



How Do I Change My Life?

"So get rid of your old self, which made you live as you used to ... and put on the new self, which is created in God's likeness."

Ephesians 4:22-23 (GN)

God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son.

Romans 8:29a The Message

A story from the life of Jacob and what it tells us in how God will work to change us?

- Jacob was the second son of Isaac and Rebekkah
- His older brother was his twin-Esau
- His name meant heel grabber but also was slang for "cheater"
- Jacob lived up to his billing as a swindler by stealing his older brother's birthright.
- In 1700BC a man's birthright gave him control over the family inheritance

I. God will use a _____ to get our attention.

"... 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, ..."

Genesis 32:10-12

"So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw 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." Genesis 32:24,25

Principal:

We never change until the pain becomes greater than the

II. I will need to make a commitment to _____.

"Then the man said, 'Let me go, for it is daybreak.' But Jacob replied, 'I will not let you go unless you bless me.'" Genesis 32:26

Principal:

Godly character will not remove all our problems but it will

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

III. I need to make an honest and open _____.

"The man asked him, 'What is your name?' 'Jacob', he answered." Genesis 32:27

Principal:

I will never be able to change my weaknesses until I

"God resists the proud but He gives grace to the humble." James 4:6

IV. I will need to _____.

"Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "It is now Israel, because you have struggled with both God and men and have won."³⁰ Jacob named the place Peniel—"face of God"—for he said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared." Genesis 32:28-30

Principal:

God does his deepest work in our _____.

Jacob's limp would be a constant reminder of two great truths:

"The sun rose up above him and as he passed Peniel and he was limping because of his hip." Genesis 32:31

1. Jacob was to _____ **on God**

and _____.

2. It is never _____ **to run from a personal problem.**