

THE STORY OF  
**JACOB**



GENESIS 32:22-32



# Why this story?

- A simple, interesting narrative
- A cultural metaphor (word picture)
- A spiritual lesson with hidden meaning





Setting the scene...Jacob is in trouble!

- Fear



# Setting the scene...Jacob is in trouble!

- Fear
- Frantic fugitive



# Setting the scene...Jacob is in trouble!

- Fear
- Frantic fugitive
- Scheming deceiver



# Setting the scene...Jacob is in trouble!

- Fear
- Frantic fugitive
- Scheming deceiver
- Doubt



## Setting the scene...Jacob is in trouble!

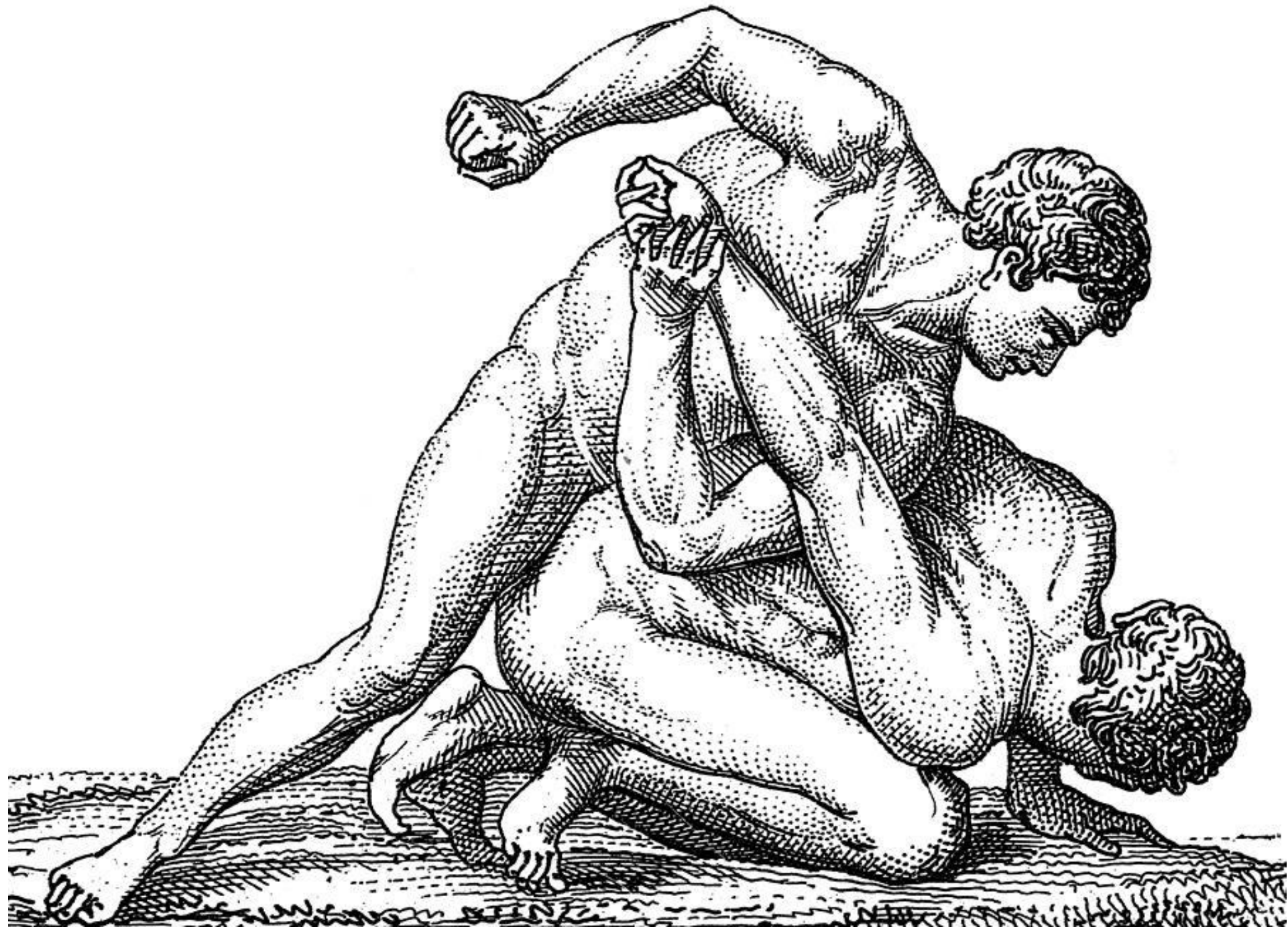
- Fear
- Frantic fugitive
- Scheming deceiver
- Doubt
- Domestic Dysfunction





## Setting the scene...Jacob is in trouble!

- Fear
- Frantic fugitive
- Scheming deceiver
- Doubt
- Domestic Dysfunction
- Looking for God...looking for answers...SCARED!





