

Sun am 11-19-23 Don't Give up!

Genesis 32:24-28 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. 25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. 26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. 27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. 28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

As we begin this morning, I want to set the stage to see the picture that I want to paint this morning for you. We have two brothers who are striving in the womb, Esau and Jacob. Esau was born first and now heir to the blessing/promise. However, Jacob came out and latched onto the heel of Esau. So, then the name Jacob means to follow behind or subplanter. So, his name always reminds him that he is following after someone else. Someone is always going to be one step ahead of you, but God says I got you, I see you and I will take care of you. Just don't give up! No matter what, don't give up.

I want to bring you some encouragement I want to tell you to not give up, take hold of Jesus and not give up. It must be through Christ. Some here today you're questioning lots of things, you might be wondering why do I keep trying, why keep fighting, why keep believing. Because its worth it. When you put your faith in Christ, he will not fail you. He will help you; he will be with you. Lay hold on your dreams and the promises of God. Be like Jacob, grab ahold and make your mind up that you're not letting go, you're not giving up, backing up or backing down. The devil is a liar. You can be free from depression, anxiety, guilt, unbelief, past failures, future inabilities, personal conflicts. Etc. You are good enough, you are loved. It might not be easy; it might be hard, and you might have to fight for it but you can have it. There might be some sacrifices, but God said show me your heart and I will help you.

It's through the fight through the struggle that his name was changed. No more Jacob, no more a follower, but now Isreal. You will be a leader, from you the 12 tribes will be born. He did not allow his name to determine his future. He did not allow what someone else named him dictate who he became. He might have made some mistakes in his life even as we have. But God said I will still use you to bring about my Glory. You don't have to stay lost, broken, diseased, tormented, discouraged, you don't have to follow or listen to the lies of the enemy. Make a change grab hold of the promises of God and don't let go.