



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“GOD’S MATH: Enlarge My Territory”

A New You for a New Year Series, Part 7)

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The Bible tells the story of Jabez who called on God through prayers to bless him, to expand his territory, and to keep him from evil and pain (1 Chr. 4:9-10). Most of us want more in life but sometimes we add differently than what God does. Like Jabez, we must desire for an enlargement of territory for greater capacity for God to bring consequent blessings (Is. 54:2-3).

1. What and how do we desire for enlargement?

- 1.1 We should desire for enlargement in life.** We should ask God for improvement in our life in terms of relationship, finances, livelihood, career, business, and ministry, among others. Jabez asked God to help him have what God wants all of us to have. We tend to forget that God wants to enlarge our territory so that more people will know of His goodness; that all blessings come from Him (Jas. 1:17). God grants the desires of our heart as we take delight in Him (Ps. 37:4).
- 1.2 We should desire for enlargement with faith in God’s Word.** Desires are granted as we put faith in the Word of God (Mk. 11:4). The Word of God is alive, quick and powerful (Heb. 4:12). Only God knows His plan for us, plans to prosper for our good (Jas. 29:11). He is just waiting for us to ask, to seek, to find the action in the territory that God wants to give us (Jas. 2:16). We should do what God is telling us to do: to pray, believe and dismiss all worries with pure faith.
- 1.3 We must prepare for enlargement.** Enlargement does not just happen but comes as a result of active preparation. We

should prepare ourselves when we ask for enlargement from God. God asked Joshua to be strong and courageous, to obey the law, to meditate on it day and night in order to be prosperous and successful in leading the Israelites to the Promised Land (Jos. 1:7-8).

1.4 True enlargement comes from God.

- 1.4.1 Enlargement of steps (stability).** We ask God for a larger territory to tread on where we can walk in faith so that we will not slip (2 Sam. 22:37).
- 1.4.2 Enlargement of heart.** It is important that our heart is enlarged for the love of God, to be strong, steadfast and to be in tune with God’s Word and where He wants to lead us (Ps. 119:32; Ez. 36:26; 1 Kgs. 4:29).
- 1.4.3 Enlargement of faith and vision.** It is a description of what it does or what happens when we have faith. We are confident that our hopes and expectations are assured though we may not be able to see the evidence (Heb. 11:1; 17-19).
- 1.4.4 Enlargement of location.** We should exercise our faith in God to ask for larger and much better location to expand His kingdom (Mt. 28:19).

Conclusion:

We are compelled by God to make disciples of all nations (Mt. 28:19). He wants to touch the world through us; to be His channel for the advancement of His kingdom. When we pray for enlargement of territory, we are praying to expand the reigns of our effort, to open doors of opportunity and to increase our influence on people.

Reflection:

1. Do you want to live large for God? What is He telling you to do?
2. Are you willing to go where the action is?

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