Captivated by God's Love Part-2

A Grace Awakening has taken place in us **if** we have come into the revelation knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior. This Grace Awakening would include being "**Captivated by God's Love."** Nothing compares to an encounter with the love of the Living God. That encounter could even make one afraid of this Creator of the Universe. But then that fear turns to awe when the revelation of God becomes wisdom in our understanding.

A word used often at the Kingdom Release Congress this weekend is **transition.** By **Webster's** definition, "transition" means "To make a change or shift from one state, subject, place, etc. to another." We all must transition in life (i.e. age). **By God's grace, His Word & Spirit make it a blessed event.**

A man by the name of Jacob had many transitions in his life. Let's look at him fleeing for his life. With his mother Rachel's help, he deceived his father into giving him the blessing of the first-born son, Esau, before his father died. Then he tricked his brother into giving up the first-born blessing in exchange for a bowl of lentil soup when his brother was ravenously hungry. **Gen. 27:41-45 NKJV** reveals the motherly exchange with Jacob to save his own life.

41. *"So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand* (or "*are soon here"*); *then I will kill my brother Jacob."* **42.** *And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you* by intending *to kill you.* **43.** *Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran.* **44.** *And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away,* **45.** *until your brother's anger turns away from you,*

and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved also of you both in one day?"

Notice the intention of murder here; it is to comfort Esau by getting revenge over his loss of the Father's blessing and his wounded pride for being cheated.
So Father Isaac adds to the blessing of his son, Jacob, probably persuaded by Rebekah, and tells him who not to marry: the daughters of Canaan. Good advice for Christians today. Jacob is to go to his uncle Laban's family, his mother's brother, and take a wife from there.

The Stairway of Eternity

Gen. 28:10-12 NKJV *"Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran.* **11.** *So he came to a certain place & stayed there all night because the sun had set. And he took on of the stones of that place & put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.* **12.** *Then he dreamed, and behold,* ***a ladder*** was *set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it."*

Nathanael is Captivated by Our Lord. Are We?

In **John 1:47-51**, a man named Nathanael encountered our Lord and immediately became captivated by Him. **47.** *"Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him* (Nate), "*Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"* **48.** *Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."* **49.** *Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"* **50.** *Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things*

than these. **51.** *Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open* (or *"you* [plural] *will spiritually see."* This is a promise for every believer today.")*, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."*
SFLB note: "Jesus' supernatural insight into Nathanael's character convinces this "true Israelite" that he has been confronted by the Son of God, the King of Israel. Even through the façade of Nathanael's skepticism, Jesus discerned his transparency of spirit." Note, also, the obvious reference to "Jacob's Ladder" which is the fulfillment of Jacob's dream. **TPT note:** "Jesus Christ is that stairway that joins earth to heaven and brings heaven to earth. The word for "angels" can also be translated "*messengers"* and could be humans given access into the heavenly realm through the blood of Jesus. Jesus, as the stairway, was both in heaven and on earth as He spoke this to Nathanael. What mysteries surround Him!" **Let Jesus captivate your heart!**
Allow yourself to be vulnerable to His influence & transition to the new thing God wants to do with you, no matter your age!

Jacob is Captivated by God

Gen.28:13-15 *"And behold, the LORD stood above it* [the ladder] *and said: "I* am *the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.* **14.** *Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.* **15.** *Behold, I* am *with you and will keep* (or "*protect"*) *you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."*
TPT note: "What did God tell Jacob? Did He scold him for being a crafty deceiver? Did He rebuke him for his lack of faith? Not at all.

He revealed Himself to Jacob as the One who would never leave or forsake him. This revelation of grace was a steady stream of assurances that washed over wayward Jacob! The Lord gave these promises to Jacob while he still was unbroken, unreliable, and a deceiver. Our God is a confident, capable God Who can subdue & conquer the most difficult men. Our future blessing and usefulness depend on God's strength, not ours. When God brought Jacob back to Bethel twenty years later, he was changed. God will finish the work of changing you into the image of His Son (In **Phil. 1:6 Apostle Paul** says, "*I pray with great faith for you, because I'm fully convinced that the One who began this gracious work in you will faithfully continue the process of maturing you until the unveiling of our Lord Jesus Christ!"*). You will be His look-alike. You will carry the blessings of God to the next generation!"

Gen. 28:16-17 NKJV *"Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place and I did not know* it." **17.** *And he was afraid and said, "How awesome* is *this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this* is *the gate of heaven!"* Like Jacob, the trials & discomforts of life can lead us to an encounter with God. We often look back after it's over and recognize that He was there all the time, even in situations & places we think He would never appear. Don't dismiss God's willingness to visit you in the most unusual times and places.

Gen. 28:18-22 NKJV *"Then Jacob rose early in the morning and took the stone that he had put at his head, set up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.* **19.** *And he called the name of that place Bethel* (*"House of God"*); *but the name of that city had been Luz previously.* **20.** *Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,* **21.** *So that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God.* **22.** *And*

this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, & of that You give me I will surely give a tenth (or "*tithe"*) to You." By setting up his pillow as a pillar and anointing it with oil, Jacob was consecrating the stone and memorializing his association of God with the place where he had the dream. My wife & I have a place called the Wesley Memorial Garden on St. Simon's Island in Georgia, where the Lord met with us a few years ago as we prayed together at the Celtic Cross, with wind swirling in the tree tops in a very tight location above our heads! He'll meet with you as well. Just let Him captivate you with His love!

In the process of **transitioning** to greater maturity in Christ, we need revelations of Who God is just like Jacob did. He was on his way to being renamed "Israel" by the Angel of the Lord in chapter 32 after they wrestled together & Jacob prevailed.

Jacob committed to giving God a tithe or tenth of all he possessed upon conditions: 1) If God's presence is always with him, 2) if the LORD protects him on his long journey, 3) if He gives him bread to eat and clothing to wear, and 4) if Jacob returns safely to his father's house. Then YAHWEH will be his God! In **Matt. 6:31-34 NKJV** Jesus reassures His disciples that Father in Heaven is will to supply all these things and more: *"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'* **32.** *For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.* **33.** *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.* **34.** *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day* is *its own trouble."* A part of seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness is trusting the Lord with your finances – **"tithing"** like Jacob did (before there was any so-called law to tithe). It's a faith issue of whether He'll provide for our needs or

not. **Phil. 4:19** says, *"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* Regarding the Lord's presence being with us wherever we go, in **Matt. 28:20 Jesus** says, "*I am with you always,* even *to the end of the age*."

So be like Jacob and wrestle for the things of God, transitioning to the next level in life. Be captivated by His love! Develop a passion for Him. Regarding your change of nature, **Dennis Goldsworthy-Davis**: "**God gives it when He knows we want it.**"