

MUCHNESS OF GOD

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The word "blessing" is mentioned approximately 600 times in the Old Testament and 427 times in the New Testament. This showcases the nature of God, that He loves and wants to bless His people. Being blessed in a biblical context is to experience the muchness of God's favor and grace, leading to spiritual and material prosperity. The key to God's blessings is to ask Him (Luke 11:9). He has established prayer as the means to ask and receive His promises.

In 1 Chronicles 4:10, Jabez cried out to God to bless him and increase his territory. His prayer was short but is the kind of prayer God would want to answer.

HOW TO PRAY LIKE JABEZ?

1. Pray with the right intentions. God does not answer selfish (James 4:3) and ambitious (Matthew 20:21-22) prayers. Praying is not merely about asking for favors but knowing God's will and His nature. If we do, we can ask God.

<u>To bless us in all areas of our lives</u>. This is perfectly appropriate, and we should not be ashamed because He intends to bless His children with what's best.

<u>For great things</u>. He wants us to desire and ask for big things for He has the power and control over heaven and earth. He can give more than what we expect and can show us mighty things unknown to us (*Jeremiah* 33:2-3)

- **2. Pray with boldness and confidence**. Ask big and trust that God will not put us down or reject us because He loves us.
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3. Pray persistently. In Luke 11:5-9, Jesus told His disciples a parable to demonstrate the power of persistent prayer. It is an encouragement to us to

will be given. Be BOLD!

prayer is not an annoyance to Him and everything

that we ask according to His will and for His glory

4. Pray like talking to a friend/parent. God wants us to talk to him without alluding. We can talk to Him anytime and anywhere.

keep on praying with the same degree of faith.

To receive God's blessings takes more than just praying. The character of the person praying is equally important; one must be righteous and honorable in the eyes of God like Jabez. John 15:7 says, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want, and it will be done for you."

Conclusion:

God wants to bless us with wonderful and incredible things. He wants us to have the best of everything. We must abide by His words and obey His commands to be assured that when we reach out to Him, He will answer us. Pray with the right intentions - boldly and persistently.

Reflection:

What must you do to receive God's blessings?

Prayer:

Lord, bless us beyond measure and let Your blessings flow through me to bless others. Make me a channel of your goodness to others. Fill me with Your abundance and help me be a good steward of my resources. In Jesus name, I pray, AMEN!

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