



THE SIGNAL

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Jacob was not the best example of a follower of the Lord. His name in the Hebrew has the connotation of being a "schemer," and he certainly lived up to that in practice during the early part of his life.

It is a gracious provision of our Lord that we are not judged in character or in standing based on one day or one season of our lives. Christ bore all our sin at Calvary and paid our debt in full. We praise Him that "there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" [Romans 8:1]. He has removed our sins as far as the east is from the west.

Yes, Jacob in many ways is a portrait of a weak, fallible, frail believer. Yet his name is often mentioned in the patriarchal trio of "Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." We also read of "The God of Jacob." What grace this is! Jacob in many ways stands as an example for us of what not to do. But there is one area where he is the very epitome of what a believer should be, and this is in the matter of prayer.

Jacob, after all, knew the Lord, and the Lord knew him. To God he retreated as the all-powerful One who hears and answers prayer. Years after deceiving his brother Esau, and having been deceived himself by his father-in-law, Laban, Jacob was at last being forced to face his past. In Genesis 32 we read where he is coming to meet his brother after having spent many years away in exile. He is afraid. He doesn't know how Esau will receive him. His prayer to God is recorded for us:

"And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the Lord which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee: I

am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant...Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother...And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me" [Genesis 32:9-12, 26].

Here we see Jacob as an example of one who prevails in prayer. True prayer is wrestling and struggling. It is to engage, at times, in spiritual warfare.

First, we see that we should tell the Lord our problem. Jacob stated his fears plainly, clearly, and specifically. Someone has said, "General prayers call for general answers." Let us tell Him all about our struggles.

Second, Jacob pleaded the promises of God. We should remind the Lord of His Word, of what He has promised to do. What a powerful case is found in "Thou hast said" [v. 12]. Jesus taught that not one word of His Word would fail and that His Word would not return void. We have not because we ask not. Amazingly, we read in Ezekiel 36:37, "Thus saith the Lord God; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them..." God has given us precious promises in His Word, and He expects us to seize upon them and bring them before Him as arguments for our case. Jacob's prayer was made up of pleading the promise of God before God.

Lastly, like Jacob we should plead our case with holy boldness. How boldly Jacob declares, "I will not let thee go except thou bless me." God's promises, and His willingness to bless, are not based upon our worthiness. It is all based upon His amazing grace.



WGIB
SHARE-A-THON
APRIL 30 AND MAY 1, 2020

Learn God's Word, and then lean hard upon it in bold requesting. The Lord answered Jacob. Esau's heart was softened, and Jacob's life was spared.

The Bible teaches us this: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). In the model prayer, He taught us to ask for our daily bread [that is, all the necessities of life]. We then, as His dear children, can come to Him expectantly, spreading our needs before

Him and claiming these promises as we do.

Would you not join us here at the *Where God Is Blessing Broadcasting Network* and ask Him to supply all we need? Thank you for standing with us and supporting us in this way. May He, in turn, supply all your need as well.

Your servant,
Chris Lamb

RAVI ZACHARIAS

JUST THINKING – WEEKDAYS AT 8:00 P.M.

LET MY PEOPLE THINK – SATURDAYS AT 2:30 P.M.

When former skeptic and seventeen-year-old Ravi Zacharias heard the words of Jesus in John 14:19, "Because I live, you also will live," the trajectory of his life changed forever. In a time of helplessness and unbelief—when he was on a bed of suicide—the truth of Scripture brought hope to Zacharias, and he committed his life to Christ. In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." This verse has become the cornerstone of Zacharias's ultimate mission as a Christian apologist and evangelist: to present and defend the truth of Jesus Christ, that others may find life in Him.

Zacharias's calling to preach was first confirmed when he was awarded the Asian Youth Preacher Award at the International Youth Congress in Hyderabad at the age of nineteen. In 1984, he founded Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM). At age seventy-three, he remains committed to his calling to represent the gospel of Jesus Christ through historical, philosophical, and moral foundations and to defend it against objectors with grace, clarity, and coherency. He has laid the framework of the truth of the gospel for millions of people in more than seventy countries and in some of the world's leading universities.

In 2017, Zacharias's vision to establish an apologetics training center in the United States with global reach was realized with the launch of the Zacharias Institute in Atlanta. Additionally, RZIM has sixteen offices throughout the world. Through its global team of speakers and more than two hundred employees worldwide, RZIM seeks to impact the heart and intellect of society's thinkers and influencers through evangelism, apologetics, spiritual disciplines, training, and humanitarian support.

Recently, doctors discovered that Ravi has a cancerous tumor of the sacrum, a cancer called sarcoma. Zacharias wrote that "We are trusting the Lord in this, and we believe we have already seen evidence of His hand. For example, the tumor did not show up on any previous scans and was only discovered by my surgeon identifying it during surgery. Margie and I and our family are so grateful for your continued prayers for the journey that lies ahead. Please do also pray that God will take away this horrific night pain, which is the most difficult part of waiting."

Ravi and his wife, Margie, have been married for forty-six years and have three grown children. They reside in Atlanta, Georgia. Ravi fully believes the truth of Jesus Christ can endure the toughest critiques and philosophical attacks.

The broadcast outreach of RZIM is a listener-supported ministry that mixes powerful biblical teaching and Christian apologetics. The programs explore issues such as life's meaning, the weakness of modern intellectual movements, and the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. The messages from Ravi Zacharias are designed to help listeners grow spiritually, defend their faith, and share the love of Christ with others. You can learn more about Ravi Zacharias by visiting his website: RZIM.org