Genesis Chapter 32 Verses 9 – 12

* This *really* is an awesome prayer. Many commentators say that this prayer is *one plan too late* and I can see that. Perhaps there is a bit of the **trickster** still in Jacob. He put his plan together and then asked God to bless it…when really, ***prayer is not about changing God, it’s about changing us!*** God has no need to change. He is perfect and His will is perfect. His plan is perfect and His power is perfect. His *capability, capacity…competency*…all perfect and yet so often in my own prayer life, I am somehow trying to ***help*** Him see it my way…
* But the fact is, ***prayer should be about getting God’s will done on earth, not my will done in heaven***…aligning my heart to God’s will and not my own and *where* can I find God’s perfect will clear and consistent? **God’s Word!!** And so I can see and agree that his prayer is one plan too late but it is a **great** prayer, why? Because the centrality of this prayer is God’s own word!
* *“God,* ***You said****…You said when I went home that You would deal well with me. God,* ***You said*** *I will make your decedents as the sand of the sea…”* A model of effective prayer for sure because whose heart is being ***conformed*** here? Jacob’s…God’s is being ***confirmed!*** Is that your prayer life? That is the key to *effective, powerful* prayer!

Acts Chapter 32 Verses 13 – 21

* Now this is *interesting*…on one hand, Jacob is showing *humility, strategy and cunningness*…but on the other hand…he’s kind-of **hedging his bets.** What do I mean by that? Remember His prayer…? “*God, You said You will deal well with me…You said You would bless my decedents after me…”* In other words, according to Your word, Your promise…Esau won’t wipe out his family…but then we see him send *waves of appeasements* and ***he himself isn’t one of them***…this is interesting.
* I have no problem at all with *moving out* in wisdom…I just want to be clear here. I have been in countless situations counseling with folks that *are praying and praying and praying* and **DOING** nothing. *I can’t provide for my family, we don’t have food on the table…well do you have a job? No, but the Lord will provide!* ***GET A JOB!*** You’re right, the Lord will provide **A JOB!** HA!! Now it’s not always the case that you have to DO something but there’s a fine line between *trusting the Lord* and *laziness* and I want to stay **VERY** far from that line.
* Why? Because laziness the Bible says in Proverbs 19:15 *will cast one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.* And Ecclesiastes says, *“Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands, the house leaks.”* One of the accusations brought against Sodom was *an abundance of idleness* in Ezekiel 16:49…and so here’s the thing…seek the Lord, conform to His will which you can find in His word **and** walk! ***I cannot follow God unless I am moving forward…***
* And so I am certainly not against doing all that should be done BUT what Jacob does here is *very revealing.* He prays God’s word back to God and yet ***how he acts reveals that He doesn’t really trust God.*** George Mueller was once asked what the most important part of prayer was and he replied, *“The 15 minutes after I have said, ‘Amen.’”*
* What we see here is Jacob pray and then walk but Jacob sends his gifts with his servants out ahead of him…and I love what Guzik says about this. He says, *if Jacob really believed God then Jacob would have been at the head of the procession to meet Esau, not the tail.* And notice, Jacob says, *“Perhaps he will accept me…”* which implies…*perhaps he won’t.* Jacob for sure still has a bit of the **trickster** in him…in fact, even though he *is grown, he is older, he is wiser,* **at the very core of his heart of hearts he is still the same younger brother that fooled his father, scammed his brother and fled responsibility…**
* He’s become a good man for sure. Providing for his family, very blessed of God…but there yet remains in him a heart that God still does not have authority over…*is that you?* Watch what happens next…

