

Jacob becomes Israel

Jacob wrestled with God as a man and prevailed. This is the reason for the name change because there was a change in character. Jacob had this testimony that he wrestled with God and won.

You see Jacob was forced to recon with the hauntings of his past. He had left Laban having obtained a notable prize, his wife Rachel. A name that means; the breath of God. And yes, she is a picture of Gods Holy Spirit. From the Hebrew; Ruach=Breath and El=God

Jacob, having been tricked numerous times by Laban, wrestling with him over every agreement of everything he said. Having honed his skills in wrestling with Laban, departing from their, now to return home with his new family.

However Jacob feared his brother Esau would avenge him for leaving with the promise of the full inheritance of their father Isaac. You see Esau accused Jacob of stealing his inheritance, and he did.

Being found as a man without a country he sought to return home. Oh, but wait. His brother Esau vowed to kill him for his theft. This was a deep seated fear Jacob had to reconcile with and the reason He sought God on this night. This night of wrestling was different though because it is with God that this wrangling takes place.

When we find ourselves in similar circumstances of, we wrestling with God. Trying to take Him at His word. Maybe even trying to justify ourselves, our cause and our pursuence of the things He has said and just don't feel He is there for us, but He is.

This lesson from Jacob teaches us that when God challenges us in our reasoning, it is not to condemn you but to build you up. You think "didn't God say? God, didn't you assure me certain outcomes in my struggles?"

You are right where God wants you. Are you willing to go toe to toe and wrestle with God as an equal? To not back down or bow out? To challenge Him to His face about His promises He has given you? This is what he wants from you, an equal. That's what He gave you. A mirror image of Himself. He wants you to learn how to use it. And what better way to do it than to spar with the master. This is actually a compliment from Him, that you would seek to challenge Him

The purpose of the gospel, is for God to bring forth offspring like Himself. Isn't that what Paul said was the purpose of the Gospel in Ephesians 4? "13 till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 that we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Till we become perfect and the full stature and image of God? That we, taking God at His word, as owning it, believing the thing that is said and appropriating these things by faith and challenging the obstacles in front of us with the things He has said. Not "hath God really said" Like Satan said" But, God you said, it's in your word, you promised, you spot lighted it in prayer and assured me but I don't see it.

Here is a principle you must understand. You see the Son at His transfiguration with the Father, had His talk with Him and said " Father, I have given your word to those you have given me out of this world and they have kept it". And how does He know we kept it? Because it comes back out of our mouths. You bring to remembrance the things He has said to your heart in prayer, not as though He forgot, but by re-iterating it as something you expect. We are told that the Kingdom is preached and the violent take it by force". This is what that means You challenge Him. This is how you please God. He does not take your challenge as a threat or as disrespect, but gladly as a family member rising up to the challenge, He goes toe to toe.

And the good thing is that when you go to the Father to take a stand by upholding His word back to Him, He shows you how to do that yourself without Him. That is the purpose for the excersize. or verbal wrestling match, our transformation into Him.

This wrestling with God is orchastrated by Him, for you to realize your new self like His self and to use your tools of faith to overcome all your obstacles in your own. This makes the Father happy.

The objective of your sojourny on earth is just this. Just as a family of lawyers or physicians or family business. When they get together for family gatherings and meals. To talk about the family trade, the Father is most happy when all at the table are regarded as co-equal, same stature (Ephesians 4.13) and importance and talk about the business as equal partners. We must be about our Fathers business.

This is what our Heavenly Father desires from us, our participation. That we know what our full inheritance is and know how and when to use it as being joint heirs of the things of God in Christ.

This have all the Elect, of those who have taken God the Father at His word, and use the things He has said as their own. So much so in fact that an encounter with us could be mistaken as an encounter with Him.

Does this seem a little far fetched or out of reach? We'll just look at this encounter John the apostle had in the last chapter of the Revelation. He stooped to worship the angel that showed him those revelations and the angels reply? "See that you don't do that, for I am one of thy brethren of those who **keep** the Testimony of Jesus Christ (of those who took God at His word and own it is how we **keep** it). Worship Him".

John encountered a co-equal partner in the Fathers business, doing the work of the Father by

cultivating word.

And you? Have you set out to "lay a hold of why Christ laid hold of you? Have you heard the full gospel of "the Kingdom of God at hand" as operationable and opened for our habitation even now?

Well then continue to press in. With this challenge comes a name change because there is a new nature and a character change.

For Jacob, his new name is Israel and from the Hebrew language means "this one will rule like God". That is the point. That is what Adam lost for us, that is restored in Christ. So we can gladly say that "we are joint heirs with Jesus Christ" not just as a promise, and much more than another tool. It is our new nature. Christ likeness.

Amen!