

*A Woman's Place Ministries
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Once again, ladies, I am LATE, LATE, LATE, and I apologize deeply. Thank those of you who keep reminding me to get this newsletter written!!! I WILL try to do better!

PRAYER OF JABEZ:

I have something on my heart that I'd like to share with you this month. Jabez Prayer, in

I Chronicles 4:10. Here it is:

“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.”

I read this book and found it delightful. I thought, “This is so cool!” And I even began to pray “The Prayer.” But something was nagging at me. Something just didn't seem right. It wasn't the prayer, but the popularity of the book. I had to ask, Why was this book so popular? It was selling out before it could even get to the shelves. Why did I feel this uneasiness?

There is absolutely nothing wrong with praying for ourselves—in fact I encourage you to do it. When you need strength, direction, and more spirituality—ask for it. There is nothing wrong with asking for God's blessings. There is also not a thing wrong with the prayer that Jabez prayed. Evidently, God didn't find anything wrong with it, because He granted it. I think what was beginning to bug me was the scripture that comes just before the prayer, in verse 9: “And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren...”

Jabez evidently had a lot going for Him with God. What I find wrong with the way so many people are using his prayer is that many of them are “not more honourable.” They are building a whole doctrine, a whole lifestyle as it were, on one verse of scripture. They seem to leave out what the Bible says about suffering, dying to self, taking up our cross, cultivating the fruit of the Spirit. What I see happening is that too many people are focusing on what God can GIVE, rather than Who God IS. Their eyes are on the prize (blessing) more than on the Giver. And this bugs me.

Isaiah 28:9, 10: Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

If we are weaned from the milk, I say hey, go for it, girl! Get those blessings! But the spiritually immature are not yet ready, as the writer to the Hebrews says, for strong meat.

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The spiritually immature grasp after blessings without balance. We cannot build a lifestyle or a doctrine around one verse. Isaiah tells us we have to build upon ALL of the Word of God.

If you are considering (reading, applying, obeying) the WHOLE Word of God, go ahead—enjoy the prayer of Jabez. What I have just said does not apply to you!

Just a thought.....

God bless you,
Your friend,
Lynda Allison Doty

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