# The strangest wrestling match in history

- Esau's on his way...RUN!



# The strangest wrestling match in history

- Esau's on his way...RUN!
- Conquer & Divide



# The strangest wrestling match in history

- Esau's on his way...RUN!
- Conquer & Divide
- God shows up...wrapped in muscle



# The strangest wrestling match in history

- Esau's on his way...RUN!
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- God shows up...wrapped in muscle
- All night struggle



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- A painful sports injury



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- A promise of blessing



# The strangest wrestling match in history

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- Conquer & Divide
- God shows up...wrapped in muscle
- All night struggle
- A painful sports injury
- A name change
- A promise of blessing
- A painful reminder

# Take it personally

- God sometimes wrestles with us.



# Take it personally

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- God sometimes wounds us.



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- God sometimes wounds us.
- God's ultimate desire – that we trust Him.



# Take it personally

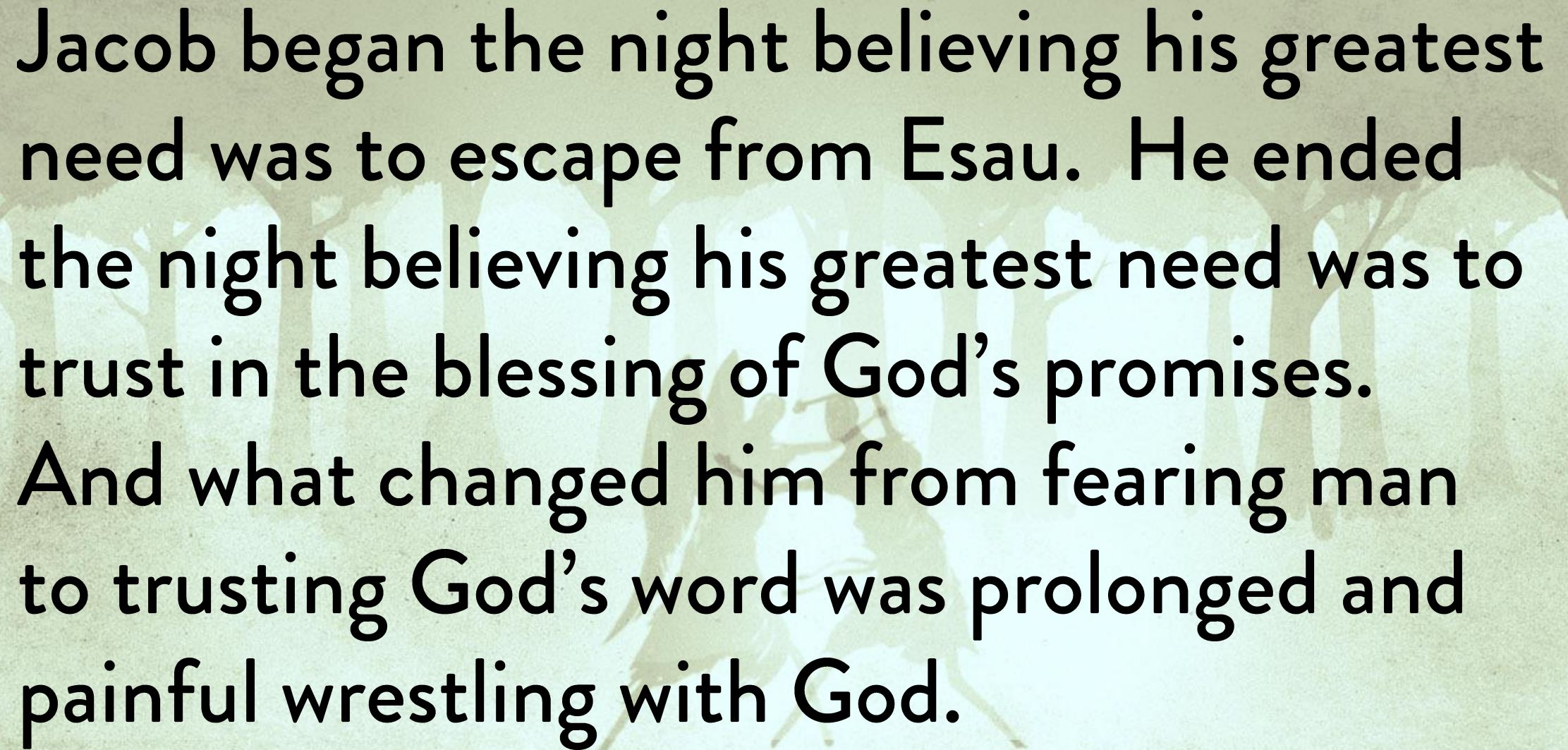
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- God changes us through struggle.



