

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 I Chronicles right now in my daily reading time. If you have read it before you know the first 9 chapters tell of the genealogy of the children of Israel and some of their duties. But in the midst of all these names, there are also a few good 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.

Look at the guys name here and why he was called 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 ruin his whole life.

So what did he do? 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, *that I may not cause pain.*

So what is hanging over your head from your past that is causing you or others pain? Jabez was not seeking the welfare of himself, but more for others.

So ask the Lord concerning what has been hanging over your head all these years, *that Your 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.*