

# WHAT'S NEXT?

GETTING MORE OUT OF YOUR SUNDAY SERVICE



July 19, 2021

This week we are looking at our response to Pastor Emeritus Ron Phillips' sermon titled, "Generation of Hope" (Psalm 24:1-6; Genesis 32:24-31). Take time to examine this message more closely, alone, with family or a friend. This message will also be discussed on Sunday in many LifeGroups at Abba's House.

1. Pastor Emeritus Ron Phillips continued his series with his message **Generation of Hope**. Our world needs hope, now more than any other time in my lifetime. With evil on the rise, and confusion about the very essence of who we are becoming rampant in society, this message offers hope for a generation to rise from the ashes of moral and spiritual disaster and embrace the faith in Jesus which pulls us into a worship-filled life, abiding in the presence of the Father, full of the Holy Spirit.
2. Take a few minutes to read through Psalm 24:1-6 and Genesis 32:24-31. In both passages we find authors who as young boys struggled to be accepted. David, though destined to be king, spent most of his time outside of the family, tending sheep. Jacob struggled with identity from birth, grabbing for something more, until finally he quit looking for blessing from his earthly family and got into a wrestling match with God, and held on until he received the Heavenly Father's blessing. Are you missing the blessing of Abba Father on your life?
3. There is hope for us found in Psalm 24. Pastor Ron explained that the generation of those who seek God in worship are like Jacob, who wrestled with God and would not stop until God blessed him. When the wrestling was over and the blessing came, Jacob named the place where he wrestled with God, Peniel, which means **the face of God**. Once you meet the Lord face to face you will be marked. For Jacob, it was a limp that stayed with him until he died.

## WHAT'S NEXT:

**The Jacob Generation refers to a life devoted to worship and service. It is possible for a generation of men and women, teens and children to live their lives in the presence of God. While seasons of wrestling may be involved, the result is worth it. If you have struggled in your spiritual life, wrestled with sin, or given yourself over to something other than a face to face encounter with Jesus, today is the day to make a move toward a life of worship, holiness, intimacy and spiritual strength! You can be part of the Jacob Generation, the generation of those who seek God's face.**

## GOING DEEPER:

### 8 Characteristics of this Generation

#### 1. Unsettled Generation

Jacob's life was like a spiritual yo-yo! One day he was seeing angels, the next day he left Bethel, the house of God. But Jacob returned to settle into the place of God's presence. He had a vagabond faith for a season that nearly destroyed his family. God interrupted his life three times in order to move him under an open heaven to a place where he could receive the fullness of God's presence in his life.

#### 2. Lonely Generation - Genesis 32:24

This is a generation that knows crowds but not companionship. This is a day of deep loneliness and isolation. It is at these moments God can transform us.

#### 3. Struggling Rebellious Generation - Genesis 32:24

Jacob wrestled with the pre-incarnate Christ. He engaged in hand-to-hand combat with the Lord. This generation struggles with selling out to Jesus. They wrestle with maintaining a devoted life and spiritual intimacy.

#### 4. A Broken Generation - Genesis 32:25

God's touch can sometimes be painful. The Lord knocked his leg out of joint! What was the result? In one final blow, the Lord caused Jacob to retire from the ring of carnal aggression. Jacob asked for it. He insisted on the blessing. It caused him pain, but it changed the focus of His life.

You do not break God's standards, you break yourself against them. "Whole unbroken men are of little use to God..." (Andrew Murray)

Look at our day: broken finances, broken marriages, broken government, broken young people, broken dreams, broken churches, broken hearts, and broken ministries.

#### 5. A Determined Generation - Genesis 32:26; Psalm 24:6

All of a sudden the scene changes; the rebel becomes the redeemed! The wrestler becomes a worshipper! The struggler becomes a seeker! He who had fled from his faith now holds on for the blessing.

***This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face.***

When you are broken, cannot move, hold on and cry out for the blessing!

#### 6. A Struggling Generation - Genesis 32:27-28

So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." (28) And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Jacob means deceiver. Jacob's name represented his character. God changed his name to Israel, prince of God. The devil wants this generation to live in the past. This generation will be God's royalty. Out of the brokenness God will raise up an end-time church that will touch the world.

#### 7. A Strengthened Generation - Genesis 32:28- 29

- New position (Prince)
- New power
- New prosperity (Proverbs 10:22)
- New perspective (Genesis 32:30)
- New promise

He limped but he limped into a new day!

#### 8. A Serving Generation - Psalm 78:5

When Jesus gives you a testimony of victory, it sets a new destiny for everyone who hears it. This is the hope of revival (Psalm 85:1-6).

God will use you like he used Jacob to bring victory to those who need it most!