

**Series "In The Beginning...God"**  
**"Wrestling With God"**  
**Genesis 32:24-32**  
**Study-60**

**Jacob was brought to the point of having to be crippled because he would not surrender to God.**

**Genesis 28-35 Jacob's Life:**

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "God's Crippling Is The Secret Of Victory, Because In Weakness Lies God's Great Strength Of Dependence Upon Him."

**1. Verses 24-26 Jacob Met The Lord:**

**2. Verses 27-32 Jacob Met Himself:**

**1. Verses 24-26 Jacob Met The Lord:**

**Genesis 32:24 Then Jacob was left alone,**

**Context** – Jacob is returning home. He sent messengers, and his brother is coming to meet him with 400 men. Jacob sends elaborate gifts to buy his brother, then he splits up his family to minimize his brother's wrath. **Genesis 32:22-23**  
The name **Jabbok** – "*To pour out and make empty, wrestler*"

**Jacob was left alone,**

There are those times when we are all alone. **Genesis 28**

It was 20 years earlier when he was all alone, that God had an encounter with him.

**Moses was a man that God had to strip of all of his sufficiency.**

**David was a man that God had to strip of all of his sufficiency.**

**and a man wrestled with him**

**Who was this man that wrestled with Jacob?**

I don't think Jacob knew initially that it was supernatural.

Some suggest that Jacob thought it was someone from Esau's camp.

**This man was at least an angel. Genesis 18:1-2**

**Hosea Says An Angel But Much More: Hosea 12:3-5**

**"The Angel Of The Lord"** Which is called a "**Christophany**, or a **Theophany**" which is an appearance of Jesus Christ in the OT. Jesus appeared many times in the OT. **Verse 30 for he said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved."**

## **wrestled with him until daybreak**

This was God wrestling with Jacob. God initiated the match.

## **Why a wrestler? God always comes to us in the way we need Him.**

**Abraham** - was a pilgrim, God appeared to him as a traveler. **Genesis 18**

**Joshua** - general, God came as "The Captain of The Lord of Hosts"

**Joshua 5:13-15**

**It was a spiritual event. What happens in the physical can have a direct effect upon us in the spiritual.**

**What this is not: It is not Jacob wrestling with God in prayer!**

**Notice - and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.**

It was God that wrestled with him, not Jacob that wrestled with God.

(It is always God who initiates it) Jacob resisted.

**until daybreak.**

Some say that this could not be God because it would not take God all night to whip Jacob. It would not take much.

**God is longsuffering with us.**

**That He puts up with our resistance and fighting, 1 Timothy 1:15-16**

**Why was God wrestling with Jacob? "In weakness lies strength"**

To teach that the blessing, birthright, and the covenant blessings of God do not come through self-effort or works.

**The Key** - "Not by our strength, but through weakness and dependence on God."

**Divine Power: Genesis 32:25**

**When he (Lord) saw that he had not prevailed against him,**

Jacob would not give up!

**he touched the socket of his thigh;**

This is the hip socket, a ball-and-socket in the thigh, which is the most crucial joint in wrestling. We have great strength in the legs.

**Important: God never plays by our rules and God never loses!**

**God does what He pleases, and it is never wrong!**

**Jacob would not give up! God had no other alternative then for God to insert His Divine power. (Cripple Him) God had to touch the physical to get his attention in the spiritual. God will cripple us because He loves us.**

**2 Corinthians 4:17**

## **Verse 26 Human Helplessness:**

**Jacob Clings To God: Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking."**

**But he said, "I will not let you go Hosea 12:4**

**Jacob had the fight taken out of him. He was no longer fighting God, but all Jacob could do was cling to God.**

**Jacob Has Become A Changed Man:**

**"I will not let you go unless you bless me."**

## **2. Verses 27-32 Jacob Met Himself:**

**Genesis 32:27 "What is your name?"**

Why would God ask Jacob's name? Did God forget who he was?

God did not make a mistake here; He knew who Jacob was.

God does not ask stupid questions!

**"What is your name?" This is an important question because the last time Jacob was asked his name, Jacob lied about who he was!**

**Genesis 27:18-19**

**And he said, "Jacob."**

*"Supplanter, heal-catcher, cheater, trickster, rip-off"*

**God knew who Jacob was, but He was wanting Jacob to face up to the reality of who he really was a Schemer.**

**Did Jacob want to continue on this path, or would he allow God to have His way?**

**Genesis 32:28 "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel;**

*"One who is ruled, governed or controlled by God, fighter for God" or a "God Mastered Man." We become "God Mastered Man, Woman"*

**for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed."**

**"Jacob lost the battle but won the victory"**

**Genesis 32:29 But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?"**

*"Don't you know me by now? Forget the name and concentrate on the blessing"*

**And he blessed him there.**

After we have been broken, then can come the blessings.

**Genesis 32:30** The name **Peniel** - "**I have seen God face to face,**  
The gospel of John says **John 1:18**

**God face to face** – we are speaking of "*Fellowship, friendship and favor.*"

**yet my life has been preserved."**

Some think that seeing God's face will mean certain death.

That is not so, what it means is new life.

**Jacob had a new – Name**

**Jacob had a new – Walk**

**Jacob had a new – Relationship with God.**

**Genesis 32:31 and he was limping on his thigh.** This speaks of "**A New Walk**" World calls men like Jacob Cripples, Weak Christians!

One of Jacob's children or his wife would ask him how did you injure your leg?

*"The most wonderful thing happened, I fought with the Lord, and I lost!*

*That I thought I was a match for God, but I was wonderfully wrong!"*

**Genesis 32:32** This tradition that started was based on the reality of this event.

### **Application:**

1. God's Crippling Is The Secret Of Victory. It Is When We Come To The Realization That We Can't Win, We Can't Outwit God, And We Cling To God, Then God Can Do The Impossible Through Us. In Weakness Lies Strength.
2. God's Crippling Keeps Us Humble. Jacob's Defeat And Victory Were All In One.
3. When We Have An Encounter With God In Which We Surrender To God We Will Walk Differently.