

IN THE JETSTREAM

GOD'S INTERRUPTIONS

by Stephen Watts

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*“For I have seen God face to face,
and yet my life has been delivered.”*

Genesis 32:30

Like Jacob wrestling with God, I’ve struggled with this passage most of my life. Thankfully, God was gracious enough to reveal some interesting truths about this passage recently at my church.

Worthy of Our Attention

The story seems oddly placed the many times I’ve read it. Jacob is about to encounter his rival brother Esau. The reader is on the edge of their seat because the two characters have fought since they were in the womb and remained fierce opponents. What will happen when the two meet the next day? Then the strange story about a man wrestling with Jacob comes next. Why interrupt this climatic meeting of Jacob and Esau? Anytime God shows up on the scene it is probably worth paying attention.

Why does God decide to wrestle with Jacob the night before he meets with Esau? It has a lot to do with Jacob’s behavior for most of his life. Jacob has always wanted more. He wanted the first-born blessings of his older brother. He wanted the more beautiful Rachel and wasn’t satisfied with Leah. He even wanted a blessing from the guy he was wrestling with that night. It turns out that guy was God. How in the world could an all-powerful God not just smite this “little ant” named Jacob and be

done with him? It reveals that this story has a lot more to do with God than Jacob. It shows us just how patient and loving God is with the humans He created. A God that loves us can never force Himself on us. He’s willing to go toe to toe with us until we realize just how loving He is. He’ll do so all night or keep knocking on our door our whole lives if we just answer the door. I can certainly think of how I wrestled with God before I became a Christian and of how I continue to wrestle with Him when I get in the way of the Holy Spirit.

It reminds me of how little a part I play in way of evangelism, but how grateful I am for the little part. When I share my faith with others in the workplace, God is doing the real toe to toe battle with the person with whom I am speaking. It is His Holy Spirit that is softening the heart and placing the “limp” in their lives to awaken them to His sovereignty and saving grace in Jesus.

The Rest of the Story

The other part of the story that always confused me was why the limp? Well, the rest of the story reveals that to the reader. Esau shows up with 400 men to meet Jacob and his family. This sounds more like an army than a welcoming party. “Jacob with a limp” has a lot fewer options than “Jacob without a limp.” “Jacob without a limp” could try to fight or even run away. “Jacob with a limp” must completely rely on God and not himself. The limp forces Jacob to encounter God and Esau. This encounter finally allows the two brothers to forgive and reconcile. The end of the story that God wanted all along.

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Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel



"If I ride the morning winds to the farthest oceans,
even there Your hand will guide me, Your strength will support me."
Psalm 139:9-10

The limps in our life are truly blessings and allow us to see the same deliverance that Jacob saw wrestling with God that night. The nights and dark hours can sometimes feel so exhausting and overwhelming, but Jacob saw the daylight the next day and was delivered. The limps allow us to get out of the way and let God move. So, the next time you face an unsurmountable wall or difficult decision, it might be just the right place to let God show you what He wants to do in the workplace.

This article was written by Stephen Watts. Stephen is a pilot with Delta Air Lines and also serves on our FCAP Board of Directors.

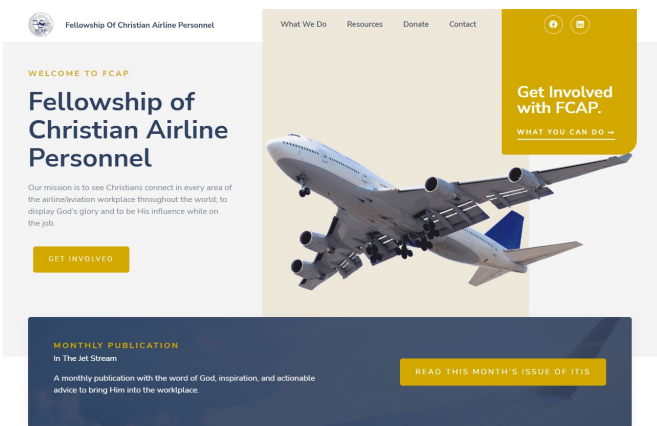
WELCOME TO A NEW FCAP GROUP



Our brother in Christ, Sampo, in Helsinki just shared with us this exciting report and photo:

"Thank you for your prayers and thank you Jesus! We had such a blessed time together, starting in Finnish way with coffee and having many topics discussed together. Some of us have not seen others for 10 years. ☐ We had a prayer time at the beginning and in the end. We also had a good topic from the bible about the connection of Christians which generated a good discussion and everyone shared their own experiences within their work environment. There were actually six of us in this first meeting, from five different companies. All were pilots. We have planned to have the next meeting on Monday, 27th February. God bless you, we do have a living Father in heaven who hears our prayers!"

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