

RUNNING TOWARD GRACE

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Genesis 28:1-9 ESV

Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women. Arise, go to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel your mother's father, and take as your wife from there one of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!" Thus Isaac sent Jacob away. And he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban, the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother. Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women," and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to Paddan-aram. So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father, Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife, besides the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth.

Genesis 25:23 ESV

And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger."

1. God's grace meets us in our running!

Proverbs 14:30 MSG

A sound mind makes for a robust body, but runaway emotions corrode the bones.

- **When we blow our lives up, God starts the rebuild of our lives with holiness and direction.**
- **Our excursion away from God's grace needs to end today!**

2. Obedience opens the door for transformation.

- What is God's next right step for my life?

Colossians 3:12-17 ESV

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- If my life isn't being transformed as a Christ follower, I may not be following Christ!

3. Rebellion always chases alternatives to God.

- Esau wanted the benefit of the blessing without the burden of obedience.
- Rebellion often looks like:
 - » Changing behavior without changing direction.
 - » Trying to impress God instead of trying to obey God.
 - » Doing religious things while avoiding true repentance.
- “I'm done running from God and now I'm running toward Him!”