

1 Chron 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.

I'm reading in 1 Chronicles right now in my daily reading time. and if you have read it before, you know that the first 9 chapters tell of the genealogy of the children of Israel and some of their duties; therefore, so will tend to skip over them. But in the midst of all these names and 9 chapters, there are also a some other things other than a bunch of names. Today's devotional verses is just one of them, but if you skim through these 9 chapters, or don't read them at all, you can miss these things that God has put there for a reason, and that is to teach us and revel Himself to us.

Look at this guys name (Jabez) here and why his mom called him by this name: *his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain.* Just imagine if you had to go around with that hanging over your head the rest of your life.

Jabez could have, but he refused to allow what happened at his birth to ruin his whole life. So what did he do about it? He called on the Lord and asked the Lord; *"that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil."* But the cool thing is the reason why he asked for this, which was *"that I may not cause pain."*

So what is hanging over your head from your past that is causing you or others pain? When you read the reason why Jabez called out to the Lord *"that I may not cause pain."* You realize that Jabez was not seeking the welfare of himself, but more for others.

In our past, the sinful life we used to live, or maybe some of you are living right now, was nothing more then causing pain to others as well as yourself, and you know that. But in your relationship with the Lord, have you cried out to Him asking His forgiveness for the pain you have caused to others and asking Him to change you so you no longer bring pain to others, but rather that you would be a blessing to others instead?

Jabez did not look at his past and think *"I have been a pain to others all my life; therefore, God will not change me. I am stuck being like this for the rest of my life."*

No he didn't, and neither should you. Don't let your yesterday define who you are in Christ Jesus today, tomorrow and the rest of your life here on this earth. But rather, talk to the Lord concerning that thing or things that have been hanging over your head all these years. Ask the Lord *"that Your (God's) hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain."*

If you ask with pure motives, seeking not only the welfare of yourself, but others also, then you may very likely get the same answer Jabez did. ***“So God granted him what he requested.”***

- † **Psalm 115:1** *Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.*

- † **Psalm 34:4-7 (NLT2)** *I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. In my desperation I prayed, and the LORD listened; he saved me from all my troubles. For the angel of the LORD is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him.*

- † **Jeremiah 17:14** *Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; Save me, and I shall be saved, For You are my praise.*