

Marked
Down for the Count
April 25, 2021

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (MSG) Whenever, though, they turn to face God as Moses did, God removes the veil and there they are—**face-to-face!** They suddenly recognize that God is a living, **personal presence**, not a piece of chiseled stone. And when God is personally present, a living Spirit, that old, constricting legislation is recognized as obsolete. We're free of it! All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, **our lives gradually becoming brighter** and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.

Genesis 32:22-30 During the night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two servant wives, and his eleven sons and crossed the Jabbok River with them. After taking them to the other side, he sent over all his possessions. **This left Jacob all alone in the camp**, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket. Then the man said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!" But Jacob said, "**I will not let you go unless you bless me.**" "What is your name?" the man asked. He replied, "Jacob." "**Your name will no longer be Jacob,**" the man told him. "From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won." "Please tell me your name," Jacob said. "Why do you want to know my name?" the man replied. Then he blessed Jacob there. Jacob named the place Peniel (which means "face of God"), for he said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared."

Keys to a Wrestling Match with God:

1. Jacob was _____

Genesis 32:24 This left Jacob all alone in the camp...

1 Kings 19:11-12 "Go out and stand before me on the mountain," the Lord told him. And as Elijah stood there, the Lord passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but

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the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was **the sound of a gentle whisper**.

2. God allowed the _____

Genesis 32:24 ...and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break.

3 Types of Wrestling Matches:

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

Hebrews 3:7-8 That is why the Holy Spirit says, "Today when you hear his voice, **don't harden your hearts** as Israel did when they rebelled, when they tested me in the wilderness."

3. _____ is the path to victory

Genesis 32:28 "From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won."

4. A moment with God will leave you forever _____

Genesis 32:26-28 But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." "What is your name?" the man asked. He replied, "Jacob." "Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "From now on you will be called Israel..."

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. **You are royal priests**, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. "**Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people**, Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

Walk Away: God wants to move us all from a place of wrestling to _____.

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