



**"No Cross,  
No Crown"**

# The Cross and Crown

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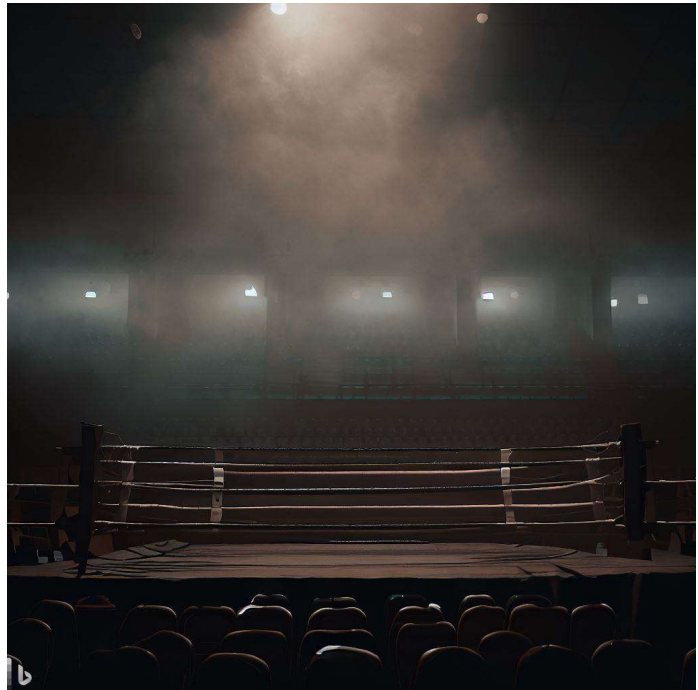
After Jacob stole his brother Esau's inheritance, Esau swore revenge. That's what led Jacob to flee to his mother's family's home, far away in Paddan Aram. After twenty years of hard labor and increasing wealth, he finally headed home to face his brother – and the consequences of his actions.

Jacob's strategy for his reunion with Esau put a different spin on the concept of "women and children first." Jacob sent his wife, children and servants ahead of him, hoping that they could serve as a buffer between him and his brother's rage.

That last night alone in his tent before the big confrontation had to be a fearful one for Jacob. It couldn't have helped that he didn't get any sleep, but, instead, wrestled with a man until daybreak. The man went so far as to dislocate Jacob's hip in order to get free, but Jacob tenaciously refused to let go until the man blessed him. In blessing him, the man changed his name to Israel – "He wrestles with God."

Have you ever wondered what Paul meant, in Colossians 4:12, when he says that Epaphras "is always wrestling in prayer for you?" I like to think of it as wrestling Jacob's way: Despite opposition, despite painful attacks, Epaphras refused to let go in prayer until he received the assurance of a blessing.

It's important to note that God is not reluctant to bless us (although he does, sometimes, make us wait, in order to help us develop perseverant prayer). What we wrestle against is, at times, our own selfish desires, and, often, the enemy of our souls, who wants to get us to surrender before the miracle. Whatever or whomever you're wrestling with, don't let go of God! There's blessing in persistence!



*You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest and give him no rest!*

*(Isaiah 62:6,7)*

# Thanks for Praying!

We are so grateful for all that God is doing among us in response to your prayers! Please continue to wrestle with us in prayer for

- our upcoming summer ministries and connection circles,
- many among us who are suffering or have family members who are struggling with physical afflictions, and
- financial provision to sustain our ministries.







Our young people help us kick-off summer ministries!

## We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list\*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join you in praying about, please let us know.

**We love hearing from you! Please do keep in touch!**

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\* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we understand! Just call or drop us a note, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know!

## Did you know?

Otto Wegner, our Pastor Emeritus, has a birthday this week! He's still keeping an active ministry (and carpentry – and travel) schedule, and still wrestling in prayer for the many ministries and missionaries he supports. God bless you, Pastor!

**“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives.”**

**(Proverbs 11:30)**



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<https://HighwayTabernacle.org> ♦ <https://ResLife.AG> ♦ Sunday services at Noon: <https://ResLife.stream>