

## Unwavering Faith - Jacob

Genesis 28:12-15 ...He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham...the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants... 15 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Genesis 32:24-30 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."

### 1. Our faith doesn't take root until we know our \_\_\_\_\_ is upon God.

Genesis 32:9-11 Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD, who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your relatives, and I will prosper you,' 10 I am unworthy of all the lovingkindness and of all the faithfulness which You have shown to Your servant; for with my staff *only* I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two companies. 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.'"

Philippians 4:6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.

- We are dependent upon God because God is dependable.

Isaiah 40:28-29 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. 29 He gives strength to the weary, and to *him who* lacks might He increases power.

### 2. Our faith doesn't bear fruit until we know our \_\_\_\_\_ rests in God.

Genesis 32:24 "Then Jacob was left alone..."

- This issue of identity was a big part of what this wrestling match was about.

Genesis 32:26-30 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.”

Romans 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

3. **Our faith isn’t a worthy pursuit until our goal is to \_\_\_\_\_.**  
Matthew 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Genesis 33:3-11 But he himself passed on ahead of them and bowed down to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. 4 Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. 5 He lifted his eyes and saw the women and the children, and said, “Who are these with you?” So he said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.” 6 Then the maids came near with their children, and they bowed down. 7 Leah likewise came near with her children, and they bowed down; and afterward Joseph came near with Rachel, and they bowed down. 8 And he said, “What do you mean by all this company which I have met?” And he said, “To find favor in the sight of my lord.” 9 But Esau said, “I have plenty, my brother; let what you have be your own.” 10 Jacob said, “No, please, if now I have found favor in your sight, then take my present from my hand, for I see your face as one sees the face of God, and you have received me favorably. 11 “Please take my gift which has been brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me and because I have plenty.” Thus he urged him and he took *it*.

1 Chronicles 16:11 Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face continually.

- Our #1 goal isn’t the \_\_\_\_\_ associated with God but rather

\_\_\_\_\_.  
Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek Me and find *Me* when you search for Me with all your heart.

### **Further Thought:**

- Are you completely dependent upon God? What are some attitudes or actions that express that dependence or show this is an area of needed growth?
- Who are you? What is the basis of your identity? How might your life be different if your identity was found solely in Jesus? Does God want to involve you in a wrestling match?
- Have you ever held onto something other than God? What changes do you need to make in your life to seek God’s face continually?