

“I WILL NOT LET YOU GO UNTIL YOU BLESS ME”

Joshua 1:2 Fellowship

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Monthly Newsletter

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“I WILL NOT LET YOU GO UNTIL YOU BLESS ME”

Gen. 32:24-26

At this time in the life of Jacob he had left his uncle Laban's household where both of them had schemed one another. Jacob had wasted 20 years walking with God in the power of the Flesh and not accomplishing the perfect



will of God in his life. God had dealt with Jacob for him to return to his father's house and to leave Laban's household. Then the Lord said to Jacob, “Go back

to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you” (Gen. 31:3).

In verse 24 we see God wrestling with Jacob, “So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.” Jacob was in his prayer closet and it got very intense that God said to Jacob to let Him go!

“Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” (Verse 26a)

But the Bible reveals to us these powerful words that came out of the mouth of Jacob the schemer!

“...But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” Verse 26b

Why was Jacob praying to God, “I will not let You go until You bless me?”

Jacob had reached CROSSROADS in his life where he



had realized that if he was ever going to fulfill God's perfect plan for his life he had to surrender his whole heart to God. He could now see that he had wasted 20 years because of walking in the flesh and not by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us that

God answered his prayer, “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” (Gen. 32:28).

God changed his name from Jacob (man of the flesh) to Israel (a man of God full of the power of the Holy Spirit).

WHY DID GOD RESPOND TO JACOBS' CRY AND CHANGED HIS NAME TO ISRAEL?

JACOB WAS ABLE TO SEE THAT HE HAD WASTED YEARS BY SERVING GOD WITH THE POWER OF THE FLESH

God asked him what his name was and he responded, Jacob.

The man asked him, “What is your name?” “Jacob,” he answered. Verse 27

Jacob now understands that he has to allow God to change his life if he would ever fulfill God's perfect will for his life. Jacob was at a point of his life that he understood that only a surrendered heart would release the full power and full blessings of God in his life. The very ‘Life of God’ flowing out of his surrendered heart!

Jesus said, “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in Me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even **greater things** than these, because I am going to the Father” (John 14:12 NIV).

God cannot do ‘greater things’ through a vessel that is full of carnality and sin. God does not anoint lazy Christians that don’t pray and who are playing with sin. Jacob never accomplished great things for God in Laban’s house which represents a lifestyle of living in the flesh. If God had never dealt with Jacob to leave Laban’s house he would have continued wasting more years doing nothing for God. God had to open Jacob’s eyes for him to see where he was and for him to make a decision: Stay there in Laban’s House of Flesh; or leave and go back to God and start walking with Him in the power of the Holy Ghost.

This is why he cried out to God, **“I will not let you go unless you bless me.”**

Jacob was saying, I am tired of playing church, playing games, playing with sin and half-stepping with God and wasting time. Jacob was at a point in his life of going all the way with God! Sold-Out to Jesus!

“I will not let you go unless you bless me.” Verse 26

Jacob was surrendering his whole heart to God in verse 26! It took Jacob 20 years for him to reach that point of surrendering his all to God!

WHY DID GOD RESPOND TO JACOBS’ CRY AND CHANGED HIS NAME TO ISRAEL?

JACOB WAS NOW WILLING TO SURRENDER HIS WHOLE HEART TO GOD

Jacob was now praying to God with his whole heart and ready to do His will and not his will in his life. He had learned from his failures and mistakes.

“So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.” Verse 24

God was wrestling with Jacob to see if he was serious in changing and if he really wanted God to take control of his life. God was saying to Jacob, ‘Do you really want to serve Me with all your heart? Are you ready to surrender all your heart and do My will for your life? Are you tired of wasting time? 20 years?’

The Bible reveals to us that Jacob was serious and willing to surrender his whole heart to God. **A Man After God’s Heart!**

“When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched (dislocated) as he wrestled with the man.” Verse 25



The phrases ‘When the man saw that he could not overpower him...’ means God saw the heart of Jacob that he was serious and determined to allow God to change his life. God had no choice but to touch the strength of the area in his life that did not allow him not to serve with a whole heart. His Carnality!

