

Desperation and Faith



Scripture

- **Genesis 32:24-30**

²⁴ Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.

²⁵ When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob’s thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, “Let me go, for the dawn is breaking.” But he

said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” ²⁷ So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” ²⁸ He said, “Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed.” ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him and said, “Please tell me your name.”

But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And he blessed him there.

³⁰ So Jacob named the place Peniel, for *he said*, “I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved.”

Other Scriptures

- 1 John 5:14
- Romans 9:13
- Gen. 27:1-40
- Titus 3:5
- Matt. 5:3
- Matt. 11:12

Main Points

- When we pray according to God’s will, we can be confident that He will hear and answer us.
- God loved Jacob.
 - Jacob means “Supplanter” or “Holder of the Heel”.
 - Jacob was morally deficient at times.
 - Jacob’s God is your God; The God who loved Jacob loves you!
 - Jacob’s story is in the Torah-the first five books of the Bible.
- Prayer is the lifeline we have to God. Prayer is to our spirit what air is to our body.

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- Jacob is about to meet his brother, with whom he was estranged. He needed God's help.
 - The first foundation of Jacob's prayer is desperation.
 - God will answer you according to your desperation.
 - He honors a holy violence over the spiritual kingdoms.
 - The second foundation of Jacob's prayer is faith.
 - We can make demands on God based on faith in what He has said He is and does in His Word.
 - This is NOT controlling God, but taking Him at His Word.
- Being poor in spirit means recognizing that we're empty without receiving God's fullness.
- Don't set your spiritual bar based on how others around you are living.
- We enter into the fullness of God's blessings through prayer.
 - We contend for the blessing in prayer.
 - It is not based on perfection, but passion. You may not be perfect but if you desire and hunger for God you are qualified.
 - We have to believe that God will bless us.
- Because of your relationship with Jesus, He loves you and His favor is on you.
- You can be confident that as you contend for the fullness of God's Word, it will come to pass in your life.
- God's desire is to bless you!

Discussion Questions

1. Does the realization that God loved Jacob even though he was not perfect help you realize the love that God the father has for you as you seek hard after Him?

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2. Think of Jacob's situation for a moment. He had been separated from his family and was at odds with them due to his own acts of trickery. He fully expected that his brother would attempt to get even with him and his family. Jacob turned to God with desperation for His help, confident in God's ability to help him. How can we demonstrate to God our desperation and faith as we come to Him in prayer? What are some things you already know God has said He will do for His children? Don't just examine the material world, but what has God said He will do spiritually? Begin to take God at His Word and pray for those things in your situation.

3. What are some areas that you know you have set your bar too low based on what you see in others around you and how they are living for God? What needs to be changed in your life today?

4. Begin today to contend for the fullness of God's Word. What will it look like in your life?