



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Genesis 32:3-36:43
- Matthew 11:11-15
- Luke 10:17-24
- Romans 7:14-8:17; 4:20-22
- Galatians 5:16-17
- Hebrews 12:1-2; 4:11-13
- John 14:12-14
- II Peter 1:1-11
- Ephesians 1:17-23
- Psalm 51
- I Timothy 6:3-6

Title:

SPIRITUAL TENACITY—FOR THOSE WITH EARS TO HEAR

- Spiritual Violence & Tenacity
- Wrestling with God
- Promises for New Creatures
- Who is Yahweh?
- Who are You?
- Intimate Processes
- Prayer-Intimacy-Repentance
- What gets in the way?
- Forgetting the Past
- Time is Short—Get Violent

*Jacob wrestled with God all night long and when God insisted he let go, we notice a different side of the son “who dwelled in tents.” Jacob’s response was a resounding, “**I WILL NOT let You go!**” Yet, the Hebrew words behind the scene give us even greater insight into how violent this encounter truly was, and how tenaciously Jacob resisted. The adverb, “**I will not**” has a permanent*

and resolute quality as it modifies a verb, in this case, **“let You go!”** “I will not” demands absolute prohibition of “let you go.” Yes, Jacob is **violent** in his encounter: forceful, ferocious, intense, potent, and furious; and Jacob is **tenacious** in his engagement: locked-on, relentless, fixated, resolute, and steadfast!

What does this mean for us? Spiritual tenacity and violence require a well-developed sense of who God is, plus an unadulterated understanding of who you are to God. Yahweh is steadfast, never lies, and is, of course, infinitely capable of doing what He promised. We are the wild cards in the relationship. If we fail to recognize who we are to Him, it is easy to get swept away in a flood of anxieties, doubts, and [Spiritual Amnesia](#). Yahweh will certainly do His part; will you do yours? Y’shua taught us, “The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.”

If you want on the team, it’s going to take some violent and tenacious wrestling with God. To do so, you must invest as much time as it takes to know God intimately, and spend equal time learning who you are to Him! I promise, accomplish these and you will never stumble! “Therefore, brethren, [as a team member] be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.” II Peter 1:10 NKJV

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“And He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” **But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!”** So He said to him, “What is your name?” He said, “Jacob.” And He said, **“Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”** Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell me Your name, I pray.” And He said, **“Why is it that you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there.** So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: **“For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.”**” Genesis 32:26-30 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

“Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; **but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.** And from the days of John the Baptist until now **the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.** For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. **And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”**

Matthew 11:11-15 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. Jacob prepares to meet Esau as he returns to the Promised Land, but first he engages in a mysterious all-night wrestling match with an angel in the darkness. His spiritual **tenacity** to “never let go until he is blessed” inspires a name change. The angel calls him Israel, “one who has struggled with God and with men, and has prevailed.” The portion follows Jacob’s adventures in the land of Canaan, including the loss of his beloved wife, Rachel.
2. As Jacob journeys back to the Promised Land he encounters his brother Esau. Remember, he “escaped” from Esau at the advice of his mother Rebekah, after she helped plot the the scheme for Jacob to hijack Esau’s firstborn blessing from their father Isaac. Jacob assumes his “hunter” brother is still furious, so he hatches a plan to hedge against the likelihood that Esau will exact revenge.
3. Jacob sends a delegation ahead with a lot of “stuff” to bless his brother and to “buy off” his favor, only to find his brother is already on the way to meet him with four hundred men.
4. Greatly afraid, Jacob divides his people into separated groups, so at least some of them can escape if attacked.

5. Jacob prays and reminds Yahweh of His promises to protect him on his return journey (Genesis 31:3, 13) and to multiply his decedents as the sands of the sea.
6. Jacob assembles generous gifts for his brother and delivers them in separate droves to his servants, who he instructs to offer Esau one drove at a time, all with a message aiming to soften his inevitable face-to-face encounter.
7. He instructs his servants to tell Esau that the gifts are from Jacob, and to refer to him as “Esau’s servant” (Genesis 32:18, 20). He feels this will appease Esau to “perhaps accept him.”
8. **Wresting with God:** Then we see the famous narrative in which Jacob wrestles with God. He encounters a “man” who “wrangles” with him all night, and this is where we see Jacob’s spiritual tenacity. No doubt, when we are desperate for God to show up on our behalf we tend to really dig in! The man tries to get loose from Jacob’s grasp as they wrestle, but Jacob insists, “*I will not let You go unless You bless me!*”(Genesis 32:26 NKJV) This entire encouter inspires one of the great prophetic moments in Scripture.
 - a) *“And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.””* Genesis 32:28 NKJV

