

The Prayer Of Jabez

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Posted by admin

Bruce Wilkinson took an unfamiliar verse (I Chronicles 4:10) and turned it into a best-selling book. I ran across this verse many years ago. Someone shared it with me and for probably 25 years I have been praying daily over its simple, but profound, requests.

I'm focusing on three areas:

1. God's anointing
2. Increased influence
3. Protection from sin

ANOINTING — I deeply desire the hand of God on my life. I want to see His power displayed through my life. I want Him to touch me, use me, set me on fire by His Holy Spirit.

INFLUENCE — I have come to the conclusion that I have little interest in position, title, or accolades (I must admit they all feel nice) but I do strongly desire influence. I want God to use me. I want to see MORE fruit, MORE disciples, MORE people come to Jesus. I desire increased influence so as to maximize who God made me to be. I desire the privilege of influencing people who significantly influence others; hence my purpose statement, "To leave footprints in the hearts of God-hungry leaders who reproduce."

PROTECTION FROM SIN — Let's focus on this one. Lorne Sanny, President of the Navigators for thirty years, once shared his list of areas he was praying over for his life. These were areas in which the devil might get a foothold, opportunity (Ephesians 4:27). He called this "defensive praying." I thought it was a great idea and made a list of my own to pray over. After all, if I fall into sin and remain there, anointing and influence become moot points, don't they? You don't have to look far in the Bible to see plateaued or ruined lives because of not being protected or delivered from sin.

Here's my list:

1. PURITY

The strongest man in the Bible (Samson), the wisest man in the Bible (Solomon) and the man after God's own heart (David) all fell into sexual sin (as do countless leaders today). I pray for protection for my heart (Proverbs 4:23) and my eyes (Proverbs 4:25)

2. HUMILITY

We are told in I Peter 5:6, "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you (influence) in due time." With fruitfulness can come pride and self-sufficiency.

Someone told me that it is much easier to humble yourself than to have God humble you. I believe that

3. PATIENCE

Zechariah 4:6 in The Message says, “You cannot force things. They come about only through My Spirit’. When I am patient, I wait for God’s timing. When I am in a hurry, I often force things, taking the situation into my own hands (as Saul did when he got tired of waiting for Samuel to show up), getting myself in a heap of trouble.

4. MATERIALISM

Love of Money is not only the root of all evil (I Timothy 6:10) but often the end of all ministry. I prayerfully watch this one like a hawk! It is lurking at the door

5. BITTERNESS

I heard recently that the major cause of burnout among men between 38 and 50 is bitterness! I ask myself regularly if I have unresolved anger or bitterness toward anyone (Hebrews 12:15).

These are five areas where I sense that I am particularly vulnerable. I am wise to pray, be careful, be alert, have some clear guidelines and make myself accountable.

What’s on your list of potential sin areas? Do you have someone holding you accountable? Do you take inventory and pray regularly over your vulnerable areas?