

## Characteristics of paradoxical heroes

Jabez was a better man than his brothers, a man of honor. His mother had named him Jabez (Oh, the pain!), saying “A painful birth! I bore him in great pain!” Jabez prayed to the God of Israel: “Bless me, O bless me! Give me land, large tracts of land. And provide your personal protection-don’t let evil hurt me.” God gave him what he asked.

**1 Chronicles 4: 9-10 (MSG)**

- **Heroes choose to see themselves the way God sees them**

This is what he (that is God) says in the book of Hosea: The people who were not mine I will call “My People”. The nation that I did not love I will call “My Beloved”. And in the very place where they were told, “you are not my people,” they will be called the children of the living God.”So we say that the Gentiles, who were not trying to put themselves right with God, were put right with him through faith. **Romans 9: 25-26,30 (GNB)**

Heroes: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Heroes believe God can still answer their greatest prayers even in their greatest pain**

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us...

**Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)**

Heroes \_\_\_\_\_

- **Heroes cry out for a miracle to be a miracle for someone else**

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. The king will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” **Matthew 25: 35-36, 40 (NIV)**

Heroes \_\_\_\_\_

- **Heroes stay in faith to see God do it anyway even when others say there is no way**

Let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest. So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith.

**Galatians 6: 9-10 (GNB)**

Heroes \_\_\_\_\_

- **Heroes honor the past while remaining ferociously loyal to the future**

Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might acts to all who are to come.

**Psalms 71: 18 (NIV)**

Heroes \_\_\_\_\_

*Additional Notes:*