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# CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES

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- I. [Sermon Recap](#)
- II. [Study Guide](#)
- III. [Devotional Material](#)
- IV. [Small Group Resources](#)
- V. [Announcements](#)

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025  
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

# I. SERMON RECAP

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Guest Speaker Nathan Bumgarner started his sermon by expressing profound gratitude to the church and its members for their impactful support throughout his ministry journey. He shared his own transition from being a golf professional to embracing God's call to ministry, highlighting his new project, Inward Ministries. This initiative aims to engage students from elementary through college with a holistic approach addressing their physical, mental, and spiritual needs. Nathan explained their strategy of inviting, interacting, and inspiring young people by reaching them where they are and encouraging them to become leaders who can share and live out the transformative truths of the gospel.

Nathan focused his message on the theme of powerful prayer, using Jabez's story from 1 Chronicles 4:9-10 as a foundation. He emphasized four key aspects of Jabez's prayer: a request for blessing, an enlargement of influence, an assurance of God's presence, and a plea for protection. Nathan highlighted the importance of seeking God's blessings not merely for personal benefit but to serve as conduits for His work, thereby expanding God's influence for His glory. He underscored the necessity of relying on God's presence, especially as influence grows, to guide and empower efforts to impact communities and share the gospel effectively.

In conclusion, Nathan challenged the congregation to consider their own spiritual "bucket list," urging them to focus on significant spiritual goals, like reaching out to lost family members or sharing Jesus with their communities. He encouraged self-examination of spiritual posture, warning against complacency and urging everyone to seek God's blessings to make a lasting impact actively. Nathan wrapped up with an invitation for those unfamiliar with Christ to take a step of faith and for Christians feeling stuck to renew their commitment and passion for making a difference in the world for God's kingdom.

## Chapters

### Chapter 1: Introduction and the Power of Prayer

The sermon introduces the prayer of Jabez and emphasizes the importance of powerful prayers in our lives.

### Chapter 2: Prayer for Blessing and Influence

This chapter explores the first two aspects of Jabez's prayer: asking for God's blessing and increased influence.

### Chapter 3: Prayer for God's Presence and Protection

The final two aspects of Jabez's prayer are discussed: seeking God's presence and protection.

### Chapter 4: Conclusion and Call to Action

The sermon concludes with a challenge to create a spiritual bucket list and respond to God's call.

# II. STUDY GUIDE

## Key Points:

- God blesses us so that we can bless others and make His name known
- We should pray for God's blessing, increased influence, His presence, and protection
- True honor comes from serving God, not from worldly achievements
- Christians need to be conduits of God's blessings, not cul-de-sacs
- Dependence on God is crucial as our influence grows
- Prayer is both communion with God and confrontation with evil
- Christians must actively engage in spiritual warfare, not remain complacent

## Key Scripture

**1 Chronicles 4:9-10** Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain." 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.

**James 5:16** Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

**Psalms 67:1-2** For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A psalm. A song. May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

**Ephesians 3:20** Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

**John 10:10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

## Other Relevant Scripture

Alluded to:

**Genesis 12:2-3** (Abraham's blessing)

**1 Samuel 16:13** (David's blessing)

**Daniel 3** (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)

**Ephesians 1:3** (spiritual blessings)

**Matthew 7:7 (ask and you shall receive)**

**Ephesians 6:12 (wrestling not against flesh and blood)**

Relevant verses that align with the main themes:

On prayer:

- **Matthew 6:9-13** (The Lord's Prayer)
- **Philippians 4:6-7** (prayer and anxiety)

On God's blessings:

- **Malachi 3:10** (God's abundant blessings)
- **James 1:17** (every good gift comes from God)

On influence and expanding territory:

- **Matthew 5:13-16** (salt and light)
- **Acts 1:8** (being witnesses)

On God's presence:

- **Joshua 1:9** (God is with you wherever you go)
- **Matthew 28:20** (I am with you always)

On protection:

- **Psalms 91** (God's protection)
- **2 Thessalonians 3:3** (God's faithfulness and protection)

On spiritual warfare:

- **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** (weapons of our warfare)

- **1 Peter 5:8-9** (resisting the devil)

On God's power to save:

- **Romans 1:16** (power of the gospel)
- **2 Peter 3:9** (God's desire for all to come to repentance)

# III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

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## Day 1: The Power of Prayer

Question: The sermon emphasizes the power of persistent prayer. How can we maintain a consistent and fervent prayer life in the face of unanswered prayers or challenging circumstances?

Reading: 1 Chronicles 4:9-10, James 5:16-18

Devotional: Jabez's prayer teaches us the transformative power of earnest, faith-filled prayer. Like Jabez, we are called to approach God boldly, asking for His blessing and increased influence for His glory. Today, reflect on your prayer life.

Are you praying with expectation and faith? Remember, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16). Challenge yourself to pray more boldly, trusting in God's willingness to bless you so that you can be a blessing to others.

