

The Real World The Moment of Truth

That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants 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. 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."

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 men and have overcome."

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."

31 The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. 32 Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon. Genesis 32:22-32

Is it ok to struggle with God? _____

When do the struggles occur?

1. When I am doing something _____ that He wants me to stop.
2. When He is _____ me to go somewhere I have not been before.
3. When the only way to move _____ is to deal with something I have not dealt with in my past.

Reality: I will always lose the Match...but in losing I really _____!

What does a scenario look like if I struggle with God?

1. God often _____ Us.

"Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you." Genesis 31:3

2. I make a _____.

Am I opened to struggling with God and willing to respond if He answers?

3. God _____ me of His presence.

"I will be with you" Genesis 31:3, Gen 32:1

4. I _____ God of my understanding of His promises.

Then Jacob prayed, "O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, O LORD, who said to me, 'Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper,' 10 I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two groups. 11 Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children. 12 But you have said, 'I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.'" Genesis 32:9-12

5. God gets me by _____, one-on-one.

"So Jacob was left alone..." Genesis 32:24

6. I _____ to do what is right and ask for God's blessing. (32:26)

7. I _____ the truth of who I am (He confessed).(v.27)

Jacob = " _____ (manipulator)"

8. I _____ who God says I now am. (v.28) (often life-defining)

Israel - " _____ with God"
"Wrestles with God"

9. I try to live differently as a response to my struggle.

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Deceiver-Honest
Hurter-healer
Sexually immoral-pure
Mean-kind
Unforgivable-forgiven
Hater-lover
Angry-Peace
Frustrated-Joy
Selfish-Selfless
Ego-centered/others oriented
Terrible steward of resources/ faithful and giving
To have no time for anyone/priorities realigned
Live for today/ Shortness of life and prepares for tomorrow
Deny my pain/past - someone who has a promising future
Shepherd/ king
Taker/Giver
Broken/Whole
Blind/see
Deaf/ hear
Lame/walk
Broken/put together again
Weak-strong
Strong/remind them of who gave it to them
Captive/Trap/Bound/ and set them free
Hopeless / Hopeful