

Time to Dream - Part 3  
The Struggle  
03/15/2020

- The Struggle Behind The Dream

*Gen. 11:10-22 (NIV) Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven." Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz. Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's household, then the Lord will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."*

### **Dream Struggles:**

1st) The Time of **WRESTLING**.

*Genesis 32:22-24 (NLT) During the night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two servant wives, and his eleven sons and crossed the Jabbok River with them. After taking them to the other side, he sent over all his possessions. This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break.*

***Almost everything of any importance is found while we're headed somewhere else.***

- Jacob isn't looking for God
- Jacob is looking for relief
- *During the night Jacob got up and took his two wives,*
- Jacob made a decision to get alone
- *God often uses a crises to get our attention*

*Hosea 12:3 (NLT) Even in the womb, Jacob struggled with his brother; when he became a man, he even fought with God.*

- Wrestle with God because of our struggle
- God how could you?
- How could you allow this?

***“The story of the Bible isn’t primarily about the desire of people to be with God; it’s the desire of God to be with people.”***

- We lose our passion!

### **3 Things That Steal Passion:**

A) An **UNCLEAR** Purpose.

*Isaiah 49:4a (GW) I have worked hard for nothing. I have used my strength, but I didn’t accomplish anything.*

- Knowing God’s dream for your life creates passion
- God created you to do something bigger than yourself!

B) An **UNRESOLVED** Conflict.

*Job 5:2(NLT) Surely resentment destroys the fool, and jealousy kills the simple.*

- Resentment is allowing someone to continue to hurt you over something in the past

*Job 18:4 (GNT) You are only hurting yourself with your anger*

*Eph. 4:32 (ESV) Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you*

C) An **UNDERNOURISHED** Soul.

*Deut. 8:3 (NLT) People do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.*

2nd) The Time of **TESTING**.

*Gen. 32:24b-26 (NLT) When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob’s hip and wrenched it out of its socket. Then the man said, “Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”*

- Jacob knew he didn’t deserve the blessing he was after
- God didn’t bless Jacob because of Jacob’s character. God blessed Jacob because of God's Character
- God blesses us in spite of ourselves not because of ourselves

### 3rd) The Time To Be **HONEST**.

*Gen. 32:27 (NIV) The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered.*

- Anytime God asks you a question, it's never for His benefit
- Your name described who you were.
- It was the label of your character
- Deceiver, Con man or Manipulator
- If you were named right now for your greatest character fault, what would your name be?
- It's a chance to confess
- It's a chance to be honest

I admit that I am my **BIGGEST** problem.

- When I admit that I am my own biggest problem, this is the breakthrough in my struggle.

*James 4:6 (ESV) "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

### 4th) The Time To **CHANGE**.

*Gen. 32:28-29 (NIV) Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome." Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.*

### **3 God Responses to Honesty:**

A) God gives Jacob a **NEW IDENTITY**.

- God changed his life!

*2 Cor. 5:17 (NKJV) if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

- Your name is going to be called Israel
- God's more interested in what you become than what you accomplish here on earth
- You're going to take your character to heaven
- Prince with God or prince of God

B) God **BLESSES** Jacob with a dream.

C) God **REMINDS** Jacob.

*Genesis 32:31 "The sun rose as Jacob left Peniel and he was limping because of his hip."*

- Anytime you encounter Jesus you'll never be the same
- A daily reminder to stop running from problems
- You never solve a problem by running from it.
- A daily reminder to depend on God

The way you see yourself affects everything else in your life including the dream that you have for you.

1 - In what areas of your life are you struggling with God?

2 - What areas of your life have you felt like giving up right now just may seem easier to walk away from it all?

3 - What do you need to admit about yourself?

4 - Will you let Christ give you a new identity?

*Homework - memory verse - 2 Cor. 5:17 (NKJV) if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;*