# Take it personally

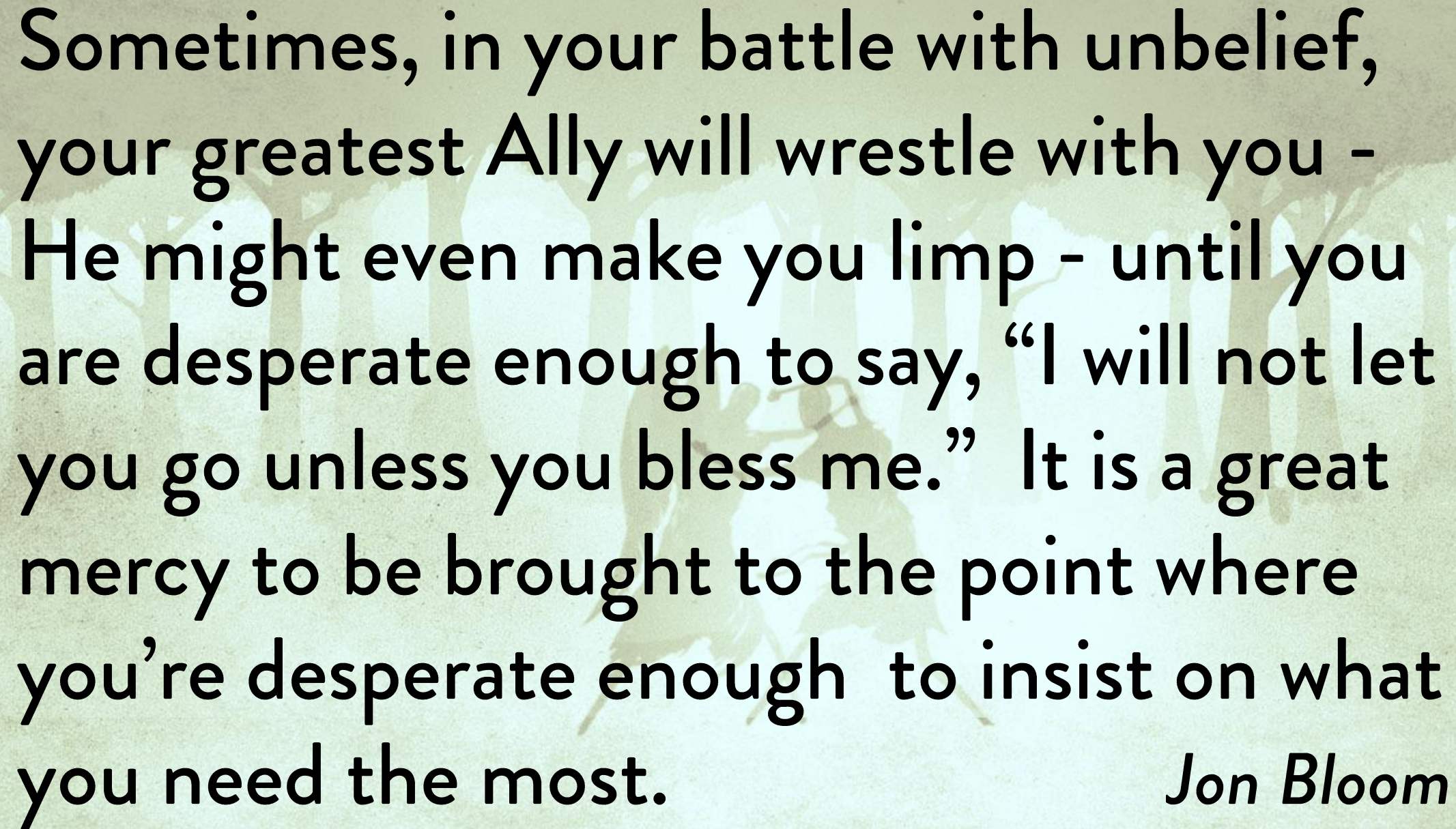
- God sometimes wrestles with us.
- God sometimes wounds us.
- God's ultimate desire – that we trust Him.
- God changes us through struggle.
- God wants to bless us...don't give up asking!



The background features a soft, painterly illustration of a forest. In the center, two figures are engaged in a wrestling match, one on top of the other. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a night or twilight setting. The trees are rendered in a light, ethereal style, and the overall color palette is muted and naturalistic.

Jacob began the night believing his greatest need was to escape from Esau. He ended the night believing his greatest need was to trust in the blessing of God's promises. And what changed him from fearing man to trusting God's word was prolonged and painful wrestling with God.



The background features a soft, greenish-yellow forest scene with several trees. In the center, there is a faint, light-colored illustration of two figures wrestling, one on top of the other, which serves as a visual metaphor for the text's theme of struggle.

Sometimes, in your battle with unbelief,  
your greatest Ally will wrestle with you -  
He might even make you limp - until you  
are desperate enough to say, “I will not let  
you go unless you bless me.” It is a great  
mercy to be brought to the point where  
you’re desperate enough to insist on what  
you need the most.

*Jon Bloom*