

FACE TO FACE

Jacob's Encounter

Genesis 32: 24-31

The Why

- (1) We need a real **relationship** and not a regular **ritual**.

*They will **act religious**, but they will neglect the power that could make them godly. (2 Timothy 3:5, NLT)*

- (2) We need a powerful **experience** and not a persuasive **explanation**.

*I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and **persuasive words**, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's **power**, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. (1 Corinthians 2:3-5, NIV)*

The How

- (1) It will take a new **strength**.

*So Jacob was left alone, and a man **wrestled** with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not **overpower** him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that **his hip was wrenched** as he wrestled with the man. (Genesis 32:24-25, NIV)*

Until we cease trying to make it on our own **strength, we will not encounter God's **strength**.**

*He gives strength to the weary and increases the **power** of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their **strength**. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:29-31, NIV)*

The Prayer: Lord, **take** me.

- (2) It will take a new **focus**.

*Then the man said, "Let me **go**, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you **bless** me." The man asked him, "What is your **name**?" "**Jacob**," he answered. (Genesis 32:26-27, NIV)*

Until we stop focusing on what want God to do **for us, we will never discover what God can do **in** us.**

*For it is God who **works in you** to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. (Philippians 2:13, NIV)*

The Prayer: Lord, **show** me.

- (3) It will take a new **identity**.

*Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but **Israel**, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have **overcome**." (Genesis 32:28, NIV)*

Until you are willing to be face the **reality about who you are, you will not encounter the **reality** of who God is.**

*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing **a new thing**! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:18-19, NIV)*

The Prayer: Lord, **change** me.

- (4) It will take a new **direction**.

*Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "**Why** do you ask my name?" Then he **blessed** him there. (Genesis 32:29, NIV)*

Until we let God choose the **way of blessing, we will never experience the blessing of God's **way**.**

*You make known to me the **path** of life; you will fill me with **joy in your presence**, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. (Psalm 16:11, NIV)*

The Prayer: Lord, **lead** me.

- (5) It will take a new **surrender**.

*So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God **face to face**, and yet my life was spared." The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was **limping** because of his hip. (Genesis 32:30-31, NIV)*

Until you **surrender to God, you will never encounter **victory** with God.**

***Humble** yourselves before the Lord, and he will **lift** you up. (James 4:10, NIV)*

The Prayer: Lord, **rule** me.