

Why Pray? (II)

Prayer Questions – Why pray . . .

1. when God already knows what will happen?
2. for God's will to be done?
3. when God already knows what we want?

Isa.62:6-7

⁶ “I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, ⁷ And give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”

- **Watchmen** look for good news (52:7-8)
- Who make mention...
- **Give Him no rest** (7).
 - ‘Wear Him out’ with prayers...

I. Jacob Wrestled With God, Genesis 32

Jacob

1. Left home under threat, 27:...36-45
2. Leaves one danger, meets another, Gn.32:1-6
 - Fear, 7
 - Tricks, 8-21
3. Wrestling match, Gn.32:24-32

Wrestling match, Gn.32:24-32

24: 'Man' . . . Wrestled

25: touched socket; disabled

26: Jacob needs God

27-28: "Jacob" (25:26)

- "Israel" – strives with God...
- Jacob no longer wins by wits...
 - Struggled with God and men
 - Hosea 12:4

Wrestling match, Gn.32:24-32

29: Jacob: 'what is Your name?'

30-31: Peniel / Penuel

31-32: limped: wrestling was real

If God can walk with Adam

Receive hospitality of Abraham

Appear as a flame (Jg.13)

Teach Jacob with ladder (Gn.28)

Then He can wrestle with Jacob

Wrestling match, Gn.32:24-32

The winner is Jacob

1. Wrestles with God–Man; is defeated.
2. Pleads / prays / prevails with God.
3. Receives new name.
 - Worried about Esau
 - Casts his cares on God (1 Pt.5:7)
 - God lets Jacob prevail over Him, thus over Esau

If prayer 'overcomes' God,
it's because He allows it.

- Jacob will conquer by power of God.
- His own power is gone (hip).

3. Receives new name.

- Worried about Esau
- Casts his cares on God (Pt.5:7)
- God lets Jacob prevail over Him,
thus over Esau

Wrestling match, Gn.32:24-32

The winner is Jacob

- Esau with 400 is no match for God.
- Power that prevails is spiritual (27f).

Faith pleads God's promises, 25:23

Jacob will enter promised land. Ro.8

Why change name if Esau kills him?

I. Jacob Wrestled With God, Genesis 32

II. Lessons From Jacob's
Wrestling With God

Encourages God's people to struggle with Him in prayer

- Mt.15:22-28

- Jesus is not rude

- He stirs her to fervency – greater levels of faith

- He could have ended her visit where it started

- **HE PROLONGED HER VISIT**

- . . . as He did with Jacob

Encourages God's people to struggle with Him in prayer

- Mt.15:22-28
- Lk.11:5-8 – friend at midnight
 - 9 (10): So...ask, seek, knock...
 - God has no midnight . . .
Ps.121:3
 - Prayer, 1-4
 - Address, praise, petitions

Encourages God's people to struggle with Him in prayer

- Mt.15:22-28
- Lk.11:5-8 – midnight help call
- Lk.18:1-8
 - 1: explanation at beginning, not end
 - 6-7: will God delay long?
 - 8a, no: speedily grants justice
[but He is longsuffering]
 - 8b, issue is with us

God's delay often brings greatest blessings. Jn.11

- M Everyone suffers, struggles with
- L problems.
- L The way to prevail over trials is to prevail with God.

6-7: v... delay long?

8a... speedily grants justice
[that He is longsuffering]

8b, issue is with us

We will not neglect
fervent prayer if like

- Hezekiah we face death. Ph.1
- David we have a sick child.
- Saul of Tarsus we realize enormity of our sin, Ac.9. 1 Co.15
- Corinthians we finally 'get it'
 - Ep.6:12-20 [Gn.32:25-26]
 - Lk.6:12
 - Is.65:24 . . . Lk.15:18-20