



Surrendering Ourselves

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Surrendering in Conversion and Sanctification

1. Baptism is the outward confirmation that we have yielded to God
 - a. Both in our conversion when we yield to Him as our savior
 - b. And in our lives as we yield to Him as Lord
2. The Christian lifelong process of sanctification is one of surrendering and submitting to God

Jacob the Deceiver's Troubling Relationships

- a. The OT character Jacob exemplifies for us a life that surrendered and submitted to God.
- b. Who is Jacob?
- c. Jacob deceived his blind aging father into giving him the family blessing that was reserved for his older brother Esau
- d. When Esau found out about this, he vowed to kill his brother Jacob.
 - i. Jacob fled to Padan-aram to the home of his uncle Laban.
- e. Jacob's years in Padan-aram were full of deception that led to bitterness
- f. Jacob and Laban have a falling out
 - i. Jacob and Laban make an oath and set up a border that they would not cross in order to harm one another.
 - ii. Jacob heads back to his homeland to face Esau who has vowed to kill him, while behind him is an angry Laban.

Jacob wrestles with God.

Text: Genesis 32:22-32

3. Jacob is alone with God
 - a. Troubles behind and ahead. Jacob sends all of his family and his servants along with all of his possessions across the Jabbok stream or river.

- b. Jacob is alone and wrestles all night with a human figure that verses 28 and 30 indicate to be God. See Hosea 12:3-5 refers to the figure as an angel that is God.
 - c. Theophany: a visible appearance of God in the Old Testament period.
 - d. God touches Jacob's hip and cripples him. Jacob holds on and clutches Him; He will not let go until He blesses him.
4. Jacob The New Man
- a. Jacob's transformation did not take place while he was wrestling with God. His transformation came only after God had crippled him and forced him to cling onto Him.
 - b. Only when he was in this broken and crippled state did God bless Jacob.

The Apostle Paul's Struggles

5. Romans 7: We find Paul in an inner, personal struggle.
- a. For seven chapters Paul has expounded on God's righteousness.
 - b. Here at the end of chapter 7 we find Him struggling:
 - i. As a follower of Christ. Paul knows what the law of God demands, he wants to fully obey and keep it, and yet he continuously finds himself failing and struggling to do so.
 - ii. Rom 7: 14-25 describes his struggle with wanting to obey God's laws but his humanity keeps getting in the way

Text Rom 7: 14-25

- c. Paul is wrestling between what he desires to do and what he actually does.
 - i. In vs 15 *For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.*
 - ii. In 18-19: *For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.*
 - iii. In 22-23: *For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.*
- d. Paul is crippled in his flesh (v. 24) "wretched man that I am"
- e. Just like Jacob, Paul quits wrestling and clings to God (Rom 7: 25 – 8:2)

²⁵ *Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

- f. We are not united to God in the wrestling's of our own human efforts, we are united to him by clinging to Him

Application

6. Just like Jacob and Paul, we are only victorious when we completely surrender and cling to Him.
7. There will always be struggles.
 - a. Even though Jacob and Paul submitted themselves to God the struggles did not end for either man.
 - b. God breaks us, in order to bring us to the place of seeing that the victory is not of our own strength and efforts.
 - c. God allows difficulties in our lives so that that we ultimately surrender to Him and cling to Him.
 - d. It's in our surrender and our clinging to Him that we are blessed.