

OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE!

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.

I Chronicles 4:9,10

- I. Three facts concerning the honorability of Jabez
 - A. Jabez was honorable in that he refused to be like everybody else.
 - B. Jabez was honorable in that he refused to be doomed from the start with the burden of being misnamed. "Son of my sorrow" / "Pain" / "Affliction" / "He will cause pain."
 - C. Jabez was honorable in that he refused to be forced into anyone's mold. He would be a man of God in a godless day.
- II. The Fourfold prayer of Jabez
 - A. Jabez prayed for prosperity.
 - * Jabez wanted the fullness of God's blessing upon his life. Best vs. Good.
 - ** Refuse to dwell in your comfort zone. Stretch!
 - B. Jabez asked for his borders to be expanded.
 - * Leadership is influence, and the more influence we have the better. Stretch!

C. Jabez asked for power.

* He sought the evidence of God's hand in every area of his life. Receive!

D. Jabez asked for special protection from sin and evil. Call up the hedge! (Psalm 101:3; I Corinthians 10:13)

³ I will not look with approval on anything that is vile. I hate what faithless people do; I will have no part in it.

(Psalm 101:3 NIV)

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. 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 endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV)

III. God answered all of Jabez's prayers!