The Prayer of Jabez?

T**he prayer of Jabez is recorded in 1 Chronicles 4:10, “And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, ‘Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that y**

**Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!’ So, God granted him what he requested.” (NKJV). It is a prayer with purpose, Jabez wanted his territories enlarged so he would be serving God and not evil. It was not self-serving or a prayer of greed. Today we can pray for God to give us more people to teach, more to visit, and more opportunities for growth.**

**The book, The Prayer of Jabez, by Bruce Wilkerson, is a short essay that takes Jabez’s prayer a step or two further. In reading I found parts that I agree with. God can and does answer the prayers of His children. We must allow the Spirit of God to lead us, take the advantage of our opportunities, and remember our greatest temptations come when we are successful.**

**Wilkerson mixes in ideas contrary to God’s Word. He claims that by uttering the Jabez prayer, God MUST answer in a positive way, “challenging God’s power” (page 34), “your life will be marked by miracles” (page 35).**

**The writer failed to recognize the fact that God has His own will. It is our responsibility to serve God and not the other way around. “Now this is the confidence the we in Him, that if we ask anything according to HIS WILL, He hears us” (1 John 5:24, emphasis mine, D.T.). We can not ask God to contradict His will. God’s answer may not be yes but no. (2 Corinthians 12:8-9a). God’s answer to Paul’s prayer was no!**

**A miracle is not just something unusual, it is the suspense of the laws of nature to allow something that would otherwise be impossible. The parting of the red sea, Jesus’ walking on the water, etc., were against the very laws of nature. In giving the great commission, Jesus said the miracles were to confirm the Word of God, Mark 16:20. An unusual event would not prove the teacher to be sent by God, a miracle would. A chance meeting in an airport is not a miracle.**

**The author also speaks of God’s guidance without the word of God. He speaks of the “filling of the Spirit” (page 56). If you utter the prayer of Jabez, God will create “exciting new possibilities” (page 44). “God is watching and waiting for you to ask for the Supernatural power He offers” (page 60).**

**The Spirit, the Holy Spirit, works through the Word of God. “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God”. (Ephesians 6: 17). The only way we can be “lead by the Spirit” is through studying His word and obedience.**

**There are some things in this book that I can agree with. The need for prayer and God’s ability to answer our prayers. “Our God specializes in working through normal people who believes in a Supernatural God who will do His work though Him” (page 41). This book teaches a lot of error, which makes it dangerous. D. T.**