



Ballarat Central Uniting Congregation

Pentecost 10
2nd August 2026

**“STRIVE FOR
BLESSING”**

HOLY COMMUNION!



PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD:

***Strive for
Blessing!***

**STRIVE: make
great efforts to
achieve or
obtain
something!**



**STRIVE:
struggle or
fight
vigorously**

HOW TO STRIVE FOR
Excellence

**BLESSING: God's
favour and
protection -
"may God
continue to give
us his blessing"**

the
CREDIBLE
ANNOUNCING
GOD'S
BLESSINGS



GRACE is the unmerited favour of God—His willingness to forgive, bless, and save people even though they do not deserve it!

(Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:8).

MERCY: compassion, leniency, or restraint (as in imposing punishment) shown especially to an offender or to one subject to the power of another.

is made perfect
in weakness

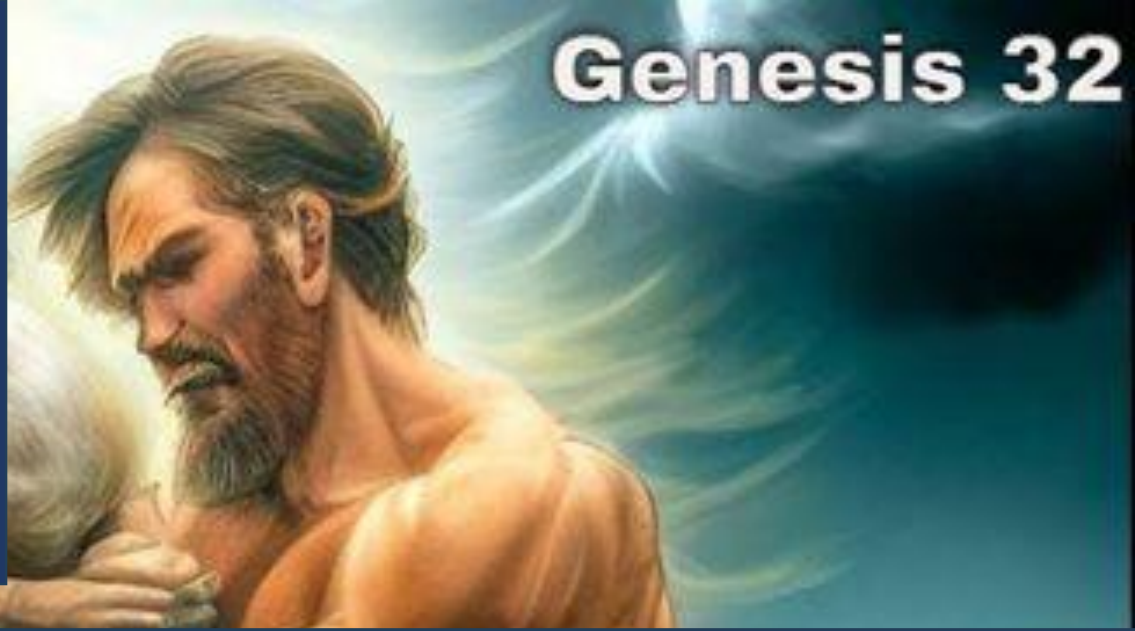
2 COR 12:9

EXODUS 33:19

God responds to human with blessing!

**JACOB THE
WRESTLER: He
wrestles with Esau,
Abraham, Laban, God!**

Genesis 32



**Jacob
WRESTLES
GOD**

**He got up and took his
two wives, his two
maids, and his eleven
children and crossed
the ford of the Jabbok
(river).**

²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.

²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."

27 So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” 28 Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed.”

**Who is
winning?**



**STRIVE FOR BLESSING:
even Jacob's hip-socket
was dislocated!**

- *Jacob was blessed.**
- *Israel - striven with God and humans and prevailed.**
- *Peniel – seen God, life is preserved.**

Who/What are we wrestling with now?

They are in a deserted place!



Thousands of people followed Jesus!

“This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”

¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.”

**19 Taking the five loaves and the two fish,
he looked up to heaven and blessed and
broke the loaves and gave them to the
disciples, and the disciples gave them to
the crowds. 20 And all ate and were filled,
and they took up what was left over of
the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.**

**Followed until blessed
not only with Word but
also with Divine Food!**



Blessed with abundance from God!



**BCUC: Wrestle, Follow, Strive for
God's Blessing!**