“he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched (dislocated) as he wrestled with the man.”

‘he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip’ means the strength of the sin in his life that kept him from surrendering his whole heart to God.

The sin of jealousy, lust for sin, anger, bitterness, unable to forgive and forget your spouse’s past sins, and so on. When God sees that you are serious to surrender all your heart to Him, He will also touch you like He did Jacob and you will never be the same again. The Bible shows us that Jacob was never the same man after that night that God wrestle with him, “The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and **he was limping because of his hip.**” Verse 31

Jacob was now walking a different walk with God now! A man with a heart after God and a surrendered heart. **WHY DID GOD RESPOND TO JACOBS’ CRY AND CHANGED HIS NAME TO ISRAEL?**

JACOB SAID I WILL NOT LET YOU GO UNTIL YOU BLESS ME

After God touched the strength of his sinful nature and rendered it powerless He said to Jacob, ...**“Let me go,** for it is daybreak.”

But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

God was telling Jacob, ‘Let me go’ because you are not really serious and you really don’t want to change.

But Jacob said, “**I will not let you go unless you bless me.**”



‘I don’t ever want to be ruled by the sinful nature as I was for the past 20 years! I don’t want just one touch God; I want you to touch me everyday in my prayer

closet when I spend time with you.’ Jacob was saying to God, ‘I will not let you go until you bless me and make me more like Jesus.’ Why? ‘Because the only way I can fulfill your plan in my life is to allow Jesus to flow through me with His power.’ Jacob understood that without the power of the Holy Ghost flowing out of his heart he would not be able to accomplish God’s plan for his life.

The Bible says, ‘Not by might nor by power, but **by my Spirit,**’ says the Lord Almighty. Zech. 4:6b

We are God’s Weapons of War and He wants to use anointed Weapons of War to destroy the works of the devil.

“You are my hammer and weapon of war: with you I break nations in pieces; with you I destroy kingdoms;” Jer. 51:20

A Christian who has surrendered his whole heart to God is a weapon of war in His hand that destroys the works of satan. Jacob allowed God to help him restore his prayer life in his prayer closet and He was now able to change him from glory to glory into the image of Jesus.

“But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are transformed into the same image from glory to glory,** even as from the Lord the Spirit” (2Cor. 3:18).

God changes Jacob’s name (Schemer) to Israel (In the image of Christ)

“The man asked him, “What is your name? “**Jacob,**” he answered. 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.” Verse 27-28

God said, your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel because He saw that Jacob was sincere and is why He touched him in a special way that Jacob was never the same. God will do the same for you whenever you get serious like Jacob and will change your name to Israel. Jacob is now Israel and walking in the power of the Holy Ghost! The full blessings and power of God are now flowing through the life of Israel now. Where are you in your walk with God? Are you in Laban’s House of Carnality? Are you wasting time in serving God with the power of the Flesh? How many years do you want to stay in Laban’s House of Sin? Jacob responded to the dealings of God when He told him to leave Laban’s House of Horror. He obeyed and God was able to change him and bless him. Don’t allow the devil to keep you in Laban’s House wasting time because your opportunity might pass you by if you continue to resist the dealings of God to leave that place. God will shut that door!

Cry like Jacob did, “**I will not let you go unless you bless me.**”

Whatever blessing you are asking God for do not let go until He blesses you. If you are being train for ministry allow God to make you like Jesus. Pray like Jacob, ‘**I will not let you go unless you bless me,**’ change me, make me like Jesus, put more hunger and thirst for Jesus in my heart, fill my heart with the power of the Holy Spirit and use me as a ‘Warclub’ to destroy the works of darkness and bring revival in my heart and use me to start a fire! “**I will not let you go unless you bless me.**”

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