

Life of Joseph; God in Control!



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VIRTUAL

When we are committed to doing God's will in our life, we then give Him control over every aspect of our life. God was in control of Joseph's life as he had given his life to God early on. Everyone has faced some type of persecution; unfair treatment; personal offenses; wrongs; and unprovoked insults—which are all valuable learning lessons if we will see them in that light.

Joseph had to meet all types of totally unjustified harsh and wrong treatment from his own family. His responses to them are valuable examples for everyone, so his reactions to such persecution should be recalled and emulated when we face the same type of wrong treatment today.

Any trouble, hardship, or persecution in this life would *pale* in comparison to the suffering in Hell—that is why God is doing His best to warn people; to *teach* them; and to *prepare* for His kingdom, *anyone* who will allow Him. There is so much spiritual work to be done because everyone begins life filled to the brim with human plans, thoughts, goals, and attitudes.

We must allow God to bring us *away* from all those things, and to where His *Word* will always be our guide for living—*trusting* His divine power to accomplish what needs to be done. Everyone who has *not* given their life to God and is *not* living according to His will and Word, has two lethal *enemies* living in them—enemies that will eventually *destroy* them and *take* them to the flames forever.

Even if someone is living an *outwardly* good life as Job and Cornelius but is not really converted in heart as *they* later were, would end in Hell—because of two *enemies* still controlling their life—rather than *God* controlling it. It is *not* about attending church and going through outward motions, but it *is* about whether Satan and self are *removed* and *replaced* by the Spirit of Christ.

No matter how *sincere* we may be or how *respectably* we live, if *self* still *controls* our life, everything else counts for *nothing*. If we do not have Christ and His Spirit abiding within, everything we *say* or *do* will not amount to anything spiritually—if the *sin* nature is still controlling.

God has a *plan* for getting *rid* of the sin nature—but it is a *drastic plan*, because it takes *drastic measures* to deliver us from the grip of the devil. This control of Satan is unknown to the spiritually darkened heart; because Satan is firmly entrenched in every heart from the start.

The average person—even a church member—does *not know* that they *are* controlled by these enemies, and they do *not know* that it *is* possible to be free from them. Satan is a *soul slayer*, so we must realize how *serious* this situation is, and allow *God* to reveal any of their control *in* us.

The life of Joseph is a classic example. The spiritual aspect of what he went through is extremely valuable—and it is as *relevant* today as it was then. Joseph did *not* live under the Law, so he could be called a gospel man—as Abraham. Joseph lived 700 years *before* the Law was given, so he was under God's *grace* and *power*.

Joseph was a favorite. *Genesis 37:4* “*When his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.*” This favoritism revealed the wrong *attitudes* and extreme *jealousy* in these brothers.

Joseph next had a dream, which basically portrayed his parents and these brothers bowing down to him. The brothers were outraged to hear of the dream and hated him all the more. The first step in Joseph being free from the control of *self* was to be *ridiculed*, *laughed at*, and treated *cruelly* by his brothers.

If anyone today is the recipient of the same cruel treatment, disrespect, or made fun of—and it is met as *Joseph* met it—they *too* would be delivered from self and Satan—those two wicked enemies that would eventually destroy them!

His ten brothers conspired a plan that would *end* Joseph ever being ahead of them—*jealousy* is a *very* serious sin and leads to worse sins! These brothers used a *human* plan to try to thwart *God's* plan. They conspired to murder their own brother, but one of them intervened and spared his life—*God was in control*.

A caravan was passing by, so they *sold* him as a *slave* to Egypt—which *could* have ended any long-range plans of Joseph ruling over them. It was a workable *human* plan, but they left out God's *divine* plan—they forgot *Romans 8:31* “*If God be for us, who can be against us?*”

After selling Joseph as a slave, they *dipped* the multi-colored coat in animal blood, *returned* home, and *lied* that they did *not* know what happened to Joseph—but; *We found this coat; it may be his*. Jacob thought his favored son was killed by a beast and grieved exceedingly. These brothers show *no remorse* whatever for *lying* and *deceiving* their own father in such a wicked way.

Joseph is given a job as a *slave* to Potiphar of Egypt—who may have been Pharaoh's personal guard. God enabled Joseph to *prosper* in everything, and Potiphar's house *thrived* because of Joseph.

