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## Newsletter for August 2005

Vol. 3 No. 8



## Praise's of the Month



Well when God opens the flood gates, he opens the flood gates. We have had literally hundreds of requests for Bibles. Please keep this new ministry in your prayers. This is just one example. *Hello brethren, am very happy to receive those wonderful "God's precious promise". I receive 10 copies of the bibles this week, I pray God will continue to bless this ministry ,give you unlimited strength and unlimited grace to run this ministry successfully to the end. People I gave it to really appreciate them , it is pity it cannot go round but I tried my best. the bible is portable and beautiful to look , in fact it was like an hot cake when some people saw it. God bless. it's timothy dotun komolafe.* Timothy has already been promised additional Bibles. We, with the Lord's help have just purchased all the God's Precious Promise" New testaments that our supplier had. Remember God promised **Isaiah 55:11 (NLT)** <sup>11</sup>*It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. Praise the Lord, Dear sister Mary and Pastor Warner. Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Mary, I received the Bibles. I thankful to you and Bibles which send me. May God richly bless you and your ministry. I humbly requested to you and your team. Please share my needs with friends. As you know we need a computer for ministry office in these days. Please continue prayer for computer and other things. I await your response. May god bless you and your ministry. Your confidence is our pride. Sincerely in Christ Mushtaq Masih.* These are just two examples of what you our partners are doing world wide. Along those lines, we have been contacted about putting our Radio program "Where the Rubber Meets the Road" on three additional stations. Two in Kenya, Sayare 98.8 Fm and Sayare 103.4 Fm and a new station in Ireland Gospel 846 AM. The flood gates are opening for the Lord to receive Glory and Honor.

**God Bless Pastor A. J.**

## **The Word Speaks!**

### Matthew 24:12 (NLT)

<sup>12</sup>**Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.**

Jesus tells about the end times. One of my wife's sayings about many of the things we see on a daily basis is "The love of many will grow cold." But do you see what Jesus tells us is the cause of this, SIN. **1 John 2:16 (NLT)** <sup>16</sup>**For the world offers only the lust for physical pleasure, the lust for everything we see, and pride in our possessions. These are not from the Father. They are from this evil world.** Notice what we are told here, it is the lust for everything we see. Lust is defined as: a strong sexual desire, self-indulgent sexual desire have a craving, appetite, or great desire for; The word lust means sexual desire (this meaning is sometimes metaphorically extended to other forms of desire, e.g. lust for power).

Peter tell us **2 Peter 2:18-19 (NLT)** <sup>18</sup>They brag about themselves with empty, foolish boasting. With lustful desire as their bait, they lure back into sin those who have just escaped from such wicked living. <sup>19</sup>They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves to sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you. Do you get this? You are a slave to anything that controls you. Sin is self-centered, we do not commit a sin for the benefit of others. We sin to satisfy some base need in ourselves. If you commit a murder you do not kill that person because you are helping them out. When you commit adultery, you do not do it because the other person just needed to have sex with you. **James 1:15 (NASB)**<sup>15</sup>Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. This is where the rubber meets the road. Lust will bring forth sin, sin will bring forth death. Death spiritually, death to your ability to care for others. Lust is self-centered, and that then brings us to trying to satisfy that lust. We become more self-centered until our love for others grows cold, unless they can satisfy our lust.

It is a proven fact that most men that start looking at Internet pornography start with women and pictures of women. But, before they have finished their selfish course they are into child pornography. By this time they can no longer be satisfied with pictures, and some of them will either go out and molest children or become a rapist. Why, because their love of humanity has been replaced with a self satisfying love of themselves.

**Matthew 24:12 (NLT)** <sup>12</sup>Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.

## ***Mary's Thoughts for the Month***

This month was unusual in the respect that many strange things were reported in the headlines concerning animals and insects. In the last few months or so, we have seen an increase of animals behaving weirdly. In Arkansas, USA, there are a drove of copperhead snakes in places where formerly there was little if any. As you know the copperhead is a deadly venomous snake and there are literally thousands crawling around. In Montana, USA there is an overabundance of frogs everywhere. In the past few months both Africa and France have experienced what the media is calling a plague of Biblical proportions of locusts, these locusts are devastating crops. Madrid's coast has waves of Jellyfish at an unprecedented number. Seals and whales have been beaching themselves in droves on shores all over the globe. Massive amounts of Dolphins are being spotted on the coast of Wales, where it is unusual to see more than a hundred. In addition these strange occurrences, the number of new deadly animal to people borne diseases, and you have to just wonder what in the world is going on. There is a new deadly pig borne disease in Hong Kong affecting butchers. The deadly Avian flu (bird flu) has recently invaded Russia, and the W.H.O (World Health Organization) has been speculating if this disease will become the next world pandemic flu. Months ago I read several accounts of birds falling from the sky dead around the world with no apparent reason. Fish, it seems were washing up dead on shores in droves as well. Part of my job description for the ministry includes 'Researcher', and so on an almost daily basis I can be found researching news around the world that pertains to the end days. I truly believe that we are a blessed generation because we may very well be the generation who will see the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. If that doesn't make you want to whoop and holler I don't know what will. That should thrill us with excitement, and it should make us bold in our witness to others. Jay and I often use the headlines that we have read to witness to other people about the return of the Lord, you can too. What you will find is that most people have their heads in the sand when it comes to what is happening even in their own back yards. When you bring up the strange animal behavior people's curiosity is peaked and it opens a door to witness to them. The same thing holds true about pestilence and disease, people want to

