

God wants to **ble**ss us **irrevocably**. (~everlasting)

Psalm 90:2

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from **everlasting to everlasting** you are God.

Isaiah 40:28

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the **everlasting God**, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

We need to know how God **deals** with us to **position** us for His **blessing**.

- Most of the blessings we seek do not **last**.
- Many of us are **confused** about God's blessing.
- Many of us are **doubtful** of God Himself.

Genesis 32:22-24a

The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. ²⁴And Jacob was left **alone**.

ALONE

God can and does treat us as if we were the only person in the world.

Genesis 32:24

And a man **wrestled** with him until the breaking of the day.

Our Point of View vs. God's Point of View:

- The timing is terrible and the inconvenience is significant.
- God has decided that we are worth His **effort**.

Our Response:

- We must be **open** to God and His dealings with us
- We must give **time to God**

Genesis 32:25

When the man saw that he **did not prevail** against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's **hip** was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.

God **humbles** Himself to deal with us.

- His goal is not diminishment but deliverance & blessing!

WOUNDED (*broken, weakened*)

Battles and blessings go together.

- We are never meant to have life in and of ourselves.
- God has to wrestle some things out of us ...
- We can get humbled but never become humble

Genesis 32:26

Then he said, “**Let me go**, for the day has broken.” But Jacob said, “I will **not let you go** unless you bless me.”

TEST: back to normal OR new normal??

The Curse of unbiblical Christianity & Religion:

- No one is any different than what they were before ...

FOCUS and DESIRE

- Shift in Jacob: zero mention of his brother (Esau)
- Material/Physical/Social/Relational/Visible → Spiritual!

Genesis 32:27

And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “**Jacob.**”

CONFESSION & REPENTANCE OF BEING (not merely behavior)

- Moral discontentment
 - No self-defense, no pretense, no control

Genesis 32:28-29

Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but **Israel**, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.”²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there **he blessed him.**

The Blessing:

- Principle of **Measure** according to God’s **sovereign good pleasure**
- **Spiritual:** touching our depths but overflowing in the direction of our lives and our living → identity & destiny
 - Irrevocable and Irreversible

The Confusion: what is happening TO me VS what God is doing IN & FOR me

RECEPTIVE

- **Accepting** what God has for us **here and now** with the understanding that it is all part of something **later and greater**

RECEPTIVE

- Wounds & weaknesses are **entry points** for **spiritual power**.

Genesis 32:30-31

So Jacob called the name of the place **Peniel**, saying, “For I have seen **God face to face**, and yet my life has been **delivered**.”³¹ The **sun** rose upon him as he passed Penuel, **limping** because of his hip.

A NEW WALK

- A change of **motive**: from **Self** (Jacob) to **God**
- A change of **mindset**: Humble and Victorious