

Title: Seeing God Face to Face

Text: Genesis 32:22-32(Part !!)

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to Genesis chapter 32. This is the story of Jacob struggle with this man. Genesis chapter 32 verse 22..

(Read Vs 22-31)

Prayer

This is a wonderful story. We have been spending some time, now, with this story because there is so much in the way of teaching for our lives. A couple of weeks ago we noticed something about Jacob's prevailing with this man who came to wrestle with him. And we learned that this man was non other than Jesus, himself. And we, also, learned something about the reasons for struggles and difficults in our lives. And how we struggle with our own sin nature and self will. And it seems to get in the way of doing God's will. And so God, because he loves us, will not let us go on in our own sin. And He comes to us---and we struggle--just like Jacob. And we learned that real joy in life comes when we stop struggleing with God. Because when we stop struggleing we are then in the position to receive the blessing.

(1 )But there is much more to this story. And the first thing that I want you to see this morrowing is the fulness of God's power in your life.

THE FULNESS OF GOD" POWER.

Now, all of us would like to experience the fulness of God's power. If you didn't, ~~y~~; you wouldn't be here this morrowing. We all want to experience the fulness of God's power.

The Bible teaches that if you have received the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, you, of course, are saved. And you are indwelt by the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus, as a believer, you have all the power that you are ever going to receive. You will not get anymore

But you know, it is like a fellow who has a piece of land and he doesn't know there is oil on the land. And he sells his property for a few dollars, because he doesn't think that it is worthy anything. And the person who buys the land drills for oil and reaps a million dollars.

You know, all of us have an oil field in our life and we don't know it. The power of the Holy Spirit is lying resistant in the ~~heart~~<sup>life</sup> of every believer. And we just don't know it. *Or if we do know it, we don't tap into it*

*Now* ~~Now, you are not going to get anymore power than you already have. But~~  
*We really need to tap into* there are two things related to the fulness of God's power in your life.

(1) Number one, is the breaking of a self centered life. The breaking of a self centered life. ~~God has to break us.~~ If we go on in our own strength, and we have not been broken before God, <sup>we</sup> you will not experience that power.

You know, Jacob fought and contended for everything? ~~Look at this.~~ He contended and fought for the birth right and he got it.....

He contended and fought for the blessing from his Father, and he got it. It was a disceptoon, but it got it.

He contended and fought with Laben for his wives and he got them.

He contended and fought over his possessions and he got them.

But when he tried to contend with God, he failed.....

You know, God has to break us? We go on in our self-centered ways. And we fail to see what God is trying to do in our lives. And one day God will touch us and break us. He is so patient. He is so long suffering. He tries to get our attention. And we just go on through life engoring Him. And we don't even realize it. *But when we finally realize what is happening, and we acknowledge that our struggle is with God and not them around us.*  
~~But then God enters the scene and break us. Then breaking of a self-centered life~~ *will release the fulness of Gods power.*

(2) There is a second thing, however, that is involved in the fulness of God's power. And that is the blessing of a God controlled life. God must bless <sup>us</sup> you. No one else can. And we read in Vs 28 "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel". Which means "prince of God." "For you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed."

Then Jacob wanted to know his name. And he said, "You don't need to know my name." He blessed him there. And Jacob then knew what had happened. He said, "I HAVE SEEN GOD FACE TO FACE."

GOD BLESSED HIM THERE.! God must bless <sup>our</sup> your life. No one else can. <sup>fact</sup> You can't bless your own life. *God must bless you*

~~And the second thing that is related to the fullness of God's power~~

The blessing of a God controlled life. But there were <sup>Two</sup> three things that really stood out in my mind about this blessing. I want to share them with you. And I hope they will bless you as much as they blessed me. <sup>Two</sup> ~~Three~~ things.

(1) Number one, I notice from Vs 30 that the blessing of a God controlled life is a recognition of God's presence and power. It is a recognition of God's presence and His power.

In Vs 30 "Jacob called the place PENIEL, for he said, 'I have seen God face to face.'

Listen, <sup>fact</sup> the Bible says, in fact Jesus said it himself: "I will never leave you nor forsake you." He said, "Low I am with you always, even unto the end of the age."

God is with all believers. He hasn't left. He is with us.

But, you see, some folks do not enjoy his presence. When you are really under the control of God, you are experiencing the presence of Christ. You recognize that it is a face to face relationship. He is with you. He will never leave you, not forsake you. And you go through the ~~day~~ <sup>day</sup> walking in the light of that truth.

You get away from God, and the self-centered life is controlling again, and you lose sight of that. You act as though He is not there. You start running around making decision without even seeking God's will, and then you wander what is wrong. And God has to once again come in and break us. Until we see our dependence upon Him. <sup>once again</sup> We must recognize his presence.

