

WE WRESTLE

Psalm 144.1-3

*¹Blessed be the Lord, my rock,
Who trains my hands for war,
And my fingers for battle;*

*²My lovingkindness and my fortress,
My stronghold and my deliverer,
My shield and He in whom I take refuge,
Who subdues my people under me.*

*³O Lord, what is man, that You take knowledge of him?
Or the son of man, that You think of him?*

Ge 32:24 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. 32 Therefore, to this day the sons of Israel do not eat the sinew of the hip which is on the socket of the thigh, because he touched the socket of Jacob's thigh in the sinew of the hip.

MOST OF US ARE WRESTLING BUT WE ARE WRESTLING WITH THE WRONG THING!

God trains us for warfare and He trains us by sparring with us!

1. WRESTLING WITH SELF

Ge 29:21 Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my time is completed, that I may go in to her." 22 Laban gathered all the men of the place and made a feast. 23 Now in the evening he took his daughter Leah, and brought her to him; and Jacob went in to her. 24 Laban also gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid. 25 So it came about in the morning that, behold, it was Leah! And he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?" 26 But Laban said, "It is not the practice in our place to marry off the younger before the firstborn. 27 "Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also for the service which you shall serve with me for another seven years."

A. PUSHING YOURSELF THROUGH DISAPPOINTMENT

B. FORCING YOURSELF TO KEEP GOING

C. WRESTLING WITH SELF MAY NOT PRODUCE CHANGE

2. WRESTLING WITH PEOPLE

Ge 30:34 Laban said, "Good, let it be according to your word." 35 So he removed on that day the striped and spotted male goats and all the speckled and spotted female goats, every one with white in it, and all the black ones among the sheep, and gave them into the care of his sons. 36 And he put a distance of three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks. 37 Then Jacob took fresh rods of poplar and almond and plane trees, and

peeled white stripes in them, exposing the white which was in the rods. 38 He set the rods which he had peeled in front of the flocks in the gutters, even in the watering troughs, where the flocks came to drink; and they mated when they came to drink. 39 So the flocks mated by the rods, and the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted.

A. OVERCOMING AND OVERPOWERING PEOPLE

B. GIVING PEOPLE WHAT THEY DESERVE

C. WRESTLING WITH PEOPLE MAY NOT PRODUCE CHANGE

3. WRESTLING WITH GOD

THE ONLY BATTLE THAT CHANGES YOU!

A. WRESTLING FOR CHANGE

The thing that drove Jacob was not a need for money, fame or success!!

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

B. WRESTLING FOR DESTINY

Jacob recognized that his own life depended on change. He was at the end of the road!

Jn 12:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. 26 "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

C. WRESTLING FOR LEGACY

Jacob knew that his posterity and their future depended upon him changing!!

Ge 32:11 "Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, that he will come and attack me and the mothers with the children. 12 "For You said, 'I will surely prosper you and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which is too great to be numbered.'" 13 So he spent the night there. Then he selected from what he had with him a present for his brother Esau: