



“Now Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, “Oh that Thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my border, and that Thy hand might be with me, and that Thou wouldst keep me from harm, that it may not pain me!” And God granted him what he requested.” 1 Chronicles 4:10

On first reading, this prayer may strike us as a selfish prayer. But then the last sentence of the verse begs us to search deeper...”So God granted his request.” We know intuitively that selfish requests are typically not on the Lord’s “to answer” list. “You ask, and you receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts.” (James 4:3) “And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He hears us.” (1 John 5:14)

Though an honourable man, Jabez had lived in the shadow of and with the burden of the meaning of the name his mother had given him – “this son has caused me great pain!” How would you like that moniker to follow you through life? (1 Chronicle 4:4-9)

No wonder he prays the prayer he does! It is the cry of the human heart to be blessed by our parents and not cursed. It is the cry of the human heart to experience the blessing of God – isn’t that what we were created for in the first place – to experience the goodness of God!?

And, no wonder the Lord answered Jabez’s prayer... it is His nature to respond to the cry of the human heart! Rest assured the Lord’s ears are attentive and tuned to the cry of your heart as well!

“So God granted his request!”