

# THE STRUGGLE TO CHANGE

## Time For Change -- Part 1

### January 5, 2014

**Romans 8:5 (NLT)** *“Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.”*

#### FOUR PHASES GOD USES TO CHANGE YOU...

##### 1. A CRISIS: You struggle with God.

**We struggle with God because we want to be in control.**

**Genesis 32:24-25 (NLT)** *“This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a Man came and wrestled with him until dawn.”<sup>25</sup> When the Man saw that He couldn’t win the match, He struck Jacob’s hip and knocked it out of joint at the socket.”*

**Hosea 12:3 (NLT)** *“Before Jacob was born, he struggled with his brother; when he became a man, he even fought with God.”*

- Will you OBEY God?
- Will you TRUST God?

The crisis God brings is a crisis of BELIEF!

##### 2. A COMMITMENT: You won’t let go.

**Genesis 32:26 (NLT)** *“Then the Man said, ‘Let Me go, for it is dawn.’ But Jacob panted, ‘I will not let You go unless You bless me.’”*

**When God allows a crisis into your life  
He doesn’t solve it immediately.**

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

##### 3. A CONFESSION: You admit that you’re the problem.

**Genesis 32:27 (NIV)** *“The Man asked him, ‘What is your name?’ ‘Jacob,’ he answered.”*

**Jacob** = “deceiver or manipulator”

**James 4:6 (NIV)** *“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*

##### 4. A CONVERSION: You’re given a new identity.

**God’s Loving And Gracious Response...**

- Jacob is given a NEW NAME.

**Genesis 32:28 (NIV)** *“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.’”*

**Israel** - “Prince with God” or “Prevails with God.”

- Jacob is given a BLESSING.

**Genesis 32:29-30 (NIV)** *“Jacob said, ‘Please tell me Your name.’ But He replied, ‘Why do you ask My name?’ Then He blessed him there.”<sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, ‘It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.’”*

- Jacob is given a REMINDER.

**Genesis 32:31 (NLT)** *“The sun rose as he left Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.”*

**When you really meet God,  
you will never walk the same again.**

**God does His deepest work in your life  
when He deals with your identity.**

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NCV)** *“If anyone belongs to Christ, there is a new creation. The old things have gone; everything is made new!”*