



The Art of Hanging On

Genesis 32:24-32

The Question: Fight or surrender?

Jacob *recognized* that God is engaging and capable of blessing. vv 24-29

- God wrestles with us, He is engaging. v 24
- God is “the greater” Who blesses us, “the lesser(s).” vv 27-29.
- God sometimes blesses self-sufficient people by turning them into limping people. v 25

Jacob *related* to God with unrelenting engagement. vv 24-26, 29, 30

- Jacob was alone at night and injured and still he clung to God.

Israel *responded* to God with confession and submission. v 27

- Jacob submitted by giving his name.
- Jacob confessed that he was a “heel-grabber.”

The Core Truth: We gain God’s spiritual blessing...when we engage Him relentlessly and abandon self-sufficiency.

Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

The Core Truth: We gain God’s spiritual blessing...when we engage Him relentlessly and abandon self-sufficiency.

Please read: Genesis 32:24-32 each day this week.

- **Today.** What kind of man has Jacob been as a “heel-grabber” for his entire life? What kind of person have you been by nature during your life?
- **Monday.** Why did God wrestle with Jacob? What does that say about God? How has God “wrestled” with you?
- **Tuesday.** What is the point of God injuring Jacob? In what way was the injury good for Jacob? In what ways have you been injured and now see good has come from it?
- **Wednesday.** When Jacob told God his name he was in essence saying, “I confess that I am a heel-grabber who is continually deceiving and defrauding and grabbing from others.” Why did Jacob give his name and how does this passage demonstrate the personal transformation in Jacob?
- **Thursday.** God gave Jacob the new name of Israel meaning “God fights.” What is the significance of that name for Jacob, now Israel? What is the significance of “God fights” for you personally? How has God fought for you?
- **Friday.** Jacob abandoned his self-sufficiency. In what ways do you need to abandon self-sufficiency and throw yourself on God?
- **Saturday.** To be ready for tomorrow please read Mark 14:3-9 and reflect on the actions of Mary and the meaning of the passage and the applications for your own life. When I am unwilling to serve I have not seen God as He is.

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.