

Wrestling with God
The Night Shift (Part 2)
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Truth in a nutshell: When we attend a worship service we should come expecting an encounter with God.

Text: Genesis 32:22-30 (NLT)

Four principles about wrestling with God.

A. Get alone with God.

1. When you desperately need an answer from God.
2. There are some places that we need to go alone with God.
3. Many of us depend too much on the prayers of others, such as the pastor, a friend or spouse.
4. There are sometimes when you need to be alone with God.

B. Get honest with God.

1. When we get alone with God, we can answer the hard questions about who we really are.
2. Here, alone, Jacob was finally able to truthfully answer God. Yes, my name is deceiver and Lord, that's who I am!
3. When you get honest with God, you can discover that you don't have to settle for a superficial relationship with God.

C. Be persistent.

1. Jacob wrestled all night long with the angel of God.
2. Jacob wouldn't give in, even with his life in the balance.
3. Like Jacob, you don't have to see beyond your need for God. You only have to see that you need and want Him more than anything else.

D. Be changed.

1. When you get alone and honest with God, the next thing: change.
2. The encounter with God left Jacob marked for life. His hip was disabled and he walked with a limp...a reminder of his encounter.
3. From that moment on he had a constant reminder that he must not walk in his own strength but in God's strength.

E. When you wrestle with God you win.

1. Jacob was not more powerful than God, but yet through wrestling with God, Jacob came into a place where God would not withhold His blessing.
2. His prayers had power with God.
3. An encounter with God may leave you more vulnerable, but you will never be stronger in your life than then.
4. This encounter brought a name change, and a change of character as well.

Next Steps: Today I am.

1. Making the choice to follow Jesus.
2. Making the choice to pursue God with all I have.
3. Asking for God to reveal anything in my life that holds me back from pressing in to all that God has for me.
4. I'm asking for a major shift in my life.