



ANSWERS TO LIFE'S PROBLEMS
“HOW TO LIVE ABOVE AVERAGE”
I CHRONICLES 4: 9-10

GOD DID NOT INTEND FOR US TO LIVE AN AVERAGE, MEDIOCRE LIFE. WE ARE UNIQUE; THERE IS NO ONE ELSE LIKE US. EVERYONE WANTS TO BE RECOGNIZED, BUT THE REAL TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT WE ALSO *NEED* TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR OUR OWN EMOTIONAL HEALTH. WE HAVE A NEED IN OUR LIVES TO BE DIFFERENT, TO BE EXCELLENT, AND TO STAND OUT FROM EVERYONE ELSE.

THE FIRST NINE CHAPTERS OF I CHRONICLES CONSIST OF GENEALOGIES, WITH A LISTING OF OVER 600 NAMES. RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THESE NAMES GOD SINGLES OUT ONE MAN FOR SPECIAL RECOGNITION—JABEZ.

THERE ARE ONLY TWO VERSES IN THE ENTIRE BIBLE ABOUT THIS MAN, BUT YET HE IS GIVEN AN HONORABLE MENTION ABOVE 600 OTHER PEOPLE. WHY DID GOD SAY THAT THIS MAN LIVED ABOVE AVERAGE? WHAT WAS SO SPECIAL ABOUT HIM?

FROM THESE TWO VERSES ABOUT THIS MAN WE CAN LEARN THE SECRET OF LIVING ABOVE AVERAGE.

I. WE NEED A GREAT AMBITION

JABEZ HAD A GREAT AMBITION. WHILE HIS FRIENDS WERE CONTENT WITH BEING AVERAGE AND MEDIOCRE, JABEZ SAID, “I WANT GOD TO BLESS ME. I WANT SOMETHING BIG. I WANT TO DO SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL WITH MY LIFE.” SO HE PRAYED FOR THE LORD TO BLESS HIM IN A GREAT WAY.

MANY PEOPLE TODAY JUST DRIFT THROUGH LIFE. THEY HAVE NO DREAMS, NO GOALS, NO PLAN, NO PURPOSE, AND NO AMBITION. AS A RESULT THEY NEVER ACCOMPLISH MUCH. WHILE MANY PEOPLE USE AMBITION IN A NEGATIVE SENSE, WE AS CHRISTIANS CAN USE IT FOR SOMETHING POSITIVE. THE LORD WANTS US TO GROW AND EXPAND OUR LIVES AND DEVELOP AND MATURE. HE HAS A SPECIAL PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR US ALL, AND THE KEY TO SUCCESS IS TO DISCOVER THOSE THINGS AND COOPERATE WITH GOD. A LIFE WITH NO CHALLENGES AND NO GOALS CAN BE BORING.

JABEZ WASN'T BEING SELFISH OR GREEDY WITH HIS PRAYER AND AMBITION, OTHERWISE GOD WOULD NOT HAVE ANSWERED HIS PRAYER. HE WAS LIVING IN FAITH THAT THE LORD WANTED SOMETHING SPECIAL OUT OF HIS LIFE, AND HE WANTED IT , TOO. WE NEED A GREAT AMBITION IF WE ARE LIVE ABOVE AVERAGE.

II. WE NEED A GROWING FAITH

JABEZ ALSO HAD A GROWING FAITH. HE HAD A DEEP TRUST AND BELIEF IN THE LORD. HE HAD ENOUGH FAITH TO PRAY AND EXPECT AN ANSWER. THE BIBLE GIVES US SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT JABEZ. FIRST, THERE'S NO MENTION OF HIM HAVING ANY SPECIAL GIFT OR TALENT OR ABILITY. THE BIBLE ALSO DOESN'T SAY THAT HE WAS WEALTHY OR EDUCATED. HE WAS SIMPLY A COMMON MAN WITH AN UNCOMMON FAITH. IF WE HAVE FAITH THEN WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT WE DON'T HAVE.

ANOTHER INTERESTING THING ABOUT JABEZ IS THAT HE MAY HAVE HAD A SERIOUS HANDICAP OF SOME SORT BECAUSE HIS NAME ACTUALLY MEANS “PAINFUL.” BUT HIS FAITH WAS STRONGER THAN HIS HANDICAP. HIS FAITH KEPT HIM GOING.

WHATEVER HANDICAPS WE MAY HAVE SHOULD NOT KEEP US FROM HAVING FAITH AND TRUST IN THE LORD AND HIS WILLINGNESS AND POWER TO HELP US AND BLESS US.

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

**SOUTH POINT
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Finding God's Direction for Life



III. WE NEED A GENUINE PRAYER LIFE

IT WAS JABEZ'S SIMPLE PRAYER THAT GOT HIM RECOGNIZED. HIS PRAYER ILLUSTRATES THREE THINGS WE CAN ASK GOD FOR AND EXPECT HIM TO ANSWER.

1. GOD'S POWER IN HIS LIFE. HE ASKED FOR A POWER GREATER THAN HIS OWN TO ACCOMPLISH HIS DREAM. WE NEED TO PRAY ABOUT OUR LIFE AND OUR GOALS AND OUR DREAMS.
2. GOD'S PRESENCE IN HIS LIFE. HE KNEW IF HIS PRAYER WAS ANSWERED IT WOULD REQUIRE GOD'S HELP MORE THAN EVER. WE NEED TO DO THE SAME.
3. GOD'S PROTECTION OVER HIS LIFE. HE KNEW IF GOD BLESSED HIM, THEN HE WOULD BE A BIGGER TARGET FOR CRITICS AND THIEVES.