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Salvation Army  
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**Don't Make Me Do It!**

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# Don't Make Me Do It!

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Shift / Discipleship; Genuine; Change; Perseverance / Genesis 32:22–32  
Clinging On Through Change

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## Objective

Every Christian can find the good in change if they cling on to God in the dirtiness of the struggle.

## We don't like change

Many of us, me included, don't handle change very well. It's one of the greatest challenges in life.

We all face transitions at some point in our lives. These transitions have the potential to lift us up and teach us things, but they also have the potential to literally make us sick. And this morning, the title for my Bible message sums up what many of us feel about change and transition: "Don't make me do it"!

## Genesis 32:22-32, p.36

## Jacob has wrestled his whole life

And now, as if Jacob hadn't had enough conflict in his life, he decides to return home. Would he be accepted and forgiven? Or will Esau's reaction be one of anger and vengeance? Jacob prays that God will spare him from Esau's anger. Having prayed, he goes to sleep. And then we come to this strange episode.

## Change is a struggle

Suddenly, Jacob is in a wrestling match! And when we later learn that the wrestling man is God himself, we realise we are talking about a supernatural being striking or harming Jacob. That may be a mystery to us, but there is no doubt from Jacob's story, that change is a struggle.



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## Struggle leads to change

But Jacob's struggle is for good. He leaves Peniel a changed man. His defeat in the face of struggle, brought him the victory of change and a good transition.

## Dare to embrace change

When you face something like moving house, the death of a spouse, divorce, marital separation, the death of a close family member, personal injury or illness or dismissal or redundancy from work, you will feel weak.

Get up and wrestle with it. Face the struggle. And allow God into your struggle.

## Hold on for the blessing

The good news from Jacob story, is that if we learn to cling onto God as we wrestle and struggle with change and transition, we can hold on for the blessing.

God will often bring you to situations of change and transition. But he promises to bring you through victorious.