know why these things are happening at an alarming rate. I hope you will do a little research on your own and keep abreast of the amount of prophecy that is being fulfilled daily all around us. Then look up, brothers and sisters, for our redemption draws nigh.

## **The Sad things Department**

### **Matthew 24:12 (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup>**Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.**

The disturbing trend is that as people care less and less about each other they care more about their pets. What brings this up now? This morning I was watching the morning news, and they had read a report by a doctor stating that people care more about their animals than each other. He went so far as to say if you had both a lost dog and a lost child in the park the people would help the dog quicker than the child. This news agency decided to test the theory, and they placed a dog actor and child actor in the park. The child was to act lost and cry. The dog wandered around with a leash. The dog had a tag with the owners cell-phone number. Within a few minutes a couple stopped gave the dog water and took it to the park authorities. It took three, yes, three times longer for anyone to help the young boy. People watched him cry, he opened the gate for mothers at the playground he was in front of, and still no one helped him. One man even talked to him and walked away as he was crying. Finally a young mother asked him if he needed help. Do you see anything wrong with this, it took three times longer to help a young human life than a dog. As human hearts grow colder towards each other they grow stronger towards their pets. Let me give you some interesting facts: 31,589,887 dog owners purchase Christmas gifts for their dogs. 39,091,999 cats receive Christmas gifts from their owners. 13,455,002 cats have their birthdays celebrated. More than half of American dog owners are more attached to their pets than to at least one other human being. The following numbers represent those who say they are as attached to their dogs as to the following persons; A) Best Friend 16,213,555 B) Children 8,321,566 C) Spouse 5,421,959 Did you get the importance of this? Eight million plus said that they were more attached to their dog than their kids! How cold hearted can a person be than to be more attached to your pet than the children that came from your own body.

According to an APPMA Americans spent 32.4 billion dollars on their pets in 2003, which means pet-related spending has nearly doubled in the last 10 years in the US. This puts the pet industry well a head of other traditionally popular consumer sectors such as the toy industry (20 billion spent) and the candy industry (24 billion dollars spent). The APPMA's reported the following breakdown for the areas in which money is spent on pets (2003 figures for the US)

- \$13.7 billion for food
- \$7.2 billion for supplies and O-T-C medications
- \$7.9 billion for veterinarian care
- \$1.5 billion for live animal purchases
- \$2.1 billion for other services such as grooming and board

Does any of this bother you, my friend? If it does not then your heart is growing cold. Imagine if you will how many Bibles could be sent out, how many missions could be sent out, or how many radio programs preaching the gospel could go over the air. Imagine if you will how many homeless and hungry could be fed or clothed with 32+ billion dollars.

One final thought if this is not bad enough look at just one of the side effects of this increase in pet ownership. There is a dog bite epidemic in the United States. There are almost 5 million victims annually -- about 2% of the entire population. 800,000 need medical attention. 1,000 per day need treatment in hospital emergency rooms. Between 15 and 20 die per year. Most of the victims who receive medical attention are children, half of whom are bitten in the face. Dog bite losses exceed \$1 billion per year, with \$345 million paid by insurance. Don't get me wrong I do not have a problem with pets I have a problem with excess!

**Matthew 24:12 (NLT)** <sup>12</sup>**Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. Read this from one of our foreign ministry partners: Very unfortunate that some one could spent such a fortune on a dog while many here cannot afford some food to eat, our pastors and workers goes several days without food. (1John 2:15-17) We can't even pay our rents and bills. We trek because we can't afford a bicycle. May God have mercy,** Pastor Porter Michaels. Does this bother any one out there but me? It is time to examine our hearts, my friend.

