

The Faith of Our Fathers

3) Jacob: Spirit vs Flesh

How Did God Transform Jacob?

1) By a process of gradual transformation

***'But we all, with unveiled face,
beholding as in a mirror the
glory of the Lord, are being
transformed into the same image
from glory to glory, just as by
the Spirit of the Lord'***

(2 Cor.3:18)

2) By the law of sowing and reaping

' Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life'

(Gal.6:7-8)

'Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, "Jacob." And I said, "Here I am." And He said, "Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you"'
(Gen.31:11-12)

***'Unless the God of my father, the
God of Abraham and the Fear of
Isaac, had been with me, surely
now you would have sent me away
empty-handed. God has seen my
affliction and the labor of my hands,
and rebuked you last night'***

(Gen.31:42)

**3) By making all things work
together for good**

'When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren. So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said, "The LORD has surely looked on my affliction. Now therefore, my husband will love me"'

(Gen.29:31-32)

'And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose'
(Rom.8:28)

4) By bringing us to the end of ourselves

***'Then Jacob was left alone; and a
Man wrestled with him until the
breaking of day'
(Gen.32:24)***

'So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved"'
(Gen.32:30)

*'Just as he crossed over Penuel the sun
rose on him, and he limped on his hip'*
(Gen.32:31)

***'Therefore to this day the children
of Israel do not eat the muscle
that shrank, which is on the hip
socket, because He touched the
socket of Jacob's hip in the
muscle that shrank'***

(Gen.32:32)