

TURNING POINTS

Part 6 of Foundation 260 - OT. Genesis 32:22-32.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. February 15, 2026.

DWIGHT MOODY'S TURNING POINT

Moody experienced a Turning Point.

- It was an experience with God that changed his life and expanded his ministry impact.
- While we cannot create a turning point in our lives, we can prepare for one.

GENESIS 32:22-32 (CSB)

Read the passage in, for example, the Bible App.

- This story describes a turning point in Jacob's life.

Jacob's experience suggests there are two stages in a turning point.

STAGE ONE: THERE IS A BREAKING

Reality hit Jacob in the face.

- Verse 26 is the key that unlocks the passage: *“Genesis 32:26 (CSB) But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”*
- Jacob was already in the blessing (check out last week's teaching), but because he had cheated his way into it, he lacked assurance.

Jacob hit the same wall that all self-sufficient people hit.

- The Lord allows us to go through times when we cannot find the strength, money, skill, or whatever to get through what we're going through.

It's when we're alone and desperate that we experience a turning point.

- But ... brokenness is the door to blessing. God came to Jacob at his lowest moment. It will probably be the same for us.

STAGE TWO: THERE IS A BLESSING

The blessing was confirmed when God changed Jacob's name.

- Jacob means “heel-grasper” and refers to his deceptive nature. God made him speak his name to humble him.
- Then, he gave him the new name, Israel, which means “one who struggles with God,” a reminder of his brokenness and God's blessing.

Genesis 32:28 (CSB) Your name will no longer be Jacob,” he said. “It will be Israel because you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed.

- Jacob “prevailed” in the sense that God answered his prayers and assured him that he had inherited the Abrahamic blessing/covenant promises.

The wrestling represents Jacob's desperate pleading in prayer.

Hosea 12:3-4 (CSB) In the womb, he grasped his brother's heel, and as an adult, he wrestled with God. 4 Jacob struggled with the angel and prevailed; he wept and sought his favor (blessing).

- While he prayed with tears, Jacob “saw God face to face and lived” (v. 30).
- And it will most likely be when we're pleading in humble prayer that we experience a turning point - a moment when the Lord feels more real and more present than ever.

TURNING POINTS COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

The first turning point everyone needs is conversion to Christ.

- John Newton's experience is a model for us.
- Newton's turning point led him from the slave trade to the pastorate, from exploiting people to writing "Amazing Grace" and advocating for abolition.

Conversion is where turning points begin, but it's not where they end.

- We all need lifelong renewal, which comes in all shapes and sizes. For example:
 - Renewed love for God and people,
 - Deeper strength and joy in our "weak" situations,
 - Fresh anointing for ministry impact,
 - Sacrificial living,
 - Healing from life's hurts,
 - Greater faith to attempt great things for God,
 - Unleashed generosity,
 - Calling into vocational ministry.

How can we prepare for a turning point?

- In desperation and brokenness.
- Cry out to the Lord in humble, pleading prayer.
- Make room for God and his amazing grace.
- Remember: your breaking point may be the door to your turning point.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's February 15th teaching and study guide.
- What were the main insights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- What were the main applications or takeaways for your life?

Discuss

During his teaching, Peter said, "We all need lifelong renewal (turning point), which comes in all shapes and sizes. For example:

- Renewed love for God and people,
- Deeper strength and joy in our "weak" situations,
- Fresh anointing for ministry impact,
- Healing from life's hurts,
- Greater faith to attempt great things for God,
- Unleashed generosity,
- Calling into vocational ministry."

Discuss those examples. What might be the context for each one? What would the experience be like? What would the impact be? What extra examples can you imagine? How would one prepare for turning points like these?

Prayer Focus

- Our 247 prayer: "Lord, please add daily to the Cornerstone those who are being saved."
- Pray for brokenness that leads to blessing.