

## A Change of Heart, part 1: Raise the Dust

(online version)

**Note:** Text in this font style & size has been added for the online version of this study guide

...if they have A CHANGE OF HEART  
in the land where they are held captive...  
2 Chronicles 6:37-39 (NIV)

**Genesis 28-32 – Jacob’s Change:** Jacob spends a night wrestling with God

- Wrestling – Hebrew *abaq*, lit. to raise the dust
- When Jacob wrestled it was down and dirty; dust was raised.
- And Jacob the man, created from the dust of the earth, was raised to a new life.
- Jacob’s change was essential to God’s plan; the Lord needed Jacob to become Israel, a man delivered from his own human nature.

The Lord God formed the man  
from the DUST of the ground...

Genesis 2:7  
(NIV)

For all that is in the world –  
the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life –  
is not of the Father but is of the world.

1 John 2:16-17

- We struggle with our human nature

Romans 8:6 The mind of sinful man is DEATH, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is LIFE and PEACE;

- Our natural human nature is at odds with God’s intent for us.

For if you live according to the SINFUL NATURE, you will die;  
but if by the Spirit you PUT TO DEATH the misdeeds of the body, you will LIVE...

Romans 8:5-13 (NIV)

- Our human nature must be “crippled” (weakened; atrophied) if we are to be led by the Spirit.

Genesis 33:10-11 – Jacob was opened God’s changing power when he finally realized that by God’s grace he had all that he needed; Jacob no longer had to grasp for everything, even as he had grasped his brother’s heel at birth.

- Your human nature needs to be crippled so that God’s nature can be revealed.
- But you have to hold on to God; if you pull away He will let you go your own way.
- We need to grab hold and not let go until God touches us and we have a change of heart.