

Encounter Church
Sunday December 29, 2024

Believing for Better

1Chronicles 4:9,10 - "Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying Because I bore him in pain. And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, Oh, that you would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain! So God granted him what he requested."

Here's a guy that had nothing going for him. He had been marked, labeled for pain.
His destiny was pain.

His name literally meant "HE WILL CAUSE PAIN!"

We've all had defining moments in our lives that were painful that have "MARKED" us. They've put a label on us that has been painful!

**JABEZ HAD THE AUDACITY TO PRAY SOMETHING DARING! HE WAS SAYING
I'M NOT PUTTING UP WITH THIS ANY LONGER, I'M NOT GOING TO BE LABELED
THIS ALL MY LIFE!**

Notice the end of his prayer. ".....that I will not cause pain." God remove this label from me! By replacing it with Your blessing!

Wouldn't you say that Jabez was BELIEVING FOR BETTER!

FOUR THINGS JABEZ PRAYED

1. God Bless my Life

God is good and He is a Father who likes it when his kids are blessed.

Ephesians 1:3- "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ."

JABEZ WAS BELIEVING FOR BETTER.....THEN HE PRAYED

2. God Expand my Influence

God now that you've blessed me, now help me to use that blessing to reach others.

Psalm 2:8- “Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, the whole earth as you possession.”

God now that my life is better, I want to help others have a better life as well!

JABEZ WAS BELIEVING GOD FOR BETTER....THEN HE PRAYED

3. God I Need Your Hand on my Life

God I can't do this without Your presence and power!

Acts 11:21- “And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.”

Genesis 12:2- “I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.”

I'm blessed to be a blessing. God I recognize I'm better because YOU blessed me!

JABEZ WAS BELIEVING GOD FOR BETTER.....THEN HE PRAYED

4. God I need Your Protection

Ephesians 6:10-11- “A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.”

God I need your protection because I want to STAY better! I no longer want to cause pain!

GOD ANSWERED HIS PRAYER!

CONCLUSION: Two stories from the New Testament.

Matthew 9:27-30- “After Jesus left the girl's home, two blind men followed along behind him, shouting, “Son of David, have mercy on us!” They went right into the house where he was staying, and Jesus asked them, “Do you believe I can make you see?” “Yes, Lord,” they told him, “we do.” Then he touched their eyes and said, “Because of your faith, it will happen.” Then their eyes were opened, and they could see!....

THESE TWO BLIND MEN WERE BELIEVING GOD FOR BETTER

Mark 9:22-24- “The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can.” “What do you mean, ‘If I can’?” Jesus

asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes.” The father instantly cried out, “I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!”

THIS FATHER WAS BELIEVING GOD FOR BETTER FOR HIS SON

WHERE DOES YOUR LIFE NEED TO GET BETTER?

ARE YOU DREAMING OF A BETTER DAY!

Things got better for Jabez! Things got better the two blind men. Things got better for the young boy possessed by a demon.

Ephesians 3:20- “Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”

If you don't know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, trust me, life is better with Him!

Let's pray