Later, Joseph meets with a serious temptation that would test his loyalty to God. Thanks to

the Lord's mercy and grace, he *passed* that test and *ran from* temptation James 1:12.

The wife of his boss lied about him to clear *herself* and blame *Joseph*—who had refused her advances. She fabricated a lie and said that this new servant tried to commit a serious crime against her. Potiphar was furious and threw Joseph into prison.

Joseph's loyalty to God, and his wanting to do what was *right*, was used by the devil to land him in prison—even though he was totally innocent. Joseph is appointed as a foreman in charge of other prisoners—but what is prosperity in a prison! Joseph wanted his *freedom*, his *home*, and his *rights*. All this was permitted by *God*—who controlled all *things*.

One day two prisoners look depressed, so Joseph asks them why they were. God was *still* in control, and we can be sure that He is controlling things in *our* life to bring the results He wants *in us*—if we will *allow* Him by obeying His Word when such things are met. The baker and butler explain the situation—poison was found in the Pharaoh's food, and they did not know who was guilty, so both were placed in prison until an investigation could be made.

God controlled all these circumstances—Joseph going from a favored son and free citizen, to a prison cell as a disgraced convict—shamed and humiliated beyond words; and yet, not guilty of any crime. It was as *unjust* and a case of *obstruction of justice* that could happen to anyone—but it *would* reveal if any self or Satan was hidden in his heart.

The story shows how *we* must get *rid* of those two deadly enemies, and to eliminate all plans of *self* to obtain what we *want*. Joseph had met many *wrong* things in a *right* way, but there was *still* some self that was hidden deep in his heart—something he did *not know* was there.

When the butler was being released, Joseph innocently says—*Don't forget the favor I did for you; tell Pharaoh that I'm innocent of the charges*. By that *appeal* to the butler, Joseph turned his *back* on God—it was the sin Adam committed—trying to get his *freedom* in his own way.

Fortunately for Joseph, the butler forgot the favor. It was a very good thing he did, because had he obtained Joseph's release by following his own human plan, we would not have heard of Joseph, and he could have ended in the flames—because of not allowing *God* to remove *self* and *Satan* who controlled his decision to obtain his release in a worldly way.

Two years go by—Joseph *waited*, and *hoped*, and *longed* for some word. Every time someone came down the hall, Joseph would think that this was the release he had been waiting for. But no such word ever came; and at the end of two years, Joseph knew that the butler forgot the favor.

It was the *end* of his *human* plan to obtain his *release*—Satan and self were gone. There was no more of Adam's sin in his heart; no more of *self* probing for a way out of his predicament; and no more following the *world* to get what he wanted. We could never compute how spiritually *valuable* that was; or how spiritually *important* it was for Joseph.

It is absolutely *necessary*—and *indispensable* for every human soul to have sin, self, and Satan *removed* in order to be *prepared* for Heaven. John 12:24 “*Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die [Jesus said], it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*”

The next part of God's plan—Pharaoh had a *dream*, which led to Joseph being *released*, and *promoted* to governor of Egypt. *That* was the result of getting rid of *self* and *Satan*—from a prison *cell* to a governor's *palace*—he was top official of a powerful kingdom!

Elihu told Job that if his heart was right with God, he would be with kings on a throne; Job 36:10-11 “[*God*] *openeth also their ear to discipline, and commandeth that they return from iniquity. If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.*”

God has a throne for anyone whose heart is right with Him. Proverbs 22:4 “*By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.*” When Joseph got rid of self and Satan, God was able to deal *immediately* and *effectively* with those ten brothers—and He never took His hand off them until they *repented*, *confessed*, and *forsook* the wicked things done to Joseph Romans 12:19.

It is a dramatic story filled with *intrigue*, *tragedy*, and *victory*—human souls being brought to *repentance*, and given a living *hope* of Heaven. There was a great family *reunion*—a father who *had* been mourning the death of his son, discovered that this favored son was *alive* and *governor* of Egypt; able to take care of his entire family through seven years of a *severe* famine.

One person got rid of Satan's control of their heart—which took him from a dank prison cell to a place of power and influence—*everything* he could have wanted—all because now, *God* was in control!

Everything resolves around the leading Christian in a home. If God finds *one person* who will allow Him to *deliver* them from the control of self and Satan, it can result in the salvation of the entire family—and being able to say: Genesis 50:20 “*As for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.*” *God* was *still* in control! ††

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