

LESSON 8 - A WRESTLING MATCH ON PROMISE ROAD

Genesis 25 - 35

THEME: *To show that yielding to the Holy Spirit can bring us victory.*

Do men like to wrestle? There are two kinds of wrestling matches in this world: the physical match between two men, and the spiritual match which we cannot see. Today as we travel, we shall hear of a very unusual wrestling match between a man and an angel.

After the death of Abraham, God appeared to Isaac and confirmed to him all the great promises which He had made to his father, Abraham. Genesis 26:4. God had promised the seed would multiply to become as numerous as the stars of heaven. Isaac believed God and waited.

Twins were born to Isaac and Rebekah. Although they were brothers, Esau and Jacob always struggled with each other, even in the womb. Esau grew up to become a hunter, but Jacob preferred to stay near home with the flocks and herds of his father. God had told Rebekah that the older son Esau would serve the younger son Jacob. The family knew God keeps His promises, but no one knew how the promised blessing would pass to Jacob.

First of all, Jacob secured the birthright by bartering with Esau. Genesis 25:24-34. This involved the promise of the nation and the Redeemer.

Secondly, Jacob was forced by Rebekah to obtain Isaac's blessing by taking advantage of his father's blindness. Because Esau had despised and sold the birthright, he now lost the blessing of Isaac as well. Genesis 27:1-33. As a result Jacob had to flee to a strange land so that Esau would not kill him. God appeared to Jacob and promised to go with him, to keep him, and to bring him back to the land of Isaac. The God of grace wanted Jacob to trust Him to work out His purposes and to yield everything to Him.

For 20 years Jacob stayed in Haran at the home of Rebekah's brother. During that time there was continuous striving between Jacob and his uncle Laban. At last God spoke to Jacob and told him to go back to the land of promise. Jacob took his wives, his 11 sons, his servants and his flocks and escaped at night because he feared Laban. It was necessary to pass through the land of Edom where Esau now ruled. Jacob again became fearful. He made a plan to cause Esau's heart to soften toward him and his large family with flocks and herds. Jacob divided his group, placing the best-loved in the rear, then sent them all across the stream at night while he remained alone.

Suddenly a man, a heavenly being, appeared and began to wrestle with Jacob. They wrestled all night and Jacob fought for his life. When Jacob would not give up, the heavenly being touched the inside of Jacob's thigh so it was out of joint, then said: "Let me go, for it is day-break!" Then Jacob saw that God did not want to kill him, but rather that Jacob surrender to Him in order that He might bless him. "I will not let you go unless You bless me!" replied Jacob. The one wrestling said: "Your name will not be called Jacob now, but Israel, for you will have power with God and men and have overcome."

Today we live in the age represented by GRACE AIRPORT on the chart. We do not see heavenly beings, but there is a great unseen host which we are to fight: the powers of darkness, and also the old nature within us. When we receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, His Holy Spirit dwells in us, but we still have our old sinful nature. The old nature or flesh is always fighting against the Spirit. Galatians 5:16-17. We must yield to the Spirit if we want victory and blessing in our spiritual lives.

Getting saved and getting aboard SALVATION LINER makes us like soldiers in the greatest air battle of all time. Ephesians 6:12 tells us that we wrestle against *spiritual wickedness in the heavenlies*. The devil and the powers of darkness do not want the true believers in Christ to live a spiritual life of victory, therefore we must put on the whole armour of God in order to stand against our enemy. Ephesians 6:13.

When Jacob yielded, he became *Israel* which means *prince with God*. When unbelievers yield to Christ as Saviour, they become children of God. Are you a child of God today?

MEMORY VERSE: "Therefore put on the full armour of God so that when the evil day comes, you may be able to stand your ground." Ephesians 6:13.

LESSON 8 - WORK SHEET

The story of Jacob gives us an illustration of the two natures of the child of God. There is the old nature called the *Old Man* which is always trying to gain control of the new nature called the *New Man*. We can tell by the way people act, which nature is controlling them. Take the words listed below and write them under the nature which they indicate. Galatians 5:19-23.

Love Drunkenness Hatred Faith Strife

Peace	Gentleness	Murder	Envy	Joy	Wrath	Meekness
<u>OLD MAN</u>				<u>NEW MAN</u>		

- | | | |
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| 1. | | |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |
| 4. | | |
| 5. | | |
| 6. | | |

7. If we belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, we will _____ the flesh /Old Man. Galatians 5:24. That is the only way to have victory over the Old Man.
8. Our battle in the heavenlies is a different kind of fight. Ephesians 6:12 tells us that we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against:
- a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
9. If we want to win the victory in the heavenlies, we must put on the whole _____ of God. Ephesians 6:13.
10. Write Ephesians 6:13 from memory. _____
- _____