain even though he was an honourable man! Many lessons can be learnt from these two short verses. As a woman or parent, when naming your child, do not look at the current situation but ask God for the perfect name for the child. Additionally, we can see that no matter the name given to you, (either at birth or what people call you), it does not have to determine your future. As long as you have faith in God and present your request before Him,⁵ He can do it and much more!

The destiny of God for your life is that you are more honorable before the name anyone called you based on their experience or encounter with you. 2. Learn that with your words you can override any negative names or tag anyone has called you by calling yourself what God called you from the beginning. 3. Mothers/ parents should not disfigure their children's glorious destiny with their words because of the temporary sorrow they are passing through. 4. God's gifts and calling are without repentance. So anytime you noticed that your life is not like what God called you, you have the authority to speak and believe who you are in God, and it will be granted.

Sister Debbie

Reading from verse 9 of 1 Chronicles 4, it states that Jabez was more honourable than his brethren despite that his mother bore him in sorrow. Jabez was just a victim of circumstance, it was not his fault, but he did not allow that condition to limit. It is enough for him to just have been satisfied with the fact that he was honourable. But he was quickened to know that there are still some anomalies in his life. I believe the Holy Spirit opened his eyes of understanding to see that his name had a significance in his life. Jabez did not only ask God for change of name he also asked for blessings... it shows that he had faith that God would answer and he knew the God of Israel (Heb 11:6), he didn't ask from God as if it was one of those options but he asked like God was the only option. This shows that every individual can change his or her state by recognising God in their lives.

Another lesson I learnt from the life of Jabez is from his prayer "oh that ye might enlarge my territory" this prayer to me is not a prayer of greed or wanting too much to

become rich but it is a prayer that is asking for more responsibilities, it is an attitude of someone who wants to give back, who wants to be accountable to his blessings, a character of someone who wants to extend his blessings to nation.

Sister Eliane

The lesson to learn from Jabez is that he did not rely on his mother's name. His mother called him "sorrow" but he knew that God can save him and he called the God of Israel to bless him. God answered Jabez according to his request and his name was straight away changed through prayer. As a believer, in Christ Jesus, we should know that our past can be changed no matter our past circumstances.

Ephesians 2:6 "And hath raised us up together and make us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus". And Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit." These passages tell us that Jesus has changed our curses into blessing due to his sacrifice on the cross and has given us a new name to be called, the children and heritage of the kingdom of God. As a mother, whatever our children do in spite of us, we should not give them any negative name because whatever we speak and how we name our children has an impact on their life. Whatever circumstances we face as mothers, we should not lay that burden now on our children and be careful during the times we feel frustrated, not to speak bad words

unto them. Also, the God of Jabez is a merciful God. We need to make a clear prayer point to our Father and not to confuse our prayer. The songwriter says, "what a friend we have in Jesus", He can resolve all our problems and sins all we need to do is go to him in prayer.

With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible

Sister Esther I.

Jabez calling unto the God of Israel shows that he is not serving unto any other God than the only living God. Exodus 20:3 says thou shall not have any other God except me. We also learn from Jabez's story that names are important.

Names can be prophetic. Often times, we tend to give our children names we want them to reflect. Jabez's mother named him because she had given birth to him in sorrow (1 Chronicles 4:9). Parents should therefore be mindful of what comes out of their mouth, especially when they experience a temporary challenge. The bible describes the tongue as "fire" (James 3:6) It is whatever one confesses that one possesses. Flowing from Jabez's prayer, one would deduce that he was not satisfied with the condition that he found himself. This is of course due to the manifestation of what has been said concerning his life by his mother. The bible recognizes the "blessings of the breast and womb" (Genesis 49:25) There is indeed an invisible umbilical cord (a connection) that cannot be broken between the mother and the child.

Bearing this in mind, parents must speak positively into their children's lives.

The bible records that God granted Jabez's requests (1 Chronicles 4:10). This means that he was indeed blessed, his territory was enlarged, God's hand was with him and God kept him from harm so that he will be free from pain. This was the same Jabez that was named after sorrow, yet his life was transformed. This shows that God can reverse the irreversible if only we can also be deliberate about our lives. Jabez prayed that daring prayer and his prayers were all granted. *There is nothing God cannot do (Matthew 19:26)* If we can also learn to trust God and call on him, it shall be settled (Matthew 7:7). Jabez's story, therefore, teaches us to never give up, no matter how challenging the past is, by faith in God and by calling on God, there will be a light at the end of the tunnel.