# Pastor's Corner

## HUMBLE?



One thing I know is that no matter how big His Will Ministry ever got or how many missions we had, or how many radio stations we were on, I would never allow anyone to elevate me to the above. But then again, we still preach the blood, the cross, and the need to repent from sin. This might be why His Will Ministry does not have a 30,000 person indoor stadium for our congregation. For some reason preaching about Jesus' blood on the cross and our need to turn from our sin and repent and live a holy life is not too popular with our worldly culture. Let's look at what Jesus said. [Luke 14:11 \(NLT\)](#) <sup>11</sup>For the proud will be humbled, but the humble will be honored."

One of the most disturbing trends in the last few years is elevating men and woman of God to some superstar status. It is possible that this began with the Broadway play Jesus Christ Superstar. I see more of these "servants" of God daily becoming so proud and arrogant. I have heard one man (that at one time I believe was on the right course) say this about those who disagreed with his teachings " I am not going to listen to these heresy hunters anymore" and "if God won't kill them I will". I also heard one "man of God" say "give me a Holy Ghost machine gun and I will kill them". This mans' wife has also been known to be so arrogant that she has told people that they need a "Holy Ghost enema!" How arrogant can you get to **BLASPHEME** the Holy Ghost this way? What is wrong with us Christians? We have created a whole generation of rich arrogant preachers, but have we reached the world for Jesus? I have nothing against the Lord providing nice things for his workers whether it is a pastor, evangelist or just a worker. But let's get real, who needs a 6.4 million-dollar home with a 10 car subterranean garage for his car collection or 5 homes and a 6000 square foot office or a 5 million-dollar home complex for the pastor and all the kids? I don't know about you, but to me this is excess with a capital E! We think that these men and woman of God must be something special for our Lord to have chosen them. Allow me to let God's word speak for itself. [1 Corinthians 1:27-29 \(NLT\)](#) <sup>27</sup>Instead, God deliberately chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose those who are powerless to shame those who are powerful. <sup>28</sup>God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important, <sup>29</sup>so that no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

Did you get the last part? "so that no one can ever boast in the presence of God." You see God gives no man His glory. The minute we take our eyes off our Father in heaven and His son Jesus and put them on someone else we are in big trouble. [Isaiah 42:8 \(NLT\)](#) <sup>8</sup>"I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to anyone else. I will not share my praise with carved idols.

Oops! Maybe we had better reconsider taking these people to their elevated heights. When we take anything and elevate it higher than God wants it to be it becomes an idol. The saddest statement that I have ever heard was from a little old grandma that was dying of cancer. She had been to a Benny Hinn healing crusade, where she was interviewed. She told the reporter Benny Hinn had healed her of her cancer. Well, two weeks later she died of cancer. I can tell you with all the authority given to me from above as a watchman that Benny Hinn cannot heal anything. He has no power except that which may be given to him from above. You see, until we get to heaven we will never know if that little old grandma was healed by God of her cancer. But, the moment she told the world a man did it she was in trouble. God's words are true and faithful and He said " **I WILL NOT GIVE MY GLORY TO ANYONE ELSE!**" The word of God tells us He is a jealous God. I have personally seen the Lord's healing, many times the Lord has used me as a willing vessel to use His power to heal someone. And, as God is my witness I can tell you it had nothing to do with me! I was nothing more than a willing conduit that the Power of God could flow through. We must never, never, never take our eyes off Jesus and what His power can do.

Jesus as always said it best when asked about the end. Matthew 7:22-23 (NASB) <sup>22</sup>"**Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'** <sup>23</sup>"**And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'** Notice the lack of humbleness, "didn't we". These ones are not saying to the Lord on judgement day "Lord you did these things through us". Nope! They are saying "Lord look at all these great things we did for you. " I can even picturing them arguing with Jesus about how they had done so much for Him. They might even go so far as to ask Him where He gets off questioning their works for Him. The world's wisest man once said in Proverbs 16:18 (NLT) <sup>18</sup>"**Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.**

If the man or woman of God in your life becomes arrogant please correct them, and if they will not take correction then distance yourself from them. Because you can see clearly what the fate of an arrogant person is. HELL! Not a good place to end up. Let's get back to basics and get our eyes back on Jesus not ourselves.

*God BLESS Pastor Ariel*

## **PONDER THIS DEPARTMENT**

**Proverbs 15:8-9 (NLT)**<sup>8</sup>The LORD hates the sacrifice of the wicked, but he delights in the prayers of the upright. <sup>9</sup>The LORD despises the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue godliness.

### **Why do you pray?**

Several weeks ago I had the privilege of hearing Steve Chiles, nationally known speaker and motivator, deal with this simple question, "Why Don't We Pray?" It was about an experience in a garden near the Mount of Olives. Jesus was there and praying, as His disciples should have been doing. He woke them up with these words: "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray, so that you may not enter into temptation" (Luke 22:46, HCSB).