- b) Jacob then calls the name of the place where this occurs—
Peniel, *“For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.”* Genesis 32:30 NKJV
9. This is all great preparation for what comes next, as he is about to come face-to-face with a great fear, the brother from whom he extracted both his birthright and blessing.
10. Chapter 33 records the first “post-blessing-theft” encounter between brothers. Jacob preps by putting his children and their respective mothers in order of how they would encounter Esau, presuming the ones out front are in the greatest danger. The maidservants Bilhah and Zilpah and their children go first; then Leah and her children; and finally Rachel and Joseph (his favorites) last.
11. The encounter does not go as Jacob expected. Esau is not angry at all, but is instead overjoyed to see his brother and meet his family. But, he questions why Jacob sent all those gifts in advance. Jacob tells him it was to find favor, of course. Esau graciously says he needs none of it, as he too is already abundantly blessed.
12. Jacob insists Esau take the gifts and makes this curious statement. *“No, please, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen your face **as though I had seen the face of God**, and you were*

pleased with me." (Genesis 33:10 NKJV) At this urging Esau accepts and they depart from one another peaceably.

13. Remember, Jacob just had an encounter with "God" that ended with him declaring —"*For **I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.***" (Genesis 32:30)— And now, he is making a similar statement as he looks upon his older brother, "*I have seen your face **as though I had seen the face of God.***" It would seem that Jacob and his brother have been "wrestling" since the womb, as you may recall. During birth, Jacob hung on to Esau's heel (Genesis 25:26), much like his present experience, many years later, when he would not let go of God until he was blessed. It's prophetic that the wrestling in the womb was a foreshadow of this future moment in Jacob's life, at which time his spiritual tenacity would be on full display!
14. Jacob arrives back in Canaan and purchases a piece of land and erects an altar and calls that place, "El Elohe Israel", which means "mighty is the God of Israel" (Genesis 33:20). Jacob is coming to realize the magnitude of his calling; remember, as far as he knows—**he is Israel!**
15. Chapter 34 describes the incident with Dinah. Remember she is Leah's daughter, Jacob's 11th born child, but as a female she is not counted in the birth order. She was born after Zebulun, the tenth son, and before Joseph.

16. Dinah is raped by Hamor's son Shechem, and this ignites a volatile situation. Jacob finds out what happened when Hamor comes to convince him to let her marry his son, whom he claims is quite smitten with her. Jacob's sons (especially Leah's sons who are Dinah's full siblings) are NOT HAPPY about what has happened to their sister! Nevertheless, Hamor tries to make a deal with Jacob; "Let's intermarry our daughters and make some great trades and land deals!"
17. Jacob's sons seem to be in agreement with this arrangement with one potential "deal breaking" stipulation. The males on Hamor's side must all be circumcised if they are to marry any women on Jacob's side.
18. Hamor and Shechem convince all the males on their side that this is a good deal, as they get these great women, plus these women also come with wealth!
19. So, all the males get circumcised and on the third day, while they are still incapacitated with pain, **Simeon and Levi** slaughter them all in revenge, including Hamor and Shechem. They take back their sister, plunder the city, and take the women and children captive.
20. Jacob is not happy, as he worries they have now awakened a sleeping giant, fearful that the Canaanites and Perizzites will amass against him. *"Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You*

have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land, ...” Genesis 34:30 NKJV

21. This impetuous act is not forgotten when, much later, Jacob is placing his final blessing on his sons at the end of Genesis, nor does Moses forget, as he places his final blessings on Israel at the end of Deuteronomy:

a) **Jacob’s Final Blessings:** *”Simeon and Levi are brothers; **Instruments of cruelty** are in their dwelling place. Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; **For in their anger they slew a man**, And in their self-will they hamstringed an ox. Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob And scatter them in Israel.”* Genesis 49:5-7 NKJV

b) And in the final final blessings of Moses in Deuteronomy 33, Simeon is not even mentioned!

