

Discussion Guide

08/11/2024

How To Build For Blessing

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Main Idea

Today's sermon focuses on the story of Jabez. He prayed boldly for God to bless him, expand his territory, be with him, and protect him from harm. God granted his request. Here's the reality, "If you can't steward the blessing, the blessing can break you."

Anchor Verse:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13 NIV)

Four Key Take-Aways From Jabez' Prayer

1. He asked God to bless him.
2. He asked God to enlarge his territory or increase his responsibility.
3. He prayed that God would be with him and stay close.
4. He asked God to protect him and to keep him from harm.

Jabez's story offers only a glimpse of his prayer life. The key takeaway is that God's blessings often come to those who combine audacious faith with diligent obedience, leading to fruitful outcomes.

Read: 1 Chronicles 4:10

What are some practical ways you can develop both audacious faith and diligent obedience? How do you measure the fruitfulness of your actions?

Faithfulness isn't always fun but it is always fruitful

While many people seek God's favor and blessings, it's important to recognize that such blessings come with responsibility.

Read: Luke 12:48

How do you interpret the principle from Luke 12:48, “to whom much is given, much is required,” in the context of your own life? What does this look like in terms of personal, professional, and spiritual responsibilities?

Jabez had the character to carry

Receiving God’s blessings requires a combination of courageous prayers and consistent character.

How can you cultivate a life of character while still making bold and courageous prayers? What practical steps can you take to ensure alignment between the two?

We have to posture ourselves for outpouring

Preparation is crucial before blessings and opportunities arise. Many people discover that God blesses those with strong character but may need to clear out spiritual clutter to make room for what God wants to do. (Hoarders illustration)

Read: James 5:16, Luke 16:10

Can I be trusted with what God wants to bless me with?

Living A Life Like Jabez

- 1) Live a Fully Surrendered Life to Christ
- 2) Pray Bold / Audacious Prayers
- 3) Steward Now for Future Seasons

Read: Proverbs 16:3; James 1:17

God places miracles in our path, but we must be pure, righteous vessels, filled with the Holy Spirit, and confident in our alignment with God’s will. How can you practically live a fully surrendered life to Christ while also praying bold prayers and stewarding current opportunities for future growth?

SUMMARY

Jabez's prayer reveals four key aspects: he asked for God's blessing, for an expansion of his responsibilities, for God's presence, and for protection from harm. His story underscores that God's blessings are granted to those who demonstrate both audacious faith and diligent obedience, leading to fruitful results. To align with this, it's crucial to develop audacious faith and consistent character. This involves understanding the responsibility that comes with blessings

CALL TO ACTION

1. Read 1 Chronicles 4:9-10 again and compare it to the prayers that you've been praying over you life, family, career, and ministry.
2. Reflect on Jabez's story and the principle from Luke 12:48 and allow it to inspire you to live with greater integrity and responsibility.
3. Lead or Join a HC Group! Visit Hopecity.com/groups for more information.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Game: Be Bold, But Don't Smile

Objective: To see who can keep a straight face while staring at someone who is trying to make them laugh.

How to Play:

1. **Setup:**
 - Have participants sit or stand facing each other in pairs or small groups.
2. **Rules:**
 - In each pair, one person is designated as the "Staring Contestant" and the other as the "Smiling Contender."
 - The Staring Contestant must maintain a serious expression and stare directly at the Smiling Contender without laughing or smiling.
 - The Smiling Contender's goal is to try and make the Staring Contestant laugh or smile using any means necessary (e.g., funny faces, silly noises, exaggerated gestures).
3. **Duration:**
 - Set a timer for 1-2 minutes for each round.
 - After the timer goes off, switch roles and repeat the challenge.
4. **Winning:**
 - The Staring Contestant wins if they can maintain a straight face for the entire duration.
 - The Smiling Contender wins if they succeed in making the Staring Contestant laugh or smile before the time is up.