



## Lesson 56

### Lesson 56: What Is Faith? (Part 12) Dying Faith of Joseph

**Scripture:** Hebrews 11:22

#### **A Dying Faith** (Hebrews 11:20, 21, 22)

- If one is to DIE in faith, one must LIVE by faith!
- In verses 20, 21, 22 we have three examples of faith in dying:
  - ① ISAAC: dying faith that triumphs over the affections of the flesh
  - ② JACOB: dying faith that overcomes the interference of men
  - ③ JOSEPH: dying faith that desires God more than the riches and honors of the world.

#### **The Dying Faith of Joseph** (Hebrews 11:22)

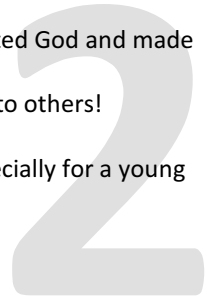
- Compared to Jacob Joseph's faith had MANY high points – yet the Holy Spirit does not record them – only his request at the end of his life.
- A living, active faith at the moment of death will comfort the one dying, encourage those who are still living and bring honour unto God!
  - See Genesis 48:15-16; Joshua 23:14; Genesis 50:24-26
- On his dying bed Joseph was more interested in the things of God than the honours, wealth and prestige of Egypt – where he lived most of his life.
- Joseph knew that he was dying and he met death with a confident spirit!
- (v. 22) – “made mention” also means “remembered” – both meanings help us to understand what the Holy Spirit wants us to learn here.
  - “remembered” gives us the idea that Joseph had his mind set on things of God and not the things of earth. See Colossians 3:1-3.
  - Joseph's mind was on God's promise that He made to Abraham in Gen. 15:14-15
  - “made mention” gives us the idea that Joseph's faith was not a personal but a public faith! He **testified!**

## Joseph Tested: Rejection - Picture of Christ (Genesis 37)

- ① Joseph was beloved of his father and Jesus is God's beloved Son.  
**Genesis 37:3; Matthew 3:17**
- ② Joseph was sent by his father to his brothers; Jesus was sent by God to the Jewish nation (His people).  
**Genesis 37:12; John 1:11**
- ③ Joseph was hated by his brothers; and Jesus was hated by the Jewish leaders of His day.  
**Genesis 37:4, 8; Luke 19:14**
- ④ Joseph's brothers replied to Joseph by claiming that he would **not** rule over them; the Jews replied to Jesus by saying, "We will not have this Man rule over us!"  
**Genesis 37:8; Luke 19:14**
- ⑤ God promised Joseph a place of rulership (in his dream); even as the Lord promised Jesus as Messiah a place of kingship.  
**Genesis 37:5-12; Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 2**
- ⑥ Joseph's brothers conspired against him; the Jews conspired against Jesus.  
**Genesis 37:18-20; John 11:53; Mark 14:1**
- ⑦ Joseph was cast into a pit, but he was delivered out of it; and Jesus descended into the pit of Hades, the abode of the dead, but came forth triumphant over death.  
**Genesis 37:24, 28; Ephesians 4:8-10**
- ⑧ Joseph's brothers stripped him before throwing him into the pit; the Jews stripped and mocked Jesus before crucifying Him.  
**Genesis 37:23; Matthew 27:28**
- ⑨ Joseph was sold, by Judah, for 20 pieces of silver (as a slave); and Jesus was sold by Judas (Greek for Judah) for 30 pieces of silver (the Hebrew price of a servant; Exodus 21:32).  
**Genesis 37:26-28; Matthew 26:14-16**

## Joseph Tested: Tempted (Genesis 39)

- (v. 2) **The LORD was with Joseph!**
- Joseph is a good example for believers in that he trusted God and made the best of his difficult circumstances.
- The more Joseph worked the more he was a blessing to others!
- Joseph's HARD temptation (vv. 7-18)
  - ① It was a temptation of the natural appetite (especially for a young man).
  - ② It happened away from home.



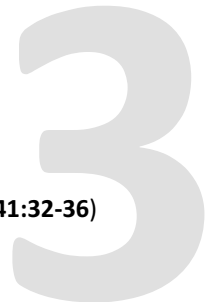
- ③ It was made by someone of importance. To please the person would secure his job. To displease her would put his job in jeopardy.
- ④ It came **after** an important promotion. Temptation normally follows victory!
- ⑤ It came repeatedly.
- ⑥ It came at a perfect time. No one would know!
- Joseph's handling of temptation:
  - ① (v. 9) He gives the moral answer: "My master trusts me and I will not betray that trust." Sin hurts others and is against others.
  - ② (v. 9) He gives the spiritual answer: "How can I sin against God?"
    - ALL sin is sin against God. (Psalm 51:4)
    - His relationship with God was central in his everyday dealings.
    - He would not sin against God even though God had allowed him to be sold by his brothers and enslaved in Egypt!!
  - ③ (v. 9) He called sin sin! He called sin **a great wickedness!**
  - ④ (v. 12) He ran away! (2 Timothy 2:22)
- **HE DID EVERYTHING RIGHT BUT WAS FALSELY ACCUSED AND SUFFERED!! LEARN!!!**

## Why Did God Allow Joseph to Suffer in Egypt?

- **DOCTRINE OF PROVIDENCE:** God's constant care for and His absolute rule over all His creation, directing all things to their appointed end for His own glory and for the good of His people.
- Joseph's life belongs to God. History (the world's and ours) is God's story.
- God has a plan and He is working out His plan (Ephesians 1:11).
- Joseph is a part of God's plan – **NOT the other way around** – we never make God part of our life! He IS our life! (See Acts 17:28; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3)
- Joseph **surrendered** his **life** to God – see Genesis 50:20-21.
- Why did God send Jesus and allow Him to suffer here in "the world"? – see Genesis 50:20-21.

