

August 17

Hosea 12:...by his strength he had power with God: 4: Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him:

What? By Jacob's strength, he had power with God? He had power over the angel? And he prevailed? What is this strength by which a sinner has power and prevails with God? We find the story in Genesis 32: 24-30.

Jacob was in the middle of a great trial with his brother Esau. Instead of calling on the Lord, Jacob tried to save himself until finally he was left all alone. That is when Jacob found a man wrestling against him. That one who arranged everything to get Jacob alone, then appeared to Jacob in the form of a man, was the pre-incarnate Son of God, the Angel of the LORD, Christ our Savior. The Lord began to wrestle Jacob in order to give Jacob strength so that Jacob could have power to prevail with God. The reason Jacob did not prevail at first is because Jacob tried to resist in his own strength. So the Son of God, in irresistible grace, touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh; and Jacob's thigh was out of joint. Then, Jacob was utterly weak. And that utter weakness was Jacob's strength. Then, the only thing Jacob could do was to weep and make supplication for the Lord to bless him. And that is exactly how Jacob prevailed--"he wept and made supplication unto him."

Believer, this is what our Savior did in the first hour he brought us to beg mercy from him and what he continues to do. When we try to save ourselves, Christ arranges everything to get us alone with him. Our all-powerful Savior wrestles us in order to give us strength. By his effectual grace, he does not stop until he makes us utterly weak. And our utter weakness is our strength. When all we can do is weep and make supplication to Christ for mercy that is when Christ alone is our strength and that is when we have power with God and prevail. (2 Cor 12: 9-10)