

**Questions...**  
**How God Uses Problems in Your Life to Change You**

7-12-15

**God's goal for my life: To change me into His \_\_\_\_\_**

***Would you look at problems DIFFERENTLY in your life if know God was using them to change you into His image?***

**FOUR PHASES GOD USES TO CHANGE US**

**1. A CRISIS**

- **WE \_\_\_\_\_ WITH GOD.**

Genesis 32:24-25 - So Jacob was left alone, and a man **wrestled with him till daybreak.** <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that **he could not overpower him**, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man.

Hosea 12:3 - In the womb he grasped his brother's heel; **as a man he struggled with God.**

***REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE PROBLEM IS, THERE ARE TWO STRUGGLES YOU WILL HAVE:***

**WILL I \_\_\_\_\_ HIM?**

**WILL I \_\_\_\_\_ HIM?**

***YOUR BIGGEST PROBLEM IS NOT YOUR PROBLEM. YOUR PROBLEM IS NOT OBEYING AND TRUSTING GOD. THAT MAKES IT THE BIGGEST PROBLEM.***

## **2. A COMMITMENT**

- **WE SHOULD NOT LET \_\_\_\_\_.**

Genesis 32:26 - Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "**I will not let you go unless you bless me.**"

**HERE'S THE LESSON: WHEN GOD ALLOWS A CRISIS INTO YOUR LIFE, HE DOESN'T SOLVE IT IMMEDIATELY.**

Galatians 6:9 - "Let us not become weary in doing good, **for at the proper time** we will reap a harvest **if we do not give up.**"

## **3. A CONFESSION**

- **WE ADMIT THAT WE'RE THE \_\_\_\_\_.**

Genesis 32:27 - "The man asked him, 'What is your name?' **JACOB**' he answered."

*Jacob = deceiver, heel-catcher*

## 4. A CONVERSION

- **WE'RE GIVEN A NEW \_\_\_\_\_.**

Genesis 32:27-30 - The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered.<sup>28</sup> Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but **Israel**, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."<sup>29</sup> Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he **blessed him** there.<sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

- ***HE GETS A BRAND NEW IDENTITY***

*Israel= "Prince with God"*

- ***HE \_\_\_\_\_ JACOB***

- ***HE IS GIVEN A \_\_\_\_\_***

Genesis 32:31 - The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was **limping** because of his hip.

### WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS LIMP?

- **HE STOPPED \_\_\_\_\_ FROM GOD.**
- **HE STARTED \_\_\_\_\_ ON GOD.**

Hebrews 11:21 - By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he **leaned on the top of his staff**.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - "If anyone belongs to Christ, they are a **new creation**. The old things have gone; **everything is made new!**"