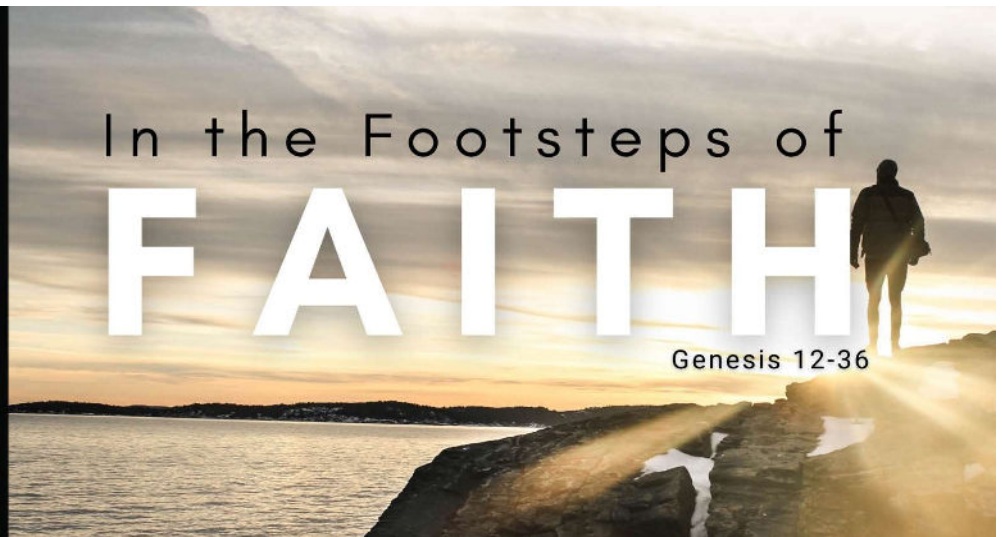




Midweek Study

Dr. Josh Franklin • Senior Pastor



Conquered by God

(Genesis 32:1-32)

A.W. Tozer states, "The Lord cannot fully bless a man until He has first conquered him."

1. The **Concern** Jacob Felt (32:1-12)

Jacob feared Esau still holding a grudge.

Proverbs 18:19 (NKJV) - A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, And contentions are like the bars of a castle.

(Living) – "It is harder to win back the friendship of an offended brother than to capture a fortified city. **His anger shuts you out like iron bars.**"

2. The **Comfort** God Offered (32:1, 9-12)

Ministry of Angels:

Psalms 34:7 (NKJV) - The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.

Hebrews 1:14 (NKJV) - Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

2 Kings 6:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

¹⁷And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Romans 8:31 says, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (God showed him the angels to help him know that there was no reason to be afraid of Esau.)

3. The **Calculation** Jacob Made (32:13-21)

Jacob's fear causes him to scheme once again. Warren Wiersbe writes, "**When faith is crowded out by fear, we're prone to start scheming and trusting our own resources.** A lady said to evangelist D.L. Moody, 'I've found a wonderful verse to help me overcome fear'; and she quoted **Psalm 56:3: 'What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee' (kjv).** 'I can give you a better promise,' said Moody, and he quoted **Isaiah 12:2: 'Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid' (kjv).**"¹

"I will pacify him with these gifts" (v.20, NIV) – Over 500 valuable animals.

4. The **Confrontation** God Caused (32:22-29)

Adrian Rogers states, "Here is Jacob wrestling with Christ, but the emphasis is not on Jacob wrestling with Christ; it is Christ wrestling with Jacob, because, you see, it was the Lord that initiated this wrestling match. And it's not what Jacob was trying to get from the Lord; **it's what the Lord is trying to do with Jacob.** He's wrestling with Jacob to bring Jacob to this point where Jacob finally says, 'I will not let you go, except you bless me. **You are my only hope.** Now I'm not wrestling to get away; I'm wrestling to hold on.' That's where God wants to bring you."²

God wants to see that we are serious about Him. (See **Mark 7:25-30 – Jesus and the Syrophenician woman** and **2 Kings 2:1-11 – Elijah and Elisha.**)

Jacob means "supplanter" "schemer" "heel grabber". Israel means "to struggle" or "one who wrestles with God" or "God prevails". G. Campbell Morgan interpreted this new name as "a God-mastered man."

v.28 - "You have had power with God; much more shall you prevail with men." (Sept. and Vulgate gloss)

Do you want a transformation of character in your life? (Seek the face of God)

Do you want power for daily living? (Seek the face of God)

Do you want spiritual blessings? (Seek the face of God)¹

5. The **Confidence** Jacob Expressed (32:30-32)

Before the fight, Jacob only expressed confidence in himself. After the fight, Jacob expressed confidence in God. The whole point of the fight, and God touching the hip to where Jacob would limp, was to prove that Jacob's confidence should not be in himself (or his schemes) but in God alone.

You take that spirited young colt with such strength and energy and speed. It is only when the colt is broken and controlled that the colt becomes the horse it is intended to be. God may have to break you to make you what you ought to be.

Hosea 12:3-4 (NKJV) - ³He took his brother by the heel in the womb, And in his strength he struggled with God. ⁴Yes, he struggled with **the Angel and prevailed...**

In the crises of life, on what are you choosing to lean? Is your confidence on anything but the Lord?

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Authentic*, "Be" Commentary Series (Colorado Springs, CO: Chariot Victor Pub., 1997), 54.

² Adrian Rogers, "A Battle You Cannot Afford to Win," in *Adrian Rogers Sermon Archive* (Signal Hill, CA: Rogers Family Trust, 2017), Ge 32.