

**"JACOB WRESTLING WITH THE ANGEL"****Introduction**

1. Life for a Christian in this world is serious
2. Look at all God's saints in scripture
3. Did any of them have an easy life?

**1. GOD TEACHES US TO PRAY BY HIS WISE PROVIDENCES**

- 1) Prayer: it is of very different kinds:  
**ILLUSTRATION**: J. Knox; Acts 4; Martin Luther
- 2) God teaches us to pray by 2 things:
  - (i) His Spirit in the soul;
  - (ii) His dealings with the soul  
**APPLICATION**: We pray better in hardships
- 3) Look here at Jacob:  
Esau – Laban – Esau. Fears and dark thoughts forced him to pray.
- 4) Even Christ Himself: Gethsemane and Hebrews 5:7-8  
**APPLICATION**: Are you exercised in soul when you pray?

**2. GOD SHOWS US OUR NEED TO PRAY WITH WRESTLING IN OUR TRIALS**

- 1) Jacob here wrestling with the Angel
- 2) Who is this Angel? Explain.
- 3) The energy of Jacob's importunity: "I will not...bless me".  
**APPLICATION**: Have we experienced this?
- 4) The Angel's "Let me go". Explain.

- 5) Jacob's thigh. A humbling experience.  
**APPLICATION**: Grace both adds and subtracts.
- 6) The new name of "Israel"
- 7) "Penuel"  
**APPLICATION**: Spiritual experiences are real, vivid and can be unforgettable.  
**ILLUSTRATION**: Knox and St. Andrews!

**3. WRESTLING WITH GOD IS THE WAY TO GET THROUGH ALL TRIALS AND FEARS**

- 1) Look how God helped him:
  - (i) "Mahanaim"
  - (ii) The peaceable attitude of Esau!
- 2) This is the way God teaches us to get through our life and all its trials:
  - (i) Peter in prison: Acts 12
  - (ii) Paul in shipwreck: Acts 27
- 3) What a privilege! "Power with God and with men".  
**APPLICATION**: Apply this to every fear, worry and temptation.  
It is God's way.

**CONCLUSION**

1. "Men ought always to pray"
2. Moving mountains!
3. "Have faith in God"

**PSALM****56:1 – 7****61: 4 – 8****27: 11 – 14**