22. In Chapter 35 Jacob returns to Bethel as Yahweh instructs, and Jacob tells the people to purify themselves and to get rid of their idols. On their journey they put the fear of Yahweh in the cities all around them.

23. Yahweh appears to Jacob again and affirms the all-important name change that we saw in Genesis 32:28! *”And God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob*

anymore, **but Israel shall be your name.**” So He called his name *Israel.*” Genesis 35:10 NKJV

24. The four promises that date all the way back to his grandparents Abraham and Sarah are once again reiterated: “Also God said to him: “I am God Almighty. [1] **Be fruitful and multiply;** [2] **a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you,** and [3] **kings shall come from your body.** [4] **The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land.**”” Genesis 35:11-12 NKJV

25. Then Jacob’s beloved Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin and we are reminded of the 12 sons of Jacob and to whom they were born:

(1) Leah—Laban’s firstborn daughter and Jacob’s first wife

(a) Reuben #1

(b) Simeon #2

(c) **Levi #3** (The Priesthood comes from this line.)

(d) **Judah #4** (The Messiah comes from this line.)

(e) Issachar #9 (After the Mandrakes)

(f) Zebulun #10

(g) Dinah (a girl comes after #10 but does not figure in birth order.)

(2) Bilhah—Rachel’s Maidservant

(a) Dan #5

- (b) Naphtali #6
 - (3) Zilpah—Leah’s Maidservant
 - (a) Gad #7
 - (b) Asher #8
 - (4) Rachel—Laban’s second daughter; Jacob’s second and favorite wife!
 - (a) **Joseph #11** (THE FIRSTBORN of Jacob’s true love)
 - (b) **Benjamin #12** (Deep prophetic significance.)
26. Then Isaac dies at 180 years old and is buried by Esau and Jacob.
27. Chapter 36 recounts the entire family line of Esau and his sons. We see that Esau took wives in Canaan and his five sons were born in Canaan: Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah. These five sons became the “Chiefs of Edom” in Mt. Seir. Esau is synonymous with Edom as Esau is the father of the Edomites.
Note: Reuel was Ishmael’s grandson born to his daughter Basemath.
28. Then the sons and family line of Seir, the Horite who already inhabited the land, are named.
29. Then the Kings of Edom are named, kings who reigned before there was ever a king over Israel. You may recall (and we will see later in our studies) that Yahweh never intended to place a king over Israel. It will be the people who demand a king, as

Israel looks upon the pagan nations and how they do things, and they want to copy them!

30. Finally, the Chiefs of Esau are named and we are again reminded: *“Esau was the father of the Edomites.”* Genesis 36:43 NKJV

WHAT?

1. **Spiritual Violence and Spiritual Tenacity**

A. **A violent encounter:** forceful, ferocious, intense, potent, and furious; **A tenacious engagement:** locked-on, relentless, fixated, resolute, and steadfast!

(1) **The Long Fight**— “Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.” Genesis 32:24 NKJV

(a) “And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had. **Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.** Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.” Genesis 32:22-25 NKJV

(2) **Violence and Tenacity**— “And He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!”” Genesis 32:26 NKJV

(a) “And He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” **But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!”** So He said to him, “What is your name?” He said, “Jacob.” And He said, “**Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.**” Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell me Your name, I pray.” And He said, “**Why is it that you ask about My name?**” And He blessed him there. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: “**For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.**”” Genesis 32:26-30 NKJV

(b) “Then **many false prophets** will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. **But he who *endures to the end [tenacity] shall be saved.** And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the **end** will come.”
Matthew 24:11-14 NKJV

1. ***Prophetic Note:** The end always refers to one thing passing away and a new thing emerging, in other

words a Passover. In the end, Jacob emerged from his trial as Israel, and that is exactly what happened when God's people emerged from Egypt as the nation, Israel!

- (3) **Spiritual Violence and Tenacity**— “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.” Matthew 11:12 NKJV
- (a) ““Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now **the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.** For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. **And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!**” Matthew 11:11-15 NKJV
- (4) **Eyes and Ears**—know the authority you've been given! That authority unleashes your Spiritual Violence!
- (a) “Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. **Behold, I give you the authority to trample on**

serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, **but rather rejoice** because your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:17-20 NKJV

- (b) "In that hour **Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit** and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have **hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes**. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. " Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, "**Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it.** ""

Luke 10:21-24 NKJV

B. Wresting with God

(1) Paul says, "I'm fighting something here..."

