

“Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”

- Genesis 32:28 (NIV)

Tonight Alabama and Clemson will square off in the national championship game. It should be a good game. Which team will be overcome the obstacles they face to win it all? Teams on every level have to overcome things to win games. They may have to overcome an injury to a key player or overcome a hostile crowd at an away game. Just imagine what any team faces when they play at Cameron Indoor Stadium. Weather can be an obstacle at an outdoor sporting event. An individual athlete on the team might have other things on their mind besides the game. For a team to win, they must learn to minimize the distractions and overcome the obstacles.

What is the hardest obstacle you had to overcome? Did you ever think it could be done? Now try to imagine what Jacob was facing. He not only had to overcome the obstacles that would be considered possibly normal, you can add God to his list. I have never really understood chapter 32 from the book of Genesis but clearly Jacob was wrestling with God.

I think I could overcome certain obstacles but having to battle God is not on my list. But to do that, I have to keep things in the right priority. I have to remember that God should come first. I have to remember that I can't do everything by myself, that I need some help. I have to remember that God is there for me. Those three things I have to remember might just be the three biggest obstacles I have to overcome.