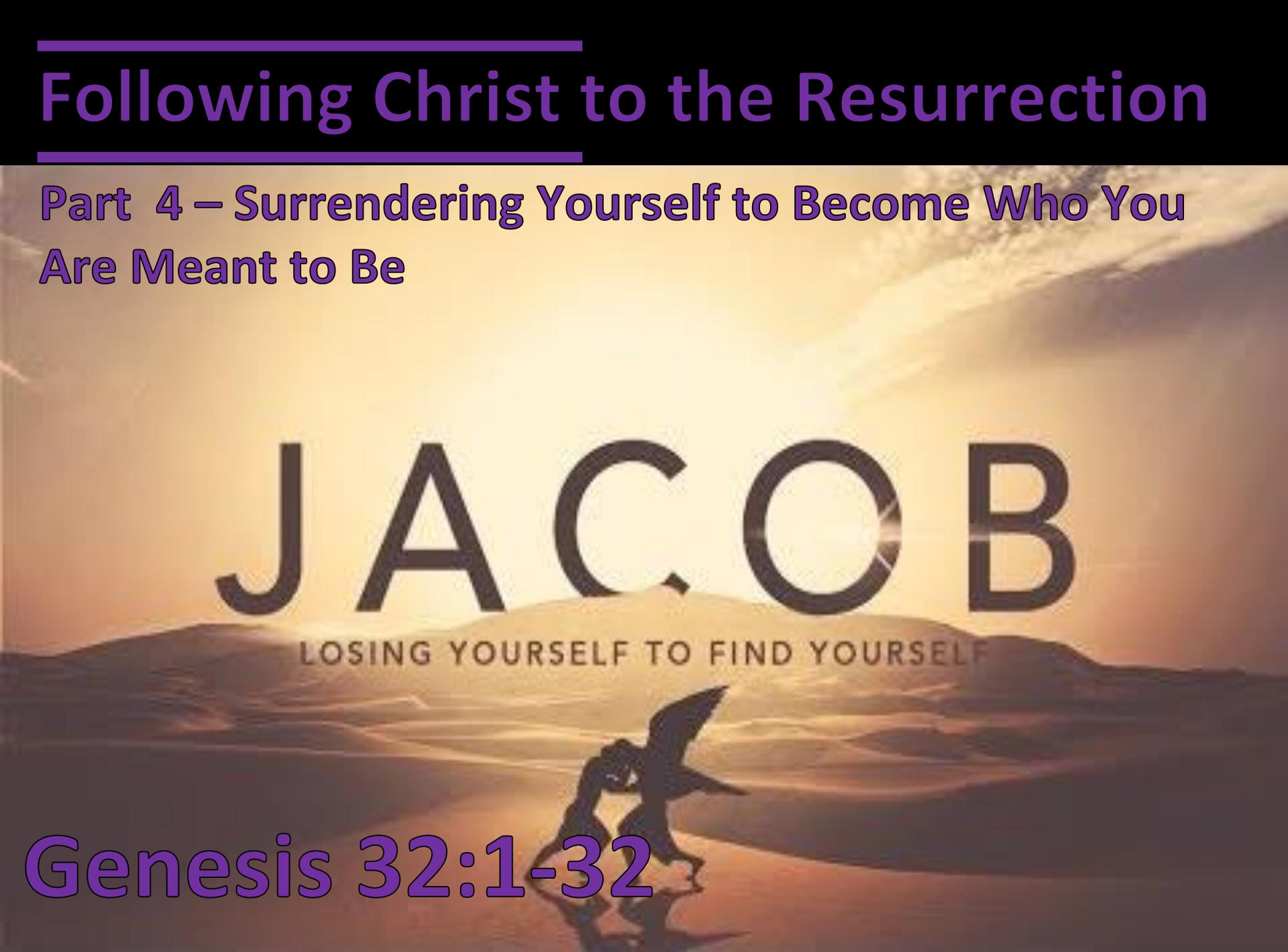


---

# Following Christ to the Resurrection

---

Part 4 – Surrendering Yourself to Become Who You Are Meant to Be



JACOB

LOSING YOURSELF TO FIND YOURSELF

Genesis 32:1-32

# Genesis 32:1 - NLT

As Jacob started on his way again,  
angels of God came to meet him.

