**FOCUS ON PRAYER: “The Prayer of Jabez”**

**1/31/2021**

**Series Key Verse:**

***17pray continually,******18****give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**Context**:

\_\_ 1, 2 Chronicles written by Ezra (traditionally)

\_\_ 1st 9 chapters of 1 Chronicles are genealogies

\_\_ We don’t know much about Jabez. He was a descendant of Judah

\_\_ His Name means: sorrowful / sorrow-maker (he had painful birth)

***8****Koz became the father of Anub, Zobebah, and the families of Aharhel son of Harum.****9****Jabez was honored more than his brothers; and his mother named him Jabez, saying, “Because I bore him in pain.”****10****Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, “Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from hurt and harm!” And God granted what he asked.****11****Chelub the brother of Shuhah became the father of Mehir, who was the father of Eshton.*  1 Chronicles 4:8-11

**The Prayer of Jabez:**

* **Prayer for God’s Blessing.** *“Oh that you would* ***bless me…***

***24****So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.* ***26****Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.”* ***But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” 28****Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”… Then he blessed him there.*  Genesis 32:24-30

***2****…You do not have because* ***you do not ask God.******3****When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures*. James 4:2-3

* **Prayer for Expansion of Territory: Influence:** ***enlarge my border,***

**\_\_We will pray for opportunities: *19****Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.****20****To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law… so as to win those under the law…****22****To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.*

***23****I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.*

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

* **Prayer for God’s Presence: *and that your hand might be with me****,*

**\_\_ God Is With you. *7****Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?* ***8****If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.* ***9****If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,* ***10****even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.* Psalm 139:7-10

**\_\_ No Need For Fear / worry / anxiety.**

***6****The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?* ***7****The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies.* Psalm 118:6-7

­­ **\_\_ Jesus Will Meet All Your Needs.** *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit;*

*apart from me you can do nothing.* John 15:5

(See also Philippians 4:13)

* **Prayer for Protection from Harm: “*keep me from hurt and harm!”***

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

Matthew 6:13

**Result:** **God Answers His Prayer: *And God granted what he asked****…*

*if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.* **2 Chronicles 7:14**

*…if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.* **2 Chronicles 7:14**