

The Contender

Genesis 32: 22 That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. 24 So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.

Genesis 32: 25 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. 26 Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

Genesis 32: But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

27 The man asked him, “What is your name?” “Jacob,” he answered.

28 Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”

Genesis 32: 29 Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.”

But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there.

30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.”

“Israel”

One who contends (wrestles) with
God.

God loves it when His people
contend with Him.

Job 42: 7 After the Lord had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have **not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.**

In the same way God tests us to
know us better,
God wrestles with us to know us
better.

You don't really know someone until you
fight them.

Seraph (Matrix-Reloaded)

Psalm 34: 18 The Lord is close to the
brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in
spirit.

Wrestling with God

develops Chutzpah

Chutzpah

**brazen confidence-
audacity**

Luke 18: 4 ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, 5 yet because this widow **keeps bothering me**, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”

8...when the Son of Man comes, will he **find faith** on the earth?

Acts 4: 27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

Acts 4: 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats
and enable your servants to speak your
word with great boldness.

31...And they were all filled with the Holy
Spirit and **spoke the word of God boldly.**

Wrestling with God

heals relationships with others.

Genesis 32: 28 You have struggled with
God **and with humans** and have overcome.

Genesis 33: 10 “No, please!” said Jacob.

“If I have found favor in your eyes, accept this gift from me. For to see your face is like **seeing the face of God**, now that you have received me favorably.

Our struggles with others
is really our struggle with God.

Matthew 22: 39 And the second **is like it:**
‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

One last thought:

Contending with God is the key to
being blessed by God.

Genesis 32: 26 I will not let you go unless
you bless me.

Genesis 32: 30 I saw God face to face, and
yet my life was spared.

God's blessing has more to do
with God's favor
than with worldly treasures.

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