

REMAIN IN CHRIST – Zanga Schutte, January 15, 2023

The Prayer of Jabez - Expand My Territory Jabez understood an eternal truth, that God is the one who opens doors, gives favor, provides, and protects.

Pray To God - Matthew 7:7 NIV “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

Prayer is the greatest of all forces, because it honors God and brings Him into active aid.

1 Chronicles 4:10 NIV 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.**

REMAIN IN CHRIST

John 15:5 NIV “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Notes: Remaining in Christ requires us to be **fully connected to Jesus moment by moment.**

It means: **(1) believing that he is God’s Son (2) following him as Savior and Lord (3) doing what God says (4) continuing to believe the gospel (5) Love each other as Christ Loves us**

5 Points:

1. Believing that He is God’s Son - 1 John 4:15-16 NIV ¹⁵ If anyone **acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.** ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

Notes: When we become Christians, **we receive the Holy Spirit.** God’s **presence in our lives** is proof that **we really belong to him**

2. Following Him as Savior and Lord - John 1:12-13 NIV ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who **believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—** ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, **but born of God.**

Notes: Through faith in Jesus, this new birth **changes us from the inside out—rearranging our attitudes, desires, and motives.**

3. Doing what God says - 1 John 3:23-24 NIV ²³ And this is his command: **to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,** and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: **We know it by the Spirit he gave us.**

Notes: **Our conduct** verifies his presence. **To pattern our life** after Christ’s, and to become **more like him**

4. Continuing to believe the gospel - 1 John 2:24-25 NIV ²⁴ As for you, see that **what you have heard from the beginning remains in you.** If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is what he promised us—**eternal life.**

Notes: We need to **grow in the correct knowledge of the Lord,** to **deepen our understanding** through **careful study,** and to **teach the truth to others.** No matter how much we learn, however, **we must never abandon the basic truths about Christ as found in his Word.**

5. Love each other as Christ Loves us - John 15:9-12 NIV ⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ **If you keep my commands,** you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that **my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.** ¹² My command is this: **Love each other as I have loved you.**

Luke 18:27 NIV Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”