

COMPLAIN TO GOD. JUST DON'T LET HIM GO

Dear Friend:

If you are a Christian long enough, you'll notice something sad starts to happen. A lot of people who start the journey with God end up walking away. They do so for many reasons. Some leave because they were not really rooted to begin with (see The Parable of the Sower), some leave over a tragedy in their life, and some leave because their prayers weren't answered as they wished. Perhaps because of this they complained to God and when their complaint brought no visible or internal response from God, they gave up on Him.

In Genesis 32 we find the familiar story of Jacob wrestling with God. Jacob was on his way to meet his brother Esau and he feared for his life. Twenty years earlier Jacob left home because Esau was going to kill him. At the start of Genesis 32 we read that Jacob initiated the reunion but when he got the word that Esau and 400 of his men were coming, Jacob panicked big time. On the eve before the meeting Jacob lays down in the desert to sleep, God comes to visit Jacob and he ends-up getting into a divine wrestling match. The wrestling match took all night and as daybreak began God had enough but Jacob wouldn't let go. God decided to end the match so he throws Jacob's hip out of joint and heads back to heaven. Even after the disjointed hip Jacob doesn't let go without asking God to bless him. God blesses Jacob and renames him Israel.

Jacob was far from perfect, but he got one thing right: he hung on to God. He had faith and tenacity. He knew the only thing more dangerous than wrestling with God is letting go of God. Are you wrestling over anything right now with God? Are you unhappy with God? Have you registered a few complaints against him lately? If that is so, it is human nature. If you insist on wrestling or complaining don't do it much longer than overnight, but more important than that...don't let God go!

In Christ's Love,

Mike

Prayer: Cao Qing (had heart surgery, in China), Donna Clickenger (shut-in of the month)

Events: Sunday, 6:30 final class, Wars and Rumors of Wars. Pizza party