



First Hand Faith

God of Abraham, Isaac and...you?

Second-hand clothes are okay. Second-hand faith doesn't cut it. Discover how to have a personal, first-hand relationship with God.



COMMITMENT
Joshua
saw God at work



COMPROMISE
The elders
knew about God



CONFLICT
The next
generation
didn't know God

Wrestling

- ❖ Family Challenges
- ❖ Character Defaults



Wrestling with God

Early Encounter with God

“At the top of the stairway stood the LORD, and he said, “I am the LORD, the God of your grandfather Abraham, and the God of your father, Isaac.””

Early Encounter with God

*“He named that place Bethel
(which means “house of God”)*



Genesis 28:19

Wrestling with God

Early Encounter with God

“Then Jacob made this vow: “If God will indeed be with me and protect me on this journey, and if he will provide me with food and clothing, and if I return safely to my father’s home, then the Lord will certainly be my God.”

He made his interaction with God conditional. *“If...”*

Jacob delayed his interaction with God. *“then...”*

He reaped consequences for this decision...



Hollow Life, continued...

- ❖ The search for approval continued
- ❖ The poor character expanded
- ❖ Family patterns were passed down



Wrestling with God

“This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob’s hip and wrenched it out of its socket. Then the man said, “Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”



Genesis 32:24-31

“What is your name?” the man asked.

He replied, “Jacob.”

“Your name will no longer be Jacob,” the man told him.

“From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won.”

“Please tell me your name,” Jacob said.

“Why do you want to know my name?” the man replied.

Then he blessed Jacob there.



Genesis 32:24-31

Jacob named the place Peniel (which means “face of God”), for he said, “I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared.” The sun was rising as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of the injury to his hip.

Genesis 32:24-31

Wrestling

- ❖ Facing his past
- ❖ All alone
- ❖ Tenacity: I won't let go



Wrestling with God

Resolution of Life's Core Issue

“I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

“If I have found favor with you, please accept this gift from me. And what a relief to see your friendly smile. It is like seeing the face of God!”



Transformation of Character

“Your name will no longer be Jacob,” the man told him. “From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won.”



Revelation of God

Jacob named the place Peniel (which means “face of God”), for he said, “I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared.”



Take-Aways

- ❖ God is always seeking us.
- ❖ Better wrestle with God earlier than later
- ❖ Get alone with God
- ❖ Find your acceptance in God!
- ❖ Let God transform your character

Wrestling with God