## **Genesis 32:2**

**When Jacob saw them, he  
exclaimed, “This is God’s camp!”**

**So he named the place  
Mahanaim.**

# Genesis 32:3

Then Jacob sent messengers ahead to his brother, Esau, who was living in the region of Seir in the land of Edom.

## **Genesis 32:4**

**He told them, “Give this message to my master Esau: ‘Humble greetings from your servant Jacob. Until now I have been living with Uncle Laban,**

## **Genesis 32:5**

**and now I own cattle, donkeys, flocks of sheep and goats, and many servants, both men and women. I have sent these messengers to inform my lord of my coming, hoping that you will be friendly to me.”**

## **Genesis 32:6**

**After delivering the message, the messengers returned to Jacob and reported, “We met your brother, Esau, and he is already on his way to meet you—with an army of 400 men!”**

## **Genesis 32:7**

**Jacob was terrified at the news.  
He divided his household, along  
with the flocks and herds and  
camels, into two groups.**

## Genesis 32:8

He thought, “If Esau meets one group and attacks it, perhaps the other group can escape.”

## **Genesis 32:9**

**Then Jacob prayed, “O God of my grandfather Abraham, and God of my father, Isaac—O Lord, you told me, ‘Return to your own land and to your relatives.’ And you promised me, ‘I will treat you kindly.’”**

# **Genesis 32:10**

**I am not worthy of all the unfailing love and faithfulness you have shown to me, your servant. When I left home and crossed the Jordan River, I owned nothing except a walking stick. Now my household fills two large camps!**

# Genesis 32:11

O Lord, please rescue me from the hand of my brother, Esau. I am afraid that he is coming to attack me, along with my wives and children.

# Genesis 32:12

**But you promised me, ‘I will surely treat you kindly, and I will multiply your descendants until they become as numerous as the sands along the seashore—too many to count.’”**

# Genesis 32:13

Jacob stayed where he was for the night. Then he selected these gifts from his possessions to present to his brother, Esau:

# Genesis 32:20b

Jacob thought, “I will try to appease him by sending gifts ahead of me. When I see him in person, perhaps he will be friendly to me.”

# Genesis 32:21

So the gifts were sent on ahead,  
while Jacob himself spent that  
night in the camp.

# **Genesis 32:22**

**During the night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two servant wives, and his eleven sons and crossed the Jabbok River with them.**

# Genesis 32:23

After taking them to the other side, he sent over all his possessions.

# Genesis 32:24

This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break.

# Genesis 32:25

When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket.

# Genesis 32:26

Then the man said, “Let me go,  
for the dawn is breaking!”

But Jacob said, “I will not let you  
go unless you bless me.”

# Genesis 32:27

**“What is your name?” the man asked. He replied, “Jacob.”**

## **Genesis 32:28**

**“Your name will no longer be Jacob,” the man told him. “From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won.”**

# Genesis 32:29

**“Please tell me your name,”  
Jacob said. “Why do you want to  
know my name?” the man  
replied. Then he blessed Jacob  
there.**

# Genesis 32:30

Jacob named the place Peniel (which means “face of God”), for he said, “I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared.”

# Genesis 32:31

The sun was rising as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of the injury to his hip.

# Genesis 32:32

**(Even today the people of Israel don't eat the tendon near the hip socket because of what happened that night when the man strained the tendon of Jacob's hip.)**

# JACOB

LOSING YOURSELF TO FIND YOURSELF



# Who was Jacob?

- **Twin Boy**
- **Name means “grasps the heel”  
“deceiver”, “supplanter”.**
- **Not traditionally masculine**
- **Favored by mother, Esau was favored by their father.**
- **Wins by deceiving and scheming.**

# History of Jacob being Jacob

- Takes advantage of his brother to obtain the right of the firstborn.
- Deceives his father into giving him God's blessing and anointing.
- Cheats his father-in-law to obtain material wealth.
- He was always involved in conflicts and had a lot of enemies.