Chiles in his brilliant presentation, suggested at least five possible answers to the question, "Why Don't We Pray?"

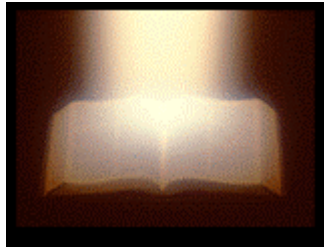
1. "Presumably, we do not pray because we do not believe in prayer."
2. "It is not a part of our habit patterns."
3. "Many times we really do not want God's opinions. If Jesus is Lord, it means Jesus is boss."

4. "We do not know how much God cares for us." Chiles asked his audience to remember the words of Psalm 103 which names numerous blessings from God as verse 2 suggests: "Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (NIV).

5. "We forget how much God needs us to pray."

Steve Chiles concluded his words about why we do not pray with this bit of advice: "When you do pray, make your prayer more about God than about you." *E-mailed to pastor by one of his cyberspace buddies*

## ***This Months Bible Moment***



### **The things we have given to the devil without a fight Part One**

Has any one besides me noticed how old slue foot has been slowly removing Christians' eyes from off of Jesus? A little at a time he has caused us to move our attention off the Lord and what He wanted. Today I just want to talk about one example.

**John 6:53-56 (NLT)** <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said again, "I assure you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. <sup>54</sup>But those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them at the last day. <sup>55</sup>For my flesh is the true food, and my blood is the true drink. <sup>56</sup>All who eat my flesh and drink my blood remain in me, and I in them.

Now when Jesus said this everyone thought how can we eat His flesh and drink His blood. They thought that He was proposing for them something very, very wrong. But now we know that Jesus was talking about the communion He gave to His followers. **Luke 22:19-20 (KJV)** <sup>19</sup>And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. <sup>20</sup>Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

Over the years as a Pastor, I have worked with many different churches. Each one has its idea of the Lords Supper. I was saved in a fundamental Bible thumping Christian Church. We had the Lords supper each Sunday morning and Evening. We wanted to do as Jesus said in John chapter 6. We wanted to have part in Him. We wanted to honor Jesus and "**do this in remembrance of Him.**" Communion never became a "ritual" or just something we had to do, it was a special time with the Lord. Remembering the Lord is so important to Mary and I that we have the Lords supper every day but on our one day off from ministry and secular work. I can truthfully tell you that when our world becomes so rushed that we forget it, we both know we have.

What better way for old slue foot to make the Christian church weak and sickly physically, and to make them weak in the faith than to convince them that this important part of our worship and reverence of Jesus is not necessary. Paul tried to warn us but I guess we just know better! **1 Corinthians 11:23-30 (KJV)** <sup>23</sup>For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was

betrayed took bread: <sup>24</sup>And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, **Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.** <sup>25</sup>After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, **This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me.** <sup>26</sup>For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come. <sup>27</sup>Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink *this* cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup>But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup. <sup>29</sup>For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. <sup>30</sup>For this cause many *are* weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. Paul is telling us several things here. First and foremost Paul is telling us that the Lords supper is very important for our continued spiritual growth. Secondly, those you mock the Lords supper by taking it in an unworthy manner are bringing damnation upon themselves. Finally, he is telling us that if we are not properly discerning the Lords body (bread) in the communion we end up weak, sickly and falling asleep.

Let us look at the original Greek here. This truth is much deeper than meets the eye. First he says we are weak. The Greek here means to be Spiritually weak. Can you name one Spiritually strong church that does not have the Lords supper regularly? Oh Yes, you can name some mega churches, but they are spiritually dead. They may have a hyped up service but when the people go back into the world they are the same as they were when they went in. They do not go forth into the world to preach the gospel! At best they might go out and invite someone to their church. In most of these big churches that person will never grow into a relationship with Jesus because the cross, the blood and repenting is not preached. The second "sickly" means physically sick. What is Paul telling us here? He is saying that our Lord never does anything without a reason or to Glorify Himself. There is power in the bread of the communion to heal and give physical strength for the work of God. Think about it, would our Lord and Savior send us out into the world to preach the Gospel without the tools we needed to get the job done? The third goes along with the second the Greek here means dead, DOA, six feet under, get the point? Paul is saying, now get this, Paul is saying that in the Corinthian Church many of them are dead because they did not properly discern the Lords body in communion. There is power in the body and the blood of the lamb.

Let us look at the Old Testament type of this. On the night before all of Israel left Egypt, they had to take the lambs blood and put it on the doorposts to save their lives from the spirit of death. However, they were also told to eat the entire lamb. They were told to do this with their sandals on and tunic held in place to run. In other words, they had to eat all of the lamb in the position to be ready to go. **Exodus 12:7-11(NASB)** <sup>7</sup>Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the flesh that *same* night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather roasted with fire, *both* its head and its legs along with its entrails.

