



# CBS



...Transforming lives, impacting the nations

## COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

Thursday July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

7:00PM

STUDY OUTLINE #032

**Text: Genesis 25: 20-34, Colossians 1: 1-13**

**Theme: Sustaining your New Identity**

In our series on guarding the heart, we examined the greatest thing that matters, **the heart** of the matter. We have seen how it became corrupted and how redemption came for man. In this dispensation, we have a new nature, name and identity, courtesy of the sacrifice on the cross. However, we need to know how to keep the new dimension of life for optimum performance and due reward.

**Question**, how do we foster the new nature, name and identity we now have? How do we retain and maintain same.

### 1. Profile

We are taking a look at the life of Jacob to unravel his personality, turn-around point as well as practices that sustained his new identity in the midst of odds.

### 2. Categorisation

Our study will be from the stand point of his pre-birth and after birth; the encounter that developed his belief and character.

#### a. Pre and after birth

He was a beneficiary of doctrine of election. Some pronouncements preceded his birth. Romans 9: 9-13, Hosea 12: 1-5; Genesis 25: 20-27 (Genesis 27: 36); 2 Timothy 1: 8-9. God elected Jacob to be the recipient of the covenant-promise made to his father and grandfather, Isaac and Abraham respectively. He was chosen as a link in the chain of inheritance to receive and transmit the promise. **Psalm 78: 1-7** However, at birth Jacob held the heel of Esau, signifying, looking down, to supplant, "to deceive" (Gen 27:36; Jeremiah 9:4), to follow, succeed or to take the place of another.

Significantly, by inheritance and fruit of early teaching, he had firm conviction of the value of what God had promised. This gave rise to supreme ambition to obtain it for himself and children at all cost. Unfortunately, the intense drive of seeking to realise his fortune by **Works** through shrewd, rational reasoning, cunningness and compromise worked against God's plan of attaining same goal by faith. To him, "the end justifies the means". He could not come to terms with expecting God to accomplish His purpose in His own time and way. This explains our personality too, **Eccl. 3: 11, Romans 1: 18-32, Philippians 2:13, Jeremiah 1: 1-4, Psalm 139: 14-16, Col. 1: 12**

#### b. Transformation (encounter)

His life was filled with deceit and cowardice, all springing from unbelief and evidence of the natural and unredeemed nature. His transformation by God was an act of faith to awaken and culture in him a simple trust in the truth and power of the Divine word. We are of same lineage and have received a new name in Christ Jesus. How do you keep the name? Proverbs 16: 6-8; Genesis 32: 22; 2 Corinth. 5: 17, Jeremiah 25:5; Ezekiel 14: 6; 18: 23; Acts 14: 15, 26:18, Romans 11:26. **(The same means of salvation is same for preservation, Hosea 12: 13)**

### 3. Fallout of his transformation illustrating how his new name, image and identity were sustained

#### a. He worked out the promises of God through faith.

He has a strategic perspective of God; he prophesied the departure of Israelites before it happened, signifying final settlement for his offspring. Genesis 12; 15, Genesis 49: 18, 29-30; Hebrew 11: 9, 20-21; 2 Corinth 4: 13; Hebrew 13:5-6.

#### B. His life was a practice of Grace.

He witnessed the provisions of God all through. He went through vulnerable moments that developed in

## **SUSTAINING YOUR NEW IDENTITY***(Continued)*

him reliance on Divine power for guidance, acceptance of Divine will and realizing His ever presence and faithfulness. Check encounters with Laban and Esau, Genesis 31, 32 and 33.

**NB.** The demonstration of human impotence necessitates a clinging to Divine Omnipotence (Genesis 32:22-32), I Samuel 2:9; Proverbs 3: 3-5.

### **c. He was amenable in the hand of God.**

He yielded to God to influence every part of his being. **James 1: 2-4.**

Starting from wrestling experience he accepted his humanity and embraced His Divinity. Even under sorrows of losses, long exiles, disappointment and other vicarious experiences he suffered, he learnt to rely on God. Genesis 43: 14; Job 13: 15

### **d. He practised separation from the Canaanites.**

This was a family tradition he inherited. He also had growing consciousness and sense of superiority. Book of Genesis Chapters 24; 28: 1 and 34:7, 14, 31.

After the encounter, he burnt images to break with the past and consecrate himself. Genesis 35; Ezra 10:11; Ephesians 4: 15-32; Ephesians 5:1-19. He aligned with God and changed his priorities. Genesis 35.

### **e. He never lost sight of covenant; had a virile relationship with God, who in turn manifested Himself, attributes, nature and fulfilled promises over his life.**

Bethel as a place was unique. It witnessed Jacob's choice of his fathers' God as his God, Genesis 28; 35:1-15. Subsequent revelations were renewals and confirmations of his conviction. (Heb 11:16, 27; Gen 49:18). He is repeatedly called "the God of Jacob."

### **b. his strong fellowship with God produced constant revelation.**

The worst place to be in life is where God has been. As mentioned above, he enjoyed close and intimate walk with God. This kept him relevant and on cutting edge of Divine moves. Genesis 46: 1-4 (Acts 10:38; Philippians 2:13, John 5: 19-23; I John 2: 27). He receives express approvals of God. Job 23:12; Psalm 119: 50, 89,128. Choose to hang on His word regardless.

**We can learn from the experiences of Jacob, named Israel, above. It is possible to keep free from falling and receive full reward and fulfilment everyday.**

**One thing is clear; God is able to keep you from falling. Keep your faith alive and guard your heart. Romans 15: 4; 16: 32; Acts 20: 32; Jude 24; Hebrew 7: 25.**

**Prayer, Lord I am not leaning on my understanding, I choose to acknowledge you in all ways. Proverbs 3: 1-7**