

Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT)

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

- 4) Why does God give Jacob a new name instead of allowing him to choose one?
- 5) What does Jacob's limp teach us about real, lasting transformation?
- 6) How does drawing near to God increase Jacob's awareness of God's presence?
- 7) What evidence do you see that Jacob has truly changed when he meets Esau?
- 8) Why is reconciliation such a powerful form of spiritual evidence?
- 9) How does the Fruit of the Spirit function as evidence of our identity in Christ?
- 10) Which Fruit of the Spirit do you most want God to grow in you right now?
- 11) What evidence in your life currently shows that you belong to Jesus?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection Questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) God, what identity have I been tempted to give myself instead of receiving from You?
- 2) Where do You want my life to better reflect Jesus right now?
- 3) What fruit do You want to cultivate in me during this season?

What COULD be Written About You?

Pastor Craig Sweeney | January 25, 2026

Thread: When you PLACE your faith fully in Jesus, what's written about you changes.

"During the night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two servant wives, and his eleven sons and crossed the Jabbok River with them. After taking them to the other side, he sent over all his possessions. This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket. Then the man said, 'Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go unless you bless me.' 'What is your name?' the man asked. He replied, 'Jacob.' 'Your name will no longer be Jacob,' the man told him. 'From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won.' 'Please tell me your name,' Jacob said. 'Why do you want to know my name?' the man replied. Then he blessed Jacob there. Jacob named the place Peniel (which means 'face of God'), for he said, 'I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared.' The sun was rising as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of the injury to his hip." **Genesis 32:22-31 NLT**

Jacob wrestled with God and received forgiveness.

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

Romans 12:2 NLT

"With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever. Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity. Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant."

Hebrews 9:12-15 NLT

Jesus offered His life for yours.

"There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong." **Hebrews 5:11-14 NLT**

Wrestling with MYSELF for forgiveness keeps me spiritually dull.

2 TRUTHS and 2 TENSIONS

TRUTHS:

1. God has forgiven me of all my sins through Jesus.
2. I will continue to sin.

TENSIONS:

1. I know God has forgiven me.

2. Taking God's grace for granted.

"For you have been called to live in freedom... But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature." **Galatians 5:13**

How could we think about forgiveness?

Until I release my full faith to God I remain spiritually dull.

Until I release my full faith to God and REST in His forgiveness, I remain an infant.

"Right and wrong" have everything to do with OBEDIENCE.

OBEDIENCE — The will of God for your life lived everyday.

What do you need to entrust to God today?

Challenge:

- What/who is your faith in?
- Are you seeing forgiveness correctly?
- Is it time to give God the mess you made?
- Will you be obedient to God's heart for you?

Homework

What could be written about you?

Part 2

Winter 2026 | Week 3

Message Date 1/25/2026

MY STORY



- 1) Have you ever had a nickname that really fit you? How did you get it?
- 2) What's one noticeable way you've changed over the past few or several years?

QUICK REVIEW



- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME



Genesis 32:28–31 (NLT)

²⁸ "Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked, "Please tell me your name." "Why do you want to know my name?" the man replied. Then he blessed Jacob there. ³⁰ Jacob named the place Peniel—for he said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared." ³¹ The sun was rising as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of the injury to his hip.

Genesis 28:16–17 (NLT)

¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I wasn't even aware of it!" ¹⁷ But he was also afraid and said, "What an awesome place this is! It is none other than the house of God, the very gateway to heaven!"

Genesis 33:1–4 (NLT)

¹ Then Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming with his 400 men... ³ Then Jacob went on ahead. As he approached his brother, he bowed to the ground seven times before him. ⁴ Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. And they both wept.