



I Will Not Let You Go Unless You Bless Me

Finding Blessing in Your Devotional Life

Genesis 32:22-32: Jacob wrestles with God

- “I will not let you go unless you bless me” (36)
- Humble tenacity: Knowing you need God to bless you, striving for his blessing, insisting on his blessing

Our Need

1. We still struggle with sin (1 John 1:8)
 - a. Sin in our actions, sin in our hearts
2. We struggle with self-deception
 - a. Have your feelings ever been unreliable?
 - b. Has your understanding ever been deeply mistaken?
 - c. **Jeremiah 17:9:** “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”
3. We struggle with folly
 - a. How often do you struggle with knowing what is wise and doing it?
 - b. **Proverbs 8:33:** “Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it.”
4. We are “poor and needy”
 - a. **Psalms 40:17:** “As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!”
 - b. Helpless on our own, but we have great hope in God.

Our God

- a. Some of God’s Attributes:
 - a. Good:
 - i. **Psalms 136:1** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.
 - ii. “the overflowing foundation of all goods” (Herman Bavinck, 2:212)

- b. Wise
 - i. **Romans 11:33** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
 - ii. “Wisdom in Scripture means choosing the best and noblest end at which to aim, along with the most appropriate and effective means to it.” (J.I. Packer, 48)
 - c. All-knowing
 - i. **cf. Psalm 139:1-6**
 - ii. “He knows everything about everything and everybody all the time.” (J.I. Packer, 31)
 - d. God is amazingly good, knows all things and chooses the best ways.
- b. The Lord has what we need most
 - a. **John 6:68**: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life”
 - b. Faith that God has what we need
 - c. God is also our loving Father. Like a good father, He wants to bless you, lead you, help you. (Psalm 103:13, see also James 4:8)

Our Help

1. **Matthew 4:4**: But [Jesus] answered, “It is written, “‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”
2. **Philippians 4:6–7** 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Next Steps

1. What parts of “Our Need” most resonate with your own life? Would you describe yourself as “poor and needy”? Why or why not?
2. How does God’s character encourage us to seek his help in our need? Take the time to pray about and praise God for who he is.
3. What spiritual blessings from God are you most in need of on a daily basis? Be sure you are praying about these needs regularly day by day.