Sister Joan

Verse 9. This is an account of Jabez that shades light into many lessons. No account of Jabez was given elsewhere in this passage. But when his name was to be mentioned, it started by unavailing Jabez's personality. "More honorable"

Honor: To be highly esteemed. Respected, valued, recognized and renowned. He was not just honorable but MORE than his brethren. BUT, something was attached to his name that is influencing his life.

Jabez: "Pain". Pain can connote many things. It maybe hardship, sickness, failure, stagnation or whatever that can make one uncomfortable. Hence, though honorable yet limited.

Limited because his mum ordained him according to the circumstances surrounding his birth. And that had been his experience until when he decided to break free and enjoy his nobility and

virtues. Jabez would have suffered some humiliations but was not ashamed to call on his God 2 Timothy 1:12. Jabez knew who he believes in is able to turn around his situations. He knew the plans of God for his life. Jeremiah 29:11. As Believers, we should always call on our God. The names we bear have a way of affecting our life's situations.

Verse 10

This verse is a prayer made by Jabez and the points to note are:

Jabez noticed something was wrong. Then he proceeded to look for a solution. One can only be helped if he/she even knows that something is wrong.

Jabez knew that something was wrong with him and he was not comfortable with that. He sought help earnestly.

Let us not be comfortable with unpleasant circumstances around us that we can receive help. Also, where we seek help from matters a lot. In the case of Jabez, he looked up to God (Psalms 121:1-2) also a lesson from Jabez' prayer. He was specific in his prayer. Only then did God grant his request. (Psalms 20:4). When we go to God in prayers, let us be specific and full of faith.

Sister Morenike

Jabez was an ordinary man who prayed an extraordinary prayer to an extraordinary God and got extraordinary results! This pamphlet, The Jabez Prayer is not designed to be merely read through. It has been planned as a prayer guide. A man is known for what he does most. If a man does not do much

of anything, he is known for nothing. But if a man is known for something, he must do more of it than anyone else. Jabez is known exclusively because of his prayer. - He prayed intelligently – "He called on the God of Israel". He prayed fervently– "**Oh that thou wouldst bless me**". He prayed specifically – "Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed". He prayed ambitiously– "Enlarge my coast". He prayed effectually– "God granted his request". Jabez's short appearance in the Bible spans only two verses, in 1 Chronicles 4:9-10. This short passage gives us some lessons to learn and things to think about.

"Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called Jabez's name literally meant "he will cause pain." His mother probably had a difficult time giving birth to him because, as she said, "I bore him in pain." (1) Thankfully, despite the label or identity that was assigned to him, Jabez broke through and became more honorable than his brothers." (2) Jabez, who probably suffered from low self-esteem caused by the label his mother gave him, broke through the wrong identity given to him by calling on the God who made all of mankind. (3) Jabez's short appearance in the bible gives us hope, that no matter how much the world, even the people we love, try to destroy us, God can bless us and cause us to be a blessing to all. (4) Learn how we can be surrounded by great sorrows yet become a great success! Jabez is an example of the amazing vitality of how goodness results from an inward dedication to God's will.

5) His life challenges all believers with understanding the urgency to demonstrate steadfastness in their spiritual lives (cf Gal 5:1; Col 1:22-23; Philip 1:27). 6) He was humble and understood an eternal truth that God is the one who opens doors, gives favour, provides, and protects. 7) He had faith and asked God to change his future and He did. 8) He understood the power of prayer. He knew that for those desires to come into fulfilment he needed to call out to God and make them.

In conclusion, in the prayer of Jabez, we learn that God blesses an individual after a direct request for "more" from God. This does not mean that God will answer every specific request for "more". Somebody may be seeking something for selfish gain. What they want may be harmful to them (or other people). However, what this prayer does reveal is that Jabez sets a precedent in prayer. When there are good motivations (not to cause harm, and a dependency on God's hand for strength and protection) then God is eager to answer prayers like this.

Pray in faith - "Without faith, it is impossible to please God"

Pour out your soul - "The effectual fervent (boiling over) prayer of a righteous man availeth much" Pray because your future depends upon it –

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.”

