



**“Wrestling With God Until We Are Changed”
(Genesis 31-32)
February 6, 2022 Pastor Robert Reid**

INTRODUCTION

Do we rely upon the motto, “God helps those who help themselves?” Sounds like a great idea until we realize that God has designed us to live differently. Jacob was a man that has relied upon his own resources, his shrewdness and his ability to control situations for the greater part of his life. He needed to learn a powerful lesson that his strength and his reliance must be on the Lord. For this to happen God put him in a wrestling ring and let him come to the end of his resources. In that moment he discovered he needed to rely upon God for his power and direction. The Apostle Paul made this significant discovery in his own life and declared what God revealed to him, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.’ So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me” (2 Corinthians 12:9 NLT). A. W. Tozer wrote, “The Lord cannot fully bless a man until He has first conquered him.” This we learn today in our study.

FOCUS - Wrestling with God is futile but sometimes necessary to discover how weak we really are and how necessary it is to submit to God.

I. Discoveries Jacob made before the wrestling match

Gen. 31:1 – 32:2

A. God reveals his will (3a)

30:25-26

B. God promises his presence (3b) “I will be with you”

28:13-15

C. God prepares the way (4-16)

D. God confirms his care (22-30)

E. God makes his presence known (32:1-2)

Follow-up
thoughts to
explore later.

SECOND NOTICE

II. Doubts Jacob manifested before the wrestling match

Gen. 32:3-20

A. Seen in his emotional state (1-7a)

B. Seen in his mental maneuvering (7b-21)

THIRD NOTICE

III. Development Jacob experienced during the wrestling match

HOW this development took place...

Gen. 32:22-32

A. Wrestled alone (22-24a)

B. Wrestled an opponent he could not defeat (24b)

Hosea 12:2-6

C. Wrestled for a prolong time (24c-25a)

D. Wrestled until he was made weak (25b)

E. Wrestled until he was changed (26-32)

FURTHER REFLECTION OR ACTION

1. What are some of the things you have been wrestling with in your life?

Perhaps: ♦broken family relationships; ♦health crisis; ♦strained friendships; ♦job uncertainties; ♦aging issues; ♦financial challenges. See that dark time and the wrestling with God as a time of development. You very easily will come out of this time a changed person.

2. QUOTE to consider: "That is the lesson God was teaching him – that not by wrestling but by clinging was the blessing to be obtained. We are not to contend with God to seek to have our way; we are rather to yield our wills and seek blessing by loving submission" (Miller 172).

3. A Bible verse to memorize this week is found in 2 Corinthians 12:9. Write that verse on a piece of paper and put it in a place that you will see it frequently throughout the day. How about your cell phone?

Follow along with today's sermon using your smartphone. Download the "CMBC" app (search for "Calvary Monument" in your app store) and click on "Sundays" at the bottom of the screen.