

Survey: Respond to these statements.

I am ambitious.

Yes, totally.	Yes, very much so.	Not quite.	No, I'm not.
---------------	--------------------	------------	--------------

I want to make lots of money. I want to be successful.

Yes, totally.	Yes, very much so.	Not quite.	No, I don't.
---------------	--------------------	------------	--------------

This was a statement from the internet. Respond.

"I am confused with the story of Jacob and Esau. Basically, Jacob screwed over Esau and God seemed to be indifferent to the whole ordeal."

Yes, I'm so confused. What's wrong with God?	Yes, it does seem strange. How does God view this?	No, I think I got it. Here's what I'm thinking...	No, I got it. And I can tell you what's happening.
--	--	---	--

Sermon: Desire or Despise God?

What constitutes a "birthright?"

	<i>Here, now.</i>	<i>Beyond. Deeper. Further. (body, soul and spirit)</i>
Authority	To lead his family. The C.E.O. Responsibility to care for the well-being of the whole household	Call family and future generations to be faithful to God. Stand before God and seek God on behalf of his family.
Wealth	Get a double portion when Dad's wealth, estate is divided	The land to be received in future, based on God's promise.
A blessing to the nations	The covenant through Isaac will continue through me and my family.	The future deliverer, whom God promised to Adam, will come through my future generations.

- What did Jacob feel about the birthright?
- What did Esau want? What did he not want?

Definitions:

"Despise" (verb): to show disrespect because something is beneath you.

This verb comes from a feeling. The feeling of contempt.

- **"contempt"**: *the feeling that a person or a thing is worthless or beneath consideration.*

Is God needy? You find him annoying; will He be clingy and keep “bothering” you?

- **Accrued** income: money that will be paid to your business in the near future. You are waiting. This is an asset.
- **Bad debt**: money owed but never pay. So you give up. Better to cut your losses and write it off as a bad debt. You are not going to continue to have a business relationship with that dishonest and irresponsible customer.

Who aggressively pursued God, wanting Him to be his business partner? Who considered God as trustworthy, believing that He will fulfill His promises?

Who saw God as not trustworthy, not worth doing business with; a liability, a burden?

Godly and Godless

Compare: Remember Noah: What did Noah tell people as he built the ark? What did God want to give many people? What was the people’s response?

Now explain these terms based on what you know about the two stories.

- **Godless**: How were the people in Noah’s time similar to Esau?
- **Godly**: Compare Noah and Jacob: How were they similar?

Compare Contrast	<i>Godly: How were Noah and Jacob alike?</i>	<i>Godless: How were the people during Noah’s time like Esau?</i>
How was Noah different from the people of his time?	Noah...	The people around Noah before the flood...
How was Jacob different from Esau?	Jacob...	Esau...

What does “godly” mean? What does “godless” mean? Explain.

Godly: _____

Godless: _____

Genesis 32

Who started the wrestling match? Which is correct?

Was it: *Jacob went to wrestle with the man.*

OR: *The man came and wrestled with Jacob.*

Get the facts. Which version of the story is correct? Version 1 or Version 2?

Version 1:

1. A man came and wrestled with Jacob.
2. Daybreak.
3. The man ran away.

Version 2

1. The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered.
2. The man wrestled with him
3. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."
4. The man saw that he could not overpower him
5. Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."
6. Then he blessed him there.
7. The man wrestled with him till daybreak
8. He touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man.
9. Jacob was left alone

Is this the correct sequence of events? Which one is wrong?

Check Genesis 32:24-32. Re-number the sequence correctly.

Now think:

- Why did God come and wrestle with Jacob?
- (God could have just appeared in a dream and talked nicely to him—didn't he do so many times before? (see the chapters between Genesis 26 to 32)
- Remember: When was the last time Jacob wrestled a blessing from someone? (see Genesis 26)

Who am I?

God brought Jacob back to where he began, as a grabber, and renewed his identity — *the one who grabs God*.

What does Jacob mean? What does Israel mean?

Jacob	Israel
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Heel-grabber- To over-reach, take advantage of- Supplanter- Someone who takes the place of another, as through force, scheming, strategy, or deceit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- He struggled with God and man and prevailed- He fought with God and won- God grabber

Application:

Where are you now? Choose one question: 1, 2 or 3.

1. Do I desire or despise God? Am I godly or godless? How so? Explain.
 - If you are not sure, would you like to ask God what he thinks?
 - Is my home a godly Christian home or a godless Christian home?

2. "I'm struggling with God right now."
 - What's happening in the fight? How do you feel? Are you struggling or giving up? Why? How are you holding on to God? How can you keep holding on? Can you share the struggle? (or can share privately)

3. "I've struggled with God before."
 - What was the situation? How did you feel?
 - What scars did you get from that experience? What blessings did you gain from that experience?
 - What new identity did you receive, or realization about God's nature did you come to know?