Sister Ekeke

Meaning of Jabez:- 'he causes pain', "sorrow maker" or "source of sorrow." I realised that, though he was named sorrow, pain, shame or bitterness, he never took these to be his name. Why? He was a man of faith and prayer. He would not take NO for an answer and he served

the God of POSSIBILITIES.

"I will arise and go to my father..."

Sister Eleofo

Vs 9 says Jabez was more honourable than his brethren, yes, he had unique gifts, talents, qualities and grace that distinguished him from others just like Naaman in the book of 2 Kings 5 who was successful in his career but had leprosy that became a limitation in his life. Jabez's limitation was as a result of the name given to him by his mother "because I bore him in sorrow". Jabez means "sorrowful", sisters are you experiencing pain, disappointment, failure, frustration, setbacks, losses, shame, low self-esteem in your life? Then it is time to call on the God of Jabez.

Jabez was an "underdog" as a result of his ominous name. but you know what? one day as Jabez had enough of the negative influences, setbacks and limitations his name impacted on his identity, he arose and said to himself enough is enough, he took ACTION like the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:18 says "I will arise and go to my father..." and that of four lepers in 2 Kings 7:3-20, in vs 3 they asked themselves "Why sit we here until we die?" they arose and went to the camp of their enemies. Their step of faith saved them and the whole land of Israel from famine. Sisters stop crying, complaining, lamenting, drowning in self-pity. Don't let your circumstances determined your destiny. Instead, go on your knees and talk to God as Jabez did. Jabez

Verse 10, And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.

(1) Oh, that thou wouldest bless me indeed, Jabez was asking for the kind of blessing in Prov. 10:22 The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it. An all-round blessing like the one Abraham received from God in Gen 12:2-3 " ²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." It is the will of God for you as his daughter to be blessed. God has your best interest at heart. Place a demand for the blessing.

(2) And enlarge my coast. Jabez was asking God to enlarge the sphere of our influence. The kind of blessing that will touch others' lives. In Act 9:36-42, was the story of Dorcas "She did many good things and many acts of kindness" many a time we don't receive from God because of wrong motives, especially thinking of amassing wealth for ourselves. If you want God to make you a channel of blessing, then it is time to ask Him to enlarge your coast.

(3) And that thine hand might be with me. Jabez was asking for Gods presence, for by strength shall no man prevail 1 Sam 2:9. Partner with God in whatever He calls you to do and you will not fail. Let's act like Moses in Ex 33:15 "And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence", you need the hand of God in the affairs of your life.

(4) And that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! Jabez realized that we are living in a world full of wickedness. Where the devil can use anybody including his mother to stop the purpose of God for his life. Know that you have an enemy the 'Devil' that don't want to see you succeed and want to see you in pain. I pray that God will keep you from evil, prepare a table before you in the presence of your enemy, remove the stigma, stain and evil label placed on you.

And God granted him that which he requested. God longs to give blessings to any that ask. God changed his story, God of Jabez will give you, beauty for ashes, gain for your pain. Isa 61:7 says, "For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore, in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them."

(i) Jabez's prayers were clear and precise:* When we pray to God we should tell Him our specific requests and not spend the time in prayers complaining or counting our losses.

(ii) Jabez's believed God and that was why he could ask God to intervene in his situation:* When we pray and ask God to intervene in challenging situations of our lives, we should come in faith believing that God has the power to do all things and change situations. Nothing is too difficult for God to do, and we should always remember that the hand of God is not short nor His power limited but unbelieve and sin are the major hindrances to our request. Note, that Jesus said in Matt 21:22 said, that all things, whatsoever we ask in prayer, believing we shall receive and Heb. 11:6 says that without faith it is impossible to please God. Therefore, as far as you are a child of God and there is no sin in you (such as bitterness, unforgiveness, lying, cheating, fornication, adultery, lust, worldliness etc.) then all you need to receive from God is faith.

Sister Francisca Adereti

Jabez did not accept the Limitations he was born with, he rather took his problems to God in prayers 1Chron 4:10. We can also see other people in the bible who cried to God in the

same way Jabez did, for example, Abram before his name was changed to Abraham Gen 15:2; 16:4-5.