## Joseph's Faith: It's High Points (Hebrews 11:22)

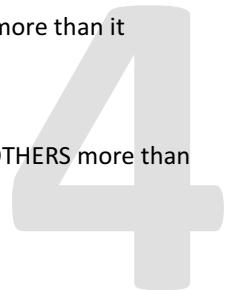
- Some of those high points were:
  - Patience under affliction. (Psalm 105:18, 19)
  - His absolute hatred of sin. (Genesis 39:1-12)
  - His wisdom and prudence (Genesis 39:22; 47:14; **41:32-36**)
  - His fear of God (Genesis 42:18)



- His compassion and forgiveness toward his brothers. (Genesis 42-45)
- His overcoming evil with good. (Genesis 45:10-11)
- His reverence for his father. (Genesis 48:12)
- His obedience to his father. (Genesis 48:13-20)
- Joseph **lived** a life of faith and it was **demonstrated** despite the circumstances that he found himself throughout his life.
- Joseph's faith is one to be **modeled** or **followed** because he modeled the faith of Christ.
- Faith comes from hearing the word of God. When did he hear the word of God:
  - His two dreams: See Genesis 37:5-10! This was **"just"** a dream!
  - He heard the word of God from his father: Genesis 48:15-21.
- **CONSIDER:** How little of the Word of God Joseph had and yet at his moment of death how great his faith is!!!
  - ★ Contrast who much **we** have of the Word of God and how little our faith is.

### **His Greatest Moment of Faith** (Genesis 50:15-21)

- Joseph **knew** his place **under** God. "Am I in the place of God?"
  - ★ Joseph's faith was **real**. Joseph understood that **nothing** happens in this world **without** God **commanding** it. (Lamentations 3:37-38)
  - ★ Joseph's faith taught him that he **was not** his own – he **belonged** to God.
    - See 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- Joseph **knew** that his **destiny** was in God's hand and not his! (Daniel 5:23b)
- Joseph understood that he was in Egypt **not** by the results of evil choices of others! Joseph understood that God **sent** him to Egypt! (Psalm 105:17)
- **GOD HAS A GREATER PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES!** God has a plan for history and we are a part of HIS plan.
- Joseph understood that his life belonged to others more than it belonged to him!
  - Consider: Romans 12:4-5
  - Consider 1 Corinthians 7:1-5
  - **FIRST and FOREMOST**, we belong to GOD and OTHERS more than we belong to ourselves.



## Consider Carefully His Words at His Death (Hebrews 11:22; Genesis 50:22-26)

- **READ Hebrews 11:1.** Joseph's faith was in the "things hoped for"!!!
- **THINK ABOUT THIS!! (Turn to Genesis 15:13-16)**
  - It had been over 200 years since God gave His promise to Abraham!
  - This promise included:
    - ① That Abraham's seed would live in a land that was not theirs.
    - ② Abraham's seed would "serve" the Egyptians and they would be afflicted for 400 years – BUT NOW (by sight) the Egyptians were **favouring** the Hebrews and giving them the best land!
      - The Egyptians respect for the Hebrews is reflected in that **they** mourned for Jacob 70 days!!
      - Joseph was Egypt's prime minister and their (Egypt's) great deliverer from the famine!
      - Why, then, should the Egyptians hate and afflict the Hebrews?
    - ③ God would judge the Egyptians
    - ④ God promised that after 400 years they would come out of Egypt and return to Canaan –**THIS IS WHERE JOSEPH WAS "LOOKING" WITH FAITH!**
- **TRUE FAITH IS LONG SIGHTED! IT LOOKS PAST CIRCUMSTANCES AND PRESENT CONDITIONS UNTO DIVINE PROMISES!**
- Read Habakkuk 2:3
- All of God's delays have their purposes — primarily to subdue our impatience and to put our complete trust in HIM!
- Read Genesis 50:24 – note the words, "God will **surely** visit you and . . ."
- **Again**, Joseph's thoughts were on HIS (God's) people – see Psalm 137:5-6.
- Read 1 Samuel 4:22 – Phinehas' wife's was more concerned about the glory of God than her father-in-law, brother-in-law, and her husband!
- Read John 13:1 – Jesus' thoughts are of His own and not Himself!!

## Learning from Joseph's Faith

- ① Joseph **lived** by faith despite circumstances! Joseph's life "seems" unfair to many but who defines the word "unfair" in God's world.
- ② Joseph's faith moved him to **serve** others! Others reaped blessings from Joseph's hard work.
- ③ Joseph's faith saw God for who HE **really** is – GOD!
- ④ Joseph's faith was a **sure** faith!