(2) The second thing that is related to this blessing of a God Controlled thing. <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> the realization of God's grace. The realization of God's grace. Notice what he says in Vs 30..."Seeing God face to face, yet my life has been preserved." My life has been preserved.

Now, you have got to hand it to Jacob. He knew one thing. He deserved to die. And he was in the presence of God and he was amazed that his life was preserved. God should have struck him dead.

Do you know the only thing standing between us and hell is THE BLOOD OF JESUS? Did you think that there was something <sup>wonderful</sup> good in you that makes God want to have you in heaven? The Bible says that there is nothing that we do that will pay our way into heaven. That all of the righteousness of our lives is like fifth rags in God's sight. No human good is <sup>available</sup> ~~available~~. God doesn't even look at it. He doesn't even <sup>he</sup> consider it. <sup>he</sup> Doesn't even want it. The only thing standing between us and hell is the grace of God.

You know, that truth struck me in a tremendous way. Lamentations 3:22 says, <sup>it</sup> it is the Lord's loving kindness that we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail."

God loves you and me so much, His grace is constantly preserving us from judgement. <sup>Eternal security</sup> The realization of God's grace.

When you are walking under a God controlled life, you know the grace of our Lord is sparing you of much hardship. ~~And you will enjoy his blessings~~

(3 ) The third thing that is involved in a God controlled life is the remainder of our weakness.

Vs 31 says "Now the sun rose upon him (~~just as he crossed over Penuel.~~)" I like that! All night long: crying,,,wrestling...sorry....brokeness...AND then when he got up to start out, God put the sun on him.

Can you picture that?...The warmth of a brand new day. And yet, there he was limping. It was a remainder of his weakness.

Listen, dear friends, once God begins to control your life, don't ever forget that you are weak. You see, what happens to some of us, we start going in our own strength again. And we forget our full dependence upon Christ. He is the vine and we are the branches. If we abide in him we will bear much fruit. But without him we are nothing. NOTHING...SAYS THE BIBLE....ZERO

Paul was reminded of that, constantly in his life. That throne in the flesh stayed there. He was reminded of that when he came into the presence of a group of educated people in Corinth and said, "my presence among you is contemptible. They didn't even like to look at him. He was <sup>not</sup> attractive. In fact his speech wasn't even anything to write home about. He said, "I did not come to you with eloquent words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and power. "

He said, "some of you would have plucked your eyes out and given them to me." He had a serious eye problem. They would have exchanged his own eyes for this man. He wasn't so pleasing to look upon.

But, this Jewish convert turned the world upside down for God. And God left those affirmatives with in him.

And over in 2 Corinthians Paul talks about his many sufferings. And he was reminded, constantly, of his weakness.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT <sup>our</sup> ~~your~~ WEAKNESS IS? <sup>we</sup> ~~you~~ are totally helpless before God. And if you don't know that, you will never enjoy his blessings.

(3) <sup>Now</sup> <sup>need!</sup> The third area that I want you to see is the future and the plan of God for a person who is truly broken <sup>of his or her principle of that plan is?</sup>

(1) Do you know what the first <sup>principle</sup> ~~thing~~ is?.....TESTING!!!!!!!!!!.....That is the first <sup>principle</sup> thing. Do you believe that when you get blessed of God that all of a sudden ever test was going to be removed? OH, NO... The more you grow in Christ, the more ~~testing~~ <sup>realize that truth</sup>

It makes a person say, "I don't want to grow in christ."

Oh, yes you do. Because, you see, you are miserable without it. But all the growth in Christ...all the maturity that you experience, God never gives you more testing than you are able to bear.

Have you ever noticed, especially you who have been christians for many years, you hear a new christian share a suffering that they are going through and you think: "HOW SIMPLE".... "I MEAN, I HAVE BEEN THROUGH THAT."

Don't you know that growth and maturity <sup>after</sup> ~~that~~ brings greater testing...? To them it is all they can bear at the moment. Then you met some dear Saint who has suffered so severely, and you say, "HOW CAN THEY BEAR IT?"

And you feel like crying out with Job's wife: "Why don't you curse God and die!".....HOW CAN YOU KEEP ON?

And then, <sup>you</sup> see some glory come through that person's life. And hear <sup>that</sup> ~~her~~ says, "OH, GOD HAS BEEN SO WONDERFUL IN MY LIFE. HE HAS BEEN SO GOOD TO ME."

Now, dear friends, how can people do that?

Because God is controlling their life...that is how...

They see God's purpose in all their suffering. And God is building their maturity and their ability to handle suffering when it ~~comes~~ <sup>comes</sup> there way.

