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Hold On

By Teresa Hampton

Jacob was returning to the land of his birth. The reason he had left fifteen years earlier was borne of deceit. He and his mother tricked his father so Jacob could receive the firstborn's blessing, even though he was not the firstborn. It was a misguided and unnecessary endeavor that became increasingly complicated. The deceit produced hatred, hatred produced fear, and fear produced flight. Fifteen years later Jacob continued to inwardly wrestle with his brother's hatred and his own fear (Genesis 32). Did Esau *still* hate him? Would his brother seek revenge now by killing his precious wives and children?

God came to Jacob that night in the form of a man, and a wrestling match ensued. Yes, it was a physical contest, a hand-to-hand struggle. Jacob held on to God and God held on to Jacob. God could have "taken him down" at any moment. So what was the purpose of the struggle? The Almighty renewed in Jacob His divine favor. He let the match continue in order to reveal some powerful things to the "heel-grabber." When your sin's consequences seem overwhelming, hold on to God! When you have insurmountable fears and doubts, hold on to God! When your life is at an uncertain crossroad, hold on to God and His great promises!

Who won the wrestling match? God won and Jacob won. The same principles revealed to Jacob are true today in our Christian walk. *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful* (Hebrews 10:23). Despite all of our struggles, fears and doubts, when we hold on to God, He holds on to us.

Today's Verse: *Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown* (Revelation 3:11).

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