

May 10, 2026

Pastor Andy McClellan

Title: “The God Who Gives You a New Name”

Series: Genesis: Beginnings

Text: Genesis 32:1-33:20

1. God's words give us **HOPE** when **FEAR** tests our faith, 32:1-20 (*see also 27:41; 28:13-15, 20-22; Psalm 34:4-7; 56:3; Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 14:22-33; 24:35; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 10:23; 13:6*).
2. God's power **TRANSFORMS** us when we depend on His **FAVOR**, 32:21-32 (*see also Hosea 12:3-6; Mark 7:24-30; John 1:18; Romans 8:12-14; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 12:1-10; Philippians 2:12-13; Revelation 2:17*).
3. God's blessings **HUMBLE** us when we recognize them as His **GRACE**, 33:1-20 (*see also 12:7-8; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Cor. 4:7; Titus 2:11-12; James 1:17; Heb. 12:28*).

FOR FURTHER STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. Read Gen. 32:1-20. How does Jacob demonstrate both faith in God and fear of man at the same time? What is the source of his faith? Why is his fear so strong, and how does it reveal a need to grow in his faith? How is this mix of fear and faith a common experience even among us today? How have you experienced it? Why is fearing man so common and yet so destructive to us (see also Prov. 29:25)?
2. Has there been a time when God's words gave you hope in the midst of your fears? What was the promise, passage or principle? How does this point to our need for a daily diet of God's Word to battle our fears? Are you getting that spiritual food each day? If so, how is it helping you? If not, what can you do this week to change that?
3. In 32:21-32, why is Jacob so insistent that God bless him, and how does his wrestling show his dependence on that blessing? In what ways can you identify with Jacob's experience? Have you ever wrestled with God over something? What was it, and what was the result? What did you learn about you from the experience, and what did you learn about God?
4. What does Jacob learn about God from this wrestling match? How does this experience make him stronger, even though he leaves physically weaker? What does this tell us about the nature of God, and His willingness to use our weaknesses in order to reveal our need for His strength? Why is that evidence of God's love and favor on us (see also 2 Cor. 12:1-10)? How is this encouraging to us when we go through weaknesses, hardships and struggles?
5. While Jacob will continue to need to grow in his faith, what evidence do we see in ch. 33 that, by God's power, Jacob is undergoing a transformation? How do we see him growing in humility, gratitude, dependence on God, and worship & intimacy with God? How is this a picture of the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? How does it show us that we never outgrow our need for the Gospel?

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 34, Pastor Andy McClellan

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