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Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

34. Wrestling for Prayer Answers (Level Six: Wrestling in Prayer)

This chapter describes the sixth and most intense level of prevailing prayer: wrestling, or agonizing, in prayer. It defines the term, insists such prayer is Spirit-given rather than self-worked-up, frames it as real spiritual labor and warfare against Satan's forces, and lists seven reasons God calls us to wrestle.

Key takeaways

- Wrestling prayer means agonizing in prayer—the Greek word behind Jesus in Gethsemane and Epaphras gives us 'agonize.' It is the highest intensity of prayer and always for a limited time.
- It is not worked-up emotion. You yield to the Holy Spirit, who imparts His own holy longing; the wrestling itself is the Spirit interceding in you.
- God guards your body's limits, so He also gives times of restful, joyous prayer; you stay available for intense wrestling only when He assigns it.
- Prayer is genuine spiritual labor—the hardest work you can do—demanding sincerity, concentration, and perseverance. Few wrestle because few are prepared for its cost.

- It is warfare: behind stubborn people stand demonic rulers and powers (Eph. 6:12), so wrestling is an all-out attack on Satan's strongholds.
- Seven reasons God ordains it: to make us depend on Him, share Christ's heart, stay spiritually alert, gain holy passion, learn overcoming, strengthen faith, and amass prayer 'reserves' for breakthrough.

Passages worth keeping

“There is always the sweat of blood in prevailing intercession.”

Chadwick's line capturing the costly, agonizing nature of wrestling prayer.

“A new Jacob prevails with God because God has prevailed over him.”

The point of Jacob's night of wrestling—being broken makes him bold in faith, not impertinent.

How it connects

The chapter ties every point back to Christ as 'the great Wrestler'—prayer wrestling is Christ continuing His Gethsemane agony through us by His Spirit.

Scripture referenced

- **Luke 22:44** -- Jesus wrestling/agonizing in Gethsemane, sweat like drops of blood

- **Col. 4:12-13** -- Epaphras 'always wrestling' in prayer for the Colossians
- **Gen. 32:22-31** -- Jacob wrestling: 'I will not let you go unless you bless me'
- **Eph. 6:11-12** -- wrestling is against spiritual forces of darkness, not flesh and blood
- **Dan. 10:2-3, 12-13** -- amassing prayer while angels battle for three weeks
- **Mark 9:29** -- the disciples failed for lack of sufficient prayer