<sup>10</sup>And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall burn with fire. <sup>11</sup>Now you shall eat it in this manner: *with* your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste—it is the LORD'S Passover. Ok, now you may be saying what has this to do with me? Well, lets keep digging. **Psalm 105:37 (NLT)** <sup>37</sup> But he brought his people safely out of Egypt, loaded with silver and gold; there were no sick or feeble people among them. Did you get what David just said? No, not that they were loaded with silver and gold! However, there was no sick or feeble among them. Do you understand that these people had been slaves for four hundred years? They were poorly fed, clothed, housed etc. They were treated worse than cattle! Yet, when they left Egypt that wonderful morning they were perfectly healed. Now how do you think that happened? It happened because of the body of the Lamb.

Now let's tie it all together. **Isaiah 53:4-5 (KJV)** <sup>4</sup>Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. These are the words that God gave Isaiah to tell the word about Jesus. What do they say, "with his stripes we are healed."? The Hebrew here means just what it says, a physical healing. By Jesus' stripes we are healed but how can we partake in this healing? Let's go back to the start. **John 6:53-56 (NLT)** <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said again, "I assure you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. <sup>54</sup>But those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them at the last day. <sup>55</sup>For my flesh is the true food, and my blood is the true drink. <sup>56</sup>All who eat my flesh and drink my blood remain in me, and I in them.

You see, if we are not willing to do what Jesus told us to do we cannot expect healing and power. <sup>30</sup>For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. Where are you my friend? Wondering why you do not have the ability to even get through the day. We have had more people than we can count wonder how Mary and I manage to run a full time ministry and a full time business and keep going. I am here to tell you it is Jesus and the communion He gave us all. We have communion six days a week. Six days a week we remember the sacrifice that He made for us and He gives us the ability to keep on going. To God be the Glory. The Lord always uses His Spirit to speak through me when I preach, but very seldom does He speak through me directly with prophecy etc. But when He does I listen. During one service we were having communion and had been deep in prayer when the Lord spoke through me. I did not even realize that the Lord had done this until I listened to the tape of the service. Basically the Lord said He gave the Lords supper for us. The Bread represented His body and did give us strength. The juice represented His Blood and did wash us clean and gave us Spiritual strength.

I am going to leave you with this one thought. <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said again, "I assure you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. Did you get what Jesus said here, "you cannot have eternal life within you." He seems to allude to the fact (possibility) that unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man you will not have eternal life. Now the only way to eat Jesus' flesh is symbolically through communion. You make your own conclusions on this one. My only comment is, **"IS IT WORTH THE RISK TO IGNORE THE LORDS SUPPER? "**

*Love Ya Pastor A. J.*

## Give me that old time religion!!

### PRAYER OF JABEZ PART 1

**\*\*By\*\* see disclaimer at end of article**

Pastor Porter Michaels

Bethel Life Ministries, International

02BP2682 Cotonou

Benin Republic

This book is a small 4 1/2 by 6 3/4 hardcover book having 92 small pages with approximately 150 words per page. But don't let its small size fool you it has been having a big influence on Christians everywhere. The Prayer of Jabez has become an instant success, having sold one million copies in February 2001 alone, the internet site for the book lists altogether four million sold so far. It is in the top 10 bestsellers, the winner of non-fiction at the retailers choice awards. Wilkinson was a guest on Focus on the Family, Dobson gave an endorsement to The Prayer of Jabez. Bruce Wilkinson, is the president and founder of Walk Thru the Bible Ministries based in Atlanta. He is a known speaker at many evangelical and ecumenical events. Wilkinson founded Walk Thru the Bible Ministries while he was a student at Dallas Seminary in 1976. They now have a teaching faculty today of 120 in North America and 2,000 lay instructors worldwide. Wilkinson is the author of numerous books. His Talk Thru the Bible written with Ken Boa is over a 500 page book which I found to be a good resource for



an historical overview for Bible study. He has also written other books which I have not read, Experiencing Spiritual Breakthroughs, 7 Laws of the Learner, Almost Every Answer for Practically Any Teacher! Personal Holiness in Times of Temptation, Victory Over Temptation.

The prayer of Jabez which Wilkinson wrote his book on is found in 1 Chronicles 4:9-10: "And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested."