Genesis Chapter 32 Verses 22 – 24

* *Different…irregular…odd*…these are all words that are **too weak** to describe what we just read. I typically remember this passage as a *dream* but there is no mention of a dream here. Jacob is left alone and yet he is not alone. And a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of dawn. Literally the word for wrestled is *grappled…struggled*…and the word for man is *man, husband, champion*…this is SUCH a crazy scene…to add to the craziness…we will find out in just a few verses that this Man is God Himself…a *Christosphany*…an Old Testament appearance of Jesus!
* So what is going on here! First, notice, ***Jacob did not wrestle with God…God wrestled with Jacob.*** Do you see that? A Man wrestled with him…not the *other way* around. Why? Because God wants something…or better said, ***God wants to accomplish something in and for Jacob.***

Acts Chapter 32 Verses 25 – 26

* Now notice, this comment about *not prevailing* over Jacob must **not** mean in the *physical* because God merely touches Jacob’s hip and its ***immediately overcome***…***immediately conquered***, useless and weak…what’s meant here is not that God *could* not overcome man physically but that ***God could not prevail against Jacob’s will.***
* That’s the deal with you too isn’t it? It certainly is the deal with me…my **self-will** causes God not to prevail at times in my life! ***It’s GOT to go! My will is so weak and useless***…like a joint out of socket compared to God’s will and I tell you what…**strong self will is the greatest weakness any of us have**…***to submit to God, to trust God is to walk in wisdom and to invite triumph into your very spirit.*** It takes no mental capacity or heart capacity at all to walk in self will…toddlers do that when they hoard their plastic toys from their friends. The *strength of character* and *capacity of intelligence* is shown in submission to God and His word. Jacob’s self will is so strong that God basically says to him, *it’s time for Me to go*…and Jacob panics…this is so good…God will help Jacob big time right here…watch…

Genesis Chapter 32 Verse 27

* ***God makes Jacob address who he is***…*I love that.* (Last time he was asked this he lied…) God cannot create in you new…until you first acknowledge all that is in you that must go. Here is *where* and *why* so many Christians **stop and stay**…here is the true struggle against the Holy Spirit in our heart of hearts…, *“Who are you?*” “I am the trickster. I am the associate of deception…that’s all I know…” God asks him to face that and ***as Jacob submits to God…God recreates him…***

Genesis Chapter 32 Verse 28

* How do we prevail against God? **Submit to God.** How do we prevail against men…**submit to God.** When your will battles against God’s will, you only win by losing. And Jacob struggled all night but when he recognized that God was departing because God cannot do *anything* with a self-willed person…***Jacob chose to lose…and in that, he chose to win.*** When you become broken to and with God, that is when God can fix you. Ever heard, *“If it ain’t broke don’t fix it!”*  Well, if you don’t allow yourself to break…nothing to fix is there…?
* You will no longer be the associate of deception…that is no longer who you are because you have bowed your will to God…you are now to be called Israel…***ruled by God.*** What is *your* name? Is it that?

Genesis Chapter 32 Verse 29

* A) Jacob already knows ***who*** he is talking to…we find that out in the next verse and B) There is ***nothing*** for God to change or confront about Himself…God is perfect…*why do you ask Me My name? This is about you, son*…and God blessed him there…

Genesis Chapter 32 Verses 30 – 32

* Here’s the thing…his life wasn’t preserved as in *God didn’t kill him for seeing Him face to face*…this was, the evidence demands, that this was indeed Jesus…a Christophany and Jesus said to His disciples, “*If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.”* This ***preserved*** is ***not a survival***…it is a deliver…a rescue…a recovery if you look at the root word. In submitting his will to God, being broken in the hands of God…***Jacob is finally delivered***…and so you will be too…
* And Jacob never walks the same again…I like that. He now has **swagger**…and a cane…his *coolness rating* went up like a million, **HA!** But check this out, every step he takes for the rest of his life…he has the reminder that ***his will belongs to God***…and ***God has delivered him***…the same will be for anyone who chooses God over self and allows the humility of brokenness in their heart of hearts…
* Every step from here on out…**guided.** Planned…blessed…every step wreaking of your interaction you had alone with God on that day or that night where you said to Him, *I’d rather you lead my life, I’d rather you be my Creator, my Namer, my Identifier*…***I’d rather you than me…***