

WRESTLING WITH GOD

Genesis 32:22-32

When It Comes to Life-Change....

Sometimes God has to initiate a "WRESTLING MATCH" with us in order to change us for His glory!

Four Phases God Uses to Change Us:

1. A CRISIS: We Struggle with God!

Genesis 32:22-25 Hosea 12:3

What is your biggest conflict or problem in life?

- Will I TRUST God in this situation?

- Will I OBEY God in this situation?

2. A COMMITMENT: We Won't Give Up!

Genesis 32:26 Galatians 6:9

3. A CONFESSION: We Admit We Are the Problem!

Genesis 32:27

The Name Jacob Means:

"deceiver, manipulator or usurper"

What would your name be if you were named after your biggest character flaw?

4. A CONVERSION: We Are Given a New Identity!

Genesis 32:28-32 I Corinthians 5:17

- God gives Jacob a spiritual BLESSING by changing his name from "Jacob" to "Israel".

- God gives Jacob a physical REMINDER of his experience by dislocating his hip and causing him to walk with a limp.

The Significance of Jacob's Limp:

1. It stopped his lifelong pattern of RUNNING from his problems.

2. It is a daily reminder that he must DEPEND on God.

Let's Put It into Practice – Four Personal Questions...

- In what areas are you struggling with God?** In what areas do you know the right thing but you just keep ignoring God?

- In what areas have you felt like giving up?** Before you give up, will you first give it over to God and seek His help along with the help of others?

- What do you need to admit about yourself?** When are you going to face the truth about yourself? Fill in the blank: "I am a _____"

- Will you let Christ give you a new identity?** God sees your potential and in His power you don't have to stay the same!