Believers should not be afraid to call upon God at any time they don't need to struggle with all their problems, the scripture reads "Thus saith the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me." Isaiah 45:11.

Sister Kamar

Verse 9 of 1 Chronicles chapter 4 tells us that Jabez's mother called him 'Jabez' because she gave birth to him with sorrow. This sorrow she experienced could have been beyond that of normal childbirth which led her to give her new-born a name meaning 'pain'. Even though Jabez's name meant 'pain' he did not lead his life as one who brought pain to himself or others as the first sentence in verse 9 tells us that he lived an honourable life unto God than his brethren. How do we know that his life was honourable unto God? Verses 10 answers this for us as we see that Jabez called out to the God of Israel and made prayer requests which were, in turn, granted unto Jabez. This teaches us that despite the negative connotation(s) in our families,

our friends, our society, our community, our challenges, our circumstances associate with us or portray us as; we should not conform to those negative connotation(s) but remain transformed in the renewed mind that God gave to us when we chose to believe in him to prove to them that yours is the perfect will of God (Romans 12:2) and that you live to please God and by what God calls you to be and not to please men (1 Thessalonians 2:4). As we pursue the will of God in our lives, like Jabez we live honourably before God and will be granted our request when we call upon the name of Lord God.

In verse 10, Jabez's prayed a short yet faithful and power prayer and we can see that in the last sentence of verse 10 tells us that all that Jabez prayed for was granted to him by God. In Jabez prayed he requested the following:

(1) **"That God would bless him"**. These words spoken by Jabez shows that he recognized that the God he believed in is the source of all blessings and so-called upon His name to bless him. And these blessings were more than just material; they can also be spiritual blessings (an all-around blessing). God blesses us with spiritual as well as material blessings when we ask Him for Philippians 4:19

reminds us that God will supply us with all our needs and that if we continue to believe in him, we will receive anything that we ask in prayer (Matthew 21:22). So, we should always be reminded that asking God for a blessing is not a bad thing, so as long as we abide and believe in Him continually.

(2) **"Enlarge his coast"**. Here Jabez is asking that God would give him more influence and opportunity to bring glory to God as he is more concerned about making an impact for the Kingdom of God rather than gaining physical prosperity. The kind of blessing that will touch others' life should be our aim as God enlarge us in His wisdom, understanding, humility, patience, and love and joy that we will seek to help out those who are weak and help bring them into God's kingdom wholeheartedly (Romans 15:1; Acts 9:36-42).

(3) **"that God's hands will be with him"**. Jabez believed that God was all-powerful, recognized that he was weak and needed God's hands to be over his life to help to guide him, protect him, strengthen him especially as God enlarges his coast, he knew he would not be able to handle it by his might and so he surrenders his success to God. Like Jabez, we must consistently seek God's hand to

be with us, to help in all areas of our life as we cannot do anything by our own strengthen (Zechariah 4:6) but only by God strengthening us with His power (Philippians 4:13; Isaiah 40:29 & 31).

(4) **"And would keep from evil, that it would not bring him sorrow"**. In his final prayer request, Jabez refers to his name which meant 'pain.' With this, he renounced the awful meaning of his name. He asked God to free him from harm so that pain may not befall him. From this we can learn that like Jabez we should pray to ask God's protection against and renouncing all forms of evil (Matthew 6:13) that the devil will use (even those individuals that are close to us like Jabez's mother) to stop or hinder us from attaining God's will for us.

Lastly, we see that the sincere prayer of Jabez made unto to God did not remain unanswered. The last sentence of verse 10 says "And God GRANTED him that which he REQUESTED." Jabez story, his life was turned around, one that is of great testimony and an encouragement to us today. And like Jabez, as we live honourably and abide in our Lord God, our negative circumstances will always change for the better as God is ready to bless us and is always

working for our good (Romans 8:28).

Sister Margaret Idika

Of a truth, life is full of challenges but as children of God, we need to know that God is our Maker, Saviour and our Burden-Bearer as Jabez did in 1 Chronicles 4:10.

Most of us have roofs over our heads and if the roof starts leaking, we would not be calling doctors but roofers. Likewise, we need to call unto God whenever we encounter challenges. Jabez did not go fighting his mother, crying and blaming himself or God for his problems. Instead, he requested that which is not part of God's purpose for him to be taken out by his Creator.