# Principle #1

**God selects specific times and seasons for us in which He chooses to address, heal, and transform the dark layers of our person, character, and heart.**

**Over the years, we often learn, develop, and embrace different types of unChristlike mindsets, behaviors, and worldviews simply to survive or thrive in our environment. While God allowed us to become that way and to do those things, they were never a part of His perfect will for us.**

# Principle #2

**When God is in the process of transforming the darkest layers of our being, there are times when God will only release his blessings on us after a season of prolonged suffering, pain, and brokenness.**

**The intent of the suffering, pain, and brokenness is to drive us to our knees, so that we can seek the face of God! These specific circumstances are tools God will allow to show us how utterly helpless we really are and to bring us into a genuine relationship with Him.**

# Genesis 32:3

Then Jacob sent messengers ahead to his brother, Esau, who was living in the region of Seir in the land of Edom.

## **Genesis 32:4**

**He told them, “Give this message to my master Esau: ‘Humble greetings from your servant Jacob. Until now I have been living with Uncle Laban,**

## **Genesis 32:5**

**and now I own cattle, donkeys, flocks of sheep and goats, and many servants, both men and women. I have sent these messengers to inform my lord of my coming, hoping that you will be friendly to me.”**

## Genesis 32:6

After delivering the message, the messengers returned to Jacob and reported, “We met your brother, Esau, and he is already on his way to meet you—with an army of 400 men!”

## **Genesis 32:7**

**Jacob was terrified at the news.  
He divided his household, along  
with the flocks and herds and  
camels, into two groups.**

## Genesis 32:8

He thought, “If Esau meets one group and attacks it, perhaps the other group can escape.”

## Genesis 32:9

Then Jacob prayed, “O God of my grandfather Abraham, and God of my father, Isaac—O Lord, you told me, ‘Return to your own land and to your relatives.’ And you promised me, ‘I will treat you kindly.’”

# **Genesis 32:10**

**I am not worthy of all the unfailing love and faithfulness you have shown to me, your servant. When I left home and crossed the Jordan River, I owned nothing except a walking stick. Now my household fills two large camps!**

# Genesis 32:11

O Lord, please rescue me from the hand of my brother, Esau. I am afraid that he is coming to attack me, along with my wives and children.

# Genesis 32:12

**But you promised me, ‘I will surely treat you kindly, and I will multiply your descendants until they become as numerous as the sands along the seashore—too many to count.’”**

# Principle #3

**More often than not, God must strip us of the things that we have seized in our own power, in order to give us those things that can only be obtained by His power.**

# Genesis 32:13

Jacob stayed where he was for the night. Then he selected these gifts from his possessions to present to his brother, Esau:

# **Genesis 32:14-15**

**200 female goats, 20 male goats,  
200 ewes, 20 rams, 30 female  
camels with their young, 40 cows,  
10 bulls, 20 female donkeys, and  
10 male donkeys.**

# Genesis 32:16

He divided these animals into herds and assigned each to different servants. Then he told his servants, “Go ahead of me with the animals, but keep some distance between the herds.”

# Genesis 32:17

He gave these instructions to the men leading the first group:

“When my brother, Esau, meets you, he will ask, ‘Whose servants are you? Where are you going? Who owns these animals?’

# Genesis 32:18

**You must reply, ‘They belong to your servant Jacob, but they are a gift for his master Esau. Look, he is coming right behind us.’”**

# Genesis 32:19

Jacob gave the same instructions to the second and third herdsmen and to all who followed behind the herds: “You must say the same thing to Esau when you meet him.

# Genesis 32:20

And be sure to say, ‘Look, your servant Jacob is right behind us.’”

Jacob thought, “I will try to appease him by sending gifts ahead of me. When I see him in person, perhaps he will be friendly to me.”

# Genesis 32:21

So the gifts were sent on ahead,  
while Jacob himself spent that  
night in the camp.