I do find that some of what Wilkinson has written has merit "we are expected to attempt something large enough that failure is guaranteed ...unless God steps in." (p.47) Or in encouraging people to use their gifts "Whatever our gifts, education, or vocation might be, our calling is to do God's work on earth" He goes on to say that living out our faith it is a Christians job. There are other statements that admonish us to press on. So why write a review that may find flaws in praying Wilkinson's prayer of Jabez? The problem is what he offers as the solution to accomplish this. There are some good statements in the book; however it contains even more flawed counsel in it. This is more influential than any good. In the Preface to the book, Wilkinson writes: "I want to teach you how to pray a daring prayer that God always answers. It is brief—only one sentence with four parts—and tucked away in the Bible, but I believe it contains the key to a life of extraordinary favor with God. This petition has radically changed what I expect from God and what I experience every day by His power. In fact, thousands of believers who are applying its truths are seeing miracles happen on a regular basis." So we see three things he has stated that are written in stone. It is a prayer God ALWAYS answers. Wow! It (the prayer) contains the key to a life of extraordinary favor with God. And we will see miracles happen on a regular basis from this key passage. This is quite an assessment of an obscure prayer from the Old Testament, and is nonsense, as no single passage contains "the key to a life of extraordinary favor with God." Wilkinson says he has said this (key) prayer for thirty years every day. "The next morning, I prayed Jabez's prayer word for word. And the next. And the next. Thirty years later, I haven't stopped. If you were to ask me what sentence—other than my prayer for salvation—has revolutionized my life and ministry the most, I would tell you it was the cry of a gimber named Jabez." (p. 11). Why has he held off giving us this incredible discovery for that many years? If you had a prayer that was answered within a few years of praying wouldn't you tell everyone?

On the back-cover it reads: "Do you want to be extravagantly blessed by God? Are you ready to reach for the extraordinary? To ask God for the abundant blessings He longs to give you? Join Bruce Wilkinson to discover how the remarkable prayer of a little-known Bible hero can release God's favor, power, and protection. You'll see how one daily prayer can help you leave the past behind—and break through to the life you were meant to live." From the start of the book the reader is being offered a method for success in their spiritual life by one daily prayer. This is a very bold statement that Wilkinson needs to prove from scripture. Instead he proves it from personal experiences through testimonies. The reason for this is obvious. Because no one prayed Jabez' prayer in the scripture except for one person, Jabez. Wilkinson offers himself and his ministry as the testimony of "almost shocking evidence of what God's grace and Jabez praying can do" (p. 89). Well I'm happy that his ministry has expanded so much, but could it be that its God's grace and not due to any discovered prayer formula of Jabez? We need to be careful that we do not attribute to God what may be just pragmatism. In his prior book "Talk Thru the Bible" on chapters 1-9 of 1 Chronicles where the prayer of Jabez is found he writes it is "the most comprehensive genealogical tables in the bible. They trace the family tree of David and Israel as a whole, but in a highly selective manner." "They demonstrate God's keeping of his covenant a promises in maintaining the Davidic line through the centuries." This is the very point of Jabez' prayer being answered. The lineage shows God's grace who was in the lineage of Judah's line. We are told by some scholars that family branches of this line were identified by geographical locations. Some think the city of Jabez is related to him. So when Jabez asks for an extension of his coast it may be related to 1 Chron. 2:55 "And the families of the scribes who dwelt at Jabez were the Tirathites, the Shimeathites, and the Suchathites. These were the Kenites who came from Hammath, the father of the house of Rechab."

On pg.10 of the prayer of Jabez Wilkinson states how he wanted to be a gimber like Jabez. Certainly there's nothing wrong with this in and of itself. However he begins to speculate "What exactly did Jabez do to rise above the rest?...Why did God answer his prayer?" This is the only place we have Jabez mentioned so there is nowhere else to go to find an answer. The Bible gives principles for one to live by, in this we see Jabez was fulfilling them as it says Jabez was a more honorable man than others: there's his answer. Jabez asked God to bless him, because he rose above his brothers in trying to do what is right and God answered him. It's an example of God providing and caring for His

chosen people- keeping his covenant with them. Jabez did not discover some forgotten truth but walked in God's revealed ! truth. God by his sovereignty answered him. The focus of Jabez's prayer is on God and His provision and protection. God did not answer Jabez' request because he said the right thing or prayed this repetitively for years. God answered his request as he had done with so many others who went before him. This is not accepted by Wilkinson, for he makes Jabez into an immaculate example of all those who prayed in the Old Testament. From this premise he goes even further away from what prayer is actually supposed to be.

The first thing we need to understand is that Jabez did not continually pray this, especially for thirty years or through his lifetime. But Wilkinson did and he recommends that you do too. *"I challenge you to make the Jabez prayer for blessing part of the daily fabric of your life. To do that, I encourage you to follow unwaveringly the plan outlined here for the next thirty days. By the end of that time, you'll be noticing significant changes in your life, and the prayer will be on its way to becoming a treasured, lifelong habit."* (p. 86).