God brought us into this world through our parents, but he did not place our destinies in their hands. We should learn from Jabez how to say no and not accepting any kind of barriers imposed on us by circumstances. Jabez's name was to be a barrier/ limitation to him fulfilling God's purpose in his life but he went to God for a change of name and destiny. So, we should do the same in every situation that isn't pleasant in our lives.

We can as well see in Luke 19:3-4 how Zacchaeus refused to accept his stature and ego as barriers to his salvation. He

would have accepted these as limitations, but he rejected them and reached out for his salvation.

In the book of Mark 10:46 - 52, we also see another victorious fighter in the name of Blind Bartimaeus, this man refused the limitations of the crowd, humiliation from people and blindness but instead reached out to Jesus for the restoration of his sight.

In conclusion, I pray that in every situation, we would lean on God and believe in his promises in Isaiah 43:18-19 and He will definitely, do new things in our lives in Jesus Name.

Sister Bose M.

Jabez prayed to God for his name to be changed from sorrow to honourable.

*He realised that God could change his situation.

*He was specific in his prayers

*He did not accept his name - SORROW.

*He had a relationship with God.

Sister Suzannah

Jabez refused to accept the status quo, he knew that his destiny was almost sealed with his mother's declaration and the name he was given.

- Yet he will not settle for a life of limitations.

- He knew God can change situations and circumstances.

He knew God had his destiny and he had to ask for a change.

-He renounced sorrow, lack and misfortune.

- He asked the destiny changer to change the course of his life.

- He wanted a different direction and an entirely new story and a better circumstance.

- God granted him his request.

- We must not accept what life throws at us. It does not matter who or what has determined our circumstances. We have a God that created the Heavens and the earth. He lives outside of time and He can change things within a twinkling of an eye.

Sister Francisca Akapo

"And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow.

And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested." **1 Chronicles 4:9-10**

The man Jabez in the above Bible passage made an impact through his well-known short prayers that cannot be overlooked.

First, he moved from nobody to somebody. 2 Chronicles chapter

4 is a bible passage dedicated to the genealogy of the descendants of Judah. Jabez was not one of them. His father's name was not mentioned. Neither was his mother's name stated. From verses 1 to 8, we observe the names of the children of Judah and their families were being recorded. Suddenly in verse 9 and 10, the name Jabez appeared from nowhere and after documenting his breakthrough, the writer continued with the families of Judah. It was through this tribe of Judah that our Lord Jesus Christ came. Jabez was not from that family but because he identified strongly with God, the writers of biblical history were compelled to write about him in the same chapter with the descendants of Judah.

Secondly, Jabez was a man of faith. The life of Jabez was a life that demonstrated faith in the God of Israel. Yes, he prayed but what made his prayers to accomplish much more than his thoughts was - faith. He had a major problem, a curse which could have become a great generational curse. A negative pronouncement from a woman that had powerful authority over his life (his biological mother - 1 Chronicles 4:9). Such evil pronouncements had destroyed the destinies of many glorious children. But Jabez's prayer of faith made God move for his sake. It is worthy noting that he

pleased God with his faith. Hebrews 11:6 states clearly that without faith it is impossible to please God. James 1:6 - 8 tells us that a double-minded, unbelieving heart cannot receive anything from the Lord. According to Hebrews 3:18 - 19, we can see how the children of promise could not enter into their rest because of unbelief. Therefore, the impact of this prayer was not in its length or dynamics but in his unwavering trust in the power of the God of Israel to defeat his problems and God honoured his faith.

Another striking action was his rejection of evil decrees. Jabez came to a point of recognising the effects of his name in respect to his birth. His mother called him "Jabez" which means "sorrow". What an evil declaration! A destiny devouring name. His life could have been wasted but Jabez chose to say "NO" to glory wasters. He disagreed with the evil pronouncement.

Fourthly, Jabez took responsibility for himself to change that satanic word. He did not allow himself to be plunge into any form of self-pity or blame games. He did rather seek the declaration of Him that has the highest authority which is the God of Israel. He did not allow family history or weakness to blur his sight of God and His power to deliver him. He did not give room for negotiation with

anybody nor accept his predicament because of what he was told. He told God (confessed) what he desires and trusted him completely to do it. Through his resolution, he found God for himself and like Jacob in the book of Genesis chapter 32, his history was changed. He became a man of blessing instead of sorrow.