# Principle #4

**While it is true that God loves us as we are, it His desire, right, and Perfect Will to transform us.**

**God's transformative works of our person, character, and heart are required if we want to inherit our God Breathed Identity.**

**It was now God's appointed time for Jacob to return to Canaan. However, God would not allow Jacob to return as he was. Jacob was not allowed to go back with the same character flaws and he was certainly not allowed to take all of his baggage with him. This is why God had to wrestle Jacob.**

# **Genesis 32:22**

**During the night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two servant wives, and his eleven sons and crossed the Jabbok River with them.**

# Genesis 32:23

After taking them to the other side, he sent over all his possessions.

# Genesis 32:24

This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break.

# Principle #5

**When God is at work wrestling with us, it is because there is a great blessing of transformation waiting on the other side of the struggle. But it is only available to us if we choose to submit and surrender to God.**

# Genesis 32:25

When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket.

**Even though God is all powerful,  
He gives us the freedom to resist  
and stubbornly prevail in our  
sinfulness if we choose to.**

**However, we also have the choice  
to take a hold of Him and to cling  
to Him for dear life until He  
blesses us with the transformative  
works of the Holy Spirit.**

**There are victories that are far worse than defeats. To overcome the angel of the Lord because He is too gentle to use all of His strength against us, and then to ride away in triumph on the back of a devil, is surely one of the poorest victories to ever be had.**

**- George MacDonald**

# Principle #6

**Struggling, resisting, and wrestling against God will never put you in a place for blessing. Only when you stop wrestling and learn to cling to God, will you be in a place to receive His blessings.**

# Genesis 32:26

Then the man said, “Let me go,  
for the dawn is breaking!”

But Jacob said, “I will not let you  
go unless you bless me.”

## **Hosea 12:2**

**Now the Lord is bringing charges against Judah. He is about to punish Jacob for all his deceitful ways, and pay him back for all he has done.**

# **Hosea 12:3**

**Even in the womb,  
Jacob struggled with his  
brother; when he became a man,  
he even fought with God.**

## **Hosea 12:4**

**Yes, he wrestled with the angel  
and won. He wept and pleaded  
for a blessing from him.**

**There at Bethel he met God face  
to face, and God spoke to him —**

# Hosea 12:5

the Lord God of Hosts,  
the Lord is his name!

# Hosea 12:6

**So now, come back to your God.  
Act with love and justice,  
and always depend on him.**

# Principle #7

**It is only after we confess to God who we are and what we are, that He will give us our new name and meet us face to face.**

**Partnering with God means confessing the truth of your radical sinfulness, your far reaching depravity, the extent of your brokenness, etc. Only when we understand and confess who we are from God's point of view, will we be in the position to receive our God Breathed Identity.**

# Genesis 32:27

**“What is your name?” the man asked. He replied, “Jacob.”**

## **Genesis 32:28**

**“Your name will no longer be Jacob,” the man told him. “From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won.”**

# Genesis 32:29

**“Please tell me your name,”  
Jacob said. “Why do you want to  
know my name?” the man  
replied. Then he blessed Jacob  
there.**

# Genesis 32:30

Jacob named the place Peniel (which means “face of God”), for he said, “I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared.”

# Genesis 32:31

The sun was rising as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of the injury to his hip.

# Genesis 32:32

**(Even today the people of Israel don't eat the tendon near the hip socket because of what happened that night when the man strained the tendon of Jacob's hip.)**

**What is it in your life, character,  
and heart that God wants you to  
realize? What is it in you that God  
wants to transform right now?**

**What is hindering you from  
seeing God face to face in this  
current season of your life?**

---

# Following Christ to the Resurrection

---

Part 4 – Surrendering Yourself to Become Who You Are Meant to Be

JACOB

LOSING YOURSELF TO FIND YOURSELF

Genesis 32:1-32

A silhouette of a person wrestling with an angel in a desert landscape at sunset. The person is on the left, and the angel is on the right, both in a crouching, wrestling position. The background shows rolling sand dunes under a bright, low sun, creating a warm, golden glow. The scene is reflected in the wet sand in the foreground.