

# Making Space for God

**Invocation:** I am not my own but thine. Put me to what you will. Rank me with whom you will. Put me to doing or put me to suffering. Let me be employed by you or laid aside for you. Let me be exalted for you or brought low for you. Let me be full or let me be empty. Let me have all things or let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy power and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And this covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen

*1755 Prayer that John Wesley taught his preachers to pray daily.*

**Looking to the Past-** Take some times to settle yourself. Invite the Lord to guide and direct your thoughts for the day. Think back over where you have been this last month. Review your journal. What burdens, emotions, and concerns do you carry? What are you thankful for? When have you experienced the Lord's presence? Journal your thoughts and offer these to the Lord.

## **Scripture Reading- Jacob and the Wrestling Match- Genesis 32**

It is one of the most unusual stories in all of Scripture. Jacob and his God wrestled on a dark night by the river Jabbok. And Jacob prevailed-or did the God-man prevail? With an economy of words, the author tempts us to enter into the mysterious conflict through our imaginations. Along the way we will encounter important Biblical themes-rebirth, naming, intimacy, wounding, blessing, struggle, and mysterious wonder. For writers, poets, and artists this story is a gold mine of reflection.



*The Wrestling Match, 16x20 Mixed Media on canvas  
Steven Stuckey 2015*

## **Reading for Reflection**

The point of our lives in this world is not comfort, security, or even happiness, but training; not fulfillment but preparation. It's a lousy home, but a fine gymnasium. It's an uphill bowling alley. The point is not to knock down all the pins (people who do that are usually cheating) but to train our muscles. The ball isn't supposed to reach the pins, the goal. "One step forward, one step backward" is the law here. Progress is a myth. The stronger we get, the weaker we get, the more dependent upon our crutches, our machines. For we misunderstand where we are if we believe in earthly utopias. The universe is a soul making machine, a womb, an egg. Jesus didn't make it into a rose garden when he came, though he could have. Rather, he wore the thorns from this world's gardens... We had better stop looking for alternatives, for escape hatches, for this is our hatchery.

*Peter Kreeft in Making Sense of Suffering- page 142*

## **Benediction**

Restore me to liberty, and enable me to live now that I may answer before you and before men. Lord, whatever this day may bring, your name be praised. Amen

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer 1906-1945*