

THE FIGHT OF A LIFETIME

Genesis 32:24-31

If we can't be led spiritually, the Lord will communicate with us in a language we can understand by touching us in the physical level.

Alone With God

"Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day" (v24).

Unless we end up being alone with God, we will never discover our nothingness, and His almightiness.

When Jacob came face to face with God a fight ensued. The Lord started the fight, and it could have been over very quickly, but the Lord wanted Jacob to prevail.

In His forbearance God perseveres with us. O the wonder of the infinite patience of God! How it speaks of the power of God over Himself!

Broken By God

Jacob would not surrender in his fight against God. What a remarkable depiction of the flesh fighting the Spirit of God! But how long can flesh resist God and win?

Finally, when they had wrestled all night, and Jacob wasn't giving up, the Man touched the socket of Jacob's thigh and crippled him and his strength was depleted.

At 98 years of age God brought him to the place of utter, absolute, complete brokenness and dependence. There is no blessedness without brokenness. Men throw away things that are broken, but God does not use anything that has not been broken first.

Blessed By God

The Man said to this crippled man, *"Let me go."* Ironically, the word "Jacob" means "that which grabs, that which holds." Jacob was still grabbing and holding, but this time, for the first time in his life, he got a hold of the Lord.

God said, *"Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel: for you have struggled with God and men, and have prevailed"* (v28). His victory with God involved the certainty of his power with men. Jacob gained the victory through confession.

He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy (Prov. 28:13).

He admitted the truth; he confessed he was Jacob (and not Esau). In other words what he was really acknowledging was, my name is, "Sinner."

He prevailed by surrendering. When we are vanquished, we are victors. When we are weak we are strong.

God wanted to bless Jacob, not hurt him. He knocked him down that he might raise him up stronger. God crippled him that he might crown him. God broke him that he might bless him.

When God saves and apprehends a man, He pursues him with unrelenting perseverance with the sole purpose of blessing him.

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil.1:6).

"The sun rose on him" (v31). The sun rising over his head is symbolic of things being settled with God. The sun of God's light and power will immediately rise upon us when we have yielded ourselves entirely to the holy will of God.

Leaning On God

The rest of his life, Jacob had to use a crutch. Hebrews 11:21 says: *"By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped leaning upon the top of his staff."*

Here he was 147 years old and still leaning. Jacob had finally learned to lean. He realized that he was stronger leaning than he was standing on his own two feet (*Adrian Rogers*). He worshipped leaning. Think about it! Jacob was broken, and he thanked God for it.

No one can remain the same as before after he has seen God. To see Jesus is to see God. *He who has seen Me has seen the Father (John 14.9).*

Soli Deo Gloria