

## **JOSEPH**

### **Living Above Mediocrity**

#### **"Dealing correctly with life's setbacks."**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup>Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. — **Philippians 4:4-9**

**QUESTION:** How did Joseph deal with the setbacks in his life?

**ANSWER:** Joseph didn't take matters into his own hands. He allowed God to work in his life even when the situation seemed bleak.

**QUESTION:** How did Jacob react when his sons returned from Egypt with the grain, they needed to keep from starving?

**ANSWER:** Jacob reacted with a negative and cynical spirit.

Their father Jacob said to them, "You have deprived me of my children. Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and now you want to take Benjamin. Everything is against me!" <sup>37</sup>Then Reuben said to his father, "You may put both of my sons to death if I do not bring him back to you. Entrust him to my care, and I will bring him back." <sup>38</sup>But Jacob said, "My son will not go down there with you; his brother is dead and he is the only one left. If harm comes to him on the journey you are taking, you will bring my gray head down to the grave in sorrow." — **Genesis 42:36-38**

- ❖ Jacob had trouble walking by faith.
- ❖ Jacob struggled with a horizontal view point, and he struggled with pessimism.
- ❖ The questions Jacob never asked?
  - He never asked: "Maybe God is up to something."
  - He never said: "Look at how God provided for us."
- ❖ Jacob only saw the worst, he was closed minded.

**QUESTION:** What does fear cause us to do?

**ANSWER:** Over react.

We at times react just like Jacob did.

"Nothing goes my way."

"Everyone is against me."

"Why did this happen to me?"

We also are quick to press the panic button.

**When we walk in fear, we walk in denial, we do nothing, and we blame others.**

**Fear centers on me.**

Take your brother also and go back to the man at once. <sup>14</sup> And may God Almighty grant you mercy before the man so that he will let your other brother and Benjamin come back with you. As for me, if I am bereaved, I am bereaved." — **Genesis 43:13-14**

**A heart that is negative and cynical is hiding a much deeper problem.**

➤ The problem is trust, confidence and assurance in the Lord.

**Let your confidence come from the Lord!**

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. — **Romans 8:28**

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. — **Romans 8:35-39**