

Joseph was hand-picked by God to be the one to bring his family into Goshen where they would grow into the great nation God had promised to Abraham...

(they came with 70, they left with millions)

...to that end, the life circumstances of Joseph were carefully orchestrated by God.

When God would select an individual to be a part of the plan to bring about Jesus as the Messiah...

...His providential care was specifically directed toward that individual so that His eternal plan would come to fruition.

**...as such, we need to be very careful about
how we employ God's providential actions on
Joseph's behalf.**

However, putting that providential care and protection aside, the strength of Joseph's faith stands as a prime example of what personal, victorious faith is all about.

We shall observe today how that principle of faith existed throughout Joseph's long life of...

...adversity,

...temptations,

...sorrow,

...disappointments,

...and success.

We will also learn that the great need today for every one of us is a faith that remains undaunted over circumstance and one that triumphs over adversity.

Welcome!



Living by FAITH

*“Joseph...a Man of Faithful
Persistence”*

Our text for today is this...

“By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.”

Hebrews 11:22

This verse refers to the end of Joseph's life, but at the same time it sums up what had been for Joseph a long life in which the principle of faith had persisted.

We can say many things about the kind of faith exhibited by Joseph...

1. FAITH IS NOT SHAKEN BY ADVERSITY.

In Genesis 37 we read that Joseph was the favorite son of his father Jacob; verses 4, 5 and 11 tell us that his brothers hated him, and verse 18 tells us that they decided to kill him, but that on the suggestion of Reuben he was cast into a pit instead. Joseph was then sold and taken to Egypt, where he became Potiphar's slave.

Such experiences would be enough to shake anybody's faith, but they did not shake Joseph's.

Tears, homesickness, sorrow, distress.

His faith in God was unshaken by these trials.

2. FAITH IS NOT SPOILED BY SUCCESS OR PROSPERITY.

In spite of being sold into slavery, by God's providence, Joseph prospered.

Genesis 39

We are more likely to suffer a relapse of faith in times of prosperity than in times of adversity!

It is a dangerous time for the child of God when everything is going well.

Joseph would later become Prime Minister in Egypt and exalted to the highest position in the land, but through all his success and prosperity his faith persisted.

These successes did not take away his sense of dependence upon God as he always attributed his success and prosperity to God.

3. FAITH IS NOT MOVED BY EVEN THE MOST ATTRACTIVE OF TEMPTATIONS.

Genesis 39:7-12

Evil is always on the warpath seeking to trip up the child of God — just as evil tried to trip up Joseph.

***However, when faith persists, evil is defeated
and routed even in the midst of cruel
onslaughts.***

4. FAITH IS NOT DISTURBED BY FALSE AND UNJUST ACCUSATIONS.

After this fierce attack upon Joseph had been successfully resisted, a further attack came. Genesis 39:13-23.

It is hard to hold on to God when we are falsely accused and misunderstood, but a persistent faith does so.

And what is the reward for that persistence?

If we honor the Lord, if not in this life, we can be sure that in eternity, He will honor us.

5. FAITH IS NOT PERTURBED BY BROKEN PLEDGES.

We make this point because today many have their faith tested in exactly this way.

Genesis 40:1-23

We read there of Joseph's two fellow-prisoners, of Joseph's interpretation of their dreams and of the butler's promise to remember Joseph.

But the butler did not keep his promise!

So what did Joseph do? Did he say, '*God has let me down!*'

**No, Joseph's faith persisted; he trusted in God
to see him through.**

6. FAITH IS NOT INFLUENCED BY HUMAN REASONING.

In all his experiences of adversity and sorrow there is no hint that Joseph ever questioned the loving wisdom and will of God.

Joseph had been hated by his brethren, cast into the pit, sold into slavery in Egypt, assaulted, let down badly by the butler — but he knew that God was still on the throne.

“You meant it to me for evil, but God meant it for good”

7. FAITH IS NOT CONFINED BY THE HORIZONS OF TIME.

This kind of faith looks beyond the present, and the words recorded for us in Hebrews 11:22 mean that Joseph did too. He said to his family,

'I shall not be allowed to see it, but God will fulfill His word; and when that time comes, carry my bones with you!'

May we all strive to be like Peter desired...

...“that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ”.

1 Peter 1:7

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