



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“B.E.S.T.”

(A New You for a New Year Series, Part 9)

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Many of us want to pray like Jabez and the best way to remember the prayer is to use the acrostic B.E.S.T. – Bless me (“Oh that You would bless me”), Expand my territory (“enlarge my territory”), Stay with me (“let your hand be with me”), Take evil away (“keep me from harm”) (1 Chr. 4:10). In his third and last request, Jabez prayed to God to stay with him; to let His hand be with him; and to take evil away from him. In the same way, we can pray for the hand of God to be upon our life and keep us from evil and harm.

1. “Let your hand be with me.”

When we ask for God’s hand, we ask for:

- 1.1 **Power** (Exo. 15:6). We need God’s power in everything we do in order to be successful. God is almighty (Gen. 17:1). God wants us to glorify Him through the many answered prayers
- 1.2 **Protection** (Ps. 18:35). When we ask for the hands of God to be with us, He will be there for us. He will never leave us (Mt. 28:20). He is omnipresent (Ps. 46:1). Though we may not see Him, we can sense the presence of God at all times.
- 1.3 **Blessings**. We ask for God’s blessing in our life, in our work, in our community so that we can accomplish something great for Him. We just need to be ready to receive and share the blessings to others (Ps. 145:16).
- 1.4 **Provision**. We can always ask God not only for mighty things but more than all we ask or imagine according to His time and according to His purpose. He provides for us with open hands (Eph. 3:20-21).
- 1.5. **Righteousness**. We ask to be righteous before the Lord; to be obedient to Him (Is. 41:10).

2. “Keep me from evil that I may not cause pain.”

We fight against the world, the flesh and the devil every day. We are in a spiritual warfare (Eph. 6; 1 Pet. 5:8). We should ask God to look over us, to keep us from bad spirits especially from the evil one. As God begins to bless our lives, that is when the enemy will strengthen his attack against us and be faced with two battles:

2.1 Battle against the world and the flesh.

The cares of the world and the temptation around us have hindered our faith from taking root and maturing into fruits (Mk. 4:19).

2.2 Constant struggle against the evil one

- 2.2.1 The devil puts so many of us in bondage.
- 2.2.2 The devil devices plans to keep us from being who we are.
- 2.2.3 The devil seeks ways to curtail our strength and might.
- 2.2.4 The devil is against the fulfillment of the purpose or mandate of God in our life. God’s plan for us is to prosper (3 Jn. 2).

Conclusion:

God can give us all for our life, for our welfare, for our family and for our service. His power, His presence, His protection, His provisions are always available to those who call upon Him (Ps. 145:18). We should be ready to receive and share them to others so that they too will be blessed through us.

Reflection:

1. How do you see the Lord when you ask something from Him? Who is God to you?
2. In your personal life, can you really identify some of the personal attributes of God because it is happening to you?

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