

Remnant Life Church  
February 8, 2015

## “Little Prayer – Big Blessing” (1 Chronicles 4:9-10)

- What constitutes a “Big Prayer?”
  1. The length of it?
  2. How about the volume?
  3. Surely the sincerity or the eloquence!
  4. None of these things has anything to do with the power of prayer
- Jesus talked about and demonstrated prayer a great deal
  1. He taught His disciples how to pray (Matt 6:9-13)
    - This should be called the Disciple’s Prayer
    - The Lord’s Prayer is in John 17
  2. He would often go off by Himself to pray (Mark 6)
  3. He even talked about the difference between a big prayer and a little one – having nothing to do with their power
    - Just before teaching them the prayer Jesus tells them how they should pray
    - The prayer of the hypocrites (Matt 6:5)
      - The prayer then is not about God but about the one praying
      - To be seen by other people so they will admire them
      - God knows the motive of our hearts – it is why the prayers of a mother can be mountain-moving in their power to move the heart of God
      - Instead pray in a way that does not draw attention to yourself but focuses on God (Matt 6:6)
- Many words are not necessary to pray a life-altering, circumstance-changing, blessing-filled, God-pleasing prayer
  1. Jesus said don’t just babble on with many words like the pagans do – chanting (Matt 6:7)
  2. Some of the most powerful prayers ever prayed were just a few sentences – David; Solomon; Jesus
  3. I want to look at one of the simplest of prayers this morning yet a very powerful one
- The first nine chapters of I Chronicles are not exactly light reading
  1. Begins by listing the descendants of Noah, then the families of Abraham and Isaac
  2. Then the sons of David, the kings of Judah, the clans of Judah
  3. The family tree of the Hebrew tribes

4. Of these hundreds and hundreds of names listed nothing is said except that they lived, made someone who probably looked like them, and then died – very few made a mark or were worth remembering
- Suddenly, in chapter 4, after 44 more names the droning stops and the author points out one man – Jabez

## READ – I Chron 4:9-10

1. But what about him was so special?
  - He was not a warrior like his ancestor David
  - He was not noted for his wisdom like Solomon
  - Not a great teacher like Peter
  - Or a fearless missionary like Paul
  - He was simply noted as honorable
2. He probably did not have an easy life
  - His name literally means “pain”
  - The name was the identifying label of who you were and it would often determine your life’s destiny
  - For many Christians today they are living in a life with no hope, no plan, no possibility for change because of words spoken over them
    - Always negative, always talking about the bad that is going on
    - Claiming to be living for Jesus but demonstrating a spiritually bankrupt life
    - This is not the way God wants us to live!
      - As a Christian we need to realize that we are a child of Almighty God (**John 1**)
      - We are a royal priesthood (**I Peter 2**)
      - We are heirs to the Kingdom of God (**Romans 8; Galatians 3**)
      - We are more than conquerors to overcome the evil of this world (**Romans 8**)
- **Eph 1:3-6** – (The Message) How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He’s the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth’s foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.
  - The prosperity of God is a blessing that He wants us to live within
    - Remove from your thinking that God wants us all to be rich
      - Some are called to have great resources
      - They are also called to give more to the kingdom because God has blessed them
    - Prosperity is about all of our life not just our wallets
      - But be certain that God loves to bless
        - Blessing – 94

- Blessed – 217
- Bless – 387
- Total – 698

- So if that is true, you might now ask, why am I not blessed?
  1. First – what is your definition of blessed?
    - If it is solely the amount in your bank account or the size of your car or house then you need to rethink your definition
  2. Second - we are told that many times we don't have from God simply because we do not ask of Him (**James 4:2**)
    - True but not only related to that singular of a thought
    - Are you asking for God's will first and not just your wants?
      - Do you have the faith to believe?
      - Can you receive the blessing?
      - Jabez, in this simple prayer asked in that way
- What aspects make this prayer unique?
  1. Oh that you would bless me - He asked
    - Asking in faith many times requires that you let go of the specifics even while still praying for the particulars
    - Jabez left the details of the blessing up to God
    - **Matt 7:7-8** – Ask, seek, knock
  2. Enlarge my territory
    - What does that mean to you?
      - Enlarge your business
      - Increase your family
      - Whatever you are involved in that matters most in your life ask God for increase but always with the right heart of His will not yours
  3. Let your Hand be with me
    - Telling God that we know we cannot do anything of value or worth without Him brings our heart to the right place
    - We are telling Him that we desire His presence
    - This also releases my control of the events of my life and turns them over to Him
  4. Keep me from harm and free from pain
    - God's protection
      - From the enemy
      - From those who would try and discourage me
      - From myself (my flesh nature)

- The greatest pain I can imagine is not being all that God wants me to be and not receiving all that He has for me by being out of His will for my life

**(Send Gianne)**

- **Story** of the man entering heaven and finding the box of blessings he did not get because he did not ask.
- What do you need to ask God for today?
- What will you do to position or posture yourself to receive the blessing?
- RLC – our new home
  1. Dedicate a day or a portion of a day each week to ask God?
  2. Fast a meal to pray for God to reveal our new home?
  3. Will you do that, as a family, until that prayer is answered?
  4. The power of a praying church!

For Valentines Day next Saturday, the kids of the Children's Ministry have a gift for each of you hear today. They will give that to you before you leave in the fellowship area.