

I Need An Answer Part 2: Turning Pain Into Promise

*"Pray in the Spirit in **every situation**. Use **every kind** of prayer and request there is."*
Ephesians 6:18 GW

*"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**." 1 Chronicles 4:9-10 NIV*

Labeled By Pain

- ✓ **Messed up**
- ✓ **Stupid**
- ✓ **Racist**
- ✓ **Communist**

Jabez was **labeled by pain** but **pursued the promise** of God instead.

We must refuse **negative labels** and **pursue the promise** of God.

Turning Pain Into Promise

1. Pray for blessing. *"Oh that you would **bless me**..." 1 Chronicles 4:10 NIV*

*"You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you **stoop down to make me great**." Psalm 18:35 NIV*

*"I will **bless you**...and you will be a **blessing to others**." Genesis 12:2 NLT*

Lord, **give me** more than I need so I can **be a blessing** to the world around me.

2. Pray for influence. "...**enlarge** my territory..." 1 Chronicles 4:10 NIV

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the **hope to which he has called you**, the riches of his glorious **inheritance** in the saints."
Ephesians 1:18 NIV

"Ask me, and I will make the **nations** your **inheritance**, the ends of the earth your possession."
Psalm 2:8 NIV

Lord, **show me** your purpose for my life so I can live a life **bigger** than my own.

3. Pray for presence. "Let **your hand** be with me..." 1 Chronicles 4:10 NIV

"The **Lord's hand was with them** and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord."
Acts 11:21 NIV

"Then Moses said to him, "If your **Presence** does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people **unless you go with us**? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked."" Exodus 33:15-17 NIV

Lord, **be with me** because what you've called me to is **too big** for me.

4. Pray for protection. "...and **keep me** from harm." 1 Chronicles 4:10 NIV

"The **devil** is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may **devour**." 1 Peter 5:8 NIV

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us." Romans 8:35-37 NIV

"And do not lead us into temptation, but **deliver us** from the evil one." Matthew 6:13 NIV

Lord, **strengthen me** in and **protect me** from every attack of the enemy.

Prayer is where we begin to **turn our pain** into the **promise of God**.