- (a) "For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not

understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. **For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.** **Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it,** but sin that dwells in me. I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. **But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind,** and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. Romans 7:14-25 NKJV

- (2) **New Identity**—Paul, like Jacob, realizes his new identity!
 - (a) This wrestling Paul experienced is precisely what we see in the narrative in which Jacob wrestles with God. Jacob

encounters a “man” who “wrangles” with him all night, and this is the moment we witness Jacob’s spiritual tenacity emerge. No doubt, when we are desperate for God to show up on our behalf we tend to really dig in! The man tries to get loose from Jacob’s grasp as they wrestle, but Jacob insists, *“I will not let You go unless You bless me!”* (Genesis 32:26 NKJV) This entire encounter inspires one of the great prophetic moments in Scripture.

- (b) **Jacob’s new Identity, an overcomer with God!** “And He said, **“Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”**” Genesis 32:28 NKJV
 - (c) Jacob then calls the name of the place where this occurs — Peniel, **“For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.”** Genesis 32:30 NKJV
- (3) **New Revelation**—Just look at Jacob’s words translated into Paul’s same experience... **Jacob:** “I have struggled with God and I prevailed!” **Paul:** “I have wrestled to have the spirit dominate my flesh, and now it is no longer I who sins!”
- (a) “Now if I do what I will not to do, **it is no longer I who do it** [because he is no longer the old creature Paul, just

like Jacob is no longer Jacob, but Israel the overcomer],
but sin that dwells in me.” Romans 7:20 NKJV

- (b) **Samples of how Paul has wrestled with God and Prevailed!** “O wretched man that I am! **Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.” Romans 7:24-25 NKJV
- (c) “There is therefore now **no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**” Romans 8:1 NKJV
- (d) “that the righteous requirement of the law might be **fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**” Romans 8:4 NKJV
- (e) **Long Version:** “There is therefore now no condemnation to those **who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be

fulfilled in us **who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.” Romans 8:1-9 NKJV

(f) **Same Message in Galatians**—“I say then: **Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.” Galatians 5:16-17 NKJV

1. Summary: What? Spiritual Violence and Spiritual Tenacity

2. Jacob had a violent encounter with God in which he was tenacious.
3. Jacob prevailed and was renamed Israel (overcomer).

4. This is a foreshadow of “enduring to the end!” and emerging as Israel.
5. It will take the violence and tenacity of Jacob to establish the Kingdom!
6. You must have the eyes to see and ears to hear what it means to exercise the authority to do so!
7. Paul also “wrestled with God” before he truly understood his new identity—one who has overcome and now lives according to the Spirit and not the flesh.

WHO?

2. Promises for New Creatures

A. Who is Yahweh?

- (1) Standing face-face with “The Life Preserver!”
 - (a) “Then Jacob asked, saying, “**Tell me Your name, I pray.**” And He said, “Why is it that you ask about My name?” **And He blessed him there.** So Jacob called the name of the place **Peniel [facing God]: “For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.”**” Genesis 32:29-30 NKJV
- (2) He is the Author and Finisher...What was started in you will be Completed!

- (a) “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto **Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV
- (b) “being confident of this very thing, that **He who has begun a good work in you will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ;” Philippians 1:6 NKJV
- (3) A God of His Word
- (a) **God will not lie—the Balak and Balaam saga—**“**God is not a man, that He should lie**, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. **Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?**” Numbers 23:19 NKJV
- (b) “And this is the sign to you from the LORD, **that the LORD will do this thing which He has spoken**: “Behold, **I will bring the shadow on the sundial**, which has gone down with the sun on the sundial of Ahaz, **ten degrees backward.**” So the sun returned ten degrees on the dial by which it had gone down.” Isaiah 38:7-8 NKJV

(4) Fully Capable

- (a) “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and **being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.** And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.”” Romans 4:20-22 NKJV

B. Who are you?

(1) A New Name—the Overcomer

- (a) “So He said to him, “What is your name?” He said, “Jacob.” And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but **Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.**”” Genesis 32:27-28 NKJV

(2) New Creature

- (a) “Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;** old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has **given us the ministry of reconciliation,** that is,

that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.” II

Corinthians 5:16-19 NKJV

- (b) “Do not lie to one another, since you have **put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man** who is renewed in knowledge **according to the image of Him who created him,**” Colossians 3:9-10 NKJV

(3) Ambassador

- (a) “Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us:** we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**” II

Corinthians 5:20-21 NKJV

(4) Saint NOT Sinner!