What is the relevance of the Jabez's prayer to present-day Christian?

1). Do not keep quiet about your problem(s), tell it to Jesus. Pray and keep praying until something happens. 1 Chronicles 4:10, Jere 29:12, Phil 4:6.

2). Seek to know Jehovah for whom He is. Philippians 3:10, Daniel 11:32b

3). No matter our challenges, family history or background, we must take firm responsibility for our future and the fulfilment of our destiny. Through God and His Word (John 1:1 - 2), we will reverse every evil declaration, prophecy, or incantation (Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 29:4 - 9).

4). Do not fear the devil or evil personalities just trust in God and pray and victory will be yours.

5). If the man Jabez did not have the Bible yet could change his history through holding on to the little he heard about the God of Israel, we can have much more if only we believe what we have

heard and read in the Holy Scriptures about this same God. 6). Jabez obtained a complete victory over all the darkness surrounding his birth and life. We can have victory over all fears and failures when we come to Christ (Hebrews 2: 14, 15).

7). When we absolutely trust and surrender to the all-powerful God, He will make us a blessing, not just to our generation but nations and generations after us like the case of Jabez.

8). Jabez did not set any limit for God. And God did not limit his testimony. So God blessed him INDEED (1 Chronicles 4:10

9). Every nation has its currency for buying and selling. FAITH is the currency in God's Kingdom.

10). God gave all his creatures mouth to speak to Him. Jabez's mother spoke according to her knowledge or what some will call "facts". Jabez had an option to echo that "fact" by believing and confessing it with his mouth into God's ears (thereby signing an agreement with the devil to carry it out). He also had the option to look away from the facts and speak what he desires into God's ears. He chose the latter that is why we read about him today.

Finally, Brethren, **what do we speak into Jehovah ears in our moments of trials? Do we echo God's living Word, or "facts" being presented to us by the family, friends, history**

& society? We do not ignore such destiny determining facts as Jabez did not ignore his but take it to the Lord in prayer and trust in Him. Let us watch our utterances with care especially at the moments when we are faced with challenges like Jabez mother.

Let us develop a habit of praying and confessing God's word daily.

Oh that the Lord will bless us INDEED, and ENLARGE our coast, and His HAND will be with us and that He would keep us from evil, that it may not grieve us! And God grants us all that which we requested in Jesus name! Amen.

Sister Christiana

Jabez refused to allow the name he was given to define him. May be it had to do with both his inner identity and/or his outward identity. Identity crisis can be a very difficult period and process. Jabez realised that he must never allow labelling to ruin his life. In the same vein, believers in Christ must not allow

their names (that may connote something negative) or any label from any source to define them.

He disconnected from his pathetic condition and limitations through the power of prayers. Engaging in the potent power of prayers can disconnect us from unpleasant situations and experiences.

He understood the power of the GOD of Israel, and develop a personal relationship with the GOD of Israel. Friends, do you have any relationship with GOD today? Jabez made a conscious effort to seek the GOD of Israel. You also need to proactively seek

to give your life to JESUS CHRIST today and accept HIM as your LORD and personal SAVIOUR (Matthew 6:33). It is not enough to know HIM from a distance, but you need to come into HIS fold today. The steps to establishing a relationship with CHRIST are simple. You may start by acknowledging your wrong doings (sins), confess those sins to GOD through the name of JESUS and with all your heart, forsake all your sins. Do not attempt to keep back any sin like a pet. The cost of holding on to sin is eternal damnation. JESUS CHRIST has paid the price for your sins; you now need to accept HIM as your LORD and personal SAVIOUR.

Jabez believed that his situations can be overturned through prayers. His experience teaches us that there is no challenge that comes our ways as believers in CHRIST that we cannot surmount or overcome. Jabez chose to call on the GOD of Israel. The choices we make when we face life's challenges are paramount and decisive in the corresponding results we get. Like Jabez, every believer in CHRIST

must learn to call on GOD for a change (Jeremiah 33:3).

