

pray

#10 "HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR FUTURE" - PART 1

• Ephesians 5:16

• Hebrews 4:7

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 (NIV) 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.

D = Decide to be done with the things that are diminishing and destroying your life.

Haggai 1:6, 7 (NIV) "You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways."

Luke 15:11-18 (NIV) Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him

anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.'"

A = Be prepared to honestly admit the things God wants addressed in your life.

Jabez was very specific in his prayer. He knew, strategically, what needed to be addressed:

- ▶ His "curses." = **"Bless me!"**
- ▶ His "limitations." = **"Enlarge me!"**
- ▶ His "weaknesses." = **"Let Your hand be with me."**
- ▶ His "vulnerabilities." = **"Keep me from harm."**
- ▶ His "pain." = **"Free me from pain."**