

## **Wrestle: What Is Your Name**

**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 Peniel, and he was limping on his thigh.

- When we don't know who we are we will let others tell us who we are. We will start to believe what others say we are. We will allow our situation, our friends, our abilities (or lack thereof) tell us who we are. We will never become who we are until we know who God has made us to be.
- An example: Grasshopper Complex: [Num 13:33 NASB95] 33 "There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."
- What is your name?
- Radak (French commentary) – "the main character is about to begin a new chapter in life — Adam is about to leave the Garden, Jacob is about to meet his long-estranged brother, and Moses is about to confront Pharaoh. "What is your name?" in this context, can be understood as, "Are you still Jacob, the deceiver, or are you ready to become Israel, the person of conscience?"

### **What does God changing Jacob's name to Israel mean for us?**

**There are four powerful truths what a name change can mean for us.**

#### **I. Changed his Nature**

- Jacob (deceiver and supplanter) became Israel (one who contends with God)
- Saul became Paul
- Simon became Peter
- Abram became Abraham
- Sarai became Sarah
- God wants to change who you are.
- A new creation: old things passed away all things become new [2Co 5:17 NASB95] 17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, [he is] a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
- Sinner saved by grace????
- Learning who you are will help you become what God wants you to become.

#### **II. Identified him with God**

- God gave Jacob His name: **IsraEL**. "He who strives with God."
- God's name is important: made the top ten

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- [Jhn 16:24-26 NASB95] 24 "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full. 25 "These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will tell you plainly of the Father. 26 "In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf;
- When we take His name, we connect ourselves to Him.

### **III. Pointed to Covenant**

- To fully appreciate what that means, you'll have to think about the Blood Covenant. When a person enters covenant with another, they become absolutely one with each other. They exchange garments saying, "All that I have and all that I am is now yours."
- [Heb 8:8-10 NASB95] 8 For finding fault with them, He says, "BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL EFFECT A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH; 9 NOT LIKE THE COVENANT WHICH I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS ON THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; FOR THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DID NOT CARE FOR THEM, SAYS THE LORD. 10 "FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.
- Instead of being a loser, we become a winner.
- All that God has become mine; all that I have becomes His

### **IV. Transformed his relationship with God**

- Instead of being on the outside looking in, he was now at union with God.
  - We are Israel: [Gal 6:16 NASB95] 16 And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy [be] upon them, and upon the Israel of God.
  - [Jhn 15:15 NASB95] 15 "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.
  - [1Jo 3:1 NASB95] 1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and [such] we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
  - We have all the identity (who we are: loved, accepted, child), purpose (what we are to do: calling, office, the gifts), and portion (what is ours: wholeness, healing, provision) when we know receive the name God calls us.
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- **This name change caused him to walk different: he limped.**
  - **When we understand the change God makes in our lives, we will live differently.**
  - **Knowing what God calls you will change what name you answer to.**