

HOSEA

Wrestling with God | *November 8, 2026*

Hosea 12 | Hosea focuses on Jacob's legacy of struggle and dependence. This sermon invites congregants into honest spiritual wrestling that leads from self-reliance to blessing and deeper communion with God.

SERMON OUTLINE

When We Wrestle with God, We ...

1. **The Striving of Self-Reliance (Hosea 12:3)**
    a. Hosea confronts Israel—and us—with the exhaustion of relying on our own cunning to protect our security and identity.
    b. Relevant Scripture: Genesis 27:18–29; Jeremiah 17:5–7.
2. **The Shattering of Self-Sufficiency (Hosea 12:4a)**
    a. God wrestles with us not to destroy us, but to dismantle the illusion that we are in control.
    b. Relevant Scripture: Genesis 32:24–28; 2 Corinthians 12:8–10.
3. **The Supplication of Surrender (Hosea 12:4b-6)**
    a. True victory in spiritual wrestling is not bending God's will to ours; it is releasing our white-knuckled grip on self-reliance and crying out, "*I will not let you go unless you bless me.*"
    b. Relevant Scripture: Hebrews 5:7; Psalm 51:17.

APPLICATION

1. **Trade Your Scheming for Honest Clinging**
    - *Action:* Identify where you are actively running ahead of God—manipulating circumstances, micromanaging outcomes, or relying on anxious toil. Take those areas to the secret place of prayer and speak frankly with God, trading your frantic control for honest dependence.
2. **Embrace the Limp as Holy Ground**
    - *Action:* As the Holy Spirit reveals your false gods (your wealth, your politics, your sexual immorality, your need to gossip, your tendency to cause church drama, etc.), repent and ask God to forgive you.
3. **Turn Inward Brokenness into Outward Mercy**
    - *Action:* Hosea 12:6 bridges Jacob's wrestling to everyday community ethics: *"hold*

fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God." Genuine communion with God softens our posture toward others. Let your personal surrender to God's mercy show up this week in acts of justice, patience, and generosity toward those around you.