

JOSEPH

"Living Above Mediocrity"

Finding God's Blessing Through Pain

But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." ¹⁸For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends. – **II Corinthians 10:17-18**

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. – **Isaiah 40:28-31**

"Pain, when properly handled, can shape a life for greatness."

Chuck Swindoll

"It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply."

A.W. Tozer

If only I knew where to find him; if only I could go to his dwelling! ⁴I would state my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. ⁵I would find out what he would answer me, and consider what he would say. ⁶Would he oppose me with great power? No, he would not press charges against me. ⁷There an upright man could present his case before him, and I would be delivered forever from my judge. ⁸"But if I go to the east, he is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him. ⁹When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him. ¹⁰But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold. ¹¹My feet have closely followed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside. ¹²I have not departed from the

commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread. – **Job 23:3-12**

In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him. – **Genesis 41:8**

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." ¹⁶"I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires." – **Genesis 41:15-16**

"And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. – **Genesis 41:33**

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. ⁴⁰You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you." – **Genesis 41:39-40**

What can we learn from times of silence or testing?

- 1) God is working even when we don't see it.
- 2) Never promote yourself.
 - Joseph never promoted himself
 - Joseph allowed God to place him in the right position.
- 3) Do not allow bitterness or resentment to take control.
- 4) Rely on the promises of God.

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. – **Romans 8:17**