

## Jacob's Life(Hebrews 11:21)

We surely need a compass to direct us in the “way of life” - the rest of the ways are death. Generally, growth in faith of a church member is slow. Not knowing how “to do” is the one of the main reason **“until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ(Ephesians 4:13)** How do we attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ? Unity in the faith and in the knowledge of Christ. We will be a whole person when our belief and knowing becomes one. Then we should know what is salvation, prayer, and why word, worship, and offering are so important. **“my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge(Hosea 4:6).**

**When Jacob failed in his life?** Jacob was deprived of birthright from Esau. He bought Esau's birthright with red stew, deceived his father Isaac to receive his blessing. Because of it, Jacob fled from Esau's grudge against him. He expected prosperity with blessing but resulted in him running away for twenty years.**“Two nations are in your womb,and two peoples from within you will be separated one people will be stronger than the other,and the older will serve the younger(Genesis 25:23)** “she was told, **“The older will serve the younger.”(Romans 9:12)** Jacob's impatience of God's word; Jacob was supposed to receive blessing of God, because God told that the older will serve the younger but Jacob's behavior were ahead of his trust in God.

Abraham became a father of faith because of absolute trust in God. **“Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead.Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God (Romans 4:19-20)** **“being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”(Romans 4:21-22)****“He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind.”(1 Samuel 15:29)** We could change our mind but God never changes. Jacob failed when he did not trust God's word entirely.

**Reason why God loved Jacob.** Esau was indifferent to God, but Jacob was interested. Esau became skillful hunter, a man of the open country while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. Bible shows Jacob' prayer, worshipping, wrestling with a man of God. vs Esau despised his birthright and God's blessing. **“I love those who love me,and those who seek me find me(Proverbs 8:17)**

**Difference in Values** Esau despised his birthright and God's blessing. He sold his birthright with stew when he famished after hunting. vs Jacob took his life to acquire it. Birthright is so important because it is the one who succeed God's promised land Canaan, right of blessing to heir, blessing of being ancestor of Messiah in future. Esau choose what he saw at that time instead of blessing in future. That is why God loves Jacob though he had a lot of fault. Jesus taught the priority of values clearly.” **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.(Matthew 6:33)**

**Not frustrated with own fate.** He acquired God's blessing with his life. God is pleased with the one who cries out, looking for him **“And,“But my righteous one will live by faith.And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back(Hebrews 10:38)** No fear when we have faith because nothing is impossible in God. We could overcome our surroundings, change own fate when we live by faith.

**Positive believer** Jacob was in faith that God will make something from nothing.(Story of fresh-cut branches from poplar, almond and plane trees in Genesis 30 Jacob grew prosperous and came to own large flocks, and female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

**Winning with prayer** When God said to Jacob go back to the land of your fathers from Laban, he feared his brother Esau. **“That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions(Genesis 32:22-23)** **“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 32:24-25)** Jacob could not get out of fear - but prayer was the only choice - and his prayer resulted in winning.

**Wrestling with a man of God.** **“The man asked him, “What is your name?”“Jacob,” he answered.(Genesis 32:27)** The meaning of Jacob's name is grasping heels with hands, in other words, deceiver, trickster; He deprived birthright and blessing from Esau - as his name. **“Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel,because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome(Genesis 32:28)** God changed his name from deceiver to blessing, as Israel. **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:The old has gone, the new is here!(2 Corin 5:17)** Jacob means “Deceiver” v.s. Israel means the “winner of wrestling with God” **“Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel,because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.”But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there(Genesis 32:28-29)**

God will win when we pray but I will win if not.The victory of life is when we die but God wins; to die means to pray. Jacob's life is great because he received “answer” by prayer.