

Apprenticeship Prayer Partner Questions:

When we are alone with our thoughts, we often have time to struggle with God over our issues.

- Describe a time when you wrestled with God.
- What happened that caused God to win / lose the match?
What was the result?
- What name would you use to describe the old you?
- What would your new name be?
- What would be the limp (weakness from God to keep you centered on Him) that you walk with today?



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The Transformation Choice

Bob Cowie ~ February 2, 2020

5 CHOICES GOD USES TO CHANGE US

1. **CONFLICT: A STRUGGLE WITH OTHERS**

"Jacob heard that Laban's sons were saying, 'Jacob has taken everything our father owned and has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father.' And Jacob noticed that Laban's attitude toward him was not what it had been."

Genesis 31:1-2 NIV

*"The messengers returned to Jacob and said, 'We went to your brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you, with an army of 400 men!' Jacob was **terrified** at the news."*

Genesis 32:6-7a NLT

"Then Jacob prayed, 'O God... O Lord... I am unworthy of all the unfailing love and faithfulness you've shown to me... O Lord rescue me for I am afraid...'"

Genesis 32:9-11 NLT

Choice 1: The Reality Choice

Realize I'm not God; I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and my life is unmanageable.

2. CRISIS: I STRUGGLE WITH GOD

*"After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man **wrestled with him till daybreak**. 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.*

Genesis 32:23-25 NIV

*"When Jacob was born, he struggled with his brother; when he became a man, **he even fought with God.**"*

Hosea 12:3 TLB

Choice 2: The Hope Choice

Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to him, and He has the power to help me recover.

3. COMMITMENT: I COMMIT TO GOD'S CHANGES

*Then the man said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!" But Jacob said, "**I won't let you go unless you bless me!**"*

Genesis 32:26 NLT

Choice 3: The Commitment Choice

Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.

*"Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, **give yourselves completely** to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God."*

Romans 6:13 NLT

4. CONFESSION: I ADMIT I AM THE PROBLEM

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

Jacob = "deceiver/manipulator"

Choice 4: The Housecleaning Choice

Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.

5. CONVERSION: I GET A NEW IDENTITY

*"Then the Man said, 'Your name will no longer be Jacob, but **ISRAEL**... Then he **blessed** him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'It is because I saw God face to face...'"*

Genesis 32:28-30 NIV

Israel = "Prince with God"

Choice 5: The Transformation Choice
Voluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects.

*"The sun was rising as Jacob left Peniel, and he was **limping** because of his hip."*

Genesis 32:31 NLT