- (a) “To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, **called to be saints:** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 1:7 NKJV
- (b) “To the church of God which is at Corinth, **to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints,** with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:” I Corinthians 1:2 NKJV

(5) The Head and NOT The Tail

- (a) “And the LORD will make you the **head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath**, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.”
Deuteronomy 28:13 NKJV

(6) Child of God and Joint Heirs—your warring and wrestling was not in vain!

- (a) “For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” **The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer [warring and wrestling] with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”
Romans 8:15-17 NKJV

C. Yahweh always remembers His promises!

(1) Realizing the magnitude of your Identity! You are one who has overcome!

- (a) Jacob arrives back in Canaan and purchases a piece of land and erects an altar and calls that place, “El Elohe Israel”, which means “**mighty is the God of Israel**” (Genesis 33:20). Jacob is coming to realize the

magnitude of his calling; **remember, as far as he knows, he is Israel!**

(b) **And just so “Jacob” never forgets,** Yahweh appears to Jacob again and affirms the all-important name change that we saw in Genesis 32:28! *“And God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, **but Israel shall be your name.**” So He called his name Israel.”* Genesis 35:10 NKJV

(2) Who you are comes with promises!

(a) The four promises that date all the way back to his grandparents Abraham and Sarah are once again reiterated: *“Also God said to him: “I am God Almighty. [1] **Be fruitful and multiply;** [2] **a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you,** and [3] **kings shall come from your body.** [4] **The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land.”**”* Genesis 35:11-12 NKJV

(3) Greater promises! For those with eyes to see and ears to hear!

(a) “Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, **“Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see;** for I tell you that **many prophets and kings have desired to**

see what you see, and have not seen it, **and to hear what you hear**, and have not heard it. "" Luke 10:23-24 NKJV

(b) ""Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who believes in Me**, the **works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do**, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.**" John 14:12-14 NKJV

1. Summary: Who? Promises for New Creatures

2. God has amazing promises for His new creations.
3. The secret is that you must recognize you are that new creation and that God will **always** do what He says and will **always** finish what He started.
4. You are now ambassadors of Messiah and ministers of reconciliation (You are charged with passing on your name change.)!
5. You are no longer a sinners, but a saints, the heads and not the tails, joint heirs with Christ!
6. Yahweh promises that we will do even greater things than what we have witnessed thus far!

HOW?

3. Intimate Processes

A. Step-by-Step

(1) The Foundation: Free Faith

- (a) “Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those **who have obtained like precious faith** with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,” II Peter 1:1-2 NKJV

(2) Divine Power

- (a) **We have access to His divine power and all the promises that come with it:** “as His **divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,** through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us **exceedingly great and precious promises,** that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having **escaped the corruption** that is in the world through lust.” II Peter 1:3-4 NKJV

- (b) **What is divine power? The power that raised Christ from the grave!** “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, **the eyes of**

your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, **and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe,** according to the working of His mighty power **which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead** and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

Ephesians 1:17-23 NKJV

(3) Seven Step Process build upon faith!

(a) “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add **to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.** For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” II Peter 1:5-8 NKJV

(b) Add to your faith...

1. virtue
2. knowledge
3. self-control
4. perseverance
5. godliness
6. brotherly kindness
7. love

(4) The Glory to Glory Process

(a) “Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. **But we all, with unveiled face [like Jacob who wrestled with God!]**, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image **from glory to glory**, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” II Corinthians 3:17-18 NKJV

B. Prayer, Intimacy and Repentance is necessary in the process!

(1) Repentant heart— after Nathan confronts David about Bathsheba

(a) “**Have mercy upon me, O God**, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.” Psalms 51:1 NKJV

- (b) **“Against You, You only, have I sinned,** And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.” Psalms 51:4 NKJV
- (c) **“Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.”** Psalms 51:6 NKJV
- (d) **“Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart,** O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.” Psalms 51:9-10 NKJV
- (e) **“Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.”** Psalms 51:11 NKJV
- (f) **“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—** These, O God, You will not despise.” Psalms 51:17 NKJV
- (2) Search Me O’ God!
- (a) **“Search me, O God, and know my heart;** Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalms 139:23-24 NKJV
- (3) **The word of God is sharper—**nothing is hidden from Him

