

God Wants A Changed Man!



Leap

of FAITH

Hebrews 11:1



Genesis 32:24–31 (NKJV)

24 Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.

25 Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.

26 And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

27 So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob."

28 And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

29 Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell me Your name, I pray.” And He said, “Why is it that you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there.

30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: “For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.”

31 Just as he crossed over Penuel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.

- God wants a changed man or woman who He can trust more and do more for!
- Change is not always easy, but is necessary for God to bless us like He wants to bless us.
- There could be a promise hovering over our lives. However, we may never gain the promise, because we are holding on to old ways that are not conducive to the blessing God. He wants us to have the blessing, but we are not willing to change!

- Many of us are the reason we are not where God wants us to be.
- Through the power of Jesus Christ, there is much more available to Christians, but we have to submit to the plan of God to receive the blessings!
- As Christians, we do not have to live in fear, but we must be willing to submit to God in order to receive the blessings He has for our lives. We will not get what the Lord has for us until we surrender to His will!



- You have to surrender! You can not continue as you are, you must change!
- Many of us know this story of Jacob whose name was changed to Israel after an encounter with God!
- Many of us can relate to not changing until we had a God moment, and those moments are not always as glamorous as some make it out to be!

- Jacob had that moment when he was returning home after twenty years, and was going back to the place where he tricked his brother out of his birthright, and tricked his father in order to get what God said was his when he was born!

Genesis 25:23 (NKJV)

And the LORD said to her: “Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger.”

- Listen when God speaks a word to bless you, don't allow your flesh to get ahead of God, and start using deception and lies to fulfill God's promise in your life!
- God does not need any help!
- Don't contaminate your blessing by getting your flesh involved with God's promise. Allow the spirit of God to bring it to pass.

John 3:6 (NKJV)

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

- We want spiritual blessings and God does not need our help. He is returning home with the same fear, and the same spirit of trickery. By now he should know better, so God set him up for a change!

God Isolates You To Deal With You



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Genesis 32:22–24 (NKJV)

22 And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok.

23 He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had.

24 Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.

- This is when God does His best work with us.
- It is the moment when you and I cannot be interrupted with life but we have to face God all by ourselves.
- God has a wonderful way of allowing others to drop off and be nowhere around when you need to face Him, and who you are!
- When we're alone, we can't escape into other people's hearts and minds and be distracted; we have to live with ourselves and face ourselves.



- Now Jacob was left alone, and when we're alone and at the end of our resources, God can then come to us and do something in us and for us.
- British essayist Walter Savage Landor called solitude "*the audience-chamber of God,*" and he was right.
- God meets us at whatever level He finds us, in order to lift us to where He wants us to be.

- God's plan is to not leave you in the condition He finds you in!
- **To Abraham the pilgrim, God came as a traveler (Gen. 18);**
- **and to Joshua the general, He came as a soldier (Josh. 5:13–15).**
- Jacob had spent most of his adult life wrestling with people—Esau, Isaac, Laban, and even his wives—so God came to him as a wrestler.
- It is God's turn to wrestle, you have been wrestling with everyone else including yourself.

Psalm 18:26 (NKJV)

With the pure You will show Yourself pure;
And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd.

- At Bethel, God had promised to bless Jacob; and from a material point of view, the promise was fulfilled, for Jacob was now a very wealthy man.
- God has faithfully blessed many of us, and He did what He told us He would do. The question is, are we being faithful or are we operating in our old nature?

- If you are operating in your old nature, know that God is going to meet you on the mat, and some of you are in a match right now!
- You can't sleep at night, it is God!
- You can't rest, it is God!
- Listen there is much more to the blessings of God than material wealth!
- Jacob there's much more to the blessing of God than flocks, herds, and servants; there's also the matter of godly character and spiritual influence.

Psalm 37:4–5 (NKJV)

4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

- During that “*dark night of the soul*,” Jacob discovered that he’d spent his life fighting God and resisting His will, and that the only way to victory was through surrender.
- Something needs to change in you.
- That is why God is wrestling with you, and you are wrestling with God!

When We Are Alone With God That Is An Opportunity To Change.



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Genesis 32:25–29 (NKJV)

25 Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.

26 And He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!”

27 So He said to him, “What is your name?”
He said, “Jacob.”

28 And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

29 Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell me Your name, I pray.” And He said, “Why is it that you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there.

- As A.W. Tozer said, “The Lord cannot fully bless a man until He has first conquered him.” God conquered Jacob by weakening him.
- More than anything else, Jacob wanted the blessing of the Lord on his life; and for this holy desire, he’s to be commended.
- But before we can begin to be like the Lord, we have to face ourselves and admit what we are in ourselves.

- That's why the Lord asked him, "What is your name?"
- As far as the Genesis record is concerned, the last time Jacob was asked that question, he told a lie!

- His father asked, “Who are you, my son?” and Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn” (27:18–19, NKJV).
- **The Lord didn’t ask the question in order to get information, because He certainly knew Jacob’s name and that Jacob had the reputation of being a schemer and a deceiver.**
- “What is your name?” meant, “Are you going to continue living up to your name, deceiving yourself and others; or will you admit what you are and let Me change you?”

- In the Bible, receiving a new name signifies making a new beginning, and this was Jacob's opportunity to make a fresh start in life.

Genesis 17:4–5 (NKJV)

4 “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.

5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

John 1:40–42 (NKJV)

40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ).

42 And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

- The explanation in Genesis 32:28 is that Jacob had gained power because he prevailed. He lost the battle but won the victory!
- **By seeking God's blessing and finally being weakened and forced to yield, he had become a "God-empowered prince."**
- **The new name God gave him was "Israel," from a Hebrew word that means "to struggle"; but scholars aren't agreed on what the name signifies.**

2 Corinthians 12:7–10 (NKJV)

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- God had to weaken Jacob to bless him even greater.
- There are times God will use some extreme measures to get our attention. He needs us to be changed men and women, so he can bless us with the next level!
- Jacob your walk will change, when I am through with you!
- You will limp, but you will walk worthy of your call!

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord,
beseech you to walk worthy of the calling
with which you were called,

- When you are alone, you need to change.