

The Real Transformative Work of God

Genesis 32:6-12, 24-31

Objective: To learn how we, as Jacob, can experience the real transformative work of God in our lives.

Internal transformation is a work of God.

Only when submitting to God's process for transformation can a person experience the real transformative work of God in their life.

God's process of real transformation always includes:

I. A real relationship that's been extended to us by God (vv. 6-12).

- A. Jacob's fear (**vv. 6-7a**).
- B. Jacob's initial reaction is to strategize (**vv. 7b-8**).
- C. Jacob's humble prayer (**vv. 9-11**).

Evidence of spiritual maturity will always be made manifest in the real outward maturity of a person.

- D. Jacob's Model of prayer: I'm afraid...but You said... (**vs. 12**).

God's process of real transformation always includes:

II. A real encounter that's been initiated with us by God (vv. 24-26).

- A. A Man wrestled with him (**vs. 24**). God makes the first move.
- B. Jacob, a life of wrestling (**vv. 25-26**).

Luke 9:23-24 • ²³ And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.
²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

The Bible shows us repeatedly that true victory comes after submission to God, not in struggle.

God's process of real transformation always includes:

III. A real name change that's been given to us by God (vv. 27-30).

- A. No longer **Jacob** • "Heel Grabber" (**vv. 27-28a**).
- B. But **Israel** • "God prevails" (**vv. 28b-30**).

True victory comes once I, like Jacob, submit myself to the truth that God prevails... not me.

- C. The consequences of Jacob living in a **former identity**.
 - Examine the consequences in Jacob's sons.
 - Delayed devotion will be caught by those around you.
 - What kind of legacy are you leaving behind?

God's process of real transformation always includes:

IV. A real limp that's been given to us by God (vs. 31).

"It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply." - A.W. Tozer

- A. A real encounter with God changes your walk (**vs. 31**).
- B. Those who are in Christ can be identified by their walk.

2 Corinthians 5:17 • Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.