

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Genesis 30-33 New Living Translation

Genesis 32:30-31 is a curious story, to say the least. What does it mean? Who was the man that Jacob wrestled?

There's an intentional m_____to some of the stories of Genesis — an intentional "hiddenness," to some extent, of what God is up to.

We do understand this: While Jacob wrestled with this man, God appeared to him. You could say that Jacob had wrestled with God his entire life — r_____, and then yielding, failing, and then succeeding, trusting sometimes, doubting sometimes, trying again, failing again, succeeding some more, and on and on. It had been a lifelong struggle.

We're all like Jacob, in this sense. Sometimes, before you can take a journey into the future, you must finish the journey through your past.

Have you ever felt like your life has taken a detour? You know in the deepest part of you: God has something more for me. I'm tired of spinning my wheels. I'm ready to move forward. I'm ready to get back to my f_____.

Three lessons you can learn from Jacob's life.

- 1. You need to b_____away from that which is holding you back.**
- 2. You need to wrestle with God ... and I_____.**

The Christian life is a struggle. Spiritual growth is a struggle. It doesn't come easily. And it never comes quickly. It's a lifelong process.

After spending the night alone in his camp, when Jacob wrestled with God, he also learned to lose. He learned to s_____.

Thanks to our sinful nature, we often find ourselves struggling with God every step of the way. We also need to learn to lose, to fully surrender to his Lordship.

3. You need to b_____yesterday's books.

As much as is possible, you need to make right that which you, in the past, made wrong.

But just like Jacob couldn't return to his homeland without facing up to Esau, you can't move into your f_____ without fully resolving any mess you might have made in the years before.

Ref: Matthew 5:23-24 NIV

You cannot move into the full blessing of God if you haven't fully owned up to your past — to whatever extent it is possible.

Before you can put the past behind you, you have to be willing to put it in front of you ... and deal with it.