Wilkinson thinks he discovered something that he wants to share to all. If we'll just pray the prayer of Jabez, word-for-word, every day for a month we'll see God's blessing and power in our lives. To Wilkinson, the answer isn't found in any choice of God of when or how He is to answer Jabez's prayer. The key is that Jabez learned the right formula for asking things of God. Wilkinson implies a cause and effect action that is guaranteed, ask this way and wait until you see the results. This discovery all New Testament believers are to imitate. The emphasis is on Jabez finding the correct method in prayer, instead of on God His Sovereign will and purpose for our lives.

*"Just under the surface of each request lies a giant paradigm breaker"* (p.14) Wilkinson's book the Prayer of Jabez becomes the key to unlock the success that God has for all of us, as he recommends us to *"reread this little book once each week during the next month, asking God to show you important insights that you may have missed."*(p.87) *"You can hang the Jabez prayer on the wall of every room in your house and nothing will happen. It's only what you believe will happen and therefore do next that will release God's power for you and bring about a life change."* (p.87)

This is due to the one who answers the prayer not from the prayer itself. This is what word/faith teaching promotes, believe and it will happen. In the CBD (*Christian Book Distributors*) catalogue (fall 2001) it advertises the book as, *"Discover how to release the miraculous power of God in your life. Wilkinson introduces you to Jabez, whose audacious one sentence prayer brought him extraordinary blessings..."* The Prayer of Jabez for children states, *"show you kids how they can accomplish BIG things for God!"* (They have it for teen too). The wording of these ads sums up their view of the book; releasing God's power by a certain prayer, to OUR accomplishing big things for him this becomes man centered. Besides the prayer of Jabez being on coffee mugs, Bible book covers, medallions, towels and now we have a cross with the prayer of Jabez on it; which (I) think is sacrilegious.

Wilkinson breaks Jabez' prayer up into four parts and presents us a formula within a formula *"Jabez's last request is a brilliant but little-understood strategy for sustaining a blessed life"* (p. 63). Did Jabez find some secret that would guarantee God's blessing to all? Wilkinson certainly presents this fact as those who pray Jabez's prayer will receive and those who don't will miss it.

Wilkinson's own theological perspective is inserted and molds his Jabez prayer to go beyond what Jesus told us to pray like. In Mt. 6:5-13 (also Lk.11:2-4), Jesus gives us the manner on how to pray: *"And when you pray, do not use VAIN REPETITIONS as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words." Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*" In this manner, therefore, pray: our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

There are only a few similarities of Jabez' prayer and the manner that Jesus asked us to pray. Both address God, both ask deliverance from evil, but then there are some vast differences. Jesus meant *"pray after this manner."* Jesus' prayer was a guide for us to follow as we talk openly from the heart to God. He did not mean to say these exact words as Catholics interpret it, nor that we should repeat it minute after minute or day after day (word for word) thinking then God will then hear and answer us. When this is done our words which are suppose to be from the heart become less meaningful. *"Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"* Is important as God's will is not the same for everyone. *"Give us this day our daily bread"* is also important as he does not tell us to bless us beyond what we can imagine but ! give us our needs each and every day. Shortly after, Jesus corrected the people in this same sermon by saying *"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"* *"For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things."* But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Mt. 6:31-33) He gave no specific

prayer to receive all God has for us, we asked only to follow him and walk in his ways and God will meet our needs.

James 5:16 says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." Jabez's prayer was one of a righteous man, as were many others, but it was not the prayer itself that accomplished the answer. To me Wilkinson seems to be presenting Jabez's prayer as a sanctified incantation that can *guarantee us blessings*. On p.15 he states "*I want to show you just how dramatically each of Jabez's requests can release something miraculous in your life.*" On pg.16 Wilkinson cites men who have prayed the same prayer of Jabez for 15, 10 and 5 years with similar results.

I find the real problem with Wilkinson's concept is not in Jabez's prayer in and of itself but in what he explains will happen from ones praying it. The prayer was not wrong for Jabez, but if used the way Wilkinson portrays it he is th! en making it a means to an end. It is like one word faith teacher put it, "writing your own ticket with God." The problem is that people who are looking for a neatly packaged regiment latch onto formulas offered under the guise of biblical stories. I can't completely fault Wilkinson for saying this as he is only appealing to state of the church today.