BUT THE QUESTION IS WHY? WHY DOES GOD SEND TESTING? Because he is mad or unhappy with us?...~~NO!!~~ The Lord loves those that he disciplines. WHY? So that we will be more productive. Bearing more fruit...Being more powerful in our lives. For when we are weak and helpless and sick, God says we are strong...

That is pretty powerful isn't it? And who wouldn't want that, who knows anything about God in their life?

Well, what was the testing <sup>for David</sup>....Chapter 33 verse 1...I wonder what you and I would have done? "Then Jacob lifted his eyes and looked and beheld, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him."

He probably turned to God and said, "Listen, God, give me at least a day to enjoy the blessing, O.K."...

Do you see what is happening? He gets the blessing. And then he looks up and there is old Esau coming with 400 men.

The first temptation of the old sin nature is to run away. Just escape from there with your life. Just run away.

Well, God is going to test us.

But do you know the most exciting thing about a God controlled life?

<sup>It's</sup> ~~is~~ that God moves right in at those times.....Test....fear....anxiety....

21 But we don't read about anything like that, here. Because God moved in and brought the second thing which was tears of joy. You will hardly believe this sence. I had to read it several times in order to believe that it was the same ~~two~~ fellows that we read about earlier.

Look at vs 4..."Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him."

With a knife?....NO? ....He embraced him. Do you mean that wild, bad tempered man of the feild? That hairy beast called Esau? That is exactly what the Bible calls him. Do you mean that old ruff guy in the field? He ran and t  
threw his arms around Jacob. The fellow who had cheated him all his life.  
THAT IS WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS!

It says that he fell on his neck and kissed him. You mean that old, strong, stubborn Esau kissed Jacob? THAT IS WHAT IT SAYS.

And then notice that it says that "they wept." Man! You talk about a meeting under the blessing of God. WOW! Those two guys were embracing.. Jacob, who all his life had fought for what he wanted. He struggled in his life. And he did what he wanted to do. He fought against Esau. He tricked him. He deseved him. They hated one another.

But, now that God has broken this man. They are embracing and shedding tears of joy.

You know, friends, God can change people. This is one of the most exciting chapters in the Bible. God can turn ~~people~~ <sup>people</sup> 180 degrees. Just change us, <sup>if we</sup>

<sup>are willing</sup>  
(3) And then you talk about the trimaphs of Grace. I just love this. Vs ~~10~~ <sup>11</sup>  
<sup>and</sup> 11. You talk about the Grace of God? This is a glorious day of triumph because you will see something here in the lives of these two men that you will ~~will~~ hardly believe.

Esau says in Vs 9..."I have plenty." And old Jacob in Vs 11 says, "I have plenty." And Jacob, also, said in Vs 11, "God has dealt graciously with me."  
Or, "dealt grace to me."

God has dealt his grace to me. And I have plenty. <sup>Now,</sup> are we hearing Jacob correctly? The one who never had enought in his life. Who is always wanting more. Taking things from everyone.?.....

And now, he is saying, "I have plenty."...WOW!!! I don't need anything else  
Do you know, that is what is in the future for you, <sup>you</sup> if really know what it means to be committed to Christ?

Paul said that in what ever state you find yourself, so therein be content.

Job had everything taken away from him and yet he said, "Thou he slay me, yet will I trust him."

Riches have nothing to do with the test of spirituality in your life. Nothing whatsoever. Just forget it.

I have enough. That is what happens when you really get a whole of God. <sup>Third Area</sup> ~~(H)~~ The ~~final~~ ~~thing~~ that I want you to see is in Vs 20 The freshness of God's presences was so real in Jacob's life. Vs 20 says "Then he erected there an altar, and called it EL'ELOHE-ISRAEL. Which means "The God, The God of the Prince of God."

He repeats the name of God three times. Now, it is not redundancy. There is a wonderful point being made here. You know, Jacob appreciated what God was doing in his life. He had meet God before at Bethel. And he rejoiced in the place. But, he missed God.

And that is just like many of us. God has done some wonderful things in our life. But, <sup>many times</sup> we have missed God.

And <sup>Jacob</sup> erected an altar and said, "This is the place of God, the God of the prince of God.

He is my Lord. And he is God worthy of all my devotion, all my praise. And he walked away in the freshness of His presences.

I don't know how it has been in your life. But I find that it is so easy walk out of God's presence. It is so easy to start trusting the Old sin nature. So easy to think that we can do something.

And God comes along and He touches us and shows us. It maynot be the hollow of your thigh. But <sup>and when he does I hope you</sup> He will tough you alright. <sup>will react like Jacob</sup>

And all I ask you, is what I ask myself, "ARE <sup>we</sup> YOU GETTING THE MESSAGE?" <sup>we</sup> We must go down before we can ever go up. <sup>we</sup> You have got to be broken before you can ever be blessed.

Let Us Close With Prayer