(a) “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, **who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts.** Then each one’s praise will come from God.” I Corinthians 4:5 NKJV

(b) “Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. **For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:11-13 NKJV

C. What gets in the way?

(1) Looking Back

(a) ““For he who lacks these things [doing the work of adding to your faith—virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love] is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has **forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.**” II Peter 1:9 NKJV

- (b) “Therefore, brethren, **be even more diligent to make your call and election sure**, for if you do these things you will never stumble;” II Peter 1:10 NKJV
- (2) Forgetting the Past—an account of your sin is GONE!
- (a) “**The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.** He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; **As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**” Psalms 103:8-12 NKJV
- (b) “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but **I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.** Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing **I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,** I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and **if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.**

Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind." Philippians 3:12-16 NKJV

(3) Teaching Otherwise

- (a) "If anyone **teaches otherwise** and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the **doctrine which accords with godliness** [Remember 2 Peter 1:3—"His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness."] he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. ***From such withdraw yourself** [see Ephesians 5:11 and II Corinthians 6:14-16]. Now **godliness with contentment is great gain.**" I Timothy 6:3-6 NKJV
- (b) "And **have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness**, but rather expose them." Ephesians 5:11 NKJV
- (c) "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? **And what communion has light with darkness?** And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a

believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." II Corinthians 6:14-16 NKJV

1. Summary: How? Intimate Processes

2. God has offered us a seven step process to build upon the faith He has gifted to us. Add to your faith—virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.
3. His exceedingly great and precious promises await all those who engage in the process.
4. Developing deep intimacy with God is needed to engage in this process.
5. We have been given all we need for life and godliness. And anyone who teaches otherwise should be avoided like the plague.
6. Only one thing will hold us back—forgetting we are new creatures who have no need to revisit our past sins!
7. And, "if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you."

WHY AND WHEN?

4. Time is Short—Time to get Violent

A. Only the spiritually violent and tenacious will prevail!

(1) Why?

(a) ““Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; **but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.** And from the days of John the Baptist until now **the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.** For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. **And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!**” Matthew 11:11-15 NKJV

(2) When?

(a) “See then that you **walk circumspectly**, not as fools but as wise, **redeeming the time**, because **the days are evil.** Therefore **do not be unwise**, but **understand what the will of the Lord is.** And do not be drunk with wine, in **which is dissipation**; but **be filled with the Spirit,**” Ephesians 5:15-18 NKJV

B. Final Warning!

(1) These will come as a snare to you!

(a) **No Dissipating Activities:** ““But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing [dissipation], drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. **For it will come as a snare** on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.” Luke 21:34-35 NKJV

(b) **Do not be lukewarm:** ““And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: **“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”**” Revelation 3:14-16 NKJV

1. Summary: Why and When? Time is Short

2. We must be spiritually violent and tenacious.
3. The time is now—we have no time to waste and no room to be weighed down by activities that dissipate our energy.
4. In the end, lukewarm believers will be vomited out!

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Up until his all-night encounter with God, Jacob seemed quite fearful and passive:**
 - A. What was different on that night?
 - B. Why was he holding on so tight?
 - C. What did he receive?
 - D. How might you relate Jacob's persistence to Y'shua's words in Matthew 11:12: *"The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."*?
 - E. How might you relate Jacob's persistence to Y'shua's words in Matthew 24:13: *"But he who endures to the end shall be saved."*?
- 2. What is prophetically significant about Jacob's name change?**
 - A. What is the meaning of his new name?
 - B. How does his new name relate to a proper understanding of Christian identity?
- 3. Jacob wrestled with God as we have seen:**
 - A. Relate Paul's testimony in Romans 7:14-25 with Jacob's experience in Genesis 32:22-30.
- 4. Discuss the four promises God reiterated to Jacob in Genesis 35:11-12 that were originally made to his Grandparents Abraham and Sarah.**

5. Discuss the seven-step process of receiving all of God's promises according to 2 Peter 1:5-8.

A. What is the foundation of that process?

B. Name at least four amazing promises in 2 Peter 1:1-11