



"Hold on 'til I get it!"

"This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket. Then the man said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!"

But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

"What is your name?" the man asked.

He replied, "Jacob."

"Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with

God and with men and have won.”

Genesis 32:24-28 (NLT)

Jacob lived up to his name. A deceiver from birth, he finds himself in a perfect storm – the culmination of a lifetime of manipulating:

- He'd tricked Esau out of his birthright and their father's blessing. Seeking vengeance, Esau's army was expected the next day. Jacob was terrified!
- He'd spent 20 years under the manipulative hand of his uncle Laban. Suffering a big dose of his own medicine, he was bitter! Perhaps now he understood the anger of Esau?
- He'd been told by God that the covenantal promise given to Abraham would pass on through him. Could this happen if he was dead?

Jacob's nature pressed him to manipulate his escape. He planned a parade of bountiful gifts for Esau hoping to appease his anger. That night, the storm peaked. A man (God himself) came to wrestle him. After struggling all night Jacob was declared the winner...

What? How can a man, now permanently disabled, clinging, and begging for a blessing, be the winner? Who can win a match against God? What were they really wrestling about anyway? We gain insight when God changes Jacob's name. After the bout, Jacob, the trickster, was dead... he lost! But Israel was alive – a new name, a new nature,

dependent on God... he won! And his blessing continues to shape the Kingdom of God... everyone wins!

Self-reliant like Jacob, I remember my prolonged struggle with God. I didn't want to give up; my ways were fine! ...until they weren't. I finally surrendered my life... I lost! Only to gain the blessing of my new identity in Christ... I won! And my blessing continues to shape the Kingdom of God... everyone wins!

How about you?

Reflect: Have I won my life changing match with God, really?

Jacob came to know God differently after his victory. Having a lifetime of struggles, every painful step he took catapulted him back to that match when he surrendered his independence.

"At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" The Apostle Paul (2 Corinthians 5:16-17)

Likewise, how differently I know Christ now... Every painful trial I face thrusts me back into our struggle. God uses each trial to extract another chunk of my old self-reliant identity. Can a true believer coast through life without God coming to wrestle away another chunk from time to time? Have you had subsequent bouts with God?

By lovingly breaking us with a trial, God shapes his Kingdom; he has another blessing to give! Each time, like Jacob, we must hold on 'til we get it.

Consider: **Blessings flow when I unrelentingly hold onto God amid my trials.**

Once humbled under the true might of God, what can you do but surrender each time? So, why not declare in advance, "I'll give up quickly!" If only it was this easy. God wrestled with Jacob all night before crippling him instantly.

Pride, stubbornness, fear and distrust of God run deep. We hate to surrender, it's unnatural! In his mercy, God wrestles us to the point of surrender and this takes time; he lets us resist all night... usually longer!

"God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." (James 1:12)

But a blessing awaits those who hold on 'til they get it.

Imagine: **My blessings creating a Kingdom wake.**

A blessing is not truly a blessing until it flows through you. Each time

you wrestle God to the point of surrender you'll receive a blessing... because you lose, you win! But your blessing isn't complete until you pass it on. Jacob wrestled with God and held on; his win laid the path for a people who will ultimately prevail. Israel wins! You win! I win! Everyone wins!

Recall the boy who offered up (surrendered) his loaves and fish... he lost!

Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?" (John 6:8-9)

Then he won! How many were blessed? Think about how many times his story has been told... what a testimony! Far, far more than 5000 have been fed. By sharing, this boy's blessing continues to shape the Kingdom of God... everyone wins!

Likewise, each time God tests you, surrender! Then share your blessing. Envision the Kingdom wake created because you've determined to...

"Hold on 'til I get it!"

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- What is God wrestling from me right now?
- Am I convinced that God has my best interests in mind?
- What keeps me from surrendering?
- Have I committed to I hold on 'til I get my blessing? How will I share it?
- Don't know my Mission? [Start here!](#)

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Hold on 'til I get it!

"And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)



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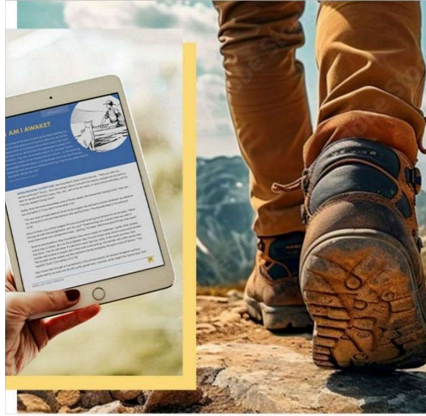
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