

holds with his plea for a blessing until it is said, "Thou shalt no more be called Jacob (meaning a supplanter), but thou shalt be called Israel, for as a prince hast thou had power with God and prevailed." His victory came when incapable of wrestling, he could only hold on and act.

Come, let us be princes. Not doing the best we can and then asking God to supplement it, but let us die unto all effort, and then the strength of God shall work through us, our own victories, and the victories of the kingdom.

When Paul had received those great revelations in the upper heavens it was necessary for him to be preserved from any assertion of self. He says, "Lest I should be exalted above measure there was given to me a thorn in the flesh," and after beseeching the Lord three times for its removal, you remember the answer, "My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Testifying to our own leanness does not imply humility. It may rather imply sloth and the taking of the name of the Lord in vain. We may confess our sinfulness and honor our Saviour best by witnessing to the victory we actually prove hour by hour. Personal pessimism is wicked doubt. Yet we are weakness. Let us admit it, let us believe it, and, in fullest consciousness of whatever it may imply, let us receive God and his strength. Paul did not hesitate to admit