The offer he presents goes like this "*Think of it this way: Instead of standing near the river's edge, asking for a cup of water to get you through each day, you'll do something unthinkable you will take the little prayer with the giant prize and jump into the river! At that moment, you will begin to let the loving currents of God's grace and power carry you along. God's great plan for you will surround you and sweep you forward into the profoundly important and satisfying life He has waiting. If that is what you want, keep reading.*" (p.17) Are we standing at the rivers edge grateful for the crumbs? Actually I have found more people today think that they deserve it all then not. But we need to be careful of making any prayer a sanctified mantra. The true test would be to try this with a whole population that is persecuted for their faith and see the results. He goes on saying "What if you found out God intended to send twenty three specific blessings today but you got only one."(p.25) "*God really does have unclaimed blessings waiting for you, my friend.*" (p.17)

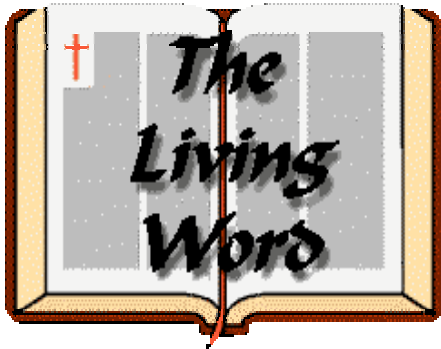
In other words he is saying it is God's will to give what we will ask, he's waiting for you. In other words we don't have because we have not asked. Which is exactly what he says "Ask," promised Jesus, "and it will be given to you" (Matthew 7:7). "You do not have because you do not ask," said James (James 4:2). Even though there is no limit to God's goodness, if you didn't ask Him for a blessing yesterday, you didn't get all that you were supposed to have. "*That's the catch-if you don't ask for His blessing, you forfeit those that come to you only when you ask.*"(p.27) He explains this as a father honored to have a "*child beg for his blessing*" he is delighting to generously give to you "*what you covet the most.*" Do you mean to tell us that God does not give us his goodness by his grace that ! we MUST repetitively ask for it? Especially what we want! That he has all these things to give us but we are not asking for them. Of course we are told to ask and pray but for what? What we want. Any father who sees his child doing what is right blesses him without his asking. I have a problem with this idea whatever you want most you get. Again any father who is training a child in righteousness will not indiscriminately give them whatever they want. Ever have your child want ice cream just before dinner. You know if you gave them this it would spoil their appetite. I don't find this counsel as wisdom but spoiling a child. Imagine a God who gives us everything we want no matter what. Many of us should be thankful that He did not respond to our certain "selfish" prayers as he knew what was best for us.

The James passage he used is piggy backed to the other of Jesus' but it is taken from the context of "we do not have because we ask amiss." In other words for ourselves- wrong motives, which is exactly what he is encouraging. So I'm surprised he would use this as a validation. He asks "*is it possible God wants you to be more selfish in your prayers? I've met so many earnest Christians who take it as a sign of immaturity to think such thoughts.*" He goes on to say that we think it is impolite or greedy to ask for too many blessings. John 14:13-15 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. "If you love Me, keep My commandments." There is the bottom line. If your walking correctly you will not ask amiss f! or self but for the things of God, then he will be glorified.

[UPDATE: Since the original publishing of this article in August 2005 it has come to the attention of the staff at His Will Ministry that this article may have been and most likely was authored by Mike Oppenheimer director of Let Us Reason ministries. At the time of this retraction neither party has proven to be the author. But in all fairness to Mr. Oppenheimer we note the probability that he is the author. His web address is \[www.letusreason.org\]\(http://www.letusreason.org\). Our acknowledgement of Mr. Oppenheimer's possible authorship and his web site should in no way be considered an endorsement or a opposition to Mr. Oppenheimer's](#)

*Ministry. We are just stating the current facts concerning the authorship of the above article.*

## THE BOOK



We search the whole world wide for truth,  
We glean the golden stalks of our youth,

We search the graven stone and written scroll,  
We search the wild flowers of the soul,

We are taught that truth is relative, they say,  
That truth is not really for us today,

They say it is nothing but a state of mind,  
Those who teach us that are blind,

We live our lives out in this endless quest,  
Always searching, for part of us will not rest,

While truth and morality are cast aside,  
Society once vibrant has decayed and died,

We read books to see what the sages said,  
And glean some truth from what we've read,

So many of us fail in our quest, to take a look,  
At the gilded pages of the Finest Book,

The Book penned on those ancient scrolls,  
That holds the answers for our searching souls,

The living water flows from it and every line,  
Is inspired by Love, and breathed Divine,

God's Word is precious in whole or in part,  
I thank Him for writing it on my fleshy heart.

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**John 3:16 (NLT)**

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it. <sup>18</sup>“There is no judgment awaiting those who trust him. But those who do not trust him have already been judged for not believing in the only Son of God.”