



# God's Faithfulness *amidst* Man's Failure

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO GENESIS

Sunday, April 18, 2021

## Welcome

We are so glad you have joined us to worship God this morning! Our church is inspired and motivated by the generous grace our Heavenly Father displayed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In response to His goodness, we strive to live out compassionate love for those around us as we live and speak the good news about Jesus. We hope you leave encouraged and inspired to respond to God's invitation for relationship and His call to go and make disciples of Jesus who will then make more and more disciples of Jesus.

### INTRODUCTION TO OUR SERMON SERIES

"There is no way God is pleased with my life." "I am so inconsistent with my faithfulness to God; I'm sure He gave up on me a long time ago."

Maybe you have had these thoughts in the past. Maybe you have them right now. If God's faithfulness to us is dependent on our faithfulness to Him, then maybe these thoughts would have some merit. But what if God is compelled not by the quality of our faithfulness but by the quality of *His* faithfulness?

As we work through the second half of Genesis together, we will encounter God's followers consistently failing to be faithful to God. But amidst the failures of man, we will also encounter the continual faithfulness of God as He demonstrates steadfast love and faithfulness to the very end.

Pastor Austin Branson  
*Lead Pastor*

gracechurch  
An Evangelical Free Church

500 S Main Street in Walworth, WI 53184  
(262) 275-6020 | office@gracewalworth.org | gracewalworth.org

WORSHIP SERVICE: SUNDAYS AT 10AM

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 145:3-5

WORSHIP IN SONG

King of Kings

Confessional Prayer

Just As I Am

His Mercy Is More

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOSPEL PROJECT KEY PASSAGE SONG

I Am With You Always (Matthew 28:19-20)

GOSPEL PROJECT KIDS' BIBLE LESSON VIDEO

PRAYER

SERMON

BENEDICTION

**Connection Cards**

Are you new to Grace? Do you have a prayer request? We invite you to fill out a Connect Card found at the Welcome Center or online.

**Tithe Online**

To give electronically, you can visit the "Give" page of our website -or- download the "Give Plus" app found in your phone's app store.

**Weekly Email**

If you would like to receive a weekly email that include reminders and updates, please visit the home page of our website to subscribe.

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

**Tuesday, April 20**

Women's Bible Study .....9:30am

Contact: Marj DeVore, (262) 275-9426.

**Wednesday, April 21**

Big Foot High School & The American Red Cross Blood Drive ..... 12:00-7:00pm

**Saturday, April 24**

Children's Church Leader Training ..... 1:00-4:00pm

Contact: Marj DeVore, (262) 275-9426

**Sunday, April 25**

Worship Service..... 10:00am

Iglesia Jesucristo es mi Refugio ..... 12:00pm

Contact: Pastores Ricardo y Berna Ramos, (815) 355-7482

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Blood Drive**

Students from Big Foot High School are partnering with The American Red Cross to host another blood drive here at Grace Church on Wednesday, April 21 from 1-6pm. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org.

**Children's Church Leader Training**

A mandatory class designed to train, develop, and equip Children's Church leaders will take place on Saturday, April 24 from 1-4pm at Grace Church. More details surrounding this session have been sent to leaders via email. Please be sure to R.S.V.P. by contacting Marj DeVore (marjdevore@gmail.com, 262-275-9426) or the church office.

**Membership Candidates**

The following candidates are wholeheartedly recommended by Pastor Austin and the Elders for church membership: Dick & Sandy Carlson, Kevin & Allison Joly. Providing that no one brings forth Scripturally based objections to the Elder Board, membership candidates will be formally welcomed into membership on Sunday, April 25.

### **Church Work Day**

A Spring work day is scheduled to take place at Grace Church on Saturday, May 1 from 9am-12pm. If you are willing and able to lend a hand, please let us know by signing up at the Welcome Center or by contacting John Jones at (815) 575-040.

### **Baby & Child Dedications**

A brief informational meeting will be held after the worship service on Sunday, May 2 in FH1 for any parents interested in dedicating their child(ren) on Sunday, May 16. Forms are available at the Welcome Center and can be brought to the meeting.

## **SERMON NOTES**

### **The Struggle Is The Thing** Genesis 32:22-32

I. The Prayerful Struggle

II. The Painful Struggle

## REFLECTION & RESPONSE

### SERMON SUMMARY

The butterfly must struggle out of the cocoon in order to take flight. God wrestles with Jacob so that Jacob's faith might take flight. While Jacob is physically wounded by his encounter with God, God spiritually strengthens Jacob with a new name and restored blessing. In a similar way, God will uproot our self-reliance and replant within us a dependency on Him. While the process might be painful, we are called to prayerfully persist! My hope is that the questions below will help you and a few others strive in your faith together and experience inside out change.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How was Jacob's desire to be alone in verses 22-24 evidence of his pursuit of God? How have you practiced solitude in your own pursuit of God? What things do you need to set aside in order to make time for solitude with God?
2. How are verses 24-29 a picture of prayer? Share an example of when you personally wrestled in prayer (e.g., prayed till you have prayed). What sort of distractions inhibit you from "striving" in your prayer life?
3. From the text, how does God remove Jacob's ability to depend on himself? How does God make Jacob more God-dependent? What are some current circumstances in your own life where God has been removing your own tendency to be self-dependent? How have you cooperated with God's work in this area? How have you resisted it?

### OVERFLOW/OUTREACH

At the end of our passage, Jacob limps forward into the sunrise. His story is not over. In many ways, it has just begun. God has given him a new name and a renewed mission.

God blesses us so that through us He might bless the whole world. Talk about some possible ways that you can allow God to bless others through you. Make sure your ideas are tangible enough to do.

Now, go and humbly limp into the sunrise and allow God to work in and through you.