

Abundant Life: Eternal Purpose: Carrying the Gift

We're called to carry the greatest gift of all, the glory of Jesus Christ in our lives!

Wrestling for what's ours!

Genesis 32:22-32 New Living Translation Jacob Wrestles with God

22 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. 23 After taking them to the other side, he sent over all his possessions. 24 This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break.

- In the season before a breakthrough you may feel alone.
- Separated from things.
- Then comes the wrestling.

25 When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket. 26 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." 27 "What is your name?" the man asked. He replied, "Jacob." 28 "Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "From now on you will be called Israel,[a] because you have fought with God and with men and have won."

29 "Please tell me your name," Jacob said. "Why do you want to know my name?" the man replied. Then he blessed Jacob there. 30 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." 31 The sun was rising as Jacob left Peniel,[b] and he was limping because of the injury to his hip. 32 (Even today the people of Israel don't eat the tendon near the hip socket because of what happened that night when the man strained the tendon of Jacob's hip.)

- Jacob grabbed God, someone greater than his brother's heel.

- He refused to let go until He was blessed, He wrestled with God all night.
- Are you going through a night season? It's time to wrestle until you win!
- God wants to change your identity and gift you with Himself, He desires to make you a carrier of His most precious gifts, His Son and His spirit.

Jacob (Ya'aqov)

- **Meaning:** "He will follow," "supplant," "heel-grabber".
- **Represents:** The human, often flawed, individual who struggles, deceives, and relies on his own cunning, like clinging to his brother's heel at birth.

Israel (Yisra'el)

- **Meaning:** "Strives with God," "God fights," "He struggles with God".
- **Represents:** A transformed identity, a spiritual victor, and the chosen people of God, a name signifying promise and a deeper connection to the Divine after wrestling with the angel/God at the Jabbok river.

Don't Give Up!

Galatians 6:7-9 New Living Translation

7 Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. 8 Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. 9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

- God cannot lie, but the enemy can!
- He wants you to give up before the blessing, so you won't trust the blesser!
- You absolutely can get tired of doing the right thing, but don't!
- Testimony: To increase the harvest you must increase the seed.
- Keep doing good even when it doesn't seem to be working!

The Gift that keeps on Giving!

Colossians 1:15-27 New Living Translation Christ Is Supreme

15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,[a]

16 for through him God created everything

in the heavenly realms and on earth.

He made the things we can see

and the things we can't see—

such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.

Everything was created through him and for him.

17 He existed before anything else,

and he holds all creation together.

18 Christ is also the head of the church,

which is his body.

He is the beginning,

supreme over all who rise from the dead.[b]

So he is first in everything.

19 For God in all his fullness

was pleased to live in Christ,

20 and through him God reconciled

everything to himself.

He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth

by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

21 This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. 22 Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

- Let's get ready to rumble!

23 But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it. 24 I am glad when I suffer for you in

my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church. 25 God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you. 26 This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people. 27 For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

- Jesus isn't in the manger, or on the cross, He's not in the tomb but in our hearts.
- The greatest gift is Christ in us the hope of glory.

The Crushing reveals the Contents

2 Corinthians 4:6-18 New Living Translation

6 For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure.[a] This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

- **"My gift is from God and it has great power, my gift is God!"**

8 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. 9 We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. 10 Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. 11 Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. 12 So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you. 13 But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke."[b] 14 We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus,[c] will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. 15 All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory. 16 That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are[d] being renewed every day. 17 For

our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! 18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

- His Commandments are not meant to be grievous, but they allow us to host his presence.
- To be His host is to have a eternal purpose and assignment of displaying his glory.

John 16:5-15 New Living Translation The Work of the Holy Spirit

5 "But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. 6 Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you. 7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate[a] won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. 9 The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. 10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. 11 Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged. 12 "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'

- The Holy Spirit carries all the experience of being with Jesus, and we carry the gift of the Comforter.
- The Holy Spirit was there at the conception of Jesus, initiates our new birth.
- He was there to rest upon Jesus after His baptism and baptizes us.
- He was there when Jesus was led into the wilderness, and leads us through testing.
- He was there at His death, He's with us in ours.
- He was there at his resurrection and will be there to raise us
- To host His holiness is to live by His power, I will live by His power!