

➔ Jacob's Life: Self-centered, listening to his mother's voice rather than God's, a life of dishonesty

- 1 Eagerly desired God's blessing. Bought his older brother's birthright.
- 2 Under his mother's guidance, deceived his father and received his older brother's blessing.
- 3 Earned his older brother's hatred and nearly got killed.
- 4 He fled his hometown and went to live with his uncle.
- 5 He had encountered with God on his journey;
 - Seeing a ladder reaching from heaven in a dream. Experiencing God.
 - The Covenant with Abraham and the Promises of Protection and Return
 - Jacob poured oil on the stone there, made a vow, and called it "Bethel."
6. Twenty Years at His Uncle's House:
 - His wages were changed repeatedly, and he was forced to undergo harsh labor.
 - God kept His promise and protected and blessed Jacob. He was given twelve sons and wealth.

➔ Return to Bethel

1. God told Jacob to go back to his home town.

Gen 31:13 I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. **Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land.**"

2. Jacob left Laban's house with his family
 - Jacob sent the messenger to his brother Esau.

Gen 32:6 When the messengers returned to Jacob, they said, "We went to your brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

b) Strategy for his fear of his brother

1. He divided the people who were with him into two groups

Gen 32:7 **In great fear and distress** Jacob divided the people who were with him into two groups, and the flocks and herds and camels as well. ⁸ He thought, "If Esau comes and attacks one group, the group^[a] that is left may escape."

2. He prayed to God

Gen 32:9 Then Jacob prayed, "O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, Lord, you who said to me, 'Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper,' ¹⁰ I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two camps. ¹¹ Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for **I am afraid** he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children. ¹² But you have said, 'I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.'"

3. He selected a gift for his brother Esau.

Gen 32:13 He spent the night there, and from what he had with him he selected a gift for his brother Esau: ¹⁴ two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, ¹⁵ thirty female camels with their young, forty cows and ten bulls, and twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys.

²⁰ And be sure to say, 'Your servant Jacob is coming behind us.'" **For he thought, "I will pacify him with these gifts** I am sending on ahead; later, when I see him, perhaps he will receive me."

4. He wrestled with God

Gen 32:24 So **Jacob was left alone**, and **a man wrestled with him till daybreak**. 25 When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. 26 Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, **"I will not let you go unless you bless me."** 27 The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. 28 Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome." 29 Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. 30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, **"It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."** 31 The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. 32 Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon.

1. Jacob was left alone.
2. A man wrestled with him until daybreak. [Wrestling; clinging to God]
Wrestling: A metaphor for the intense physical and spiritual struggles—the difficulties and trials—that believers face in their relationship with God.
3. Jacob's hips were struck and dislocated.
He experienced physical weakness. This was the moment he acknowledged that there was nothing he could do on his own.
4. Jacob persisted, saying, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." [Perseverance]
He continued to seek God's intervention. Even in the face of difficulty, he did not give up.
5. Jacob's Name Is Changed: "From Jacob to Israel" [A New Identity]
He is transformed into one who fights alongside God as His ruler and triumphs over others.
6. Jacob Receives God's Blessing.

II Cor 2:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

➔ Jacob, Given a New Identity

From "Jacob" (he who grasps the heel, the deceiver) to "Israel" (God fights, God's rule)

Fear cannot be overcome by one's own strength or schemes. Victory comes only through faith in God and His intervention.

Jacob emerged victorious from a life of fighting on his own and was transformed into one who lives by God's power. His life was transformed into one in which God fights and God reigns.

✧ Life led by the Holy Spirit not by the flesh.

➔ Victory in the Battle Against Fear

1. Prayer in the Battle of Faith: Set aside time to draw near to the Lord alone

2. Recognize Your Own Weakness [An experience where your ego is shattered, as if your thighs were struck]

3. Continue praying until you receive the assurance of God's blessing.

4. God's Intervention [Jacob received God's blessing and was set free from fear]

➔ Are you afraid?

Let's wrestle with God in prayer. Even if you try to manipulate others with your own strength, your fear will not disappear.

Let us be still before God, humble ourselves, and lay our weaknesses before the Lord.

Filled with the Lord's grace and mercy, we will be set free from our fear.