

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

The descendants of Judah: Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hur and Shobal... 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.

1 Chronicles 4:1,9-10 (NKJV)

❖ I Will Trust God ABOVE all ELSE.
"Oh, that You would bless me indeed..."

1. Trusting His WORD as the FOUNDATION of my LIFE.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)

2. Trusting His LOVE as the SECURITY for my LIFE.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)

3. Trusting His SON as the HOPE in my LIFE.

God decided to let his people know this rich and glorious secret which he has for all people. This secret is Christ himself, who is in you. He is our only hope for glory.

Colossians 1:27 (NCV)

Key Truth: It's a step of F.A.I.T.H. – F. IRST of A. LL I T. RUST H. IM

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

❖ I Will Ask God to Fulfill His GOD POTENTIAL in my life.
"... and enlarge my territory..."

1. I accept that God CREATED me with a PURPOSE in mind.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

2. I believe that God's PLAN for my life is the BEST PLAN for my life.

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:11 (LB)

3. I choose not to be LIMITED by my UNDERSTANDING.

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Ephesians 3:20 (MSG)

Key Truth: It's a willingness to BELIEVE.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

❖ I Will Discover God's POWER through my DEPENDENCY on Him.
"... that Your hand would be with me..."

1. I am dependent on God to STRENGTHEN me and HOLD me UP.
So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

2. I am dependent on God to PROTECT me and HOLD me CLOSE.
I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

John 10:28 (NIV)

3. When God's hand is involved, I see MIRACLES HAPPEN.
The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

Acts 11:21 (NIV)

Key Truth: God's Hand on me, and Spirit in me, is my source of STRENGTH.

So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.

Zechariah 4:6 (NIV)

❖ I Will Recognize my CAPACITY to BLOW IT without God's Protection.
"... and that you would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!"

1. Understanding that Satan can take SIN and make it look REALLY GOOD.
Well, no wonder! Even Satan can disguise himself to look like an angel of light!
2 Corinthians 11:14 (TEV)

2. Realizing that my SINFUL NATURE is STRONG and, in myself, I am WEAK.
So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Romans 7:21-25 (NIV)

3. Recognizing that my only hope is GOD'S POWER and PRESENCE in me.
Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the

authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:11-12 (NIV)

Key Truth: The more VICTORIES we have, the more VULNERABLE we are.

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:7 (NIV)

❖ Closing Challenge: Are you willing to commit to learn to PRAY like JABEZ?