

JOSEPH

"Living Above Mediocrity"

Overcoming Bitterness

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. ⁴When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them; they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. ⁵Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.

– **Genesis 37:3-5**

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. –

Genesis 50:20

What can we learn from the beginning of Joseph's life?

- 1) Joseph did not allow the bad decisions of his father to dictate his life.

QUESTION: What was the one major flaw of Jacob that caused so much animosity in his family?

ANSWER: Passivity

- Joseph became the product of an undisciplined family.
- Which allowed Joseph to become the object of his brothers' wrath.

- 2) Joseph did not allow his brothers' bitterness towards him to control his life.

"Unforgiveness is the poison we drink waiting for the other person to die."

See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. –

Hebrews 12:15

- Bitterness defiles us.

Ten things that will help you overcome bitterness.

by Dr Neil Anderson

1. Forgiving is not forgetting.
2. Forgiveness is letting go of resentment.
"You do not heal in order to forgive you forgive in order to heal."
3. Forgiveness is not seeking revenge.
4. Forgiveness is letting other people off your hook, knowing that they are still on God's hook.
5. Ultimately forgiveness is something you do for your sake, it is between yourself and God.
6. Forgiveness is God's way of stopping the cycle of abuse.
7. Forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequences of another's sin.
8. Forgiveness allows God to touch your emotional core. You acknowledge the hurt and hate in order to forgive from the heart.
9. Forgiveness is a crisis of the will. It is a choice that is only possible by the grace of God.
10. Forgiveness sets the captive free.

What is to be gained by forgiving is freedom from the abuse and abusers.

"Forgiving others would be a moral outrage without the cross. The cross reveals the cost of forgiveness and the pain of bearing the penalty of someone else's sin."