

# SIMPLE PRAYER

## PART 1

The Prayer of Jabez: A Smart Selfishness

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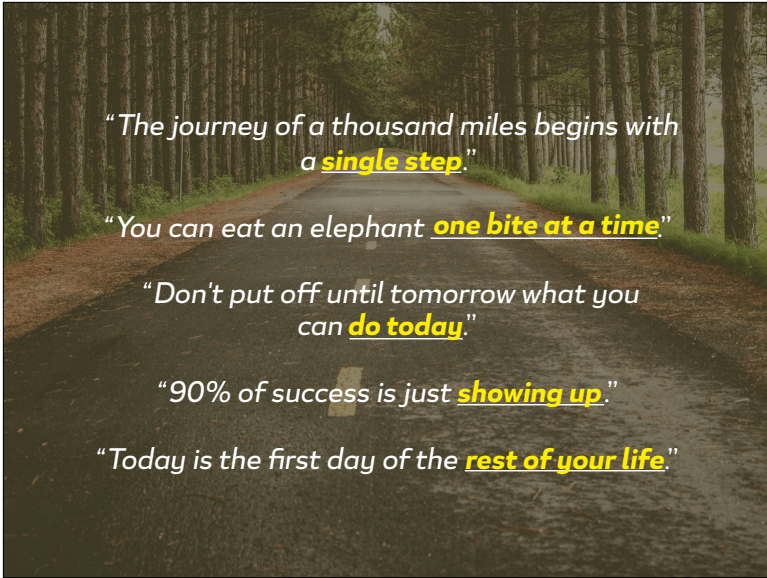
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*"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a **single step**."*

*"You can eat an elephant **one bite at a time**."*

*"Don't put off until tomorrow what you can **do today**."*

*"90% of success is just **showing up**."*

*"Today is the first day of the **rest of your life**."*

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*"The secret to getting ahead is getting started."  
MARK TWAIN*

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The Critical Key  
to a  
**Blessable Life**

**“JUST PRAY”**  
(God)

And pray **bigly!**

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**SIMPLE  
PRAYER**

*just pray*  
—and pray **bigly!**

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**I CHRONICLES 4:9-10**

*Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother named him Jabez, saying, “I gave birth to him in pain.” Jabez cried out to God, “Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.”*

***And God granted his request.***

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# The **GENESIS** of **PAIN**

**Physical** → what I was born with

**Relational** → what was done to me

**Self-Inflicted** → what I did to myself

**Historical** → what I hold onto

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## **I CHRONICLES 4:9**

*Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain." So he cried out to God.*

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## **JABEZ' PAIN**

— 1 —

*Jabez had a constraining background.*

**His personal history was marked by obscurity.**

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Jabez found his way into the pages of history not because of a superior act but because of **simple faith**.

*The obscurity of the most obscure life can be shattered by the power of a singular prayer.*

*The most insignificant becomes significant as they cry to God with the most daring of requests.*

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## JABEZ' PAIN

— 1 —

*Jabez had a constraining background.*

His personal history was marked by obscurity.

**His birth was marked by trauma.**

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In a moment, God can transform my pain—as I submit it to him—starting with simple prayer.

**Transformation is God's calling-card; simple prayer is my catalyst!**

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## JABEZ' PAIN

— 1 —

*Jabez had a constraining background.*

His personal history was marked by obscurity.

His birth was marked by trauma.

**His family of origin was a train-wreck.**

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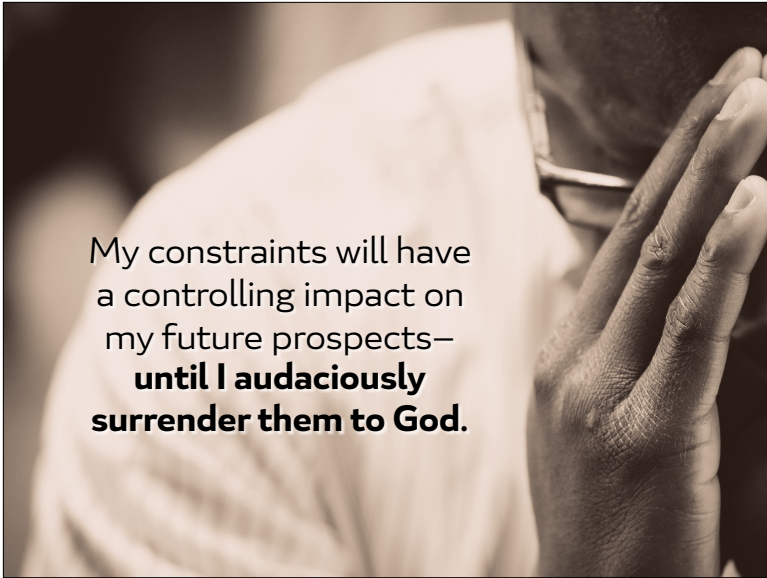
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My constraints will have a controlling impact on my future prospects—  
**until I audaciously surrender them to God.**

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## JABEZ' PAIN

— 2 —

*Jabez had a cloudy forecast.*

**A bright future was constrained by a dark past.**

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# JABEZ' PAIN

— 3 —

*Jabez had a holy discontent.*

Holy discontent produced the temerity  
to cry out to God.

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## VERSE 10

*"And God granted his request."*

With rare exception,  
the prayers I don't pray  
won't get answered.

So why not ask—and  
**ask bigly!**



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# THE ASK

For God's blessing in his life:  
**"Oh, that you would bless me."**

For God's help in his work:  
**"And enlarge my territory."**

For God's involvement in his well-being:  
**"Let your hand be with me and keep me from harm."**

For God's redemption of his nature:  
**"So that I will not cause pain."**

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# SIMPLE PRAYER

*just pray*  
*—and pray **bigly!***

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“O God, bless me bigly. In whatever I set out to do, grant me divine success—a lot of it! Cause your presence to go before me and let your hand be upon me. Keep me from being harmed and keep me from causing pain. For your glory alone, I pray this in Jesus name.  
Amen!”

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