

# Journey Through Grief

August 21/22, 2021

Pastor Steve

## Journey Through Grief: Struggle

And to the man he said, "Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit, I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. Genesis 3:17

### We Struggle with:

I) \_\_\_\_\_.

II) \_\_\_\_\_.

I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.

Romans 7:15-23

III) \_\_\_\_\_.

#### A) Reasons We Struggle With God:

1) We Doubt His \_\_\_\_\_.

2) We Want to be \_\_\_\_\_.

B) Even in the womb, Jacob struggled with his brother; when he became a man, he even fought with God. Hosea 12:3

C) 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. Genesis 32:22-24

- D) 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." Genesis 32:25-26
- E) Wrestling is all about who is \_\_\_\_\_.
- F) "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." Genesis 32:27-28
- G) Jacob literally means \_\_\_\_\_.
- H) Israel literally means \_\_\_\_\_.
- I) "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 32:29-31
- J) Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 1 Peter 5:7

#### **To Wrestle With God and Get Blessed, I:**

- I) C - \_\_\_\_\_ in faith.
- A) Job 13:20-25
- B) King David: Psalm 13:1-5
- C) Jeremiah 12:1-4
- D) You complain \_\_\_\_\_ God not \_\_\_\_\_ God.
- E) You complain in faith.
- F) And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. Hebrews 11:6
- G) But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin. Romans 14:23
- H) Morning, noon, and night I cry out in my distress, and the LORD hears my voice. Psalm 55:17
- II) A - \_\_\_\_\_ to God's nature.

And said: "O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, 'If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.' "But now

here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. O our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you." 2

Chronicles 20:6-12 (NIV)

III) R - \_\_\_\_\_ God of His promises.

Then Jacob prayed, "O God of my grandfather Abraham, and God of my father, Isaac— O LORD, you told me, 'Return to your own land and to your relatives.' And you promised me, 'I will treat you kindly.' I am not worthy of all the unfailing love and faithfulness you have shown to me, your servant. When I left home and crossed the Jordan River, I owned nothing except a walking stick. Now my household fills two large camps! O LORD, please rescue me from the hand of my brother, Esau. I am afraid that he is coming to attack me, along with my wives and children. But you promised me, 'I will surely treat you kindly, and I will multiply your descendants until they become as numerous as the sands along the seashore—too many to count.'" Genesis 32:9-12

IV) E - \_\_\_\_\_ my total trust in God.

A) Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face. Job 13:15 (NIV)

B) Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! The Sovereign LORD is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights. Habakkuk 3:17-19

The way you win a fight with God is by \_\_\_\_\_.

The sun was rising as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of the injury to his hip. Genesis