



**UNTO THE LORD - 7 DAY FAST
DAY 6
OCTOBER 26TH, 2023**

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Fresh Encounter this October!

Greetings Victory Family Tribe! I have been seeking the Father on what it means to desire and “long for” a “Fresh Encounter” for our October 2023 Fast...

I am a “word nerd” so my first impulse is to get down to the roots and meanings of the words we are using to articulate our specific focus for this season.

The word “ENCOUNTER” defined by Meriam Webster states...

- **1 a: to meet as an adversary or enemy**
- **b: to engage in conflict with**
- **2: to come upon Face-to-Face**
- **3: to come upon or experience especially unexpectedly**
- **: a particular kind of meeting or experience with another person**
- **a romantic encounter**
- **4: a coming into the vicinity of a celestial body**

All Four of these definitions define different ways we can experience God in an Encounter, but lets focus on the face to face verbiage at this time. This phrase face to face reminds me of Jacob’s Encounter with the Angel at Peniel. When you read this “Encounter” that Jacob had with the “Angel of the Lord” (God Himself). We see so many relevant themes as to what we are focusing on with this fast.

Genesis 32:24-32 NKJV

24 Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the [g]breaking of day. 25 Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He [h]touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. 26 And He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.”

But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!”

²⁷ So He said to him, “What *is* your name?”

He said, “Jacob.”

²⁸ And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but ^[i]Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

²⁹ Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell *me* Your name, I pray.”

And He said, “Why *is* it *that* you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there.

³⁰ So Jacob called the name of the place ^[i]Peniel: “For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.”

³¹ Just as he crossed over ^[k]Penuel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.

³² Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which *is* on the hip socket, because He ^[i]touched the socket of Jacob’s hip in the muscle that shrank.

So, we see specifically in the first sentence of this story (Genesis 32:24) that Jacob wrestled with God “until the rising of the dawn.” This obviously, means he fasted sleep that night in order to wrestle with God and obtain his objective for breakthrough, a fresh encounter and a FACE TO FACE with his Maker. He was getting ready to “Face the conflict” he was coming into with his brother Esau. Jacob says in Genesis 32: 30 NIV “So, Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God Face to Face, and yet my life was spared.”

The most significant result that came out of Jacob’s encounter with God was his change in his identity. He went into the Encounter as “Jacob” and came out of the Encounter as “Israel”! The name “Jacob” comes either from the Hebrew root עִקַּב *‘qb* meaning "to follow, or to be behind" but also "to supplant, circumvent, assail, or overreach”.

In the commentary notes I was studying on verse Genesis 32:28 the author says this... “The name Israel here means God fights. This name will replace the name Jacob; it will be both a promise and a call for faith. In essence, the Lord was saying that Jacob would have victory and receive the promises because God would fight for him.”

When we look at Jacob's life, we can see how he lived up to his name so many times by being the second-born son who was always trying to supplant, circumvent and overreach to get out of the circumstances he found himself in. I think this is common human struggle, which we have all experienced, where we are striving in our own strength to bring our blessings about, but God wants to bring us in to a new identity in Him, where we really surrender all and "Let HIM fight our battles"! Perhaps that is why God touched Jacob's hip and the wrestling match ended? Its my speculation that God was reminding Jacob that He is mightier than we are, and all of our strength comes from HIM alone. We cannot out -wrestle God, but we can encounter HIM and walk away different than before. He walked away with a new name and a new walk that left him changed forever!

I believe that once we encounter HIM and behold HIM, Face-to-Face, even if it's not quite as intense as Jacob's wrestling, it will be fruitful! Can we just submit to denying our flesh for a season in order to bring about an identity upgrade Can we raise our expectation towards HIM, so He will encounter us in the way He knows we can handle it while bringing us up to the next level?

Let's Pray over what we have read today...

"God we cry out for a maximum absorption of Your Spirit in this fast. I pray we wrestle out the old identity and seek you for a Fresh Encounter. I pray that it will soak into our DNA; it will seep into our pores and to every fiber of our beings and transform us and our perspectives. I pray it causes us to be reflections of a loving Father to a hurting world around us. I pray we will literally become walking mirrors reflecting our Creator, because we have encountered Him, and we cannot shake it off! It will change us forever! It will mark us and brand us for life!! Work out the conflicts within our own souls, God, so that we can face any conflicts coming to our sphere with a new Confidence!

Lord help us to encounter you in a new way, Lord break us out of our Limited Mindsets of our finite human understanding. Break us out of religious cycles about who You are, how You move, and how we relate to You! Forgive us for putting you in a box.

“God will love us and change us more in a moment than anyone can in an entire lifetime!”

One Encounter with HIS Powerful Love and we will NEVER be the same!