Jabez also believed his situation was not without remedy. There is no hopeless case with JESUS. In the new testament of the Bible, two sisters had lost their brother called Lazarus. They wept and mourned the death of their brother. Four days after their brother had died, JESUS visited their family and they took HIM to Lazarus' grave where he lay dead. JESUS prayed and called on GOD that Lazarus may live again. Lazarus came out of the grave and life was restored to him. Like Jabez and Lazarus' stories, believers in CHRIST can change their situations through the potent power of prayers in the name of JESUS.

Don't settle for less, GOD has a purpose for your life. Jabez prayed himself into a divine exchange that redefined his life and destiny. He knew his needs and he was very precise in his requests. See his requests in 1 Chronicle 4:10 "And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested." Believers

must know what their needs are and seek the face of God regarding them.

Jabez's accuracy and presentation of these needs are also worth learning from. We must learn these skills in our walk with GOD in the place of prayers. Developing such skills will also help both in our effectiveness in GOD's service and other opportunities that come our ways.

Jabez was confident that GOD is greater than his challenges. Jabez had a bigger dream than his name had portrayed. This was achieved through his confidence in GOD. As believers, we need to exercise similar confidence in GOD. HE is the Master of the storms and has the power to calm every raging storm and challenges that come our ways. Have faith in GOD. One major problem we have today is that we tend to concentrate on the storms of life rather than GOD that has the power to still every storm. Again, we are quick in building scaffolds of alternatives rather than take our problems first to GOD. Jabez directed his prayer to GOD. We must never fall into the habit of seeking GOD as our last resort. We need to learn to seek GOD first. HE never fails.

•Pregnancy

Histories and Birth

Experience:

We are not told whether the mother of Jabez had a bad pregnancy experience but the Bible reports that she bore her son in sorrow but giving a name to her son that reflected her pregnancy or birth experiences was not right. Whatever her experiences were, she could have considered giving her baby a better name because the baby was innocent of whatever experiences his mother had.

The Mother of Jabez

•Names portray identity:

Names carry with them some form of identity. Giving a baby a name that causes pain is damaging to say the least and the child may live with such negative identity except s/he grows up to change the name. Parents must be careful in giving names to their children because names are not just mere words but connote much more, otherwise, Jabez would

not have been bothered about his name.

As a matured young man, he must have been affected by the impact of carrying a negative name and each time he was asked his name or had to write his name, several thoughts may have crossed his mind. Maybe you wonder and ask the question "what's there in a name?" The experience of Jabez shows us that there is more to a name than just the alphabets or phonetics of the name. Let us prayerfully give names to our children that will

not cause them pain or other forms of psychological trauma.

"And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow.

And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested." 1

Chronicles 4:9-10

Sister Gbemi

(1) His mother named him Jabez, which means sorrow, because of the unpleasant situation she found herself in when she gave birth to him. Hence, sorrow was manifesting in his life. The names you give your children are very important. A child should not be given a random name. Naming should be done prayerfully after the meaning of a name is considered.

(2) Jabez recognised the LORD of Israel as the true God and not the gods of the Amorites or any other gods (Exodus 20:3).

(3) He repented of all his sins. If he had remained in his sins, he wouldn't have known God and God wouldn't have revealed himself to him (Psalms 66:18). Peter repented when he denied Jesus, and he was forgiven (Matthew 26:75). Unlike King Saul, he only confessed his sins to Samuel. He didn't want the Israelites to know that he had committed a grievous offence. You need to be born again before God can reveal himself to you. It entails true confession that leads to true conversion.

Challenges of life are like dust floating around in the wind. It can settle to the ground as the wind stops blowing.

(4) God separates Himself from the sinner (Isaiah 59:1-2). A sinner cannot have fellowship with God.

(5) He trusted in God, and not in man or idol (Jeremiah 17:5, Isaiah 31:1).

(6) He prayed to God (1 Chronicles 4:10). God granted him his request. He prayed in faith (Matthew 17:20). There are times you need to be patient when you are praying to God to receive your miracle (Hebrews 10:36). Hold on to your faith. You need to be fervent spiritually and persevere in prayer (Romans 12:12, Daniel 10:12-13).

(7) He did not parade himself so that people would pity him (Psalms 34:6).

(8) He looked unto the Lord and not his challenges and sorrows (Psalms 55:22).

Conclusively, that you are a Christian doesn't mean you are not going to face challenges. You need to hold on to your faith. Do not compromise, be sober, and vigilant (1 Peter 4:7).



