

Changing from the Inside Out - Part 1 YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY THE SAME!

1. A CRISIS: Struggling with God

"Then Jacob was left all alone in the camp, and a Man came and wrestled with him until dawn. When the Man saw that he couldn't win the match, he struck Jacob's hip and knocked it out of joint at the socket." Gen. 32:24-25 (NLT)

"Before Jacob was born, he struggled with his brother; when he became a man, he even fought with God." Hosea 12:3 (NLT)

2. A COMMITMENT: Not Letting Go

"Then the Man said, 'Let me go, for it is dawn.' But Jacob panted, 'I won't let you go unless you bless me!'" Gen. 32:26 (NLT)

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Gal. 6:9 (NIV)

3. A CONFESSION: Admitting We are the Problem

"The man asked him, 'What is your name?' 'JACOB' he answered." Gen. 32:27 (NIV)

Jacob = "deceiver (manipulator)"

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6 (NIV)

grace – the power to change

4. CONVERSION: Getting a New Identity

"Then the Man said, 'Your name will no longer be Jacob, but ISRAEL ... Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'It is because I saw God face to face...'" Gen 32:28

Israel – "Prince with God"

"The sun rose as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip." Gen. 32:31 (NLT)

"If anyone belongs to Christ, they are a new creation. The old things have gone; everything is made new!" 2 Cor. 5:17

What is the significance of this limp? Two things.

1. It stopped Jacob's lifelong pattern of running
2. It reminds us to depend on God daily

Personal Questions:

- In what areas are you struggling with God?
- In what areas have you felt like giving up?
- What do you need to admit about yourself?
- Will you let Christ give you a new identity?