

The Life of Jacob: Part 5

Wrestled With God... and Walked Differently

Genesis 32:22–32 | Pastor Larry Hof

Key Theme

Persistent wrestling with God changes the way we walk, and time spent in God's presence changes our identity.

I. GOD BRINGS JACOB TO A PLACE WHERE HE CAN NO LONGER RUN

Genesis 32:22–24

- Jacob is left **alone** at the ford of Jabbok.
- God removes distractions to confront and transform him.
- God initiates the wrestling—not to destroy Jacob, but to shape him.

NOTES:

II. WRESTLING WITH GOD REVEALS OUR WEAKNESS AND HIS GRACE

Genesis 32:24–26

- Jacob resists God through the night.
- God touches Jacob's thigh—ending self-strength.
- Jacob clings to God and pleads for blessing.

NOTES:

III. GOD'S PRESENCE CHANGES OUR IDENTITY

Genesis 32:27–29

- “What is thy name?” — Jacob confronts who he has been.
- “No more Jacob, but **Israel**” — God gives him a new identity.
- Transformation comes through surrender, not striving.

NOTES:

IV. WRESTLING WITH GOD CHANGES THE WAY WE WALK

Genesis 32:31–32

- Jacob leaves with a limp—a mark of God's touch.
- The limp becomes his testimony, not his shame.
- The man who once ran now walks forward in faith.

NOTES:

Closing Takeaways

- ✓ God breaks us only to bless us.
- ✓ A limp that comes from God is better than strength without Him.
- ✓ Time in God's presence reshapes identity and direction.
- ✓ A changed walk proves a transformed heart.