Wrestle not against the wrestling

**Psalm 18:26***—With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.*

1. The Lord will deal with men as they deal with each other, for a time.

Numbers 32:19 For we will not inherit with them on yonder side Jordan, or forward; because our inheritance is fallen to us on this side Jordan eastward.

Jer 7:24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

Instead of praising or commending ourselves, we should strive to approve ourselves to God, and his approval will be our best commendation.

2Cor. 10:18 For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.

1. **Approved unto God**

**2 Timothy 2:15**—Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

**2Samuel 22:27***—With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavory.*

**Psalm 18:26***—With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward. {shew thyself froward: or, wrestle}*

*Deut. 32:20 And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is* ***no faith.***

**Ephesians 6:10***—Finally, my brethren, be strong* ***in the Lord, and in the power of his might.***

11*—Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand* ***against*** *the wiles of the devil.*

12*—For* ***we wrestle*** *not against flesh and blood, but* ***against*** *principalities,* ***against*** *powers,* ***against*** *the rulers of the darkness of this world,* ***against*** *spiritual wickedness in high places.*

2 Corinthians 10:3*—For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:*

4*—(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

5*—Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

6*—And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*

7*—Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's.*

12—*For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.*

1. ***Approved Faithful faithfulness is inclusively an old testament word***

***Lu 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.***

*Titus* *1:6—If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; 8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;*

*9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*

*Lu 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.*

*1Co 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

*Ga 3:9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful* ***Abraham.***

*Eph 1:1 ¶ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:*

*Col 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*1Ti 1:12 ¶ And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;*

*2Ti 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

*Eph 6:21 But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do,* ***Tychicus****, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:*

*Col 4:7 ¶ All my state shall* ***Tychicus*** *declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:*

*Col 1:7 As ye also learned of* ***Epaphras*** *our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;*

*Col 4:9 With* ***Onesimus****, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here.*

Genesis 30:22—*And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. 23 And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach: 24 And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.*

There was **Spiritual** **Growth,** Rachel had grown spiritually, tremendously so.

1. God remembered Rachel and answered her prayer. Remember, Rachel had never given birth herself. This would be the first son actually born of her womb. And note: the birth *was not* due to the mandrake fruit. That incident happened years before. It was God Himself who remembered Rachel and opened her womb. Rachel was now trusting God, not human methods; she was praying and seeking God for a child.

2. God heard Rachel's prayer and gave her a son (She named him *Joseph*, which means "**to add**." She was declaring that God had taken away her reproach and God was going to add another child. This He did much later when Benjamin was born ([Genesis 35:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+35%3A18)).

Note that she no longer referred to God only as *Elohim*, but she called Him *the LORD* [Yahweh, Jehovah], the God of salvation and redemption. The beautiful woman who had been somewhat haughty and self-sufficient was now humble before *the LORD*. She was declaring that the God of salvation and redemption had removed her stigma. He had met her need and taken away her reproach, that of being childless and unacceptable before God.

Rachel: her spiritual immaturity is clearly seen throughout this passage. She had much to learn about trusting God and depending upon Him instead of her own physical attractiveness and self-sufficiency. She not only caused tension and sin within the home, but she knew God only as *Elohim*. However, her spiritual growth did move forward. Despite her weaknesses, she grew through the years and came to know God as Yahweh, the God of salvation and redemption ([Genesis 30:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+30%3A24)). Her spiritual pilgrimage was from immaturity to maturity whereas Leah's pilgrimage seems to have been from maturity to immaturity, the experience of backsliding.

Exodus 6:3 And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

Job 17:9 The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.

Ps 24:4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

5 He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

1Ti 2:8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

Psalms 84:7 They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God. {strength to...: or, company to company}

Proverbs 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

**Psalm 101:4***—A froward heart shall depart from me:*

***I will not know a wicked person.***

The Lord is the author of Justice

Genesis 18:19—***For I know him****, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do* ***justice*** *and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*

Deut. 33:21—*And he provided the first part for himself, because there, in a portion of the lawgiver, was he seated; and he came with the heads of the people, he executed the* ***justice*** *of the LORD, and his judgments with Israel.*

Psalm 89:14*—****Justice*** *and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face*

Proverbs 2:12*—To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;*

15*—Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:*

3:32*—For the froward is abomination to the LORD: but his secret is with the righteous.*

4:24*—Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.*

6:12*—A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.*

8:8*—All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.*

13*—The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.*

10:31*—The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.*

11:20*—They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.*

16:28*—A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.*

30*—He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass.*

17:20*—He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief.*

21:8*—The way of man is froward and strange: but as for the pure, his work is right.*

22:5*—Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.*

1Peter 1:22*—Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

2:18*—Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.*

Obedience to the Law is Liberty

Law obeyed is Love

Law obeyed is a perfect freedom

Love makes Christ's service a perfect freedom