

## **Wrestle – Alone With God**

### **Pastor John Carmichael**

[Gen 32:22-31 NASB95] 22 Now he arose that same night and took his two wives and his two maids and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream. And he sent across whatever he had. 24 Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." 27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed." 29 Then 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. 30 So Jacob named the place Peniel, for [he said,] "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved." 31 Now the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Penuel, and he was limping on his thigh.

- Jacob was a man who was prophesied about. He had the blessing and the birthright.
- Yet his life was anything but what it was supposed to be.
- He was a supplanter, schemer, trickster, and swindler.
- He was also supplanted, schemed, tricked and swindled.
- He had an encounter with God. It was here that God changed that man.
- V. 31 - the sun rose upon him. It was the difference. From this event forward. Jacob's life was different.
- I believe we can learn from what Jacob went through and become what God has called us to become.
- We are going to discuss what it takes to rise to become what God has called us to become.

### **How does being alone with God help us in our wrestling with Him?**

**There are four aspects of being alone with God.**

#### **I. Separation**

- Relationships and Possessions
- V. 24 left alone
- Jacob could not have had this life changing experience surrounded by all the things God had given him.
- God blesses us and we forget Him.
- We must die (separate from this world) to find Him.
- [1Co 15:31 NASB95] 31 I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

#### **II. Priority**

- He calls us to separation because He must become priority.
- Seek first the Kingdom of God. [Mat 6:33 NASB95] 33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- You will find Me when you seek Me with all of your heart. He will not be found by someone who half-heartily seeks Him. [Jer 29:12-13 NASB95] 12 "Then you will call

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upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 'You will seek Me and find [Me] when you search for Me with all your heart.

#### **III. Secret**

- God is in the Secret Place - [Mat 6:6 NASB95] 6 "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you.
- God sees in the Secret Place - you want the attention of God, go to the secret place.
- It is the place of prayer.
- Shunammite woman Elisha [2Ki 4:33 NASB95] 33 So he entered and shut the door behind them both and prayed to the LORD.
- He is not hidden just secluded
- He who dwells in the secret place.
- Go there and stay there. [Psa 91:1 NASB95] 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

#### **IV. Alone**

- Moses and Israel; God wanted a relationship with them; only got one with him. [Exo 20:18-21 NASB95] 18 All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw [it,] they trembled and stood at a distance. 19 Then they said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die." 20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin." 21 So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God [was.]
- Something about God that thrives for individual attention; He is the only shepherd that will leave 99 for the one. [Luk 15:4-7 NASB95] 4 "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? 5 "When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 "And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' 7 "I tell you that in the same way, there will be [more] joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.
- Peter with the boat; walked on water; had to climb out of big boat (hold twelve disciples and their stuff); alone on the water. [Mat 14:28-29 NASB95] 28 Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

**As we wrestle with God, it will start by being alone with Him.**