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## Day 2: Expanding Your Spiritual Influence

Question: How does the concept of praying for 'enlarged borders' or increased influence challenge our comfort zones as Christians? What areas of your life might God be calling you to expand your influence?

Reading: Matthew 5:13-16, Acts 1:8

Devotional: God desires to expand our borders, not for our own glory, but to increase our influence for His kingdom. Just as Jabez prayed for an enlarged territory, we should seek opportunities to impact more lives for Christ. Consider your sphere of influence - your family, workplace, and community.

How can you shine Christ's light more brightly in these areas? Remember, you are called to be salt and light in a world that desperately needs hope. Pray for God to use you in new and powerful ways to reach others with His love.

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## Day 3: Seeking God's Presence

Question: Nathan emphasizes the importance of God's presence in our lives. How can we cultivate a greater awareness of God's presence in our daily routines and interactions?

Reading: Psalm 16:11, Exodus 33:14-15

Devotional: Jabez understood the vital importance of God's presence in his life. In our busy world, it's easy to neglect seeking God's presence daily. Yet, it's in His presence that we find fullness of joy and the strength to face life's challenges. Today, intentionally set aside time to be still before God.

Reflect on Psalm 16:11: "In Your presence is fullness of joy." How can you cultivate a greater awareness of God's presence in your daily life? Ask God to make His presence known to you in tangible ways.

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#### Day 4: Divine Protection in Spiritual Warfare

Question: How does the prayer for protection in Jabez's prayer relate to the spiritual warfare mentioned in the sermon? In what ways do you feel the need for God's protection in your own life?

Reading: Ephesians 6:10-18, Psalm 91

Devotional: Jabez's prayer for protection reminds us of the spiritual battle we face daily. As followers of Christ, we must be aware of the enemy's schemes and actively seek God's protection. Ephesians 6 instructs us to put on the full armor of God. Today, examine each piece of spiritual armor.

Which areas of your spiritual defense need strengthening? Pray for God's protection over your mind, heart, and spirit. Remember, greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4).

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#### Day 5: Living as a Conduit of God's Blessings

Question: Nathan mentions being a 'conduit' rather than a 'cul-de-sac' for God's blessings. In what practical ways can we ensure we're passing on God's blessings to others rather than hoarding them?

Reading: Genesis 12:1-3, 2 Corinthians 9:8-11

Devotional: God's blessings in our lives are not meant to end with us. Like Abraham, we are blessed to be a blessing. Reflect on the many ways God has blessed you.

How can you use these blessings to impact others positively? Perhaps it's through acts of kindness, sharing your resources, or using your talents to serve in your church or community. Today, ask God to show you specific ways you can be a conduit of His blessings to others. Remember, "God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

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# IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

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## Small Group Guide: "God Honors Powerful Prayers"

### Opening Prayer

### Key Scripture: 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

### Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?
2. The speaker mentioned that over 100,000 churches are expected to close next year. How does this statistic make you feel, and what do you think we can do as believers to counter this trend?
3. Jabez was described as "more honorable than his brothers" because of his prayer. How can our prayer life impact our character and honor?
4. The sermon outlined four components of Jabez's prayer. Which one resonates with you the most and why?
  - a. Prayer for blessing
  - b. Prayer for influence
  - c. Prayer for God's presence
  - d. Prayer for protection
5. How do you typically view God's blessings in your life? Are you more of a "conduit" or a "cul-de-sac" with the blessings you receive?



6. Nathan emphasized the importance of dependency on God. In what areas of your life do you find it most challenging to depend on God?

7. How can we balance praying for God's blessings while ensuring our motives are aligned with His purposes?

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. God honors powerful, sincere prayers.
2. We should pray not just for personal blessings, but to be a blessing to others and glorify God.
3. Expanding our influence for God often requires increased dependence on Him.
4. Prayer is both communion with God and confrontation with evil.
5. God's blessings are meant to be shared, not hoarded.

### **Practical Applications:**

1. Create a "spiritual bucket list" of bold prayers for the coming month.
2. Identify one area in your life where you need to increase your dependence on God and commit to praying about it daily.
3. Look for opportunities this week to use your influence to share God's love with others.
4. Reflect on how God has blessed you recently and find a way to use that blessing to benefit someone else.
5. Set aside time each day to pray for God's presence and protection in your life and community.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Take time to pray as a group, using Jabez's prayer as a model. Encourage each member to voice a specific request for blessing, influence, God's presence, or protection.

# V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Remember, Mike will not be hosting his apologetics class on Wednesday, instead he's encouraging everyone to go hear Frank Turek speak at WCU.

September 20<sup>th</sup> is the Women's brunch, make sure to be there and experience Christian fellowship with other believers.

Joel's 4-week family class starts on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to come early for a meal and fellowship before the class at 6:00.

The Whisper Mountain father-son retreat is October 3-5. This is for any grandfathers, fathers, and sons.  
Men's retreat

Following that, the men's sleepover is on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, also at Whisper Mountain Camp.

To register or get more details, email [Info@cbchighlands.com](mailto:Info@cbchighlands.com) or call the church office!