

# THE POWER OF CHOICE

## THE BOOK OF GENESIS

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Read Genesis 32:24-32. As night falls before an uncertain reunion with his brother Esau, Jacob finds himself confronted by God. This is no ordinary struggle, but a theophany, an encounter with the living God. From the womb, Jacob had lived up to his name: the "heel-grabber," the schemer, the manipulator. He had outwitted his brother Esau, deceived his father Isaac, and maneuvered his way past Laban. Yet now, in his old age, Jacob meets an opponent he cannot control. The long night of wrestling physically and spiritually exposes who Jacob has always been and who God is calling him to become.

The wrestling match seems to be heading toward a draw when the divine wrestler touches Jacob's hip. The Hebrew text does not say that God *could not* overpower Jacob, but that He *did not* prevail against him. God's power was never in question. Rather, God graciously limits His strength, allowing Jacob to wrestle until Jacob himself is broken. In that moment, Jacob realizes that the One he clings to could, and perhaps should, have crushed him. This painful mercy brings clarity: Jacob's strength has always been an illusion. His limp will forever remind him that blessing comes not through grasping, but through surrender.

Then God asks his name. But God is not asking for information; He is asking for confession. Jacob must finally admit who he is: the deceiver, the one who grabs and schemes. Yet this honest admission becomes the doorway to grace. The transformation is profound. Jacob changes from one who seeks to control others and circumstances, to Israel - "he who strives with God" - one who is shaped and governed by God. He prevails not by overpowering God, but by clinging to Him in helpless trust.

This story finds its ultimate fulfillment at the cross. God again chooses not to unleash His power, accepting the apparent defeat of His Son through human hands. Yet that surrender becomes the very means by which salvation flows to the world. Like Jacob, we are changed not when we win, but when we are humbled. Jacob walks away limping, yet blessed. His brokenness prepares him to trust God more deeply in the days ahead. This reminds us that discipleship is a lifelong journey of transformation marked by humility, obedience, and a growing dependence on the Lord.

Prayerfully consider these questions: Where might God be inviting you to let go of control and cling more fully to Him? What confessions is He gently drawing out of your heart so that He can bring transformation? How might God use your own experience of weakness or brokenness to help encourage the Body of Christ?

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### Weekly Memory Verse:

"If you do well, will your face not be cheerful? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Genesis 4:7

### Weekly Affirmation:

**LET GO  
& LET GOD**

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## JANUARY 2026 GROWTH GOALS

- Read the Book of Genesis
- Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- Watch the Bible Project video on Genesis (available on the website).
- Each day intentionally place one specific worry or decision in God's hands through prayer.