

Abundant Gifts

by Cathy Batson

In 1 Chronicles 4:9-10, we find a short prayer uttered by an obscure man:

Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother named him '**Jabez**' saying, 'Because I bore him with pain. Now, **Jabez** called on the God of Israel saying, 'Oh, Lord, bless me indeed and expand my territory.'

This prayer for blessing and growth reminds me daily that even pain is a gift, giving voice to my silent screams, opening my mind even when I'm



not aware that I've checked out. What was meant to be a reminder of pain was actually the gift that kept on giving for Jabez.

Each time I pray this prayer the gifts abound, often times unbeknownst to me. God showers me with gifts (bless-

ings) that come via open doors, a phone call from a friend "just to say I love you," my pastors reaching out to say "we miss you," promotions, and more. The list is endless.

God continues to enlarge my territory and reminds me that I am a gift, indeed, gifts are all around me. All I need to do is look, listen, ask.

And so it is...