

**PRAYER – 12**  
**AUGUST 24, 2016**

**INTRODUCTION:**

One of the biblical prayers that has been studied and used as a model for prayer is the prayer of Jabez. **1 CHRON. 4:9-10** It's composed of four parts. He asks: To be blessed, for his circle of influence to increase, for God to keep his His hand upon him, to be kept from evil.

**SOME OBSERVATIONS**

1. He wanted God to bless him for right reasons.
  - A. He believed it was God's will. **DEUT. 28:1-6, 15**
  - B. He wanted to be a blessing. **GEN. 12:2**
    - Our entire reason for existing is to be a blessing to God and to the world. We're here to lay down our lives for others. **1 JOHN 3:16**
    - For us, we thank God we are blessed! **EPH. 1:3, GAL 3:8-9**
  
2. He wanted God to give him a broader platform of influence so he could bring glory to His name.
  - A. He wanted success but not for selfish reasons. **1 TIM. 4:12-16, 1 TIM. 6:17-19**
  - B. One mark of maturity is a desire to be used by God. **2 TIM. 2:20-22**
  - C. **IS. 54:2** – God wants us to see beyond ourselves and our situations. He wants us to see the big picture of a lost and needy world. He wants us to establish large goals and do what is necessary to accomplish them.
    - For us, the great commission is our goal.
  
3. He wanted God's help in accomplishing the work.
  - A. His vision required resources beyond his own.
  - B. The hand of God stands for His omnipotence, His mighty power and ability. **ZECH. 4:6**
  - C. The only way the goal could be achieved is by the supernatural working of God's power.
  - D. Paul's success came by the grace of God. Jesus was empowered to do all He did. The disciples experienced God working with them and confirming His Word with signs following.
    - For us, we are to be strong in the Lord, not ourselves. **EPH. 6:10-11 (AMPC)**
  
4. He knew there would be opposition.
  - A. He knew giving in to temptation and evil could harm him and lead him to harm others.
  - B. Jesus knew this also: "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil..."
    - For us, God wills our deliverance from the evils of this age. **GAL. 1:3-4**
    - He made a way for our escape. **1 COR. 10:13**
    - Through prayer we can be empowered by God to resist temptation and overcome all that is evil.

**CONCLUSION:**

God granted Jabez's request. He blessed him, helped him succeed so he could influence more people for God's glory. He empowered him to achieve his goals and he protected him from all evil and disaster.

For us, we are blessed by God with all spiritual blessings. He always causes us to succeed in Christ. His power has been made available to all. **ACTS 1:8** He's given us authority over all evil. **EPH. 3:20**