God Responds to Jacob:

**Genesis 32:22-24 (ESV)** 22 The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. 24 And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day.

**Hosea 12:2-6 (ESV)** 2 The LORD has an indictment against Judah and will punish Jacob according to his ways; he will repay him according to his deeds. 3 In the womb he took his brother by the heel, and in his manhood he strove with God. 4 He strove with the angel and prevailed; he wept and sought his favor. He met God at Bethel, and there God spoke with us— 5 the LORD, the God of hosts, the LORD is his memorial name: 6 “So you, by the help of your God, return, hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God.”

This is a Christophany!

This is an appearance of Jesus who is called “the angel of the Lord” in the Old Testament!

“God was not wrestling with Jacob to gain some object from him, it was to reduce Jacob to a sense of nothingness; to cause him to see what a poor, helpless, and worthless creature he was. And it was to teach us, through him, the all-important lesson that in recognized weakness, lies our strength.” – Arthur Pink

The Lord disables Jacob:

**Genesis 32:25-26 (ESV)** 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, “Let me go, for the day has broken.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

What are you spending your energy in this world to gain? For what?

Application – 3 Secrets to Spiritual Strength

1. Jacob recognizes the presence of God in his life.

**Genesis 32:27-30 (ESV)** 27 And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” 28 Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.” 29 Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. 30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.”

It is interesting that Jacob named the location of his first encounter with God, “Bethel,” which means, “the house of God.” Then, in the beginning of this chapter, when Jacob had his second encounter in seeing the host, he named the location, “Mahanaim,” which means, “God’s camp,” or perhaps literally, “two camps.” So he is saying, “This is God’s house; this is God’s host.” Now, in this third encounter, however, he names the location “Peniel,” which means, “this is God’s face” – “this is my God.”
2. Jacob realizes the grace of God in his life.

   Genesis 32:30 (ESV) So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.”

3. Jacob receives the plan of God for his life.

   Genesis 32:31-32 (ESV) 31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. 32 Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip on the sinew of the thigh.

   Revelation 2:17 (ESV) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.”