



CHRIST'S CHURCH
OF THE CANYON

Mid-Week Devotion
December 6, 2020

“The prayer of Jabez”

Remember when the “Prayer of Jabez” swept through Christian circles and especially churches starting in 2000? Man, everybody was reading Dr. Bruce Wilkinson’s book, “The prayer of Jabez.” I think like lots of things in life there’s a great motivation and in this case, to get extra blessings from God that sometimes those motivations go hay-wire. I’m sure many people read the book and used the concepts as shortcuts to getting something from God: being nice equals rewards from God *preferably tangible rewards*. That’s what American Christians want, right? A fast track to more stuff. So, does obedience to God, no matter the motivation lead to extra blessings? From a Biblical perspective, in a word, no. But God does connect blessings of all kinds with obedience to Him. The Old Testament is filled with that specific dynamic. Read Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Psalm 91: 14-15; Isaiah 58; 131-14 if you don’t believe me. If there is a correlation between His blessing us and our obedience to Him it behooves us to look more intensely into the subject. Hey, I like blessings as much as the next guy! But maybe God defines blessing(s) differently than we do. And maybe just maybe the blessings He offers are SO much more incredible than we could ever think of or imagine! Like salvation. Or, because as children honoring parents is key to a blessed life in the areas of better relationships, less conflict, and more trust. Is that possible? What if a teenager decides to honor God’s Word and avoid sexual immorality? What’s the blessing? How about less complicated romantic relationships, fewer heartaches, and an absence if STD’s! That’s a no-brainer. What if people used God’s Word as an instruction manual or a playbook? Don’t you think that we’d end up with a better product and more success in whatever we’re doing? I was tasked to put together a new office desk a bunch of years ago. Literally, there were 100’s of pieces and parts. And, like any man, “I don’t need no stinking instructions!” I ended up with a product that may have looked like a desk, smelled like a desk, and even felt like a desk, but nothing worked on it. Drawers didn’t pull out. The thing wobbled when I sat behind it. One leg was longer than the other. Plus, I had a ton of leftover parts. Hey, it was made in China.

They need more parts than we do, I thought.

God will and does bless us, according to His Word when we do what He asks. There are no shortcuts and He can’t be manipulated. But He is a good father and wants us successful in this life as *He* defines success.

James 1:17 says,

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” (NIV).

Reminders

- Both Sunday services are scheduled for this Sunday at 9AM and 11AM on the basketball court at the old church.
- We have several upcoming events, and we’d like to borrow your outdoor heaters, if you don’t mind? Please bring them to the services on Sunday with your name attached.
- Let’s keep Christmas, Christmas this year and keep it holy.

See you Sunday,

Pr. Wayne