

## **“The Prayer of Jabez-“1 Chronicles 4:9-10**

**“Oh, that you would Bless me, O Lord and enlarge my territory that your hand would be with me, and that you would keep me from evil, so that I many not cause pain.”**

Although a faithful Bible reader, I had never heard of this prayer until I found the book, **“The Prayer of Jabez” (by Bruce Wilkinson)** in a box of books I had received from my family after my favorite aunt Eleanor passed away at the age of 98. She was a faithful Christian and an avid reader. The box sat in my closet for months collecting dust until one day I went through it and curiosity got to the best of me. I started to browse through this small, tiny book. I just sat there, mesmerized by it, and read it in one sitting. I thought could this really work? Would the Lord bless me if I prayed for others, instead of myself? I hoped so and in my daily morning prayers, included this prayer of Jabez and said it out loud, as suggested in the book.

So, after a few days of praying, odd things started to happen. One day I was at my favorite health food store in the frozen foods section and ran into a woman I had not seen in years. She was now a widower, and also a caregiver for her mom. Besides losing her husband, she had lost her dad recently too. She was so sad and stressed I could see it in her face and hear it in her voice. So, I just let her talk and talk, listened and encouraged her. I was able to advise her as I had been a caregiver for my mom and lived with her for 15 years, and lost her 3 years ago. So, I could relate to her and tried to comfort her. I ended with a big hug and through her tears, she gave me a big smile and thanked me. I thought to myself, what for? Then I looked up to the Lord and thanked Him!

I continued to pray this prayer and a week later I unexpectedly received a check in the mail, which was quite abundant and would help me pay for my “mountain of bills”. This was a shock and a complete surprise, and had previously wondered how I would make ends meet at the end of the month. I thanked my Lord, once again...a gift from above.

Now firmly convinced this was working, I continued to pray this prayer on a daily basis, and ran into a girlfriend at the mall. She was alone, just wandering around and upset with no real purpose in mind she told me. She had just lost her dad, felt hopeless and alone. So, we stopped and sat down, and I listened to her and prayed with her. She let out a big sigh at the end and after I gave her a hug, she thanked me. She said she did not know why she was there until she met me. Thank you, Lord, I whispered.

After these incidents, I was pretty convinced this prayer was working, so I went to the bookstore and bought another copy of this book for a good friend I was going to visit the next day. He is a very spiritual, man and prays everyday too. When I surprised him with this book, his eyes filled with tears, as he told me the day before he had been praying for guidance from

the Lord and needed some help. I was touched as he called me his “angel from God”. Then my eyes filled with tears too. We ended in prayer, a big hug and my silent praise of thanks to God.

Well, as life takes over, I neglected to pray this prayer for a few days, but the little voice in my head said “I must get back to it”. That day, I was planning to stay in and write all day, so I thought probably nothing would happen. But at 6 o’clock that night when I was preparing dinner, there was a knock at the door. I looked through the peephole and saw a woman who was a complete stranger to me. She had driven up in a van and was alone and parked in my driveway. She had a friendly smile, so I cautiously opened the door and stuck my head out the screen door. She immediately blurted out, “I know you don’t know me, but I’ve been driving around the neighborhood for the last 45 minutes and I am desperate! My son has a science project due tomorrow and he desperately needs 5 Hibiscus flowers. I saw your huge, blooming bush filled with pink Hibiscus and just had to stop”. “I was wondering if you could spare 5? I was a little stunned and surprised, but said “sure, no problem.” I got my clippers, cut them and handed them to her. She was elated and nearly jumped for joy. “Oh, this means so much to me and will for my son!” I told her she was a great mom, and she gave me a big hug. It was then we spotted each other’s crosses around our necks. Hers was gold, mine silver! I thought God’s providence...How blessed we are both Christians! And in giving to her, I got rewarded more than ever words could say.

And so my blessings continue...I will continue praying.. never doubt in the divine presence and power of God. I never will. He is there every moment, every day. All we have to do, is believe trust and hope in the Lord and pray. You will be blessed in more unexpected ways than you could ever hope for or imagine.

### **Hebrews 11:1**

**“Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”**