God of Jabez

Sister Preye

Although, Jabez had lived such a difficult life, he must have read the history of his fathers and came to terms with the meaning of **the God of Israel!** On his knees he remembered God as the one that was able to provide a sacrifice - **Jehovah Jireh** (Genesis 22:13). Knowing he needed healing, he remembered Him as the God that can heal – **Jehovah Rapha** (Exodus 15:26). And the one that is present – **Jehovah Shammah** (Ezekiel 48:35) because it was only the very presence of God that could deliver him from his predicament. He needed peace from his many troubles. Hence, he remembered the Lord our peace – **Jehovah Shalom** (Judges 6:24) and his very banner – **Jehovah Nissi** (Exodus 17:8 - 15) for an everlasting covering. Jabez also needed one greater than him to guide him in the way he should go with his mother giving up on him. Therefore, he called on The God of Israel as the Lord my Shepherd – **Jehovah Raah** (Psalm 23). Finally, knowing the only way he could keep all that God was going to bless him with, he searched out God as the Lord his righteousness – **Jehovah Tsidkenu** (Jer 23:6).

As God fearing believers, we need the righteousness of God to keep us till He returns and take us home. The Scripture concluded that “.. *God granted him (Jabez) that which he requested (v10)*. Like Jabez we should always remember **the God of Israel**. He is the only one that will always come to our rescue even though everything around us gives up on us.

Sister Asisatu

The Bible says those that know their God will be strong and do exploits (Daniel 11:32). The God that turned the sorrow of Jabez into great supremacy in honour is still at work today. Let us look away from everyone and solely fixed our hearts and eyes on Him through the prayer of faith and humility, He will grant our request. Jabez knew the possibilities in the ALMIGHTY FATHER, so he called on Him earnestly and HE graciously granted him his petitions (1 Chronicle 4:10). No matter our backgrounds, challenges, what anyone may have uttered negatively against us, or the names people may be calling us, God holds all powers in his hands, HE is the creator of Heaven and earth. He is unlimited, unsearchable, mysterious, wonder-working God who can turn our negative situations around completely. (Job 42:2; 5:9 – 15; 9:10). Now, itemise your request, make them clear and plain. Grace, mercy, pardon, favour, healing, health, protection, prosperity, promotion, provision, wisdom, understanding, spiritual blessing and gifts, strength, vision, deliverance and abundance is available with the God of Jabez today. (John 10:10; Mark9:23; Matthew 19:23).

GOD OF JABEZ
God of Isreal is the God that
turns MISERABLE
SITUATION TO A MIRACLE
especially if the request is
MADE WITH FAITH
Sister Bose M

Sister Ekeke

Jabez knew he served a God that could change every bad situation and make it right, he recollected Hezekiah, Marah water and the likes. He went to him in prayer, and prayed a DEFINITE prayer in 1 Chronicles 4:10, "And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me!

GOD OF JABEZ: GOD THAT ANSWERS PRAYER

And God GRANTED him that which he REQUESTED". That settles it! A prayer-answering God indeed. And everything turned around for Jabez to the Glory of God.

Sister Joan

Jabez has a God that is the creator of the whole universe. He is the God that answers prayers when we call on Him (Matthew 7:7-8) He is the God that makes impossibilities possible. (Matthew 19:26; Luke 1:37) He is the God that delivers us from shame (Isaiah 61:6-7) The God that gives comfort. He is the God of restoration (Jeremiah 30:17) . ***GOD THAT ANSWERS PRAYERS AND GOD GRANTED HIM THAT WHICH HE REQUESTED*.**

Our Fellowship Days and Times

At Deeper Life Bible Church, North East & Cumbria Region, United Kingdom

	NEWCASTLE St. Philips' Close, Arthur's Hill, NE4 5JE	MIDDLESBROUGH 18 Cambridge Road, Middlesbrough, TS5 5NN	SUNDERLAND Burn Park Methodist Church, 5 Burn Road, SR2 7LS
Tuesday Bible Study	7:00 pm	6:00 pm	6:00 pm
Friday Revival Service	7:00 pm	6:00 pm	6:00 pm
Sunday Service	10:00 am prompt	1 pm prompt	10:00 am prompt

Zoom Meeting ID: 92727665352
Passcode: 369040