

Power to Change: A True Life Testimony
Genesis 32

Genesis 32:22-31 (HCSB)

During the night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female slaves, and his 11 sons, and crossed the ford of Jabbok. He took them and brought them across the stream, along with all his possessions. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that He could not defeat him, He struck Jacob's hip as they wrestled and dislocated his hip socket. Then He said to Jacob, "Let Me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me." "What is your name?" the man asked. "Jacob!" he replied. "Your name will no longer be Jacob," He said. "It will be Israel because you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked Him, "Please tell me Your name." But He answered, "Why do you ask My name?" And He blessed him there. Jacob then named the place Peniel, "For," he said, "I have seen God face to face, and I have been delivered." The sun shone on him as he passed by Peniel --limping on his hip.

I. The Crisis

Verses 6-11

When the messengers returned to Jacob, they said, "We went to your brother Esau; he is coming to meet you--and he has 400 men with him." Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; he divided the people with him into two camps, along with the flocks, cattle, and camels. He thought, "If Esau comes to one camp and attacks it, the remaining one can escape." Then Jacob said, "God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, 'Go back to your land and to your family, and I will cause you to prosper,' I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness You have shown Your servant. Indeed, I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two camps. Please rescue me from the hand of my brother Esau."

II. The Commitment

Verses 24-26

Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that He could not defeat him, He struck Jacob's hip as they wrestled and dislocated his hip socket. Then He said to Jacob, "Let Me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me."

III. The Confession

Verse 27

"What is your name?" the man asked. "Jacob!" he replied.

Proverbs 28:13 (HCSB)

The one who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.

IV. The Cooperation

Verses 28-31

"Your name will no longer be Jacob," He said. "It will be Israel because you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed... And He blessed him there. Jacob then named the place Peniel, "For," he said, "I have seen God face to face, and I have been delivered." The sun shone on him as he passed by Peniel --limping on his hip.

A. W. Pink

"That which hinders us in our growth in grace is not so much our spiritual weaknesses, as it is our confidence in our natural strengths." God must therefore lay His hand upon us at the point of our strength, to make us conscious of our utter helplessness."