

# ONE in the word

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me (Jesus).” (John 5:39)

## January 21 - Reflection

### DEAR WOMAN OF ONE:

Everything in this life that has a beginning also has an end which usually leads to a new beginning. This week we read of the end of Jacob's relationship with his mother as he unwittingly connived his way out of the home. That end led to the beginning of his new life with two wives, resulting in the births of twelve sons and a daughter and in the end, great prosperity. We also read of Jacob's wrestling match with the Lord after which he was given the new name of Israel. It seems that wrestling match never really ended as he vacillated between “Jacob” and “Israel”; between “supplanter” and “God prevails”; between walking in the Spirit (when called Israel) and walking in the flesh (when called Jacob).

Then we met Joseph, the eleventh son of Israel who was sold into Egypt so that many lives could be saved. In Joseph we learn that not everything we see with our own eyes as bad, is really that bad after all; that God is working all things **“together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”** (Romans 8:28) We will often miss this truth if we like Jacob, are vacillating between walking in the Spirit and walking in the flesh. Joseph, who continuously walked in the Spirit, didn't miss the truth as he chose to **“trust in the LORD with all (his) heart; and lean(ed) not unto (his) own understanding”** (Proverbs 3:5) though he must have pleaded with his brothers to not do what they were doing (Genesis 42:21). Oh how confused young Joseph must have felt yet still he trusted his God!

As we go through life, we too face confusing circumstances that we cannot understand. It is in these times, most of all, that we must remember the sovereignty of God, knowing there is nothing that happens that He doesn't provoke or allow. If we will choose to trust God in all things, then we will find ourselves walking more in the Spirit than after the flesh, more in His power than in our own power, and more in His will than floundering outside of His will.

In these 365 days of pursuing Christ and with the desire of having a more intimate relationship with Him, we must remember these lessons. So, today meditate and think about how Leah handled her situation compared to Rachel and which woman, in the end, was more blessed by God. Remember how Joseph was blessed by his faith and trust in God as compared to his brothers who were in fear. Consider the midwives' fear of the Lord over fear of man and how they were protected from Pharaoh. Matthew 10:28 reminds us who to and not to fear: **“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him**

**which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”** Today, as we reflect on these events of history, perhaps we will realize that we have feared the wrong one. Let’s confess it to God in prayer and let Him teach us the fear of the Lord.

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION:**

Genesis 35:19 **“And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which *is* Bethlehem.”**

Genesis 41:38 **“And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find *such a one* as this *is*, a man in whom the Spirit of God *is*?”**

Genesis 45:4 **“And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I *am* Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.”**

Genesis 48:14 **“And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who *was* the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh *was* the firstborn.”**

Exodus 3:10 **“Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.”**