

From the Prayer of Jabez
By Bruce Wilkinson

Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez. Saying. "I gave birth to him in pain." Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request. (1 Chron. 4:9-10 NIV)

“As God’s chosen, blessed sons and daughters, we are expected to attempt something large enough that failure is guaranteed . . . unless God steps in. It’s a frightening and utterly exhilarating truth, isn’t it? Take a minute to prayerfully try to comprehend how contrary that truth is to everything you would humanly choose:

- **It goes against common sense.**
- **It contradicts your previous life experience.**
- **It seems to disregard your feelings, training, and need for security.**
- **It sets you up to look like a fool and a loser.**

Yet *dependence* is God’s plan for His most-honored servants. Big-screen heroes don’t seem to put any stock in dependence—but you and I were made for it. Dependence upon God makes heroes of ordinary people like Jabez and you and me. How? We’re force to cry out with Jabez’s desperate plea: “Let your hand be with me.” With that, we release God’s power to accomplish His will and bring Him glory through all those seeming impossibilities.”