

Xtreme Faith. Week 5
“Faith of Jacob, Wrestling with God”
Hebrews 11:20-21 and Genesis 32:24-31
Dr. Scott T. Arnold. FBCLA 8.30.2020

Introduction: “Faith is the “X” factor:

1. *that helps us overcome challenges.*
2. *that calls us to engage a dynamic relationship with God.*
3. *that leads us to experience blessing through struggles.*

I. The Blessing of two nations (Jacob /Esau) (11:20)

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.

II. Jacob was an overcomer. (Genesis 32:24-31)

A. Wrestling with a “man” who was “God” (24-28)

24 So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. 26 Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” 27 The man asked him, “What is your name?” “Jacob,” he answered. 28 Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”

B. Seeing the face of God and living to tell (29-31). ¹⁸

29 Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.” But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there. 30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.” 31 The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.

III. Jacob had a testimony of God’s grace (11:21)

21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff..

Conclusion:

- ***Extreme faith allows us to wait while God’s plan unfolds.***
- ***By faith we wrestle with God, ourselves and others.***
- ***By faith we discover how God blesses us to bless others.***

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Questions:

1. What challenges have you needed to overcome in your life?
2. What do we learn from Jacob’s wrestling with the Lord?
3. What areas of your life have involved struggle and wrestling?
4. What is the end result of wrestling as we learn from Jacob?
5. How does Jacob conclude his life of struggle?
6. What is gained in our character from wrestling with God?