

**Christians on Campus**  
**Spring 2023 Worship & Ministry Series**  
**February 19, 2023**

**Song 1**

God is spreading in my being!  
As the Spirit filling me!  
From my spirit to my soul  
To my body, I am wholly  
sanctified in Christ,  
preserved complete!

- 1 And the God of peace Himself  
Sanctify you wholly,  
And the God of peace Himself  
Sanctify you wholly.
- 2 May your spirit and your soul and body  
Be preserved complete, without blame,  
Be preserved complete and without blame  
At the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Song 2**

Everything is in the Breath, O Lord! (Exo. 30)  
Though I don't know what I need, You know.  
(Rom. 8:26)

I don't believe in what I feel or am—  
I believe the Breath in me who can.

I can't live without Thee, Jesus,  
As breath to me.  
Lord, I breathe me out and breathe Thee in.  
(Lam. 3:55-56)

I adore Thee, precious Jesus—  
How rich and free! (Rom. 10:12)  
Come in, and live in me.

**For discussion:**

The touching of the socket of Jacob's hip at the thigh muscle (v. 32), the strongest muscle in the body, signifies the touching of Jacob's natural life, his natural strength. This was the beginning of Jacob's transformation. As ch. 33 shows (see notes 4<sup>1</sup> and 17<sup>1</sup> there), after this experience Jacob was still natural. Nevertheless, although there was no change in Jacob's outward living, his natural life, his inward natural strength, had been dealt with by the Lord. This is signified by the fact that Jacob walked with a limp (v. 31). The way of religion is to change man's outward behavior; the way of God in His economy is to touch man's inward life in order to change his inward being. (*Holy Bible Recovery Version*, Genesis 32:25, footnote 2)

How does the picture of Jacob's experience affect your concept of the Christian experience of transformation?

## The Beginning of Jacob's Transformation

### Before Jacob Wrestles with God

**Genesis 32:3-8** <sup>3</sup>And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother, into the land of Seir, the field of Edom. <sup>4</sup>And he commanded them, saying, Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, I have sojourned with Laban and stayed until now; <sup>5</sup>and I have oxen and donkeys and flocks, and male servants and female servants; and **I have sent to tell my lord this, that I may find favor in your sight.** <sup>6</sup>And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you; and four hundred men are with him. <sup>7</sup>Then **Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed;** and he divided the people who were with him and the flocks and the herds and the camels into two camps; <sup>8</sup>and **he said, If Esau comes to the one camp and attacks it, then the camp which is left will escape.**

**Genesis 32:9** Then Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Jehovah...

**Genesis 32:13, 20b** <sup>13</sup>And he spent that night there. Then from what he had with him he took a present for Esau his brother. <sup>20b</sup>**For he said, I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me.**

### Jacob Wrestles with God and Is Broken by Him

**Genesis 32:21, 24-31** <sup>21</sup>So the present crossed over before him, and he himself spent that night in the camp. <sup>24</sup>And Jacob was left alone, and **a man wrestled with him until the break of dawn.** <sup>25</sup>And when the man saw that **He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was dislocated** as he wrestled with Him. <sup>26</sup>And the man said, Let Me go, for the dawn is breaking. But Jacob said, **I will not let You go unless You bless me.** <sup>27</sup>And He said to him, **What is your name? And he said, Jacob.** <sup>28</sup>And He said, **Your name will no longer be called Jacob, but Israel;** for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed. <sup>29</sup>And Jacob asked Him and said, **Please tell me Your name. But He said, Why is it that you ask My name? And He blessed him there.** <sup>30</sup>And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, for, he said, I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been preserved. <sup>31</sup>And the sun rose upon him as he crossed over Peniel, and **he limped because of his hip.**

### After Jacob is Broken by God

**Genesis 33:1-4** <sup>1</sup>And Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked, and there was Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and among Rachel and among the two female servants. <sup>2</sup>**And he put the female servants and their children in front, and Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last.** <sup>3</sup>**And he himself passed on before them and bowed down to the ground seven times until he came near to his brother.** <sup>4</sup>And Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

### Supplementary verses

**2 Corinthians 1:8b-9** <sup>8b</sup>We were excessively burdened, beyond our power, so that we despaired even of living. <sup>9</sup>Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that **we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God,** who raises the dead.

**2 Corinthians 4:16** Therefore we do not lose heart; but **though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.**

**Focus:** God needs to bring us through experiences that will cause us to lose confidence in our natural life, what we are by nature apart from God, and to open to Him to be filled with and transformed by His divine life for His corporate expression.