

# WRESTLING WITH GOD

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GENESIS 32

## MAIN TAKEAWAY

The best thing we can do is surrender to God's will—His plans are better!

## INTRODUCTION

**What is the most frustrating line you've had to wait in, and how did you handle it?  
How does impatience impact you spiritually—how do you wait for God's timing?**

**Jacob had to wait on God, but his waiting became wrestling. After encountering God, his wrestling turned into nestling and his resisting into resting. Why is wrestling with God not necessarily a bad thing?**

## UNDERSTANDING

### READ GENESIS 32:24–30

***Jacob wrestled with God (Hosea 12:3–4). Pastor Greg explained this as a Christophany—an appearance of Jesus in the Old Testament. What does this story reveal about God's character and how He relates to us?***

**Jacob took matters into his own hands. Pastor Greg explained, "When we get tired of praying, we start scheming and make a mess of things." How can we avoid growing impatient in prayer? How can we persevere in prayer (Luke 18:1)?**

***God revealed Himself to Jacob in a way he understood. Pastor Greg said, "God meets us at whatever level He finds us and lifts us to where He wants us to be." Jacob walked away from his encounter with God with a blessing and a limp. In what ways does God use weakness or hardship to bring us closer to Him?***

***God gave Jacob a new name—God does not just see you for what you are, but for what you can become. How does God see differently than we do? What does this teach us about God's power to transform our identity?***

***In surrendering to God's plan, Jacob found what he always wanted: the very blessing he asked God for. How does this reveal a paradox—"we win by losing" (Luke 17:33)? How does this give you perspective about God's plans?***

***Time showed that Jacob was righteous and Esau was ungodly. What does this contrast reveal about what God values and the way we are to start and finish the race of life (Hebrews 12:12-17)?***

## **APPLICATION**

**Have you ever felt like you were "wrestling with God"—resisting His will, timing, or leading? What did God teach you through the experience?**

***We need to get away from all the distractions of life and get alone with God. How often do you spend undistracted time with God? How would you like to grow in the spiritual disciplines of seeking God in silence and solitude? How will this help you focus on God's presence and blessing?***

***When you get to the end of yourself, you get to the beginning of God. Are there any ways you are running from God rather than to Him? How can you remember that God is running to you (Luke 15:20)? What does surrender to God look like in your daily life?***

**Pastor Greg said, "God sees things differently than we do: we see failure, God sees potential; we see the past, God sees the future; we see sin, God sees restoration." How did this message encourage you to remember that God's plans are better?**

## **PRAYER**

Thank God for His perfect will. Pray for increased resolve to surrender to God's plans. Rest in His presence, seek His blessing, and trust His timing.